

Year of the B-2

# WARRIOR

Vol. 4 No. 35

September 6, 2013

*From zoo  
to AF blue  
Pg. 5*

*Announcing  
our new sports  
column!  
Pg. 10*

Land  
of the Free,  
Because  
of the Brave

## Air Force honors fallen heroes

Airmen support the Vietnam Wall, Pg. 6

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## Diamond Sharp Award Winner!



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lindsay Reichling, 509th Bomb Wing staff administrator, receives the August Diamond Sharp award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 4, 2013. The Diamond Sharp Award is the First Sergeants Council's recognition for Airmen who have stood out while performing the mission. Reichling was given the award for her volunteer work with the 509th Bomb Wing POW/MIA run and being a last-minute supervisor for urinalysis.

## THE WARRIOR

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The deadline for article submissions to the **Warrior** is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submissions does not guarantee publication.

For more information, call the **Warrior** office at 660-687-6123, email: [Whiteman.Warrior@us.af.mil](mailto:Whiteman.Warrior@us.af.mil), fax us: 660-687-7948, or write to us at: 509th Bomb Wing, 1081 Arnold Ave., Bldg. 59, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

*To advertise in The Warrior, call the Sedalia Democrat at: 1-800-892-7856.*

## On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson  
U.S. Air Force ceremonial guardsmen from the 509th Bomb Wing Honor Guard march to lay a wreath during the Vietnam Wall Opening Ceremony in Concordia, Mo., Sept. 4, 2013. The purpose of the event was to honor Service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

**NEWS BRIEFS****Motorcycle fatality**

We regret to inform you that Whiteman has lost one of its own to a motorcycle fatality. If anyone has any claims for or against the estate of A1C Derek Hall please contact 2nd Lt. Shane Connolly at 660-687-2479 or shane.connolly.2@us.af.mil.

**Telephone news line set up for retirees**

A toll-free telephone news line has been set up for retirees and surviving spouses who do not have computer access.

By calling 1-800-558-1404, retirees and spouses can stay informed using this new easy-to-use menu-driven service. Callers can select from several different topics that are compiled from various electronic news sources.

Topics include pay and annuity matters, medical and health care, and other benefits and entitlements.

**CCAF GEM Program**

Military members avoiding taking classes because of work shifts, deployments or other time constraints have a new program to assist them. Community College of the Air Force degree requirements can be met through distance learning using the CCAF General Education Mobile (GEM), a partnership between CCAF and other schools. For more information call (660) 687-2420.

**Whiteman Warrior Story Ideas**

The Public Affairs Office accepts story ideas for news and feature articles on people and organizations to help provide recognition of excellence in performance and set forth norms for mission accomplishment.

To submit an idea, call 660-687-6123, or email whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil

**AF Housing**

Visit [www.Housing.af.mil](http://www.Housing.af.mil) to find your new home with the Air Force. This website serves as a one-stop shop for airmen and their families to obtain information about the housing options and support services available to them at Air Force bases world-wide.

**WEATHER**

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 91	Hi 93
Lo 62	Lo 65
Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 94	Hi 95
Lo 69	Lo 70

**August 2013 Courts-Martial, Article 15s and Discharges**

In August 2013, 10 members were punished under Article 15; Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), five members were administratively separated from the Air Force, and no court-martials completed during this month.

**ARTICLE 15s (10)**

An airman first class from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for procuring acts of prostitution and larceny. Punishment was reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for one month (suspended) and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty. Punishment was reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$400 pay per month for two months (suspended), 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty and signing a false official statement. Punishment was reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$576 pay (suspended), 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for being absent without leave. Punishment was forfeiture of \$300 pay for one month, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for willful dereliction of duty and failure to obey a lawful order. Punishment was reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months, 15 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty. Punishment was reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron received an Article 15 for signing a false official statement. Punishment was reduction to airman first class (suspended), forfeiture of \$500 pay for 2 months and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for wrongful use of marijuana. Punishment was reduction to airman first class, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 509th Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for wrongful use of marijuana. Punishment was reduction to airman first class and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 709th Munitions Squadron received an Article 15 for willful dereliction of duty, making a false official statement and signing a false official statement. Punishment was reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

**DISCHARGES (5)**

An airman first class from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

An airman from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

An airman first class from the 509th Force Support Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

An airman first class from the 509th Force Support Squadron received an honorable discharge for conditions that interfere with military service (mental disorder).

An airman first class from the 509th Munitions Squadron received an honorable discharge for unsatisfactory performance.

**COMMENT**

This past month, we have received numerous Article 15s for members signing false official statements and for dereliction of duty. Looking into these offenses and working them, it seems that there has been a lack of core values. Remember that no matter what our duties may be, we are all an essential part of the Air Force team. When one person struggles, we all struggle. Our success depends on you.

**Whiteman Top 3 MVP Award**

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco

The Whiteman Top 3 Council presented Airman 1st Class Laura Rivenbark with the August MVP Award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 3, 2013. Rivenbark, who works within the 509th Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment flight, has amassed nearly 100 off-duty hours volunteering, and has traveled nearly 9,000 miles serving with the 509th Bomb Wing Honor Guard. She completed her CDCs six months early so she could continue with higher education and is now just two classes away from receiving her CCAF degree.

# Balfour Beatty Communities to kickoff 2013 Housing Survey

In a few weeks, family housing residents will be receiving the CEL & Associates Resident Satisfaction Housing Survey. The annual survey is part of Balfour Beatty Communities' performance assessment program. The survey has two parts; a multiple-choice section, ranging from 1-5, asking standard questions about the community and neighborhoods, and an open-ended form to express any comments, questions or concerns. It is our goal that your housing experience be rated a five.

"Last year's results were a great insight into how we are doing in the community," said Christina Sonnier, Balfour Beatty Community Manager. "We received great feedback about what is working in the community, and also areas where we can improve."

Since the 2012 survey, BBC has completed many home renovations. All neighborhoods will be fenced by the end of the summer, and various neighborhoods have received new trash pad storage, storm doors, garage keypads for home access and sheds in the backyard. Currently new patio covers are being installed, providing 120 square feet of covered area. In addition

to the renovations, several new amenities have been added to the Whiteman community, such as bus shelters, park shelters and barbecue grills, along with several new 'tot lots,' which are playgrounds specifically designed for smaller children with child-sized hands and feet. In addition, the new state-of-the-art BBC Community Center is slated to open in late 2013, offering a fitness area, zero-entry pool and Olympic-sized lap pool.

"We truly strive to exceed our residents' expectations and hope that every resident enjoys their home and the services that we provide," said Sonnier.

The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete. Once residents complete their surveys and seal them in the postage paid envelopes provided, they can simply drop it in any U.S. postal box to be mailed directly to CEL & Associates or dropping it off during our Annual Block Party on Sept. 7, 2013. The party will have games, food, prizes and fun available - all for simply coming out and completing the survey! Survey results are completely confidential and anonymous. Only CEL employees will open the returned envelopes. The survey deadline date is Sept. 30, 2013.

# Scout Troop 531 visits Whiteman

By Edward R. Jones, USN (Ret.)  
Grandview, Mo.

Over the weekend of Aug. 10-12, 2013, Boy Scout Troop 531 from Grandview, Mo., visited Knob Noster's State Park for some primitive camping. This group included 23 Boy Scouts and four adult leaders, including Troop Scout Master Robert Hoffman, as well as several Scout parents.

Part of this experience included visiting nearby Whiteman Air Force Base. Ed Jones, U.S. Navy retired, grandparent of a Scout and Grand Chef de Gare Passe du Missouri of the Forty and Eight organization, had worked for several years with staff members of Whiteman's 509th Security Forces Squadron, so he had knowledge of how helpful the unit could be.

The squadron had a few members who in the true tradition of the Air Force stepped up to the request for activities for the Scouts for their Saturday at the base. Second Lt. Luke Restad, Master Sgt. David Shaw, Tech. Sgt. David Day, Staff Sgts. John Key, Christopher Jerrett, Lonnie Lewis, Angelo Banks, Senior Airmen Patrick Paine, Eldon Tindugan, Kristofer Walker, Timo-

thy Speake, Christian Thomas, Shane Trumen, and Airmen 1st Class Jacob McQuoid, Christopher Huttenga and Aaron Miller took time out from their busy schedules and provided a tour of their facilities. The Scouts were also treated to a demonstration of some of the weapons commonly used by the Airmen on duty. Safe handling of each weapon was expressed many times to teach the Scouts that when handling a weapon, safety is first and foremost. The Scouts were then allowed to enter a couple of security vehicles and were given some brief familiarization with their functions. At the end of the visit everyone learned a bit about the training and performance required of the dogs in the military working dog units as they enjoyed watching a special MWD demonstration in a controlled environment.

These activities were considered above and beyond the call of duty for the staff members who volunteered their time, knowledge and skills to enhance Boy Scout Troop 531's visit. All the members of Troop 531 wish to express their thanks and grateful appreciation to all of the Air Force personnel involved for a job well done!



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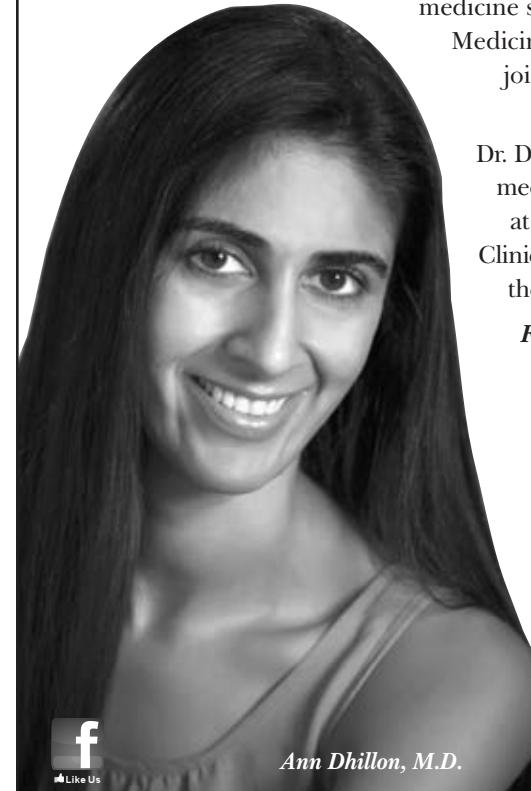
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Dr. Dhillon completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology at the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics in Columbia. She is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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Ann Dhillon, M.D.

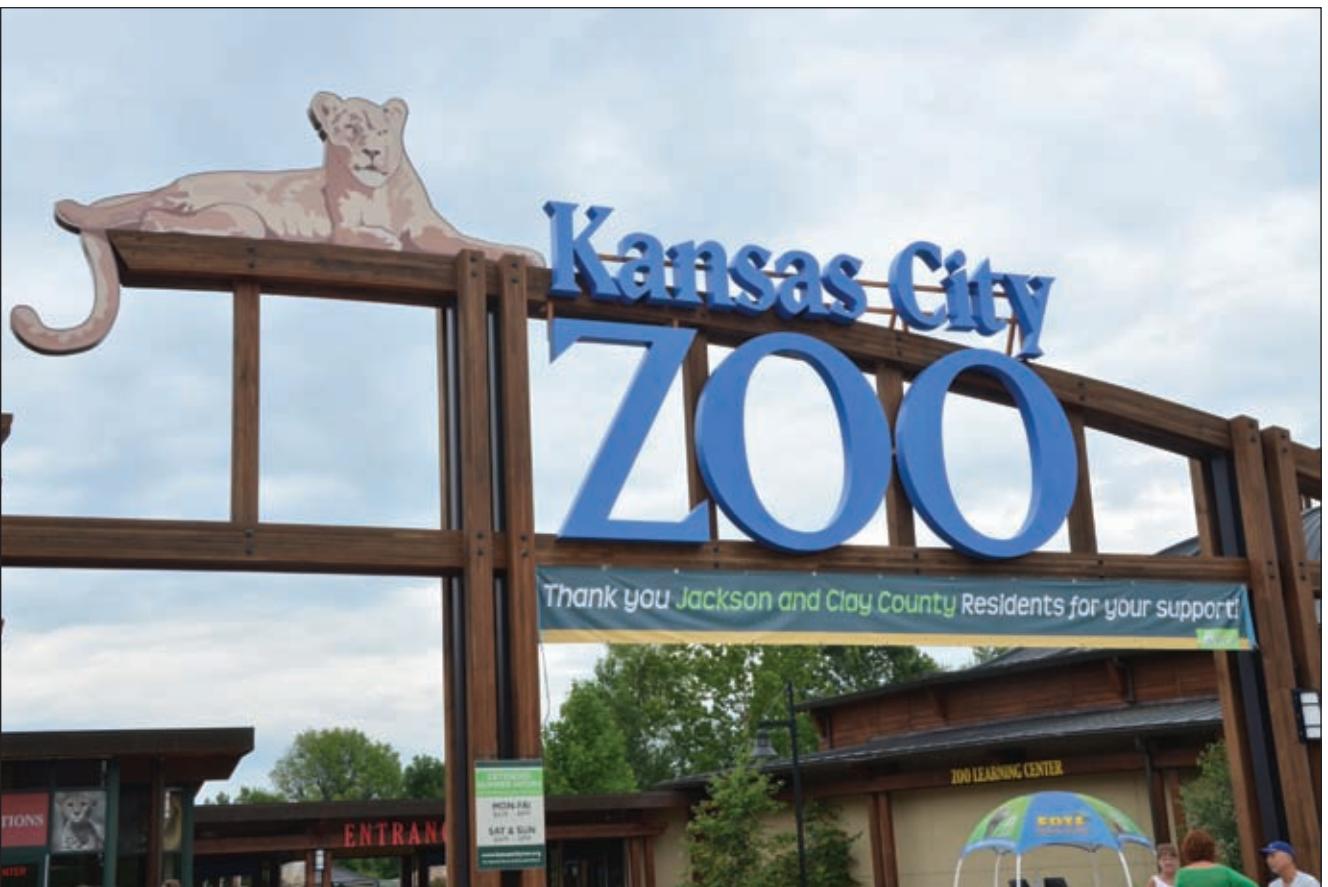
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# From the zoo to Missouri Air National Guard blue



The Kansas City Zoo, located in Kansas City, Mo., has a mission to conserve and provide experiences with wildlife to the public in order to entertain, educate and instill a lifelong respect for nature.



**Casey Self**, zoologist and 131st Bomb Wing Citizen-Airman, works with hippos 'Liberty' and 'Labor Day' in the Ruwenzori section of the Kansas City Zoo in Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 9, 2013. She utilizes hand signals, a clicker and healthy treats to evoke certain responses, such as opening their mouths, which allow her to safely check on the animals' dental health.

**By Staff Sgt. Traci Payne**  
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

For one Missouri Air National Guardsman, life as a Citizen-Airman is far from the wilds of her civilian career.

Airman Casey Self, a zookeeper at the Kansas City Zoo, joined the 131st Bomb Wing to expand her resume from taking care of animals on land and water to people in the sky, as well.

"When I moved to the Kansas City area and learned more about Whiteman Air Force Base through friends stationed there, I realized that I had a great opportunity right in front of me," Self said. "That's when I decided to enlist in the Air National Guard. Serving my country and being a part of such a great team, I feel like I will help make a difference in people's lives."

Self, who enlisted as an aviation resource management technician with the 131st, has already demonstrated the potential for a long and successful career, said her recruiter, Tech Sgt. Jason Jones.

"Airman Self has shown herself to be an outstanding addition to the 131st through her strong work ethic and dedication," Jones said. "She has demonstrated leadership qualities that will be strengthened throughout her Air Force training and benefit the Missouri Air National Guard for years to come."

While Self's dream was to work with animals, she had another goal: to serve her country. Self said she has wanted to serve since she was a child, and participated in Junior ROTC during high school. She considered enlisting during her senior year, but ultimately decided to take another path.

An Illinois native, she knew from a young age she wanted to spend her life working with animals.

"It wasn't until I started to study applied animal behavior that I realized that I



Hippopotamus 'Liberty' pleads for more treats from zoo keeper Casey Self in the Ruwenzori section of the Kansas City Zoo, in Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 9, 2013. Self works as a zookeeper for the Kansas City Zoo in addition to being a member of the 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base.

*U.S. Air National Guard photos/Airman Halley Burgess*

wanted to be an animal trainer," Self said. "In the zoo world, the zookeepers are the animal trainers so that's why I decided to pursue a career in zoo-keeping."

She graduated from the University of Illinois in 2009 with a degree in animal science. From there, Self began a series of internships and jobs that moved her around the country, gaining experience along the way. Almost a year ago, she accepted a position at the Kansas City Zoo.

The new job came with a significant amount of responsibility.

"My responsibilities as a zookeeper encompass everything that has to do with the welfare of the animals in my section, the Ruwenzori area," Self said. "We are responsible for the section of the African exhibits that house the chimpanzees, hippos, leopard tortoises, African wild dogs, baboons and slender-snouted crocodiles."

The years spent working in her current civilian career field will make her a better, more responsible Airman, Self said. Though her specific civilian job responsibilities may seem far out of the realm of military tasks, Self said the environment she works in has prepared her well for her duties as a Citizen-Airman.

"My job in the Air National Guard will be aviation resources management, where I will be supporting the pilots [as they] fly the B-2s," Self said. "We have a very labor-intensive, fast-paced, high-tempo job that is also very rewarding."

Going from the zoo to Missouri Air National Guard blue, Self's story is a testament to never giving up on a dream. She is currently awaiting dates for basic training and technical school, and is excited for the challenges ahead of her.

"I'm thankful for the flexibility that being in the Air National Guard provides for reaching all of my career goals," Self said. "I feel like everything has fallen into place and this is where I have always wanted to be."

# Vietnam Wall gives veterans a moment to reflect



*U.S. Air Force photos/  
Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson & Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry*



The traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall has stopped in Concordia, Mo., Sept. 4-8 to honor Service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. Ceremonial guardsmen from the 509th Bomb Wing Honor Guard were on hand during the opening ceremony, Sept. 4, 2013, to present the colors and lay a wreath in front of the granite panels. Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Melvin Bockelman was recognized during the ceremony for enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1944, serving in World War II and then retiring from the Air Force in 1967. The wall is one of four traveling walls in the U.S. and is nearly three-fifths the size of the original wall in Washington D.C. It stands six feet tall at the center, stretches to nearly 300 feet and has approximately 58,000 names engraved into it.

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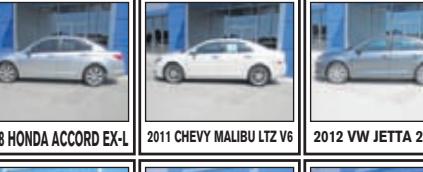
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**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sarah Pearson, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft parts journeyman, counts screws in the aircraft part store at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 2, 2013. Members of the 509th LRS aircraft part store are responsible for providing logistics support to all maintenance units assigned to Whiteman including Guard and Reserve tenant units.**



**U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Christopher Neal, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft parts journeyman, annotates the stock number on a piece of equipment during a routine inspection in the aircraft part store at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 2, 2013. The stock numbers on items help Airmen quantify and maintain accountability of parts stored in the aircraft part store.**

*U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson*

## Aircraft part store keeps B-2s flying

**By Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson**  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

*(Editor's note: This is part three of a three-part series about sections of the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron Material Management Flight)*

As B-2 Spirits are flown around the world as part of strategic deterrence and global strike operations, a small group of Airmen work in a warehouse, organizing hundreds of thousands of aircraft parts to make that mission possible.

Without these parts, hundreds of Airmen and civilians who provide crucial maintenance to the B-2 would not have the equipment necessary to accomplish their mission.

Put another way, a unit of 12 Airmen from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft part store keep B-2 sorties from coming to a grinding halt.

"Our daily mission is to provide logistics support to anyone on the flightline," said Master Sgt. Francine Vargas, 509th LRS aircraft part store NCO in charge. "Our number one priority is to support the B-2, which feeds into the Air Force's nuclear deterrence mission."

In addition to the responsibility of providing logistics support to anyone on the flightline, the shop has 2,000 authorizations for items in kits used for exercises, contingencies and other missions. Along with that, the members who work in the shop are responsible for more than 124,000 warehouse assets valued at \$640 million.

The equipment they have ensures that all aircraft on base receive the equipment they need in a timely manner so the mission can continue, said Staff Sgt. Anton Auster, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft part store supervisor.

"When an aircraft has broken components and maintenance shops need parts to make repairs, we want to make sure we get them as soon as possible," Auster said.

The shop also supports Whiteman's tenant units as well as the aircraft and maintenance flights associated with them, Vargas said.

"We have tenant support agreements in place," Vargas said. "These agreements spell out specific responsibilities and logistics support that we have to provide."

Being able to provide equipment in a timely manner helps support Air Force Global Strike Command's nuclear deterrence mission because aircraft need to be able to lift off the runway to support global strike opera-

tions, Vargas said.

"If we aren't able to complete our mission, our nation would be at risk because the parts supporting the B-2 Spirit are all here," Vargas said.

Ensuring the B-2 can take off on time is one aspect of the mission that makes the LRS Airmen proud of the level of responsibility they have, said Auster.

"When real-world emergencies kick off, we play a pivotal role in helping ensure the B-2 takes off in a timely manner," Auster said.

Being stationed at a base where the world's most deadly stealth bomber can be deployed at a moment's notice can help motivate aircraft part store members to work through long hours, Vargas said.

"It gets pretty tough, but the Airmen in our shop have assembled very well to make things work," she said.

Vargas' unit recently demonstrated this fact, winning the Team Award during a compliance unit inspection in June.

"The award was a big deal because every member in our shop is either brand new or returning from a recent deployment," Vargas said. "Even though our career field is currently going through manning constraints, our Airmen have still been able to grow and perform well. That is the most rewarding part about my job."

# NFL Kickoff - 2013 Picks & Predictions

By Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Last night was the start to the much-anticipated 2013-2014 NFL season with the Denver Broncos hosting the defending Super Bowl-champion Baltimore Ravens. The rest of the season will kick into high gear Sunday and Monday with 15 more match-ups. Here are three that, though early in the season, will have a large impact on divisional and playoff races at season's end.

**Atlanta Falcons at New Orleans Saints:** Atlanta, coming off a division championship and a trip to the NFC Championship game, will have to face off against its biggest competition in the NFC South. One of these two teams has taken the division crown in each of the past four seasons and it looks like it will be another battle between the two teams again this year. With Saints head coach Sean Payton returning after a season-long suspension, look for Drew Brees to lead another high-powered, exciting offense that lost a little spark last year. I see Brees' top weapon being tight end Jimmy Graham, who will again cause major match-up problems for opposing defenses. Another match-up nightmare is running back Darren Sproles. Sproles has caught 86 and 75 passes in his first two years in this offense and I look for another big year receiving out of the backfield.

See Football, page 12



Courtesy photo

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# Using, recycling and giving back



**Mark Davis, 509th Force Support Squadron recycling center supervisor, observes the can recycling line at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 27, 2013. In order to sell bales of cans to companies, the recycling center crew must ensure all bales are free of unwanted waste.**

**Story and photos by**  
**Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry**  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Paper, aluminum, plastic and cardboard are necessary resources used on a daily basis to complete tasks that would not be possible without them. Once used, they are usually thrown into a bin to await the process of recycling.

The 509th Force Support Squadron recycling center plays an important role in ensuring Whiteman is free of waste, and that base personnel help contribute to a cleaner environment, said Mark Davis, 509th FSS recycling center supervisor.

"Our job is to reduce the amount of material waste hauled by oil and fuel," said Davis. "Last year, we diverted 41 percent of the base's trash. Increasing the percentage of recycled material is ideal and can only be achieved with full participation. Our goal is to reduce the amount of waste the base has to send to the landfill."

Recycling can save any organization a great

deal of money when compared to other disposal methods.

"Earlier this year, it cost a \$100 a ton for the base to haul trash to the garbage contractor," said Jeff Willming, 509th FSS material examiner and identifier. "So for every ton that we recycle, we save the base a \$100. Last year, the whole recycling program diverted 1,045 tons, which include waste, oil and scrap metal. We made \$216,000 for the base. Another part of our mission is to recycle as much paper, plastic, cardboard and aluminum as possible."

The recycling center also plays a key role in providing the base additional money by turning in recycled materials to companies for compensation, said Willming.

He added that this process must be accomplished in a way that keeps costs to a minimum.

"After all of our payroll and extent expenses have been covered, the rest of the money is returned to the base," said Willming. "It stays right here in Whiteman, and is used to improve certain aspects and areas such as the rubber run-



**Mark Davis, 509th Force Support Squadron recycling center supervisor, activates a conveyor belt at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 27, 2013. The amount of material on the line determines the speed at which Davis will operate the belt.**

ning track, batting cages and some of the restrooms at the baseball fields."

This serves a major benefit to Whiteman because with current budget cuts, the base has very limited options in acquiring these additional funds but through recycling. The more people recycle, the more money Whiteman receives.

The recycling center crew average 30 bales of cardboard, 6 bales of newspaper, 4 bales of office paper and a bale of plastic a month. When they have a truck-load of cardboard, newspaper and office paper bales, they have to take at least three bids from commodity brokers. The highest bidder will then send in a truck to get the bales and ship them to a purchasing company.

The recycling center crew operates heavy machinery and equipment, ranging from fork-

lifts to conveyor belts, which can result in serious injury if used improperly.

"When dealing with machines, there is the possibility of getting crushed hands from working with large, metal bins," said Davis. "There is also the possibility of getting hit by an operating forklift if not aware, or the possibility of slips and falls from ladders and spillage from liquids within cans."

Despite the hazards, the recycling center crew enjoys assisting with bringing in money to the base to help make renovations for Airmen and their families, said Davis.

"I enjoy seeing the results of our job leading to the renovations that are being made to Whiteman," he said. "It lets me know that what I'm doing is giving back to the base and its Airmen."



**Jeff Willming, 509th Force Support Squadron material examiner and identifier, unloads cardboard from the back of a truck at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 27, 2013. Recycling center crew members must go around base and collect cardboard from bins and dumpsters in order to condense it and sell it to companies.**

# Football | Continued from Page 10

The Falcons come into the season having convinced TE Tony Gonzalez to return for another season, and added running back Steven Jackson to fortify the ground game. The Falcons need Jackson, who has a lot of mileage on his legs, to stay healthy for them to have a chance to return to the NFC Championship Game. Matt Ryan will have his dual outside weapons, Roddy White and Julio Jones, once again this year. The offense will be great as long as they stay healthy, but the defense will be the key to the Falcons' season-long success or failure.

In this match-up, with Graham and Sproles, as well as receivers Marques Colston and Lance Moore, I see the Saints taking the first game of the season at home 38-33; however, the Falcons will end the season with a better record and the division crown.

**Green Bay Packers at San Francisco 49ers:** This is a rematch of last year's high-scoring NFC divisional-round game in which San Fran quarterback Colin Kaepernick torched the Packers defense to a tune of 263 yards and two scores through the air and a record-setting 181 yards and two scores on the ground. This opening game will not be short on offense – expect another high-scoring game and inflated fantasy points. The key to this match-up will be Kaepernick, who lost his favorite target from last season in WR Michael Crabtree. Anquan Boldin, who beat the 49ers in the Super Bowl with the Ravens, will now be Kaepernick's likely number-one target. This offense is completely dependent on the still relatively unknown Kaepernick, who has yet to start a full season.

The Packers come in with one of the best offensive attacks in the NFL, led by Aaron Rodgers. Greg Jennings has moved on to Minnesota, but this offense will continue to find big playmakers on the outside. Look for Randall Cobb to have a monster season and a big game this week. The Packers will need to add more balance to their high-flying offense if they expect an extended playoff run. They

drafted Alabama RB Eddie Lacy who will be the bruising back and will split carries with James Starks and fellow rookie Johnathan Franklin. The Pack's D still gives up too many big plays and I see that being their Achilles heel. Kaepernick has a big game, and in a high-scoring affair the 49ers take down the Packers again, this time 41-37.

**Philadelphia Eagles at Washington Redskins:** The Redskins and Eagles kick off the first Monday Night Football game of the season in an intense NFC East battle. The Redskins come into their first game of the season after winning the division last year, with the electrifying Robert Griffin III returning from major knee surgery. His health is the key to the Redskins' season and future, so he must stay on the field for the Redskins to excel.

This new Eagles team comes with several question marks, as new head coach Chip Kelly tries to bring his fast-paced spread offense to the NFL. Griffin and other athletic QBs have shown the read option may have life in the pros and now it's Michael Vick's chance to show off his athleticism in this scheme. I see this being a close contest with both defenses stepping up and playing well. If Vick doesn't turn the ball over, the Eagles will have a chance to upset the Redskins. I don't see that happening though; Vick will commit a key turnover or two and the Eagles will struggle putting the ball in the end zone. The Redskins will play a smart game, winning 24-16.

**Fantasy Watch:** My first fantasy watch pick of the year is New England Patriots TE Zach Sudfeld. Sudfeld, an undrafted free agent, looks to open week one as the Pats' starting TE. With Aaron Hernandez and Jake Ballard both gone this season and Ron Gronkowski injured and unlikely to see any action in the first couple of weeks, Sudfeld will have plenty of opportunities. Tom Brady loves to operate with a two-TE set, and with a lot of new faces in the receiving corps, look for Sudfeld to haul in

at least one touchdown catch and possible fill up the stat sheet.

**Season Predictions:** I see this season featuring mostly the same power teams as last season. I see a little more movement in the AFC with Cincinnati taking over to win the North, and my surprise pick the Chiefs. I think Andy Reid, with his West-Coast offense being run by Alex Smith, can elevate this team back to the playoffs. The NFC is much of the same from last year. I see New Orleans regaining some power with the return of Sean Payton. Tom Brady will defeat Peyton Manning in the AFC Championship Game, while San Francisco will return to the Super Bowl by defeating Green Bay. The 49ers will use their explosive offense and a strong defense to barely outlast the Patriots and win the Super Bowl.

## 2014 PLAYOFF PREDICTIONS:

- AFC East - New England Patriots 12-4
  - NFC East - Washington 10-6
  - AFC North - Cincinnati Bengals 11-5
  - NFC North - Green Bay 12-4
  - AFC South - Houston 13-3
  - NFC South - Atlanta 12-4
  - AFC West - Denver 14-2
  - NFC West - San Francisco 13-3
  - Wild Card - Baltimore 10-6
  - Wild Card - Seattle 11-5
  - Wild Card - Kansas City 9-7
  - Wild Card - New Orleans 11-5
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What are your predictions? Join the conversation today on Facebook, and check back next week for more picks and predictions.



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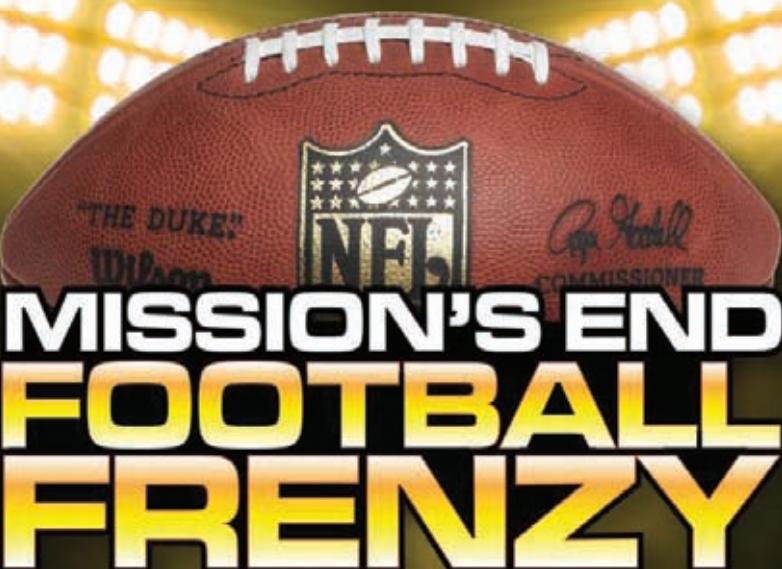


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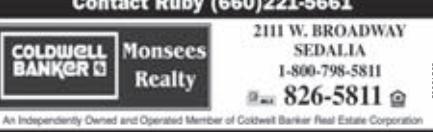
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