

WARRIOR



LOCKED AND LOADED

509th and 131st load crews battle for bragging rights in weapons load competition

Assessing situations

Safety awareness on and off duty pg.5



Pins, posts, tweets: Social media etiquette

By Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Drinkard
509th Bomb Wing command chief

Basically everybody that's part of Team Whiteman uses social media these days. Our folks are all over Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and probably dozens of other sites I don't even know about.

Not a real news flash, right? Understood. But what you might not know is that our Air Force thinks that's a good thing!

Social media and social networking sites have evolved to become one of the primary communication tools used by today's Airmen -- officers, enlisted and civilians. The dynamic nature of social media allows us to interact with other people in an informal and transparent environment. It also helps showcase all the great things you do all over the globe to audiences who, without these sites, may never realize what it is you do as service members.

That said, here's a real news flash for some of you: By the nature of your profession you are always on the record and you must always represent our core values -- even online.

Don't believe me? Check out Air Force Instruction 1-1, Air Force Standards, which outlines how Airmen should conduct themselves on social networking sites.

Now, I'm not naïve. Few, if any of you, are going to go grab AFI 1-1 right this



Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Drinkard
509th Bomb Wing command chief

second and dig into it -- that would be awesome though if you did. So here are some of the highlights of the things you need to know (and can be held accountable for) in relation to social media...

- Any time you engage in social media you are representing the Air Force and are subject to the UCMJ. So even if you state clearly that your opinions don't represent the Air Force, other audiences may not interpret it that way.

- There's a very fine line between funny and distasteful. Be careful what you say. Be careful what pictures you post. You're on duty 24/7 and good order and discipline must always be upheld.

- Remember that security starts at the source. OPSEC is crucial for our mission so you and your families need to think about what you are posting. If a post contains personally identifiable information, sensitive or FOUO information, or anything that could put your teammates at risk, don't post it. If you've already shared something like that, take it down. Our enemies and other predators are on these sites too and they are waiting to take advantage of any slips Airmen and their families make.

- Cyber-bullying occurs often. Sometimes it is even blue-on-blue. So if you see it happening let the base Public Affairs office know or tell your chain of command. Or just come tell me and I'll intervene.

- Finally, be involved in what your families are posting online.

In the end, we are always Airmen. And all the regulations that normally apply to us also apply when we are using social media. This applies to photos involving alcohol or risky behaviors, sharing questionable or inappropriate material, and even speaking disrespectful words in violation of the UCMJ. You are entitled to your own opinions, but think before you post!

Spiritual Fit Tip of the week:

Trading pain for a purpose

By Chaplain (Capt.) David Leonard
509th Bomb Wing

Every time I run a marathon, I cringe just a little bit as I contemplate the back half. I think about the back half a lot, and by back half I mean miles 17-26.2. I'm just an average runner, but marathons have taught me almost as much about spiritual growth as seminary training.

In a marathon, the first 13.1 miles are somewhat euphoric if you have been training for it. You glide into pace with the crowd. You feel better than you expected and you're making better time than you would have ever imagined. That is until you hit the back half. Somewhere around mile 17 you get this feeling in your gut that signals you're getting tired and there is a small hint of pain in your quads. By mile 20 it's not hinting anymore -- it's SCREAMING! This is where it takes one beyond physical training and into the realm of mental discipline. It requires every ounce of determination and drive to finish the next six miles.

Why on earth would anyone want to go through such self-exacting misery? Because good pain brings new life. Pain takes one of two roles in our lives. It either poisons us, or it makes us stronger. I am referring to pain here in the spiritual sense. We all have pain associated with relationships, disappointment and loss.



In the book "How People Grow" by Cloud and Townsend, there are two types of pain: Worthless pain and growth pain. Worthless pain results from avoiding pain: not facing a pattern that needs to change, toxic relationships, addictions, avoiding difficulties, destructive patterns learned growing up, unable to forgive and isolating oneself from others. Good pain produces growth in the individual.

Of course there are many things in life that are out of our control that cause us pain. The question inevitably becomes, "What do I do with pain I can't fix?" The answer is we learn from it and we choose what becomes of it. We can choose to be better or bitter.

A valid way to test good pain versus bad pain might be asking yourself some questions: Am I angry because someone else

hurt me? Am I doing things when I hurt that aren't good for me? Is my pain causing problems in my relationships/work? What kind of people do I choose to be close to? What kind of patterns do I see over and over again in my relationships? Does my life have a purpose beyond myself? Am I hurting others because I hurt?

If you realize that your pain is "bad pain," look for spiritual solutions. Often we find reprise in seeking mental, social or physical solutions. I would suggest that spiritual pain often has a spiritual root that requires a spiritual fix. In essence, spiritual can refer to: connection with God, connection with others or meaning of life issues.

In letting go of the old pain, make room for new connections. Explore prayer, meditation and worship. Let go of old hurts to make room for new hopes. Identify patterns and attitudes that have been destructive in your life and change those behaviors. Accept pain as a natural part of life and look forward to positive change. Be courageous in seeking out healthy connections with others. If what you have tried in the past isn't working, ask for help from someone else.

As much as marathons hurt in the back half, few things feel better than the finisher's medal at the end. When your legs won't stand and every fiber aches, it feels pretty good to know that you stayed the course and you traded pain for a purpose.

THE WARRIOR

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On the cover

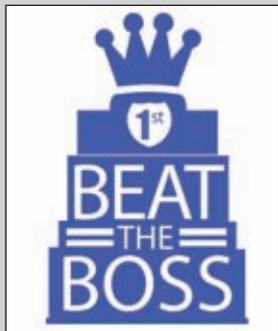
U.S. Air Force photo/
Airman 1st Class Joel Pfiester

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph Herdliska, 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load crew member, prepares to load an AGM-158 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile onto the B-2 Spirit weapons load trainer during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 23, 2015. The competition is designed to showcase the teamwork, precision and attention to detail amongst Airmen in support of nuclear deterrence and global strike operations.

NEWS BRIEFS

Disposition of Personal Effects

2nd Lt. Aaron Hughey is authorized to make disposition of the personal effects of Staff Sgt. Kevin Duckworth, deceased, 509th Maintenance Squadron as stated in AFI 34-511. Any person having claims for or against the deceased please contact 2nd Lt. Aaron Hughey (303) 704 2179.



The Beat the Boss program is a monthly PT test competition between 509th units that will recognize outstanding teamwork and devotion to fitness at the Squadron level. Active duty 509th Airmen who score higher than the commander's score of 98.5% will earn a one-day pass and those who score a 100% win a one-day pass and one of the commander's coins.

Congratulations to the following Airmen who "Beat the Boss"!

- Airman 1st Class Brandon Stone**
Air Force Global Strike Command
509th Civil Engineer Squadron - 99.5%
- Senior Airman Isaiah Hursey**
AFGSC
509th Medical Support Squadron - 98.5%
- Capt. Christopher Conant**
AFGSC
13th Bomb Squadron - 100%
- Capt. Derick Gee**
AFGSC
509th Operations Support Squadron - 98.9%
- Tech. Sgt. Chiya Dawoudi**
Air Combat Command
20th Reconnaissance Squadron - 100%
- Senior Airman Matthew Cyrrier**
AFGSC
509th MDSS - 98.5%

100% inventory

The 509th Munitions Squadron will be conducting a 100 percent stockpile inventory 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 509 MUNS 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 53	Hi 62
Lo 24	Lo 33
Sunday	Monday
Partly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 55	Hi 45
Lo 40	Lo 32

Air Force risks becoming too small to succeed under sequestration

By Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- During testimony on Capitol Hill Jan. 28, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III stressed the negative impact sequestration will have on future Air Force capabilities, emphasizing further budget cuts will lead to low morale and declined readiness in the Air Force.

"Pilots sitting in a squadron looking out at their airplanes parked on a ramp certainly feels like a hollow force, whether we define it that way or not," Welsh said. "People are not joining this business to sit around."

The common tone of the testimony by all the service chiefs was maintaining the faith and trust each military member has in their respective service by ensuring they have the training, tools and equipment needed to win any fight, now or in the future.

"We can't continue to cut force structure to pay the cost of readiness and modernization or we risk being too small to succeed," Welsh said.

Welsh stated 24 years of combat operations has taken a toll on the Air Force and the need for modernization is no longer a debatable issue.

"We currently have 12 fleets of aircraft that qualify for antique license plates in the state of Virginia," he said. "Air Forces that fall behind technology fail and joint forces without the full breadth of the air, space and cyber capabilities that comprise modern airpower will lose."

Welsh credited improved combat squadron readiness over the past year to the Balanced



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 28, 2015, in Washington, D.C., as Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., looks on. Other service leaders present during the hearing were Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert.

Budget Act, which targeted individual and unit readiness, but stated future sequestration would immediately reverse this trend.

"Squadrons would be grounded, readiness rates would plummet, Red and Green Flag exercises would have to be cancelled, Weapons School classes would be limited, and our aircrew members' frustration will rise, again," Welsh said.

He explained sequestration has led to intentional underfunding of infrastructures that produce combat capability over time including

training ranges, test ranges, space launch facilities, simulation infrastructure, and nuclear infrastructure.

Welsh appealed to the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to join with the military to ensure current and future combat capability.

"We do need your help to be ready for today's fight and still able to win in 2025 and beyond," he said. "Our Airmen deserve it, our joint team needs it, and I believe our nation still expects it."

Air Force BMT introduces innovative Capstone Week

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Air Force basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph-Lackland will soon restructure its current eight-and-a-half-week course to make room for a new five-day program called Capstone Week, beginning Jan. 27 with trainees entering BMT.

"Our basic military training today does a tremendous job developing young men and women into Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. "But as we looked at the current structure, we saw an opportunity to further enhance those Airmanship skills with a final week focused entirely on character development. These are core skills every Airman needs to be successful in our Air Force."

The first Capstone Week, which will culminate the BMT experience, begins March 23.

Capstone Week's purpose is to give the Air Force one more critical tool to further develop professional, resilient Airmen who are inspired by heritage, committed to its core values, and motivated to deliver airpower. While BMT will still provide new Airmen the same high level of military and physical training, Capstone Week serves to specifically concentrate on character building.

"We developed Capstone Week to better prepare Airmen for their first assignments by reinforcing our core values of integrity, service and excellence through an interactive environment emphasizing character development, the profession of arms, and our Air Force heritage," said Gen. Robin Rand, the Air Education and Training Command commander. "The course focuses on the importance of every Airman treating each other with respect and dignity, better

preparing them to become skilled warriors ready to do our nation's business."

Capstone Week will provide instruction and promote discussion among Airmen in a more interactive forum than the highly-structured BMT curriculum, according to Kevin Adelsen, the AETC Capstone Week program manager. Some key areas that Capstone Week will cover include wingmanship, resiliency, leadership and followership, sexual assault prevention and response, the warrior ethos, and how Airmen can balance their personal and professional lives.

Adelsen said BMT schedule adjustments allowed for condensing the current training to make room for the Capstone transition period.

"We'll retain all current BMT requirements in the first seven-and-a-half weeks and use the Capstone Week to reinforce and expand on previous training," Adelsen said.

Following the traditional Airman's parade at the end of BMT's first seven-and-a-half weeks, trainees will transition that weekend to a Capstone squadron. Airmen will move into a revamped training facility on Lackland and experience Capstone Week in an environment far different from that of the first part of BMT, according to Adelsen.

Capstone will be a BMT graduation requirement, Adelsen added. Immediately following Capstone, Airmen will travel to their designated technical training locations across the United States.

"BMT's Capstone Week will ensure Air Force basic training remains a center of excellence and our Airmen remain the best fighting force in the world," said Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, the AETC command chief. "It's a fantastic and innovative way to ensure we prepare Airmen to become men and women of character - great wingmen, leaders, citizens and warriors. This is not going to be the 'last' week of BMT, but rather the first week of the rest of their Air Force careers."

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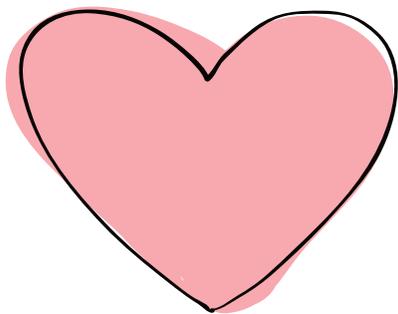
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Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13)
Adults - \$5.50, children - \$3.50

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 • 7 p.m.
The Hobbit: The Battle of the
Five Armies (PG-13)
Adults - \$5.50, children - \$3.50

MONDAY, FEB. 9 • 5:30 p.m.
American Sniper (R)
Adults - \$5.50

The logic of love

By Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs



Raising a child can be a challenge for first-time parents.

The arguments, the child's unwillingness to listen and the tantrums can all become stress factors in a parent's daily routine. "Love and Logic" looks to help with that by building a better line of communication and understanding between parents and their children.

Dana Livsey, the Family Advocacy outreach manager of the 509th Medical Operations Squadron, has much experience with children.

"I was not aware of the Love and Logic philosophies while raising my own children, but they were very effective with my grandchildren," Livsey said.

The eight-hour class is broken up into two-hour segments over four days. The course has many different parenting techniques that can be applied to a range from infants all the way to teenagers.

"The techniques give the child a chance to make decisions that are guided by their parents," Livsey said. "You give them choices that you are okay with. For example, you can ask them if they want milk or juice and let them decide."

The classes are directed at taking out the confrontation and arguments that can easily happen between parents and children.

"The issues children have at certain age groups are universal," said Kelley Beckner, the Family Advocacy program assistant manager of

the 509th MDOS. Beckner has been trained by the Love and Logic Foundation to become a facilitator of the parenting program.

"The Love and Logic philosophy is empathy followed by consequence," Beckner said. "The concepts and rationale behind all Love and Logic books are the same when you get down to it."

Jennifer Waggoner, a Whiteman spouse, expressed her appreciation for the availability of the course. With it being free to military members and spouses, she said she plans to attend future sessions.

"I think offering the course here for free in addition to providing child care so we can attend is a great thing," said Waggoner. "If I could benefit from them, I would definitely be open to attending the next available course."

The 509th MDOS offers these courses quarterly, which highlight a different age group each quarter. The next course is scheduled to be held in April. For more information on how to obtain a slot in the upcoming course, call Dana Livsey at 660-975-4341.



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Safety awareness on and off duty

By Senior Airman Keenan Berry
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

On Saturday morning, Jan. 17 at 1 a.m., three members from Team Whiteman were attacked on Pine Street by five individuals from the Warrensburg community. They suffered severe injuries and two underwent surgery.

After a long week of work, Airmen typically like to unwind and go out with friends to let loose. However, just like on the job, safety is imperative when out having fun. Airmen are a valuable resource and must take into consideration their safety and how to avoid harmful situations.

Members of Team Whiteman must be aware of situations that can lead to tragic results. To prevent a potentially harmful situation from occurring, 509th Security Forces members offer tips for Airmen to protect

themselves and each other.

“When Airmen are out and about in the local area, avoid wearing the uniform as much as possible,” said Senior Airman Denver McLaughlin, 509th SFS member. “The reason for this is because you stand out easily, making yourself a possible target. Do not behave in a manner that will draw attention to yourself, such as bragging about your affiliation with the Air Force. This might upset some people, which could cause them to react in a violent manner.”

Wingmanship is a trait that has been engrained within our development as an Airman. It has been taught in basic training, reinforced in technical school and reintroduced in the operational force. It is a trait Airmen never depart from.

“Always have a group of wingmen with you at all times,” said Airman 1st Class Victoria Fox, 509th SFS

member. “Remaining in groups is one of the best ways to remain safe when out and about. If you find yourself in an altercation, try to solve it at the lowest level by walking away. It’s not always easy, but it will eliminate the situation before it escalates.”

Recognizing a potentially dangerous situation before it happens can help avoid negative results.

“Incorporate risk management into your daily life,” said Master Sgt. David Markin, 509th Bomb Wing safety superintendent. “This can be as simple as if it doesn’t look right, doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t right and make a different decision.”

These safety tips are provided to Airmen to increase awareness and vigilance when they are out having a good time. Safety, above all, is most important to the Whiteman mission and can be detrimental if overlooked. Be safe!

AF Assistance Fund in full swing



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

Air Force senior leaders review Air Force Assistance Fund affiliate websites while in the Pentagon, during preparation for the 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign. Seated are Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. Standing from the left to right are Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer, Under Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody.

By Air Force Aid Society

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign has kicked off and will run until May 1.

Air Force bases worldwide are participating in this fundraising event which raises money for four Air Force charities – Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Villages

Charitable Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

• The Air Force Aid Society: Provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance,

education assistance and various base-level community enhancement programs.

• The Air Force Enlisted Village: Supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to retired enlisted members’ widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House (in Shalimar) which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour nursing care.

• The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: Donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio, Texas.

• The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: Provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

Air Force officials are using a three-campaign grouping where all Air Force bases are assigned to one of the following three six-week campaign periods:

Group I -- Feb. 2 - March 13

Group II -- March 2 - April 10

Group III -- March 23 - May 1

Group I bases, which already started, include Charleston Air National Guard Base, West Virginia; Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota; Keesler AFB, Mississippi; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia; Laughlin AFB, Texas; Malmstrom AFB, Montana; Vance AFB, Oklahoma and Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minnesota.

New this year is an updated Air Force Assistance Fund website, which features information about all of the affiliate charities, a link to the donation forms, videos, assistance stories and FAQs. Everyone is encouraged to check out the site and learn more about how your donations help the Air Force family. Whether active duty or retired, officer or enlisted, Air Force Assistance Fund is there for the Airmen, by the Airmen to take care of our own.



"It doesn't take a lot of time to save a life... The life you save more than likely won't be anyone you know, but that life you're saving is someone's mother, father, son, daughter, or friend. Every one of us is important to somebody."
- Paul Kim, Donor



Whiteman Air Force Base blood drive

Thursday, February 12th
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Youth center

Friday, February 13th
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Commissary parking lot

For the first time, the Community Blood Center will be bringing the blood drive to you. Check out our locations above ... And experience donating blood at the mobile blood drive station that will be parked in the Commissary parking lot!

Blood is a precious commodity with a limited shelf life. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days. Platelets must be used within five days. Plasma can be stored for up to one year.

Once again, please share your gift of life with local hospital patients who need it by donating at the next Community Blood Center Blood drive. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use Sponsor Code: whiteman. For additional details contact Zach Wood at 660.687.7910, or Diana San Roman at 816.810.9274

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 Wed. Believers Bible Study7:00 pm
 Sun. Morning Worship11:00 am

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 11:10 A.M.

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knobumc@knumc.com

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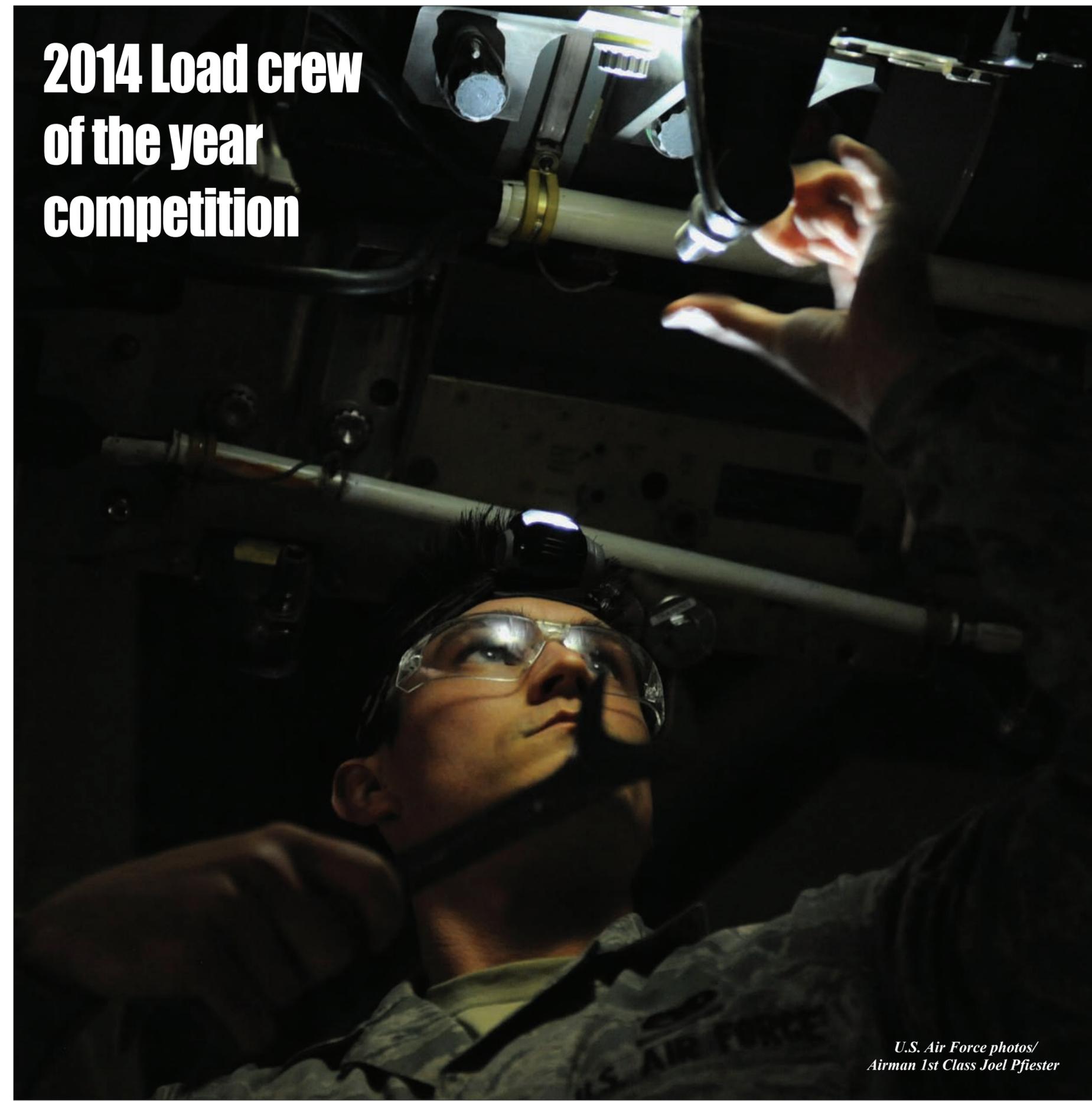
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2014 Load crew of the year competition



*U.S. Air Force photos/
Airman 1st Class Joel Pfister*

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ryan Minner, 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit load crew member, prepares the B-2 Spirit weapons load trainer during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 23, 2015. The competition is designed to showcase the teamwork, precision and attention to detail amongst Airmen in support of nuclear deterrence and global strike operations.



Members of the 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load an MK-84 into the B-2 Spirit weapons load trainer during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 23, 2015. Total force Airmen from the 131st Bomb Wing, 13th and 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Units competed in the competition.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Chad Frintz, 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit load crew team chief, prepares the B-2 Spirit weapons load trainer during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 23, 2015. The team chief of the crew oversees loading operations that help the team work as fluidly as possible.



Evaluators and spectators look on during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan 23, 2015. The competition is designed to showcase the teamwork, precision and attention to detail amongst Airmen in support of nuclear deterrence and global strike operations.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeremie M. Key, 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load crew member, helps guide an MK-84 onto an MHU-83 lift truck during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 23, 2015. Key's role on the load crew is munitions safety and preparing all the weapons to be loaded.

AADD volunteer recognized



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Joel Pfister

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Patrick Heltne, 509th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice, center, receives a commander's coin from Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Feb. 2, 2015, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The commander recognized Heltne for being an outstanding Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteer. Heltne volunteered to be on-call for 23 consecutive days, picking Airmen up in the local and surrounding areas, helping to ensure they had a safe ride home and decreasing the base's DUI number from 38 in 2013 to 12 in 2014.

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Hard work, dedication in below-zero temperatures



Airmen walk toward a B-52H Stratofortress on Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Jan. 9, 2015. Aircraft maintenance Airmen provide maintenance and upkeep to the jets even during the cold winter months.

By Airman 1st Class Sahara L. Fales
Minot Air Force Base Public Affairs

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. -- He heads to his locker to get his gear sorted and make sure he has everything ready to begin work in the frigid weather. It's 6:30 a.m., 27 degrees below zero and the sky remains dark.

On top of his multiple layers he wears thick coveralls. His heavy duty boots allow him to trudge through ice and snow while his face is guarded by a face shield and shatter proof snow goggles.

At roll call, the maintenance team gathers together where they are told what jets need to be repaired; then everyone gets to work.

Though they all work together to meet the needs of the mission, each crew chief is assigned a specific jet they are responsible for maintaining.

After being at Minot for over three years, Senior Airman Taylor Lancaster, 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft crew chief, has worked on his jet enough to know exactly what it'll need once it lands.

"Every jet is different, especially in the cold," Lancaster said. "I love working on my jet because when it lands I already know what needs to be serviced."

The maintenance team hops on the truck headed to the tool crib. They load up with all of the equipment they'll need for the day and head out to their designated jets.

Around 8:30 a.m. the sun begins to rise, allowing the flight line to defrost ever so slightly, as the cold weather and ice lingers.

"During the winter, what would normally be a 10 minute job takes anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour," Lancaster said.

Some of the harsh winter days Minot has can cause things on the jets to break easier meaning more work for maintenance Airmen.

With temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero and blizzard like conditions, getting simple things done can become a tedious task, Lancaster said.

"Training new Airmen can be a bit of a task when winter time rolls around," Lancaster said. "Since it's so cold, we can only spend so long out there before we have to go back inside and warm up."

For the past two years Lancaster worked mid shift, which began at 11 p.m. and ended at 7 a.m.

"It wasn't uncommon for me to go the whole work week without seeing the sun," Lancaster said. "Now a days, it's still dark when I get to work, but at least I get to see the sunrise and the sunset."

"It's a great feeling to know that if I spent all night working on my jet in the cold, when the aircrew shows up they will have a

good jet," he added.

Because temperatures are known to potentially reach dangerous lows, maintenance members implement the buddy system to ensure safety while getting the mission done.

Once the weather is less than 45 degrees below zero, maintenance on certain sections of the flight line shuts down temporarily. However, because temperatures read differently across the flight line, this means the maintenance team's duty is to now provide maintenance for a different aircraft.

Although the job can be tough at times, Lancaster tries to remind newer Airmen the mission is important.

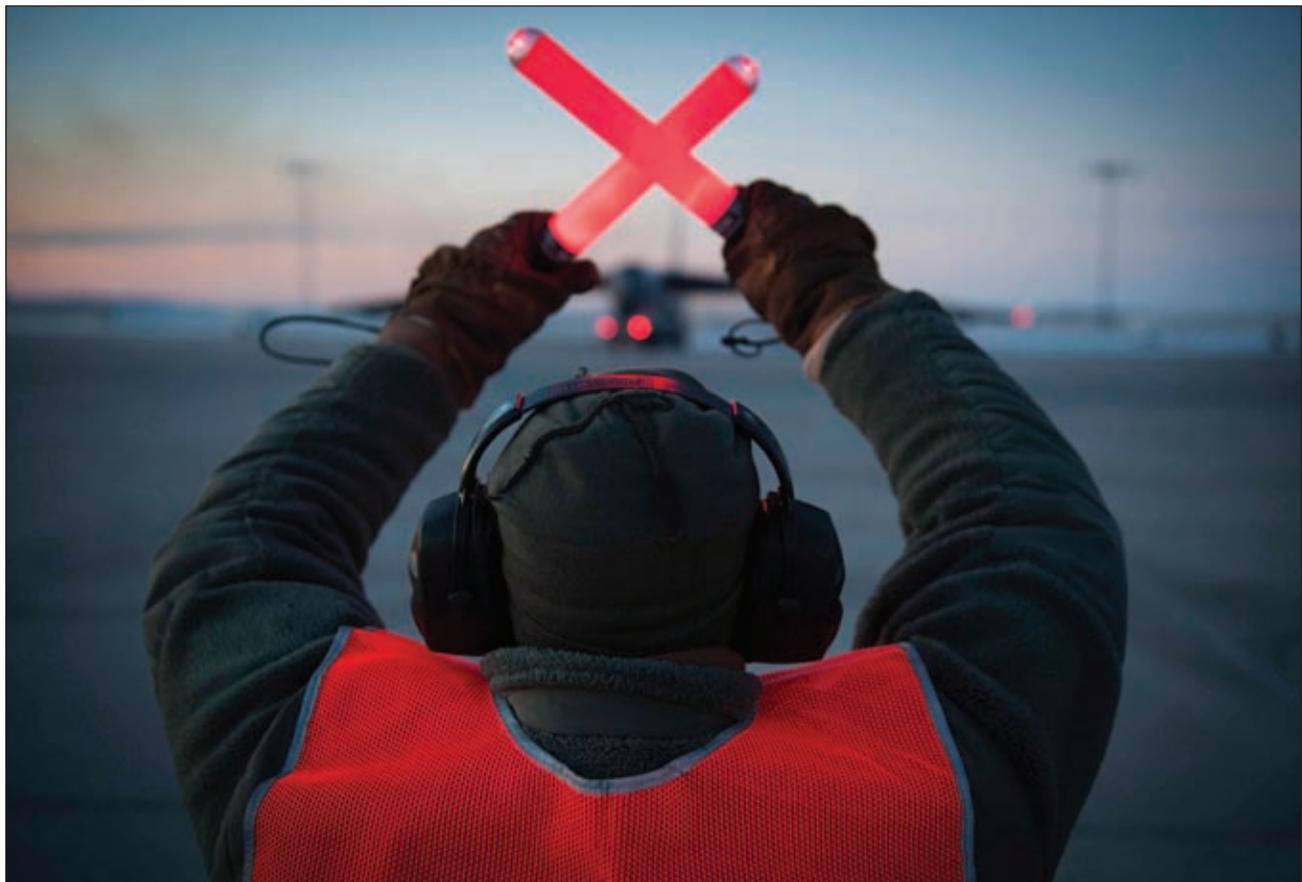
"Sometimes it's hard to see the big picture when we're out there working in these kinds of temperatures, but we have to remember what we're doing is meaningful," he added.

Currently, Lancaster is working on getting flight certified, which will provide him the opportunity to fly with the aircrew and allow him to work on his jet as soon as it lands in various locations.

"I wanted to do this because it gets me more involved," Lancaster said. "It's a great feeling to be able to get up in the jet that I worked on and take off with the aircrew."

With three years under his belt, Lancaster hasn't made any final decisions on whether he's going to re-enlist, but the future seems to be getting brighter.

"It was hard for me to really look ahead when I first got here," Lancaster said. "Now that I'm comfortable, confident and getting more responsibilities handed down to me, it's making me realize that I know what I'm doing and no matter what, I know I can do it."



Senior Airman Taylor Lancaster, 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft crew chief, guides a B-52H Stratofortress on Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Jan. 9, 2015. Lancaster's main duty is to ensure his jet is fixed and prepared to take off before its flight time.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Sahara L. Fales

F-35 nears completion of all-weather testing



U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.

An F-35 Lightning II endures freezing temperatures in the 96th Test Wing's McKinley Climatic Laboratory Jan. 27, 2015, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The joint strike fighter has undergone four months of climate testing in the lab to certify the fleet to deploy to any corner of the world.

By F-35 Patuxent River Integrated Test Force

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) -- For the past four months, an F-35 Lightning II has endured extreme weather temperatures to certify the fleet to deploy to any corner of the world.

An F-35B from the F-35 Patuxent River Integrated Test Force in Maryland, has undergone rigorous climatic testing at the 96th Test Wing's McKinley Climatic Laboratory at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The laboratory supports all-weather testing of weapon systems to ensure they function regardless of climatic conditions.

With 13 countries currently involved with the program, the F-35 must be tested in meteorological conditions representative of those locations from which it will operate, ranging from the heat of the Outback, of northern Australia, to the bitter cold of the Arctic Circle above Canada and Norway.

"We've designed an environment here at the chamber where we can simulate virtually any weather condition -- all while flying the jet at full power in either conventional or vertical takeoff mode," said

Dwayne Bell, the McKinley Climatic Laboratory technical chief.

The F-35B was ferried here in September 2014, to begin a six-month assessment of the aircraft's performance in wind, solar radiation, fog, humidity, rain intrusion/ingestion, freezing rain, icing cloud, icing build-up, vortex icing and snow.

"While we are testing in the world's largest climatic testing chamber, we're pushing the F-35 to its environmental limits -- ranging from 120 degrees Fahrenheit to negative 40 degrees, and every possible weather condition in between," said Billie Flynn, an F-35 test pilot who performed extreme cold testing on the aircraft.

"To this point, the aircraft's performance is meeting expectations," Flynn said. "It has flown in more than 100 degree heat while also flying in bitter sub-zero temperatures. In its final days of testing, it will fly through ice and other conditions such as driving rain with hurricane force winds.

"We are learning more and more about the aircraft every day," he continued. "The future warfighters can be confident the F-35 will perform in any condition they find themselves in for the future."

Maintaining the technological edge

By Ed Gulick
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer urged members of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to help the service maintain their technological edge at their winter board meeting Jan. 27.

"We need your help," Spencer said. "We need the expertise you provide because it is really critical. Our budgets are shrinking, our capacity is shrinking and there's no way to accomplish (our mission) with the budgets we have without technology and innovation."

Spencer cited current modernization efforts, including the F-35A Lightning II, KC-46A Pegasus, long range strike bomber and the intercontinental ballistic missile fleet upgrade, as current costly programs the service must pay for. He then urged the group to look at how their studies can help the service save money while keeping its technological edge.

"We need your help to focus on what we can do versus what we can't," Spencer said. He then highlighted some technologies, such as measuring time in femtoseconds, hypersonics and quantum entanglement, as areas of advancements that need to be studied to determine how they can be used to

advance the service's mission.

"(The Air Force) cannot survive without you," Spencer said. "The technology has leaped so fast, it's hard for us to keep up with it. We want our adversaries to say, 'Where did they get that and what are we going to do about it.'"

The SAB was tasked by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, to conduct studies on the cyber vulnerabilities of embedded systems in air and space systems, enhanced utility of unmanned air vehicles in contested and denied environments and utility of quantum systems for the Air Force.

The SAB is made up of 50 experts among the nation's top civilian scientists and engineers on matters of science and technology relating to the Air Force mission.

The current SAB will be completed by the end of June 2015, and then be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff of the Air Force and other Air Force senior leadership. The findings and recommendations of the SAB will then be used to shape and guide Air Force policy.

More information on the SAB and the 2015 studies, including the terms of reference, can be found at <http://www.sab.af.mil/library/index.asp>



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Family housing maintenance

By 509th Civil Engineer Squadron

Family housing residents expect and deserve quality maintenance service. Balfour Beatty Communities (BBC) consistently delivers; however, there are a couple of things you can do to help.

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The service desk is open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Emergencies may also be reported after hours and on weekends using the same number. Maintenance emergencies are problems that constitute an immediate danger to life, health, mission, security or community. Examples include lack of electricity or water, flooding, etc. Stand-by technicians are available to evaluate and address emergencies immediately. Expected response time for emergencies is one hour with completion within 24 hours.

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Most maintenance issues are classified



as routine, such as a broken dishwasher, cracked window, dripping faucet, etc. Routine maintenance issues are minor in nature and do not require an emergency or urgent response. Routine maintenance is handled through scheduled appointments during normal business hours 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Expected response time for routine maintenance is 24 hours, with completion within five days.

Again, you can help by ensuring you're home at the appointed time, or by having an "Authorization to Enter" on file with BBC. This will allow the maintenance technician to enter your home and make the necessary repairs. The technician will always leave a copy of the completed service request so you know the work has been performed.

If you have questions or concerns regarding maintenance service, please contact the BBC community manager, Lynn Melin, at (660) 687-0559, or the government housing management element chief, Melissa Lewman, at (660) 687-1840.



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