

WARRIOR



SECDEF **STOP-OVER**

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISITS WHITEMAN

Holiday Help

COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON VOLUNTEERS AT CARE CENTER

pg. 5

The Base Community Council: Serving those who serve

By Capt. Karl Wiest
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

There are many aspects of Whiteman AFB that make it unique – like its mission and its ability to project power all across the globe. And we all know that mission can't happen without the hard work and dedication of Team Whiteman.

However, there are some members of Team Whiteman whose hard work and dedication is not focused primarily on the mission. Instead, their focus is on you and those folks are the members of the Base Community Council (BCC).

"The BCC consists of over 350 civilian members from 18 surrounding communities", said Brig. Gen. Glen VanHerck, 509th BW commander, "and their goal is pretty simple – to support the joint service personnel here at Whiteman. On an average year the BCC will spend upwards of \$25,000 on programs and initiatives designed for our Airmen and our joint service personnel."

The BCC meets monthly and each of the 18 featured communities is paired with a squadron from Whiteman. The squadron commanders of those respective units are encouraged to meet with members of their liaison city by attending monthly chamber meetings, special events, ribbon cuttings, and festivals designed to build rapport with these communities.

"I see the BCC as a means to create amiable relations between the military and the civilian populous and an avenue to creating a meaningful and friendly partnership" said the Honorable William Kolas, Mayor of Higginsville, Mo, and current BCC President. "The BCC is committed to taking care of the Airmen and all those serving at Whiteman AFB through the numerous activities that the BCC sponsors each year."

And they sponsor a lot of events.

"We (the BCC) sponsor events and activities such as Air Shows, troop deployments and the returning of servicemembers from deployment", said Mayor Kolas. "We also provide recognition at awards ceremonies, we provide meals at the Spirit Café, we host military appreciation days at UM and UCM, and we provide holiday decorations for in the dorms just to name a few."

MWR programs have historical lineage but uncertain future

By Maj. Chip Hollinger
509th Force Support Squadron commander

As community partners, your continued support of Whiteman Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs is crucial.

The MWR fund supports so many programs around the base, including the library, the club system, the child development center, the bowling alley, the golf course, the auto hobby shop, outdoor recreation, the archery range, and many more programs that we all use all the time!

Who reading this can say you have never used those programs – ever? What about your families? Probably not very many of us.

As such it is important that you understand that a significant portion of the funds for MWR programs come from members of Team Whiteman joining the club and from others renewing their memberships there.

As we work collectively to enhance MWR programs within our community, consider joining the Mission's End Club. Our club is the central meeting place within our community; in essence, Mission's End is the civic center where, as a community, we gather to celebrate accomplishments, achievements, interact with our community partners, and host senior leader engagements.

To encourage your commitment, we are transforming the traditional "club card" to a

"MWR Advantage Card" designed to facilitate membership, community support, and pride in being a Team Whiteman MWR Stakeholder. The MWR Advantage Card will provide opportunities for discounts in recreational (Category C) activities such as golf, bowling, outdoor recreation, and of the course the club; it extends our appreciation to our current members as well as enhances recruitment of new members. Your continued, active, MWR partnership is critical to taking care of our people and families, growing Airman leaders, and sustaining an environment that is healthy and fun.

What you also might not know is that the history of MWR activities and non-appropriated funds (NAF) dates back to the American Revolution. The American Articles of War of 1775 provided for civilian merchants whose mission was to sustain the individual personal needs of service members. These civilian merchants provided many of the products now found in our base exchange or resale activities. Later, a portion of the profits generated from those sales were reinvested into what we would now define as MWR programs.

So it is clear our MWR programs have a long and storied history. The question now is, what will their future be like? And that depends on you and your support. So go visit the club, ask the questions you may have, learn about all the great benefits, and do your part to support our MWR programs.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

A participant sinks a putt during the Base Community Council golf tournament at the Royal Oaks Golf Course outside of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 28, 2014. This is an annual event hosted during the summer by the BCC to enhance community relations with Whiteman and its surrounding communities.

The BCC also helps fund nearly two dozen squadron Christmas parties on base each year and also recently rented caps and gowns for Airmen graduating from the Community College of the Air Force. But the BCC is not stopping there.

"The BCC leadership and membership is open to suggestions and recommendations to how better support Whiteman AFB and to best serve the servicemembers there" added Mayor Kolas. "That is our purpose and that is why the BCC exists – to serve those who serve."

The council's commitment to the base is unparalleled and needs to be appreciated.

"The effort, the support, and the funding that the members of the BCC commit to on our behalf is incredible," said Gen. VanHerck. "There are few organizations out there that support any installation the way that our BCC does us and we all need to be grateful for their continued support."



Courtesy photo

2nd Lt. Elisabeth Mellado, 509th Force Support Squadron, presents awards to one of the winning teams from the 509th FSS Community Quest at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The event spanned the entire base having contestants find clues at each FSS facility to advance to the next target. Once all targets and goals were accomplished the team to finish the event with all required information and tasks took home the winnings.

THE WARRIOR

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For more information, call the Warrior office at 660-687-6126, email Whiteman. Warrior@us.af.mil, fax 660-687-7948, or write to us at Whiteman Warrior, 509th Bomb Wing, 509 Spirit Blvd. Suite 116, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

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On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/
Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to a few hundred Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 13, 2015 during his farewell tour of U.S. military bases. Hagel discussed the vital role the 509th Bomb Wing executes in terms of strategic deterrence. He explained that strategic deterrence is designed to assure any adversary we may face that there is a sufficient deterrent ready and available everyday should they be considering action against our country or its allies.

NEWS BRIEFS

Disposition of
Personal Effects

1st Lt. Grant Hatfield is authorized to make disposition of the personal effects of Senior Airman Justin W. Gaddis, deceased, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-511. Any person having claims for or against the deceased please contact 1st Lt. Hatfield at 687-2534 or 417-207-0573.

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Text "AFOSI" plus your tip information to 274637 (CRIMES)

100% inventory

The 509th Munitions Squadron will be conducting a 100 percent stockpile inventory during March 2-6, 2015. If you need any munitions issued or have any that need to be turned in, please do so either the week prior or after the inventory. During this week we will only process emergency requests, submitted in writing and approved by the group commander (or equivalent). If you have any questions or concerns please contact Master Sgt. Jason Gebbia at 687-8049 or Tech Sgt. Young at 687-8052.

WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 52	Hi 52
Lo 25	Lo 33
Sunday	Monday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 47	Hi 48
Lo 30	Lo 29

Monday - A day on, not a day off

**A message from
Brig. Gen. Glen VanHerck**

On Monday we honor the life, the work, and the message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While I want each of you to relax and enjoy this holiday, I also want each of you to reflect on why our nation recognizes this day and allows us to have this time off to be begin with.

Dr. King believed in service - just like members of Team Whiteman do. He believed that through service every single person has the ability to be great, because as he noted, "everybody can serve" in some fashion. Whether it's raising your right hand to serve and defend our constitution



**Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck
Commander, 509th Bomb Wing**

or if it is something as simple as an individual act of kindness, service matters and Dr. King embodied that mantra.

So please take time to enjoy family and friends on Monday, maybe get a little extra rest, but also remember that the day is about service to one another because we are all equal and matter equally. Many Americans have dubbed MLK Jr. Day as "A Day on, Not a Day Off". It is in that spirit that I hope you will spend your Monday - you'll be glad you did.

Be safe this long weekend, take care of your teammates and family, and thanks for all you do for our nation. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed!

*Spiritual Fit Tip of the week:***Spiritual fitness and marriage**

**By Reverend Drew and
Elena Williams,**

Trinity Church, Greenwich, Conn.

(from the Spiritual Fitness Manual, p. 12)

1. Good marriages don't just happen and no marriage is indestructible. You both have to build a marriage—be proactive. (Ecclesiastes Chapter 4, verses 9-12).
2. Keep romance alive—plan to spend quality time together
3. To forgive is not an option. (Colossians Chapter 3, verse 13).
4. Don't bear grudges. (1 Corinthians Chapter 13, verses 4, 5).



5. Be kind to your parents and in-laws but your spouse must always comes before them.

(Ephesians Chapter 5, verse 31).

6. When there are differences to be settled, don't go to bed without first making peace. (Ephesians Chapter 4, verse 26).

7. Understand and learn to cherish each other's differences. Ask questions about the other's activities, concerns, interests, worries, hopes and plans.

8. Get good at talking about how you feel. Write down three or four things that have happened to you over the course of your day—and write down what you feel about them. Take this list to dinner with you and your spouse and use it as a conversation guide. Seek first to understand—then to be understood. (James Chapter 1, verse 19).

**December 2014 courts-martial,
Article 15s and discharges**

In December 2014, four members were punished under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and four members were administratively discharged from the Air Force. There was one court-martial during the month of December.

COURTS-MARTIAL

• Airman Basic Derrick Benner from the 509th Medical Operations Squadron pled guilty in a Special Court-Martial for violation of UCMJ Article 92, possession of a controlled substance, and two counts of violation of UCMJ Article 112a, wrongful use of kratom, a Schedule I controlled substance. For these offenses, he received a reduction to Airman Basic, three months confinement, and a bad-conduct discharge.

NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

- A Major from the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron received an Article 15 for a violation of Article 133, UCMJ, for engaging in a close, personal relationship with the wife of a subordinate officer. For this offense the member received a forfeiture of \$1,750 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.
- An Airman First Class from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for a violation of Article 116 and Article 134, UCMJ, for causing a breach of peace by throwing food at other airman and for drunk and disorderly conduct. For these offenses the member received a reduction to Airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months, and 14 days' extra duties and a reprimand.

• An Airman First Class from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for a violation of Article 111, UCMJ, for operating a vehicle while drunk. For this offense the member received a reduction to Airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months, and 20 days' extra duties and a reprimand.

• An Airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received a vacation of suspended nonjudicial punishment for a violation of Article 86 and Article 107, UCMJ, for failure to go to an appointed place of duty and for falsely signing an AF IMT1975, Fitness Improvement Activity Log. For these offenses the member's previously suspended reduction to Airman Basic and forfeiture of \$350 pay per month for two months were vacated.

DISCHARGES

- A Senior Airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with an Honorable service characterization for fitness failure.
- An Airman First Class from the 509th Operations Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with an Honorable service characterization for fitness failure.
- An Airman First Class from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with an Honorable service characterization for fitness failure.
- An Airman First Class from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with a General service characterization for unsatisfactory performance for failing CDCs'.



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SUNDAY, JAN. 18 • 3 p.m. Top Five (R)
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Free tax preparation, advice available to military families

By Nick Simeone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, (AFNS) -- With the new year comes the annual dread of tax-filing season and the confusion and stress that can go along with it, especially for military families whose tax returns can be further complicated by frequent relocations, involvement of rental properties and other aspects of military life.

To ease the burden, the Defense Department, through Military OneSource, is teaming up again this year with H&R Block to offer no-cost tax preparation to the military community with a promise of guaranteed accuracy, a service that otherwise could cost military families hundreds of dollars or more.

No-cost consultation, tax preparation
Military OneSource offers no-cost tax consultation and no-cost tax preparation and filing to service and family members, as well as to reservists regardless of activation status, survivors, and separated service members until 180 days after their retirement, discharge or end-of-tour date, said Anthony Jackson, a Military OneSource program analyst.

Since it's online, the service is available to eligible tax-filers regardless of where they are. "They can do one federal and up to three state tax returns -- again, at no cost to the service or family member," Jackson said.



New features this year

This year, he said, the service is adding features to accommodate those with special tax-filing needs. "If your tax situation includes rental property, charitable deductions or mortgage interest, this software can accommodate those particular situations," he explained.

Tax experts also are available by phone at no cost for anyone who may have questions before they start using the online tax preparation software.

"You're getting individuals when you're talking -- tax consultants who are thoroughly educated on the military situation, no matter what it is," Jackson said. They also have knowledge of special tax exemptions for combat duty and other situations unique to the military.

The tax service being offered by Military OneSource is currently active.

Military OneSource was established by the DOD in 2002 to provide comprehensive information on military life free of charge.

AF government travel cards receive tech upgrade

By Air Force Public Affairs Agency
Operating Location -- P

Beginning this month, Citibank is issuing chip and PIN-enabled government travel cards (GTC) to new card applicants, individuals whose cards will expire in 2015 and individuals who have reported lost or stolen cards.

This is the first phase in a multi-phased roll-out, which will enhance the security and convenience of government travel and pay systems.

The new cards are embedded with a micro-chip that provides for transaction encryption and an elevated level of authentication. Chip and PIN technology strengthens data security, better protecting cardholders' personally identifiable information, as well as the government's sensitive transaction and payment data.

"The cards are yet another tool to combat potential fraud," said Eric Cuebas, the director of Air Force financial services. "By working together with chip-enabled terminals, they ensure a more secure transaction by validating both the card and cardholder. Additionally, Citi's chip and PIN cards do not use radio frequency functionality and are strictly contact-only cards. Therefore, they are not susceptible to the skimming issue encountered by radio frequency identification cards."

All cardholders should log into CitiManager and review mailing and email addresses and contact information under "My Card Account/Card Maintenance." The cardholder can also review their information using the account listing report

in Citibank's custom reporting system.

"This new card change should have minimal impact on Airmen," Cuebas said. "If the current card will expire while TDY, the traveler should update the address at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of the current GTC to ensure delivery of the replacement card to the new address. If the card is not expiring while TDY but the traveler feels they need an early reissuance of the chip card, they should contact their agency program coordinator (APC)."

He urged all Airmen who have questions or unusual circumstances to contact their APC for more information and assistance.

Citibank worked closely with the Defense Travel Management Office and services on a phased rollout of the new cards.

In the second phase, between July and October 2015, Citi will issue chip and PIN cards for all remaining active accounts (cards used within last 18 months). Individuals with inactive accounts and cards not used within last 18 months will be issued a chip and PIN card upon expiration, regardless of the year. There will be no change to the account number and the three-digit security code for replacement cards and the magnetic stripe can still be used for merchants without chip and PIN technology.

"The cards can be used in regions where chip technology is dominant," Cuebas said. "It is expected U.S. merchants will be adopting chip technology more widely throughout 2015."

For more questions about chip and PIN cards, contact local APCs.

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SESSION 3A (April 18th - May 8th)

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Humanities T-Th

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COME IN TODAY AND LEAVE WORRY BEHIND.

Communicating holiday cheer



Courtesy photo

Members of the 509th Communications Squadron, as well as their Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve counterparts, pose at the Johnson County Care Center in Warrensburg, Mo., Dec. 12, 2014. For more than 20 years, the CS has made it a holiday tradition to visit the JCCC to hand-deliver gift donations as well as spend time with the residents of the care center.



By Airman 1st Class Joel Pfister
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

There is no age limit when it comes to the feeling of anticipation and excitement on Christmas morning. The holiday season is the time for families, friends and loved ones to come together and celebrate. Unfortunately for some, the holidays can be a lonely time of the year.

On Dec. 12, members of Whiteman's 509th Communications Squadrons, to include the 131st and 442nd, brought holiday cheer to those less fortunate.

For more than 20 years, the CS has made it a holiday tradition to visit the Johnson County Care Center in Warrensburg, Mo., to hand-deliver gift donations as well as spend time with the residents of the care center.

"The center has 68 to 87 residents that we adopt each year," said Cynthia Palmer, 509 CS. "Most of them don't have any family to speak of and if they do, they rarely get to see them, so we provide gifts and quality time with them. Most of the time the gifts are clothing but some of them have special requests such as baby dolls, stuffed animals or playing cards, something to provide them with a little bit of comfort."

Just before Thanksgiving, the JCCC provides the CS with a list of all the residents and some basic information about

what each person wants or needs. The gift information is then put on gift tags in the shape of an angel.

Once the angels are created, Airmen come in and collect up to four of them, then go purchase gifts according to the information on the angel.

After getting all the gifts together, the volunteers head to the care center to spend the day with the residents.

"We don't just drop off the gifts and leave," said Heidi DeBonis, 509 CS. "We stay there and interact with them and sing Christmas carols together. Each of the Airmen takes a gift off the table and even if it isn't the gift that they purchased they will take the time to sit with that individual, open their gift, take pictures and really interact with them before they go to get another gift. There is a lot of time and involvement and I really think they enjoyed it, the residents as well as the Airmen."

The appreciation shown by the residents is a reminder to not take things for granted.

"Being my first year, it's just extremely humbling," said DeBonis. "You walk in and their faces just light up. It could be the simplest thing like a pair of socks, or something that we take for granted every day, and they are just ecstatic that they received a gift. It's a great feeling and it's so nice to see smiles on their faces."

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lynch, 509th Communications Squadron, poses with a resident of the Johnson County Care Center in Warrensburg, Mo., Dec. 12, 2014. For more than 20 years, the CS has made it a holiday tradition to visit the JCCC to hand deliver gift donations as well as spend time with the residents of the care center.

Courtesy photo

Monthly fire prevention safety tip



By Tech. Sgt. Chris Gunn

509th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Prevention

The winter months are still here and with that we continue to use heating equipment to stay warm during this winter season. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. The following are some helpful tips that can prevent heating related fires from happening.

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test monthly!
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable heater.
- Only use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory (URL).
- Make sure your portable heaters have 'tip switches.' These 'tip switches' are designed to automatically turn off the heater

in the event they tip over.

- Don't use heating equipment to dry wet clothing.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fire place has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from the home.
- For wood burning stoves, install chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never use your oven or propane grills for heating homes.

Now that you're staying safe and warm with your portable heating equipment the question will be asked. What do you do when the heating equipment malfunctions and catches fire? You call 911 and grab the fire extinguisher and then what? Do you really know how to use a fire extinguisher to extinguish a fire? Whether it's yes or no, don't worry we have four simple steps for you to follow. The Pass Method:

- **P** - ull the pin, release a lock latch or press a puncture lever.
- **A** - im the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **S** - queeze or press the nozzle.
- **S** - weep from side to side.

Whiteman Fire Emergency Services would like you and your family to stay warm, safe, and ready for any unexpected incidents. If you have any questions about fire prevention, fire safety, or training please contact our Fire Prevention Office for information at 687-6080, 687-3748, or 687-6083. Also, please log on to our face book page at Whiteman AFB Fire Emergency Services for more fire safety tips.



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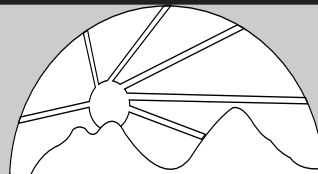


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Lion's Club—2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m. - Jubilation Center

Chamber of Commerce—2nd Thurs. of each month.

Call Husineh Curts @ 660-238-6201 for more info.

Masons—2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - Knob Noster Masonic Lodge AF & AM

Garden Club—1st Thurs. of each month 6:30 p.m. - Trails Regional Library - Knob Noster Branch

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)—Every Fri. 8 p.m. - Basement of Methodist Church • Every Tues. Noon - 101 Gray Lane, Chapel Annex 2 at WAFB

Knob Noster Board of Aldermen—1st & 3rd Tues. each month - Basement of City Hall

Whiteman Area Piecemakers Quilt Guild—3rd Thurs. each month 7 p.m. - Methodist Church

AMVETS—Membership Dinner 1st Tues. each month 6 p.m. - AMVETS Building

VFW—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

VFW Auxiliary—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

Boy Scouts - Troop 509 Methodist Church, Peter Blaszczyk, 660-563-6333

Cub Scouts - Pack 405 Bill Sander 687-1154

Cub Scouts - Pack 509 Methodist Church

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Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel visits Team Whiteman



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte
Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to a few hundred Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 13, 2015 during his farewell tour of U.S. military bases. He said he has kept his focus on ensuring that the U.S. military does not fall behind in technology in spite of tighter budgets.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks
Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel talks with Maj. Aaron Hager about the capabilities of the B-2 Spirit Jan. 13, 2015 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The B-2 provides the penetrating flexibility and effectiveness inherent in manned bombers. Its low-observable, or "stealth," characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy's most sophisticated defenses and to threaten its most valued, and heavily defended, targets. Its capability to penetrate air defenses and threaten effective retaliation provides a strong, effective deterrent and combat force.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks
Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel shares a laugh with Airmen Jan. 13, 2015 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks
Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel visits with Airmen as part of a farewell tour Jan. 13, 2015 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. During his visit, Secretary Hagel held a troop call where he addressed questions from the joint service crowd. He also spoke about the importance of Team Whiteman and its mission of ensuring a strong and reliable strategic deterrent to any adversary. The key, he said, is that our adversaries not only know and trust that we have such unique deterrent capabilities, but also that they believe we will use them if necessary.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte
Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel coins an Airman who attended the Airmen's Call during his farewell visit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 13, 2015. Hagel thanked the troops for their service and highlighted his support for the planned development of a new generation of long-range nuclear-capable bombers.

By Airman 1st Class Joel Pfister
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

WHITEMAN AFB, Mo. — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel visited Team Whiteman here as part of his final tour to U.S. military bases Jan. 13, 2015.

Secretary Hagel took time to meet with Airmen from Team Whiteman who all support the same mission — delivering dynamic air power for the United States and providing both a powerful deterrent to our enemies and an assurance to our allies.

After being greeted by base leadership, Hagel toured a B-2 Spirit and received insight from pilots and maintainers.

Maj. Aaron Hager, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, gave Secretary Hagel a tour of the B-2 and spoke about the aircraft's special capabilities, noting that the B-2 can bring massive firepower to bear, in a short time, anywhere on the globe through previously impenetrable defenses, which is why it is so well-suited to its deterrence mission.

After touring the B-2 Secretary Hagel held a troop call where he addressed questions from the joint service crowd and spoke about the next generation of long-range strike bombers.

"We need to upgrade the capacity and capabilities to assure that our platforms stay ahead of our adversaries," said Secretary Hagel. "The long-range strike bomber is absolutely essential to keep our deterrent edge as we go into the next 25 years. It is a critical element of our long-range strategic deterrence capabilities."

He also spoke about the importance of Team Whiteman and its mission of ensuring a strong and reliable strategic deterrent to any adversary. The key, he said, is that our adversaries not only know and trust that we have such unique deterrent capabilities, but also that they believe we will use them if necessary.

With Secretary Hagel announcing his resignation last November, this will be his final tour speaking to service members as defense secretary. Ashton Carter, former deputy defense secretary, was nominated in early December to take Hagel's place.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Joel Pfister
Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, 509th Bomb Wing commander, greets the Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel Jan. 13, 2015 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

SecAF talks priorities, challenges with Airmen in town hall meeting

By Gabriel Myers

Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Operating Location - P

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Maryland (AFNS) – Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James reflected on her first year as the service's secretary answering questions directly from Airmen all over the world in an online town hall-style forum here Dec 16, 2014.

The secretary announced the Air Force will not conduct involuntary force management programs in fiscal year 2015, saying fiscal year 2014 force shaping measures were successful, but "enough is enough."

James opened the town hall thanking Airmen for their service and led into her top three priorities: taking care of people, balancing the readiness needs of today with the modernization needs of tomorrow and making every dollar count.

"I have two takeaways from my first year; the first is we are the best Air Force on the planet," James said. "We are the best because of our Airmen. My second takeaway is the Air Force is feeling some strain due to our size and ops tempo, as we have fewer people in our Air Force than ever in our history."

The secretary fielded questions from Airmen live in the studio, via Skype and submitted on social media. The rebalance to the Pacific, the Air Force nuclear enterprise, enlisted performance



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Vernon Young Jr.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, right, sits with Staff Sgt. Holly Roberts-Davis, as James talks with Airmen during 'Open Door with Secretary James,' Dec. 16, 2014, at Fort George G. Meade, Md. James reflected on her first year as the service's secretary answering questions directly from Airmen all over the world in an online town hall-style forum.

reports, budget and force management reductions were on the minds of those Airmen participating in the discussion.

James, in response to a question, stated although we have become a smaller overall force, there are a few areas she sees as growing in the future.

"We are growing in a number of areas, for instance we are growing in ISR (Intelligence,

Surveillance and Reconnaissance)," she said. The secretary also expects growth in cyber-related fields and stressed the importance of the National Guard and Reserve. Investment in the nuclear enterprise and the top three modernization programs will also continue.

In line with her priority of taking care of people James answered a question about combatting sexual assault and the recent Defense

Department report.

She said stamping out sexual assault is a priority for the DOD. She added the Air Force, through heightened awareness and training, has "turned the corner" to reduce incidents as well as increase victims' confidence in the reporting system.

But the effort is far from over, James maintained.

"Are we done yet? No. Is it good enough? Absolutely not. Do we have to keep on it? You better believe it," she said, noting the need for persistent leadership and focus to end sexual assault.

When asked about the new enlisted performance system, James explained the focus on performance and ensuring continuous, effective and fair feedback between a supervisor and an Airman.

The new system is designed to discourage inflated reports. "If everybody gets the same grade, and it's a top grade in every respect, then really what do those grades mean?" James asked.

The secretary ended her town hall saying the Air Force's success is due to the hard work of its people.

"Thanks to all of our Airmen around the country and around the world for the enormous work that you have been doing," James said. "I have seen it in action and it is magnificent. Thanks also to your family members, who I know are the backbone of all that you do."

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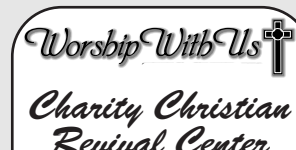
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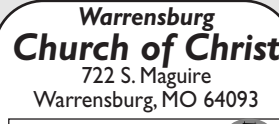
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Female aviator makes difference training Afghan AF



U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Fisher

Maj. Mary Clark instructs 1st Lt. David Shadoin during pre-flight procedures Dec. 16, 2014, at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Clark is an UH-1N Huey instructor pilot and the 58th Operations Support Squadron's assistant director of operations, and Shadoin a student pilot in the 512th Special Operations Squadron.

By Jim Fisher

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) -- Maj. Mary Clark, a UH-1N Huey instructor pilot and the 58th Operations Support Squadron's assistant director of operations, knows what it takes to make a good helicopter pilot.

Contributing to the growing Afghan air force, Clark trained pilots at Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan.

She prepared 20 student pilots, including three female members of the Afghan air force and male rotary-wing pilots to fly the Russian-made Mi-17, and contributed to non-flying aspects of all pilot training.

The aviator had an opportunity to set an example for the Afghan women, she said, who were training to fly fixed-wing aircraft.

Clark said she hopes the impact made by the mission she made her own for a year went beyond producing capable pilots for the Afghan air force.

"We exposed one culture to another and did our best to create an avenue for advancement in their society," she said.

Students trained by the 58th Special Operations Wing are turned into combat-ready special operations and rescue crew members who can make an impact in operations around the world.

Due to cultural restrictions on interaction between men and women outside the family environment, it helped the Afghan women to have a female instructor, Clark said. The women were not invited to evening study sessions male students would hold, and were somewhat on their own when coalition instructors were not holding a formal class. Clark was able to provide an avenue for them to get questions answered and facilitate their self-study.

"If they had a question they would come to me," Clark said. "They felt more comfortable having a woman present during training."

In addition to helping the women to adapt to the training environment, Clark acted as a role model.

"The women were all very motivated and competent. Despite facing significant threats to their safety, they did well in their training," she said. "These women were very brave to choose this career path. I was happy to be able to be an example of professionalism for them. I think it was important for them to see that a woman could become a pilot."

In addition to adjusting to the culture, Clark had to adjust to a different aircraft.

To prepare for the mission, she had to learn how to fly the Mi-17, which is very different from the UH-1N. Because the Mi-17 rotor spins in the opposite direction, it has a different flight control arrangement, and it is much larger than the Huey.

"I got 35 hours in the Mi-17 before I deployed," Clark

said. "And the transition was smooth. It was fun."

Once Clark had established herself as a well-trained and skilled pilot, she gained credibility with male and female students alike.

The major also had to deal with not only the dangers inherent to the deployed environment, but the heightened alert following a spate of inside attacks from Taliban members.

"It's terrorists targeting their own people," she said. "You had to be on guard, but you can't be paranoid. A year is just too long to be paranoid."

More traditional combat-related threats called Clark into action. She took part in a rescue mission after a helicopter was struck from an improvised explosive device during a training mission, and some of her Afghan comrades were killed in the line of duty. This included a safety officer she had advised throughout her year there who was killed in a grenade attack a week before she left the country.

The female Afghan pilots Clark worked with also had to deal with constant dangers.

While on base, the women were protected, but if they could not wear their uniforms in public without making themselves a target of the Taliban, Clark said.

A competent air force to defend gains Afghanistan has made toward a free society will also translate into a more enlightened society in the long term, she said.

"You have to change an entire generation," Clark said. "Our presence as advisers, Airmen, and, in my case, as a woman, served to enlighten the younger generation of Afghan soldiers we interacted with. This willingness to embrace a global perspective, coupled with the establishment of national pride, is essential for the country to defeat terrorist threats to their government and way of life."

"I encountered many intelligent and motivated Afghans," she continued. "With coalition support we saw many successes, such as Afghan officers becoming instructor pilots and leading real-world missions as well as taking command and leading their own people. As NATO troops withdraw over the next year it will be incumbent on these leaders to continue these practices as they assume primary responsibility for defending their country and their freedom."



Courtesy photo

Maj. Mary Clark made an impact by training pilots, male and female, for the Afghan air force at Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan. Clark is an UH-1N Huey instructor pilot and the 58th Operations Support Squadron's assistant director of operations.

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SAPR summit tackles tough issues



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James provides opening comments at the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response summit Jan. 12, 2015, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. This is the first summit consisting of a diverse cross-section of the Total Force since the stand-up of the SAPR program in 2005. Sexual assault prevention and response remains one of James' top focus areas of taking care of Airmen.

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Top Air Force leaders kicked off a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response summit Jan. 12, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, to tackle tough issues and get honest and open dialogue from Airmen.

The five-day summit will focus on better ways to combat sexual assault, and take care of victims. About 150 Airmen from all ranks and demographics across the Air Force were in attendance. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James has high hopes for what tools and ideas will come from the summit.

"I think the conference is an important step as we look to permanently shift the Air Force culture to one which embraces and emphasizes persistent focus at all times on dignity, respect and inclusiveness for all of our Airmen," she said. "By the end of the week, we will all have a better understanding of sexual assault prevention and with your help, we can look at ways to operationalize prevention policy and tactics."

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer encouraged Airmen to be candid in their discussions and breakout sessions.

"If we don't talk about this, we can't fix it," Spencer said. "It's not an easy subject to talk about, but we need to get over that. We can't fix this without each of you."

To foster a climate of frank and honest discussion, all attendees wore civilian attire and addressed each other by first and last name. No ranks were used.

"Overall I think wearing civilian clothes is a great idea, it helps you feel more free to speak up and give your opinion," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Jones, the U.S. Air Force Academy non-commissioned officer in charge of basic cadet training.

Jones took the challenge from the secretary and vice chief seriously, and said he's looking forward to the different viewpoints and collaborations that can come out of the conference.

"I'm excited about this conference," Jones said. "We'll be able to take the information we learn and disperse it back to all of our units and squadrons across the globe."

With a strong participation by the Airmen in attendance, and solid backing from other senior leaders in the Air Force, James' goal is to accelerate progress toward driving the number of sexual assaults to zero.

The linchpin to the conference is open and honest communication, as well as respect and trust for one another, Spencer explained.

"We go to war together," he said. "We have to trust each other to be a successful organization."

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SALE PRICE:

\$27,995

SAVINGS: \$5395



2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT

STK# 476129

MSRP: \$23,990⁰⁰

LOADED, AUTO, A.C.

SALE PRICE:

\$18,990

SAVINGS: \$5000



2014 JEEP COMPASS

STK# 433161

MSRP: \$23,280⁰⁰

AUTO, A.C., POWER GROUP, KEYLESS

SALE PRICE:

\$19,995

SAVINGS: \$5285



2015 JEEP PATRIOT

STK# 446527

MSRP: \$22,970⁰⁰

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SALE PRICE:

\$18,970

SAVINGS: \$4000



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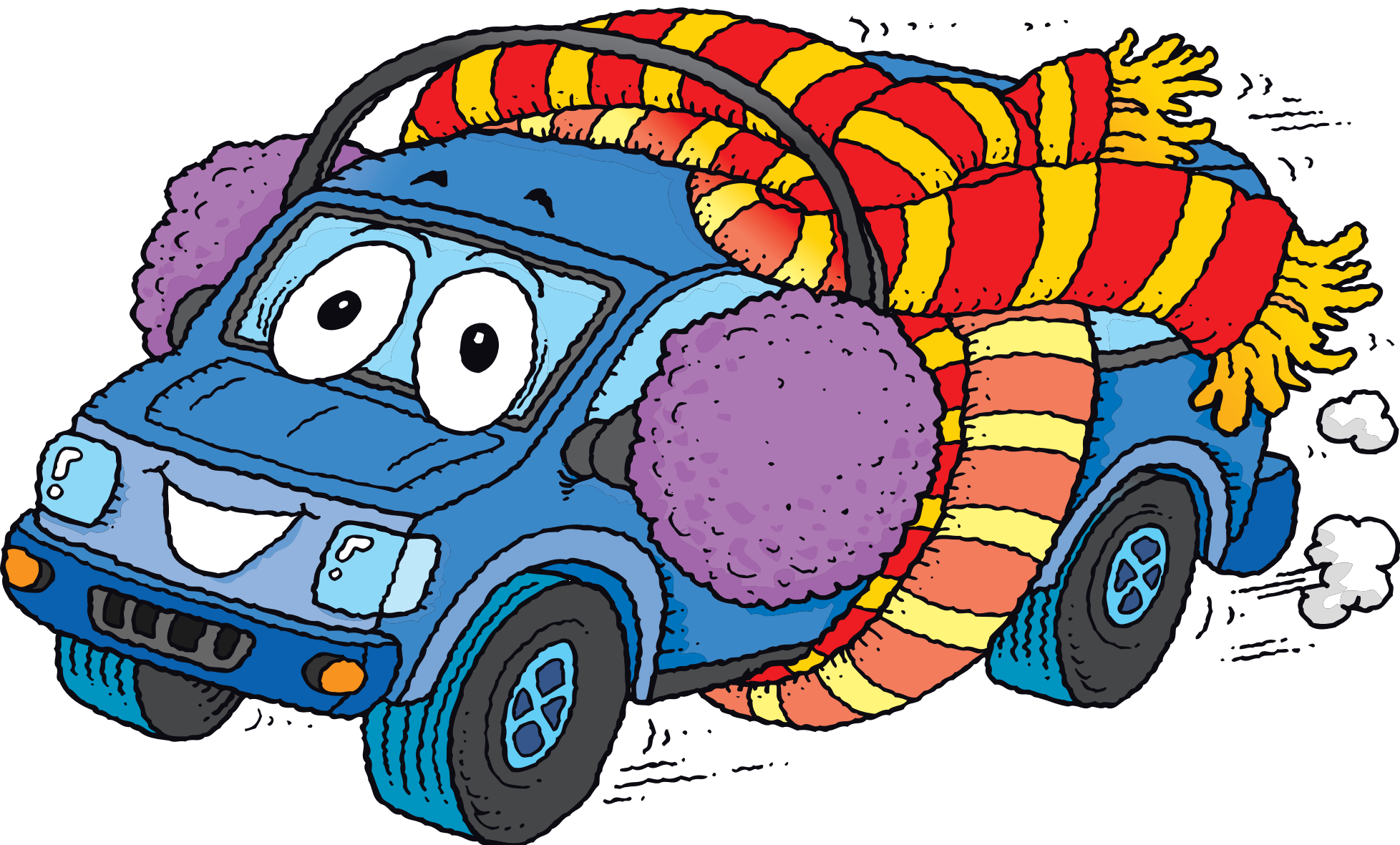
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