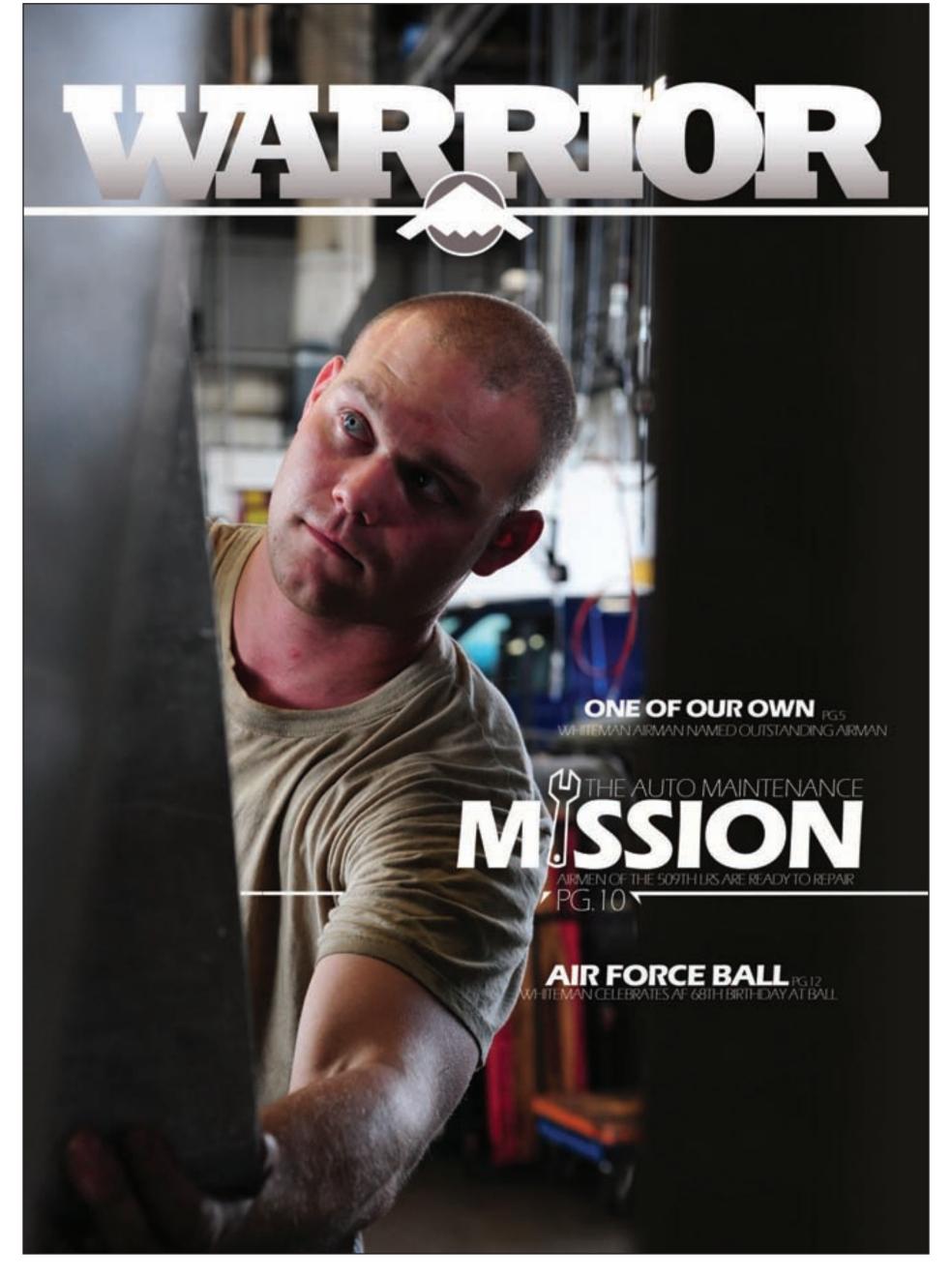
Vol. 6 No. 38/Sept. 25, 2015

www.whiteman.af.mil



The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015

Whiteman Airmen honor POW/MIA with 24-hour run



A member of Team Whiteman holds the ceremonial torch as the runners prepare for a 24-hour Prisoners of War/Missing in Action run at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 18, 2015. Congress has designated the third Friday of September as a day to commemorate the POWs and service members missing in action.

By Airman 1st Class Michaela R. Slanchik

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Team Whiteman held their annual 24-hour POW/MIA run Sept. 17 and 18, 2015, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to pay tribute to prisoners of war and our missing brothers and sisters in arms.

Every year, on the third Friday of September, our nation honors our prisoners of war and missing in action.

"The POW/MIA run is an opportunity for Team Whiteman to remember those who have made such great sacrifices for our nation," said Col. Matthew Brooks, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander. "We must never forget those men and women who have given all to defend freedom and the American way of life. The

Whiteman AFB POW/MIA run is an event that honors them and their legacy of excellence."

The event began with a remembrance ceremony where a torch was lit and a POW/MIA flag was raised.

Whiteman Airmen ran in half-hour increments around Ike Skelton Lake while keeping the flame and a POW/MIA flag moving constantly for 24 hours straight.

The event concluded on Sept. 18, which was this year's POW/MIA recognition day, as well as the Air Force's 68th Birthday.

"I am thankful I had the opportunity to show my respect for these men and women," said Airman 1st Class Amanda Smith, 509th Comptroller Squadron finance services technician and participant in the run. "It is important that their service is remembered, and they are never forgotten."



A Fallen Warrior Memorial stands as the closing ceremony commences for the annual Prisoners of War/Missing in Action run at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 18, 2015. Congress has designated the third Friday of September as a day to commemorate the POWs and service members missing in action.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Shawn L. Drinkard, command chief of the 509th Bomb Wing, with members of the 509th Bomb Wing participate in the annual Prisoners of War/Missing in Action run at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 18, 2015. Airmen from each squadron volunteered to take part in a 24-hour memorial run.



Members of Team Whiteman participate in the annual Prisoners of War/Missing in Action run at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 18, 2015. Approximately 1,500 Airmen from various conflicts are missing from Air Force ranks.



U.S. Air Force photos/ Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks

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 spaceavailable basis. Submissions does not guarantee publication

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

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

On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Keenan Berry

Airman 1st Class Chris Boyce, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance journeyman, picks up an oil-catch pan at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 24, 2015. This object is used to catch liquids while performing maintenance on vehicles. News The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015

NEWS BRIEFS



U.S. Air Force Eagle Eyes provides service members and civilians a safe, discreet and anonymous option to report criminal information, counterintelligence indicators or force protection concerns.

To submit a web tip go to http://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=1111 or the AFOSI web page at http://www.osi.af.mil

How to report an anonymous tip using a smart phone:

- 1. Use the smart phone app
- 2. Manually select an agency
- 3. Choose USA then Federal Agency then select AFOSI
- 4. Create a passport, select New Tip and fill out the form with as much information as possible.

How to report an anonymous tip VIA text message:

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

Air Force Housing website

Visit 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 worldwide.

Spirit Café

If you are a young Airman, let the Spirit Café make your time at Whiteman more fun. Stop by after work to play some pool, darts, foosball, or the newest games on Xbox One or Playstation 4. The Café opens at 4 p.m. during the week and noon on weekends. There is free dinner every Friday at 4:30 p.m. There are also free premium snacks and Wi-Fi. Come for the free stuff, stay for the fun and friends.

Please like the Spirit Café on Facebook to stay up to date on special events and tournaments.

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Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items have been turned in as found property to Security Forces Investigation Section. To inquire about lost property, go to building 711, room 305, or call Detective Steven Scott at 660-687-5342.

WEATHER

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Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Sunny
Hi 81	Hi 84
Lo 60	Lo 61

Whiteman Hot Topics

Every week we'll address concerns expressed by the Whiteman community.

Where can you find out about events at the club?

Answer: Great question! FSS is currently working on ramping up all marketing avenues to communicate the greats programs and events happening at your Mission's End Club. Check out our website, http://www.whitemanfss.com, as well as our Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/whitemanmarketing, for the most current information. Customers can also look out for the weekly newsletter send by email to "Whiteman All", the base marquee located at the club, the bowling center score machine monitors, and television monitors throughout all FSS facilities. We're always looking for your feedback, so please take advantage of the electronic and paper comment cards available at all comment boxes in FSS facilities.

Whose job is it to trim bushes in the yards of the homes on base? Is it a Force Protection issue to not have them trimmed?

Answer: In accordance with the Whiteman AFB Resident Guide, the BBC Community Management Office provides yard service for all unfenced areas, including the unfenced front and sides of the home. Residents are responsible for yard maintenance within the fenced area of their backyards. Residents are also responsible for maintaining landscaping in the flower beds around their home year round. Bushes should be maintained below the window level for safety reasons and for pest control. BBC trims bushes around every neighborhood twice a year - once in the spring and again in the fall. Additional landscape services, such as tree pruning and erosion control, may be requested by the Resident as a routine service request.

END OF YEAR CLOSEOUT MESSAGE FY2015 (DEGRADED OPERATION)

In preparation for the end-of-year close out for FY2015, Enterprise Solution System (ES-S) and Integrated Maintenance Data System (IMDS) will be down on 29 Sept. at the normally scheduled time for end of day processing. Please remember that only priority 02/03 requests will be accepted during this time. Normal processing should resume Oct. 1, 2015.

For Flight Line Support, please contact Aircraft Part Store at 687-7137 For all other requirements, please contact 509lrs.custsvc@us.af.mil or at 687-1165.

If you have any further questions, please contact the following:

TSgt Maydanell Lim 687-4074 maydanell.lim@us.af.mil

or

TSgt Jason Wynn 687-2681 jason.wyn.1@us.af.mil

Beat the Boss

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 the same or higher than the commander's score of 96.3% will earn a one-day pass and those who score a 100% win a one-day pass and one of the commander's coins.

Here are the Beat the Boss results for 14-16 September:

Brig. Gen. Tibbets chose to continue this program; his score is 96.3%

Tech. Sgt. James Thompson 509th Civil Engineer Squadron 98 6%

1st Lt. Elisabeth Mellado

509th Mission Support Group 99.9%

Senior Airman Chelsea Allen

509th Medical Operations Support Squadron 97.4%

Lt. Col. Timothy Hale 509th Operations Group 97.1%



1st Lt. Lauren Venturini 509th Bomb Wing

100%

Tech. Sgt. Noah Leiter 509th Civil Engineer Squadron 96.6%

Staff Sgt. Ryan Waterfield
509th Operations Support Squadron
98.9%

Airman Collin Sigrest 509th Security Forces Squadron 98.5%

Master Sgt. Jason Stone 509th Civil Engineer Squadron 96.3%

News



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Classes may be cancelled or added depending on enrollment.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE NOW FORMING: SESSION 2 Sept. 29th - Oct. 19th (5-9:20pm) Speech M-W

Human Resource Management M-W American History T-Th

SESSION 3A Oct. 20th – Nov. 9th (5-9:20pm) Humanities T-Th

SESSION 3B Oct. 20th - Nov. 23rd (5-9:20pm) College Algebra M-W

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Sonia Maria Sotomayor has the distinction of being its first justice of Hispanic heritage, and its third female justice of the Supreme Court. Sotomayor was born in The Bronx, New York City to Puerto Rican-born parents. In May 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Sotomayor to the Supreme Court following the retirement of Justice David Souter.

Lt. General (Retired) Ricardo Sanchez was born into a poor Mexican American family in Rio Grande City, Texas. Sanchez held the top military position in Iraq during what was arguably one of the most critical periods of the war—the year after the fall of the Hussein regime, and the time the insurgency took root and began its counterattack. Highlights during his tenure as commander in Iraq include the killing of Uday and Qusay Hussein, and the capture of Saddam Hussein.



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News Sept. 25, 2015

Whiteman Airman recognized during outstanding Airman of the year ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody and Air Force Association Vice Chairman of the Board Scott Van Cleef flank Senior Airman Mason Meherg at an award ceremony during which Meherg was officially honored as a member of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at National Harbor, Md., September 14, 2015

By Airman 1st Class Michaela R. Slanchik

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Every year, top 12 enlisted performers, Air Force-wide, are selected based on their job performance, leadership abilities and self-improvement activities.

These Airmen are honored as one of the Outstanding Airman of the Year (OAY).

Senior Airman Mason Meherg, 509th Comptroller Squadron financial services technician, received his award Sept. 14 in Washington, D.C., for being one of 12 OAY

During his trip to Washington D.C., Meherg attended a recognition ceremony as well as his first OAY meeting.

The 12 OAY have many duties, including traveling to bases all around the country and receiving feedback from enlisted members on how the Air Force can be improved. The Airmen then make recommendations through the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force on quality of life and policy issues that impact the enlisted force.

Joining the Air Force less than three

years ago, Meherg said he never expected to be chosen as one of the 12 OAY.

"It is very humbling to go from a onestripe Airman in tech school, just two years ago, to one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year," said Meherg.

Meherg holds the title of being Financial Management Airman of the Year for Air Force Global Strike Command; an award he earned while supporting more than 10,000 members across three wings.

Because of his hard work and reliability, Meherg filled the NCO in charge of special actions position while holding the rank of airman first class.

"Being trusted by my leadership early-on in my career was rewarding," said Meherg. "I came to work every day and did my best, so I wouldn't let them down."

In order to help his office become more proficient and timely, Meherg significantly improved in-processing procedures. He cut hundreds of man-hours by changing the typical mass briefing into a one-on-one service so customers could receive more timely payment with fewer errors.

With Meherg's help, many programs

have become more streamlined. For example, Meherg surpassed the Air Force's fiveday expectation for processing monetary adjustments based on Articles 15 by completing 27 different cases within 24 hours.

It's this type of ingenuity that helped his office better support the wing's mission, ultimately enhancing Airmen readiness by allowing them to focus on their duties, rather than their finances.

"We need our Airmen to be laser focused when they're at work," said Senior Master Sgt. Nathaniel Bettisworth, 509th Comptroller Squadron superintendent. "If we can help keep Whiteman personnel from having any financial problems, then we can mitigate distractions from what they are doing day-in and day-out."

Meherg feels that self-improvement can also help him perform better on the job, and so he takes his education very seriously. After completing his Community College of the Air Force degree in Finance Management within a year, he began pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Business. He also attended a "Presenting Ideas to Leadership" seminar which he is able to apply every day when communicating with his supervisors.

"All professional development and education builds the knowledge needed to be more effective in the work center," said Meherg. "CMSAF James A. Cody talked about the difference between being a technician and a professional Airman at the Air Force Sergeant's Association Professional Airmen's Conference a couple of weeks ago. Our force is too small for technicians. We need Airmen that are improving themselves in all aspects in order to be more effective and proficient."

Meherg noted that the visit to the Nation's capital gave him the chance to reflect on one of the reasons he and his team continues to give their best effort.

"We had the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery while I was in Washington, D.C., and it really puts everything in perspective," said Meherg. "This award was a personal recognition that stemmed from an all-out team effort from Airmen that understand what these men and women died for. Giving your all every day can help ensure that those acres and acres of graves and the people that lie in them are not in vain."

Barksdale Airmen participate in EUCOM exercise

By Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE,

La. -- A 2nd Bomb Wing B-52 Stratofortress aircrew conducted a long-range bomber mission from the United States to the U.S. European Command area of operations Sept. 17-18, where they participated in Exercise Immediate Response 2015.

During the nonstop sortie, which lasted approximately 30 hours, the aircrew flew from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, to Postojna, Slovenia, where they worked with Slovenian and U.S. Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) at a range near the Slovenian town of Pivka to provide close air support to allied forces. Additionally, they conducted a low altitude demonstration for distinguished multinational visitors and leaders.

"This exercise sends a very specific message to our partners and allies in the region that the B-52 is prepared to provide immediate combat power anywhere in the world when called upon," said Capt. Ryan Loucks, 96th Bomb Squadron assistant director of operations, who was part of the support team that planned and launched the sortie. "Exercise Immediate Response affords our combat aircrew an outstanding opportunity to train with our coalition partners and foster multinational integration within the region. It also allows us to exercise our capability to transit multiple AORs on a single mission and achieve very precise objectives on the



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Austin M. May

A B-52 Stratofortress from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, takes fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, England, Sept. 18, 2015, in the skies near Spain. The refueling was part of Exercise Immediate Response, which included a three-ship formation of KC-135s delivering a total of 180,000 pounds of fuel to the sole bomber. The KC-135 was designed and built during the Cold War specifically to deliver fuel to the B-52.

ground in a very realistic scenario."

Exercise Immediate Response 2015 is a multinational, brigade-level exercise using computer-assisted simulations and field training exercises in Croatia and Slovenia. Exercise activities were designed to enhance regional stability, strengthen partner capacity and improve interoperability between partner nations. The exercise supports the goal of a "strong Europe" in that partner

nations are trained and ready to combine forces to ensure unified security across allied nations.

The B-52 mission in support of Immediate Response followed a series of similar partnership activities in the EUCOM AOR. In June, three Stratofortresses from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, deployed to Royal Air Force Fairford, England, where the bombers trained and integrated

with U.S. and allied military forces during Exercises BALTOPS and Saber Strike. In April, two Barksdale B-52s and two Minot B-52s performed a nonstop roundtrip mission to the North Sea and Arctic regions, where aircrews participated in dissimilar air intercept maneuvers with fighters from the Royal Canadian Air Force, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

According to Maj. Gen. Richard Clark, 8th Air Force commander and the U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike commander, the participation of B-52 forces in Exercise Immediate Response 2015 demonstrates the Air Force's ability to integrate with joint forces while simultaneously supporting the nation's efforts to build and foster partnerships with its allies.

"Exercises such as Immediate Response provide participating nations with the ability to plan, prepare and execute joint and combined training in a real-time, realistic setting," Clark said. "For our aircrews and support apparatus, these events not only provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen and improve interoperability, but they allow our bomber forces to train like we fight and exercise our long-range strike playbook in a practice scrimmage on the global gridiron."

The B-52 Stratofortress is a long-range, multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. The aircraft can fly at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet.



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The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015

News







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19th Air Force Marathon kicks off



Courtesy photo/Wes Farnsworth

Runners take off at the start of the 2015 U.S. Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept 19, 2015.

By Brian Brackens

88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) - Thousands of runners and spectators from across the

country and around the world met on the grounds of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, for the 19th annual U.S. Air Force Marathon, Sept. 19.

Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski, the Air Force Materiel Command commander, welcomed race participants to the event.

"Yesterday marked the 68th birthday of the United States Air Force," Pawlikowski said. "So it is appropriate that the Air Force Marathon, which has become a proud tradition, is celebrated right here at the birthplace of aviation. I can't think of a more perfect venue than the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force to commemorate these two events and more than 100 years of aviation history. Thank you to everyone who made this 19th annual Air Force Marathon possible."

The three-day event started Sept. 17 with a Sports and Fitness Expo held at the Ervin J. Nutter Center on the campus of Wright State University. The expo highlighted exhibits on the latest in sports, fitness, health and nutrition.

Pre-race activities included a Breakfast of Champions and the annual Gourmet Pasta Dinner, held at the museum Sept. 18.

Col. John Devillier, the 88th Air Base Wing and installation commander, thanked the people responsible for putting on the

"This is my second year here and my first opportunity to see first-hand, all the hard work and planning that goes into creating a world class event" Devillier said. "I'm especially thankful to the thousands of volunteers who gave their time and energy to helping us, our sponsors who make this all possible and the incredible support we get from the local communities with their police, fire and emergency medical team support."

During the event, runners had the option of competing in the

full marathon, a half-marathon, and 10K, as well as a wheeled division.

This year's men's full marathon winner was Jason Brosseau, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, with a time of 2:46:01. Brosseau said that his determination and energy of the crowd

helped him finish the race. "My advice is don't let anything stop you," Brosseau said.

"Just keep on pushing." This year's women's full marathon winner was Elissa Ballas,

of Chicago, Illinois, with a time of 2:57:21.

Ballas thanked race volunteers for their support during the

"All of the volunteers were outstanding," Ballas said. "It can be kind of lonely out on the course and having volunteers out there helps. Today is my last day in the Air Force and it has been so meaningful to be here."

The Air Force Marathon is sanctioned by the USA Track & Field Association and is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon.

Winners are listed below. All times are unofficial at the time of this release:

- · Men's Full Marathon: Jason Brosseau, Colorado Springs, Colorado; 2:46:01
- Women's Full Marathon: Elissa Ballas, Chicago, Illinois;
- · Men's Full Marathon, handcranked wheelchair division: David Berling, Avondale, Arizona; 1:18:50
- Women's Full Marathon, handcranked wheelchair division: Thea Rosa, Sacramento, California; 1:41:47
 - Men's Half Marathon: Isaiah Bragg, Dublin, Ohio; 1:11:28
- · Women's Half Marathon: Anne Portlock, Bloomington, Indiana; 1:23:59
 - Men's 10K: Steve Chu, Colorado Springs; 32:25
- Women's 10K: Caitlin Oviatt, Dayton, Ohio; 39:35
- Men's 5K: Tyler Sullivan, Iowa City, Iowa; 17:01
- Women's 5K: Angela Kasten, Davison, Michigan; 21:15



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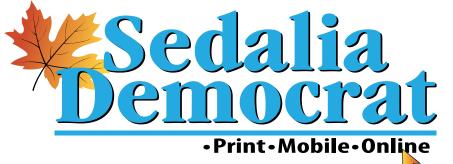
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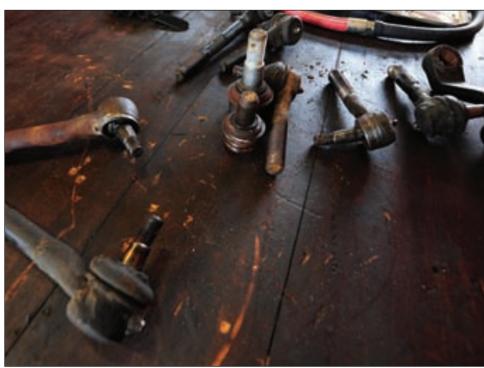


News

Whiteman LRS Airmen are ready to repair



Staff Sgt. Kyle Bemus, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management supervisor, inspects transmission fluid levels at Whiteman Air force Base, Mo., Sept. 24, 2015. This process is done to ensure proper fluid levels are maintained for vehicle upkeep.



Tie rod ends lay dormant a table at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 24, 2015. These parts are used to connect a vehicle's steering system to its wheels.



Airman 1st Class Chris Boyce, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance journeyman, moves an upper radiator cover at Whiteman Air force Base, Mo., Sept. 24, 2015. The upper radiator cover ensures the engine fan is directing air flow toward the vehicle's engine to prevent overheating.



Airman 1st Class Chris Boyce, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance journeyman, picks up an allen head socket at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 24, 2015. This tool is used to remove bolts from vehicles while maintenance is performed.

News Sept. 25, 2015

AFGSC completes first New START bomber conversion



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sqt. Dachelle Melville

A B-52H Stratofortress, 61-1021, assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing, is the first B-52H bomber to be converted as part of the New START Treaty. U.S. efforts to support the treaty includes the conversion of 30 operational and 12 non-operational B-52s to a conventional only configuration across the Air Force that will be completed by early 2017.

By Air Force Global Strike Command **Public Affairs**

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. - Air Force Global Strike Command has begun the conversion of a portion of the B-52H bomber fleet from a nuclear to a conventional only capability aircraft under the New Strategic Arms Reduction

Treaty (New START).

The conversion of the first of 30 operational aircraft from across the command was completed at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, this summer with the Air Force Reserve Command 307th Bomb Wing's aircraft 61-1021. The conversion process preserves the full conventional capabilities of the B-52.

See START, page 15



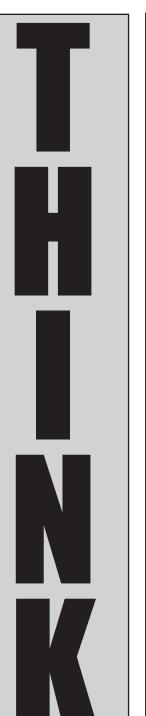
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12 The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015 **Feature**

Whiteman celebrates AF 68th birthday at ball



Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. The Honor Guard played a big role in the opening ceremony, where those missing in action and prisoners of war

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Coltrin, the 509thSecurity Forces Squadron first sergeant, stops for a photo during Whiteman Air Force Base's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. Coltrin who coordinated Whiteman's Air Force Ball along with other members of Team Whiteman had his efforts recognized during the ending ceremony.



Members of Team Whiteman pose for a photo during Whiteman's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. More than 150 Airmen attended the event.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback addresses the audience during Whiteman Air Force Base's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. Hornback, who served more than 20 years active duty military, was the guest speaker



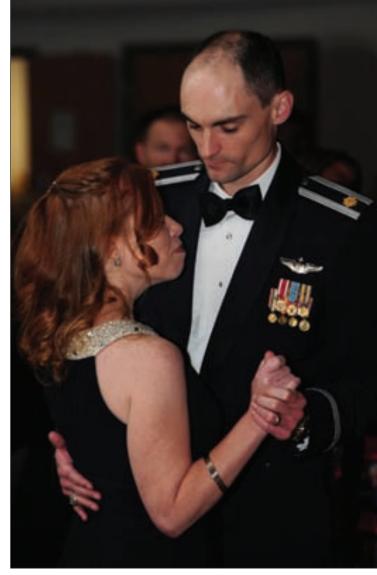
Members of the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron pose for a group photo at Whiteman Air Force Base's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. Members of various squadrons attended the event to celebrate the 68th birthday of the Air Force.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, Commander of the 509th Bomb Wing, and U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Shawn L. Drinkard, command chief of the 509th Bomb Wing, gather for a photo with an Army Air Corps veteran during Whiteman's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015.



A missing-man table features five service caps representing each branch of the military service, during Whiteman Air Force Base's Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. Highlighting the missing man table was the prelude to the event.



Members of Team Whiteman share a moment on the dance floor during the Air Force Ball in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 19, 2015. Music was performed by a live band, playing songs ranging from musical eras of the 1980's to present days hits.

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks

The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015 News







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LaPlante receives W. Stuart **Symington Award**



Courtesy photo

Dr. William J. LaPlante

Secretary of the Air Force Acquisition

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force Association presented Dr. William J. LaPlante the W. Stuart Symington Award at an Air Force anniversary dinner Sept. 16 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Washington D.C.

LaPlante, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, is responsible for all Air Force research, development, acquisition and sustainment activities. LaPlante oversees a research and development, test, production and modernization program portfolio of more than \$32 billion annually.

He is also responsible for development and execution of policies and procedures in support of the operation and improvement of the Air Force's acquisition system.

AFA awards its highest honor every year for the most significant contribution by a civilian in the field of national defense, and presented it in conjunction with its 2015 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition this year.

LaPlante was commended for his public role in our nation's defense and in development of acquisition policy.

He joins other recipients such as former President George H. W. Bush, former Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and former Secretary of State George P. Schultz.



STARTContinued from Page 11 -

The 307th Bomb Wing Commander, Col. Bruce Cox said, "We were honored to accept the challenge of modifying the first of 30 B-52Hs in compliance with this historic treaty. Leveraging the unrivaled experience of the 307th Bomb Wing Citizen-Airmen maintainers, we quickly bridged the gap between engineering design and operational execution. I am very proud of the professionals of the 307th Bomb Wing Team."

The Air Force will also convert 12 nonoperational B-52H aircraft currently maintained in storage at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group in Tucson, Arizona. The Air Force is scheduled to complete all conversions by early 2017.

Under New START, the U.S. and Russian

Federation are required to have no more than 1,550 deployed warheads; 800 deployed and non-deployed intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile launchers and nuclear capable heavy bombers; and 700 deployed ICBMs, SLBMs and nuclear capable heavy bombers. AFGSC also began the transition of 50 Minuteman III launch facilities across the command to an operational non-deployed status in May 2015.

The Department of Defense announced its force structure in April 2014 to comply with New START requirements. The treaty-compliant force structure allows the U.S. Air Force to continue providing the nation with safe, secure and effective deterrent forces.



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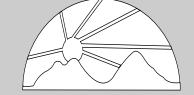
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Knob Noster Board of Aldermen-1st & 3rd Tues. each month - Basement of City Hall

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

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Changes coming to TRICARE pharmacy benefit



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE (AFNS) -- Starting Oct. 1, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

Maintenance drugs are those you take regularly for a long time, such as drugs to control blood pressure or cholesterol. The law does not apply to drugs you take for a short time, like antibiotics, or generic drugs. Beneficiaries living overseas, or with other prescription drug coverage, are not affected.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, is sending a letter to beneficiaries taking an affected drug, explaining their options. Beneficiaries can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to see if they are affected.

After Oct. 1, beneficiaries still filling an affected drug at a retail pharmacy will receive another letter informing them of the change to the benefit. After that, beneficiaries have one final "courtesy" fill at a retail pharmacy. If they fill at a retail pharmacy again, they have to pay 100 percent of the cost of their medication.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is a safe, convenient and low cost option to get maintenance drugs. You can get up to a 90-day supply, as opposed to a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. You save up to \$176 a year for every brand name drug you switch to home delivery. Military pharmacies offer up to a 90-day supply of drugs at zero copay, but not all drugs are available. You can check with your local military pharmacy to see if they carry your prescription

(Information courtesy of TRICARE.mil)



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18 The Warrior Sept. 25, 2015

Hispanic heritage:

A look back at Maj. William Edward Cordero

News

By Tech. Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Hispanic Americans have been a vital part of American society since before the country unified. William Edward Cordero was welcomed into one of these pioneering families on July 20, 1935, in Santa Barbara, California.

His father, Walter Cordero, and his mother, Helen, had early Spanish explorer roots in California, which were traceable back to the 1700s. Perhaps it was this lineage that gave William the ambition to seek new opportunities and test boundaries.

Walter and Helen had limited educations. They worked multiple jobs to support their young family during the Great Depression, but Walter was best known as a blacksmith and Helen as a mom raising William in humble surroundings. Eventually William had a stepmother, Ida, who spent the majority of her time working for Catholic charities. All three parents instilled a faithful, devoted work ethic in the young man.

As he grew, William was an avid Boy Scout and developed an interest in sports, becoming a high school football player. Despite being an average student, he had aspirations of higher education and saw the opportunity when Loyola University introduced him to the ROTC. Here he received both a solid college education and a career with the Air Force. As luck would have it, this path led him to his wife.

William met Kathleen at a dance for Air Force ROTC students and nursing students from Mount St. Mary's College. They were married in December 1957 and immediately began their life together as an Air Force family.

Their first assignment was in Texas, where the family began to grow. Their first two children were born in the Lone Star state, before the young family found themselves assigned to Oxnard Air Force Base, California, in 1961. There, the family of four became a family of six, as two more Corderos were born into the world.

Just before Thanksgiving 1963, Cordero, a captain at the time, left his growing family in the U.S. for a deployment to South Vietnam as an adviser with the 1st Air Commando Group. For nearly a year, his family would live without him; but in the summer of 1964, an assignment to Clark AFB, Philippines, reunited the family.

"In the brief time he had with us, he doted on us," recalled his son Tony Cordero. "He took us to Sunday mass. He made sure we had a 'nipa hut' playhouse when we arrived at Clark. He even took us on vacation in the Philippines."

Tony recounts dinners at the officer's club and trips to the base swimming pool, leaving the memory of an attentive, committed and patriotic father on the young boy.

At only four years old, Tony recalled the time apart from his father was difficult on his family, and his mother was not particularly happy her husband volunteered to navigate a late night mission on June 21, 1965.

On that evening Cordero climbed into his B-57 Canberra with his pilot, Capt. Charles K. Lovelace. The pair departed Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, at approximately 5 p.m. accompanied by their wingmen in another B-57, Capt. John J. Adler, and 1st Lt. Russell H. Bonner Jr

According to Bonner, the three-hour flight to Da Nang, Vietnam, was uneventful. There the two crews; JADE 21 and JADE 22 were briefed on their Rolling Thunder mission, armed-reconnaissance flight number 19G-5. They were heavily loaded with bombs, and were to be aided by a C-130 Hercules, AZTEC 2. They were briefed the weather would be overcast, and at 11: 40 p.m. they departed Da Nang.

The three aircraft stayed together, traveling between 6,000 to 10,000 feet along the way. Despite scattered



Courtesy Pho

1st Lt. William Edward Cordero during flight training.

clouds, they maintained visual contact with one another most of the flight. At approximately 1:15 a.m., AZTEC 2, the C-130, began dropping flares.

JADE 22 radioed to JADE 21, "Are you clear down there?"

JADE 21 replied, "Yes, but it's raining."

As the weather worsened, the three found themselves in increasingly heavy cloud cover, with smoke from the first bombing run hindering their vision even further. According to Bonner, the two crews made a couple of additional orbits, then began their ascent.

JADE 21 radioed to JADE 22 for a fuel check and got no response – after another try, still silence. JADE 21 then asked AZTEC 2 if they can radio JADE 22, to which they replied, there was no answer.

Kathleen, then pregnant with the couple's fifth child, would live with that silence for four long years. Her husband, a loving son, caring father and devoted Airman, was missing in action.

The family eventually flew back to California, sending regular care packages to the Red Cross with the hopes Cordero was being held as a prisoner of war. The family grew numb, according to Tony, waiting for word to come. When the casualty report was delivered in March 1969, the family felt isolated. The political climate and negativity surrounding the Vietnam War left them feeling that they couldn't share their father's story outside of the home.

"My dad saw himself as an Airman first," Tony said. "He didn't think about being Hispanic when approaching his duties, but he was descended from Spanish explorers, indigenous peoples, sheep shearers and blacksmiths. All were marginally educated. He grew up to navigate a jet bomber with some of the Air Force's most advanced technology of that time. He was a trailblazer."

According to Dr. Richard Wolf, the director of Air Force Historical Support Division, statistics for the Vietnam War did not generally break out demographics

as the Air Force does today. Wolf's office ran a search of casualties from 1960 to 1965 and found almost no Hispanic surnames at all -- none in the officer corps. At the time, Hispanic Airmen were thought to make up only 4.5 percent of the Air Force population, putting Cordero among one of the first Hispanic officers killed in Vietnam, if not the first.

Today, Tony feels his father opened the door for other Hispanic men and women following in his footsteps. Tony is a college graduate and has started Gold Star Sons and Daughters in Touch. The support group is for children of the Vietnam War -- children who, like him, missed out on growing up with their parents.

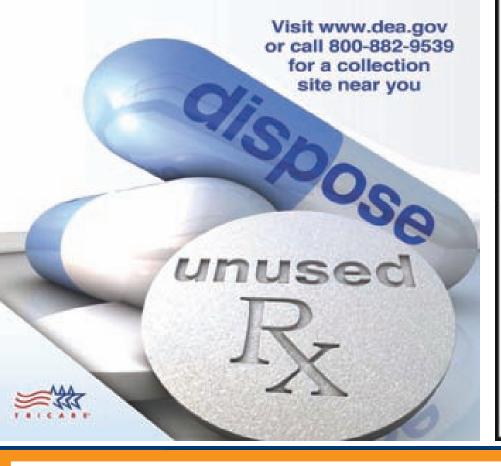
Cordero was promoted to the rank of major posthumously, and 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of his and Lovelace's loss. Cordero would have been 80 years old this year

Tony said he believes his father would tell the Airmen of today, "Everything is possible."



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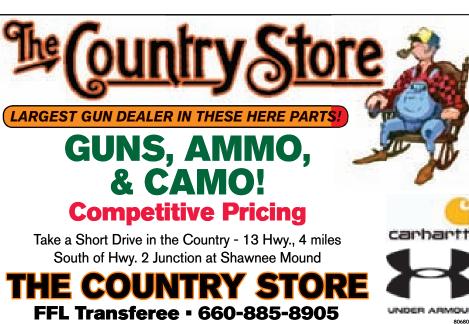


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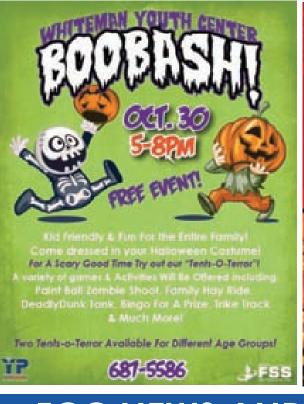
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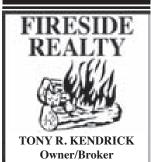
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