

WARRIOR



MAINTAINING MORALE

*Top MX performers
recognized Pg. 8*



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THE WARRIOR

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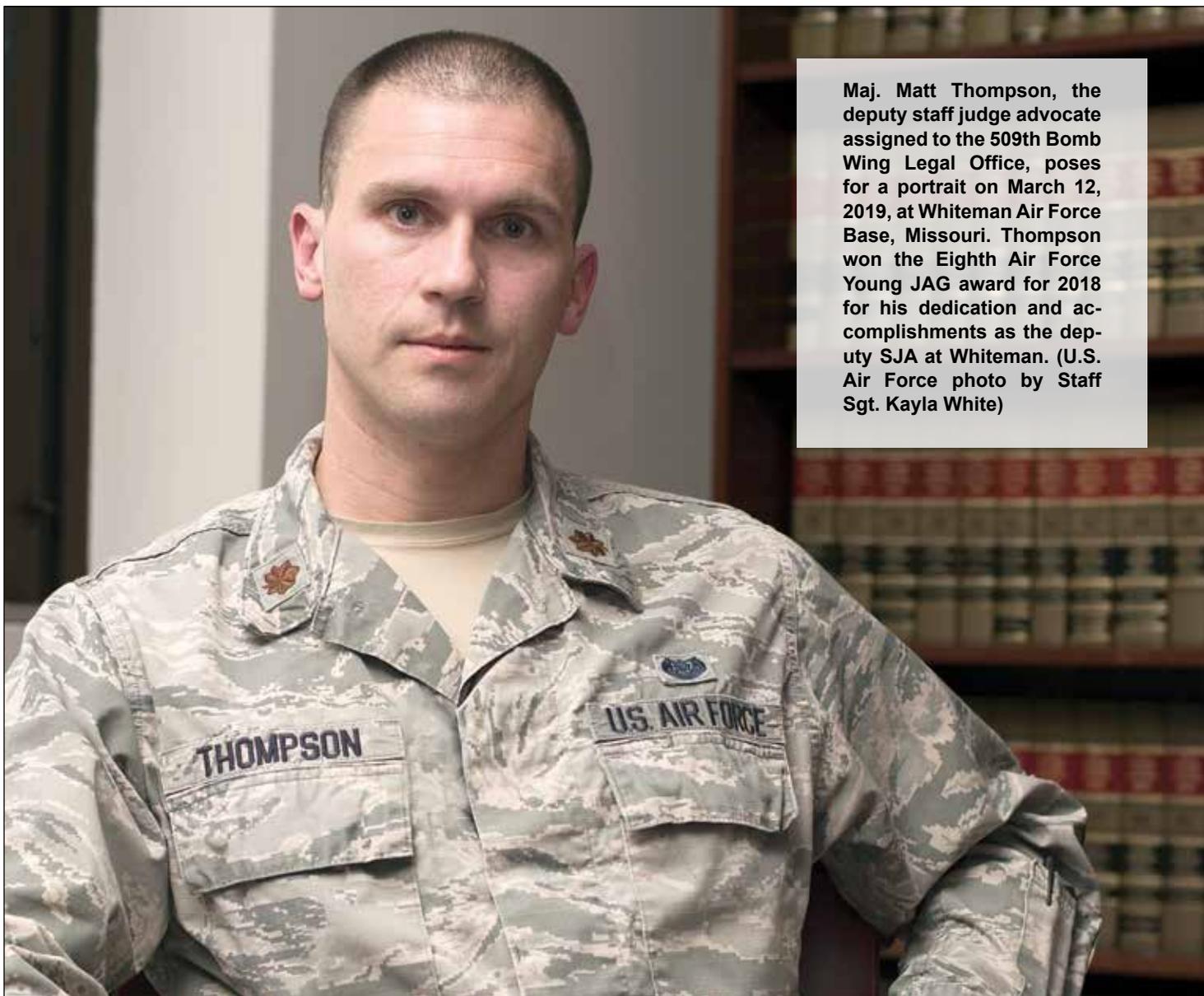
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On the cover

Dover Biery, a 509th Maintenance Squadron Key Spouse mentor, poses for a portrait during the Maintenance Professional of the Year award banquet on March 15, 2019. Her husband is retired Senior Master Sgt. John Biery, who served as the low observable maintenance flight chief with the 509th MXS. Biery received the Joan Orr spouse of the year award at the Air Force Global Strike Command level for her contributions and impact throughout 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Maj. Matt Thompson, the deputy staff judge advocate assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office, poses for a portrait on March 12, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Thompson won the Eighth Air Force Young JAG award for 2018 for his dedication and accomplishments as the deputy SJA at Whiteman. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

Whiteman legal eagle earns Eighth Air Force's Outstanding Young Judge Advocate award

Staff Sgt. Kayla White

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Matt Thompson won the Eighth Air Force Outstanding Young Judge Advocate award for 2018.

Thompson serves as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

He has served as the deputy SJA since June 2016 and backfilled the SJA position during the transition period before the current SJA arrived.

"He serves as a resident expert on all things military justice, operations law, civilian labor law and government ethics," said Lt. Col. Gregory Thompson, the 509th Bomb Wing staff judge advocate. "He is simply an indispensable part of our team."

Lt. Col. Thompson said the major has anchored their office's ability to execute nine courts martial in 12 weeks, citing it as no small task.

"He is a great example to us at the legal office of what a mission-minded Airman looks like," said the SJA.

This level of determination and focus has helped the legal mind get to where he is today.

Thompson said he had always dreamt of joining the military. He had every intention of joining the Army when he was 17 years old, but his father convinced him to pursue his college degree first.

Thompson graduated from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. During his third year, he served as a student apprentice at two separate district attorney offices.

"I really learned how to deal with people

and organize cases," he said. "Those experiences set me up to be a better trial attorney and prosecutor."

During law school, he participated in a study abroad program which took him to Cambridge, England. His international law instructor was retired Army JAG, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Corn. Corn pushed him to join the Air Force instead.

"He said the Army will specialize you, making you a stronger prosecutor or contracts attorney, but Air Force is going to make you a well-rounded lawyer," said Thompson. "That guidance was really influential."

He commissioned into the Air Force in October of 2007.

"It's one of those profound experiences in your life that sticks with you," said Thompson.

He said it felt like a culmination of all his hard work through college and law school.

"I got to become a prosecutor and join the military," said Thompson. "It was the start of this new chapter of my life where everything was coming together."

Today, as the deputy SJA, Thompson said he views his role within the 509th BW Legal Office as twofold.

First, he functions as the office manager. He handles awards and appraisals, and he works to ensure his staff has what they need to do their jobs.

"Other times, it's just keeping your door open and being willing to listen," Thompson said. "Hopefully you become a trusted ally."

Second, he works as a key resource and

support for Lt. Col. Thompson, helping to advise base leadership on legal matters.

"It's our job to ensure that commanders and leaders are having healthy, robust discussions on these issues," said Thompson. "We give them the advice and legal resources they need to make the best, most-informed decisions possible."

His work does not stop with what is immediately tasked to him. He often rolls up his sleeves to assist his legal team.

"We have these internal databases we have to update, as well as metrics and deadlines to meet," said Thompson. "It's doing whatever needs to be done for the Wing from the legal perspective."

He has dedicated countless hours dedicated to supporting the people of this base and helping to ensure mission accomplishment.

"When our office heard 8th Air Force had selected him as the Outstanding Young Judge Advocate we were all extremely happy for him because we witnessed firsthand the hard work and dedication that earned him this recognition," said Lt. Col. Thompson.

Maj. Thompson credits his wife with taking care of their children so he could be as present as he has been for the base.

He said that while it was an honor to be recognized, it was more so a good reflection on his office as a whole.

"There are a lot of hardworking people who are devoted to this mission," he said. "I'm very proud of this group of professional mission-minded folks."

For a complete list of services and contact information for the legal office, please see the base website: www.whiteman.af.mil or call 660-687-6809.



THE WHITEMAN WEEKLY WIRE

NEWS | UPDATES

The Whiteman Weekly Wire is published weekly in the Warrior and on www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.

Items to be published should be submitted no later than noon on Wednesdays to: whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil with the subject "Weekly Wire Request." Your submission must be five lines or less, including contact information. Attachments cannot be included.

The status of the installation during inclement weather or other circumstances is updated on Facebook, www.whiteman.af.mil, and the Straight Talk line, which is 660-687-6397.

Closures / Downtime

- **The Airman & Family Readiness Center** will be closed for training on March 27.
- **From March 25-29, 509th MUNS** will be conducting a 100 percent inventory of the stockpile. No munitions transactions, including issues, pulls, expenditures or turn-ins will be processed. To ensure your account has assets to complete mission and/or training requirements, schedule all munitions transactions for March 18-22, prior to the inventory. Only emergency munitions transactions will be accepted during this time and must be approved in writing through group commanders. Contact Munitions Operations at whiteman.fv4625@us.af.mil or 660-687-8214. (AFI21-201: A3.3.4. During inventories, minimize account transactions by only processing emergency requests submitted in writing and approved by the group commander (or equivalent)).
- **The Fitness Center Track and Field** is closed for renovations. PT tests will be conducted at Knob Noster High School. All tests are run through the Fitness Assessment Cell (FAC); the FAC will transport testers to the high school to complete the walk/run portion of the test. The Knob Noster track is not available for squadron PT, but if you'd like to run and get a feel for the track, it is only available after school hours.



General information

- **Service members are advised** to be aware of what they consume as some states legalize recreational marijuana and THC. THC and CBD oils are illegal under federal law and Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Products containing them, such as THC beer, can cause a positive urinalysis result in a drug test.
- **The 12-week pharmacy technician certification course** through State Fair Community College at Whiteman AFB provides a certificate. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday each week from April 2-June 20 at the SFCC on base.
- **TRICARE Online (TOL)** offers on-line access for appointment management, prescription refills, health data, the nurse advice line, secure messages with your PCM and more. Go to www.TRICAREOnline.com.
- **Army & Air Force Exchange Service (BX)** shoppers can now buy items at ShopMyExchange.com and pick them up at their local BX for free. Visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/#>.
- **The base gym** has a parking spot reserved during all regular hours and days. The new space is near the front entrance and is reserved for any wing annual award winner or member of Honor Guard.
- **The Exceptional Family Member Support Group meets at 10-11 a.m. the first and third Tuesday** of each month at Whiteman AFB Youth Center. The group provides free information, speakers, children's activities and other events. Call 660-687-7132 for more information.
- **Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items** have been turned in as found property to Security Forces. To inquire, visit Building 711, Room 305, or call Detective Steven B. Scott at 660-687-5342.
- **The Qualified Recycling Program** is open for drop-off 24/7 with reduced customer service staff. Cardboard, paper, newspaper, printer cartridges, lead acid batteries, scrap metal and aluminum cans are accepted. Materials left outside the Whiteman recycling center are base property; taking them is theft. Contact the recycling center with questions at 660-687-6253.
- **Are you interested in joining a vanpool or starting your own?** The Department of the Transportation (DoT) manages the vanpool program for the DoD at no out-of-pocket costs for you. This program is open to active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Contact Maj. Keith Bratton at keith.bratton@us.af.mil.
- **Have you checked out the Whiteman Air Force Base smartphone app?** The app is frequently updated with new content and resources, including events, a base directory, medical information, and information for inbound and outbound personnel. A link to the download the app is available on the Whiteman website.
- **For the latest news, photos, and videos** please refer to the official Whiteman Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.



WEATHER

FRIDAY

Sunny
Hi 59 – Lo 35

SATURDAY

Mostly Sunny, Then
Chance of Showers
Hi 58 – Lo 47

SUNDAY

Showers Likely
Hi 63 – Lo 45

MONDAY

Chance Showers
Hi 52 – Lo 31



Volunteer Opportunities

- **The Whiteman PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)** needs volunteers for its chili cook-off and family bingo night April 12 at the Whiteman Elementary School cafeteria. Volunteer hours are 4-8:30 p.m. Volunteers eat free and can be provided an EPR letter.
- **ChildSafe, a child advocacy center needs volunteers for the Adult Egg Hunt** on April 13 at the Elm Hills Golf Course in Sedalia, Missouri. Volunteers will be needed for setting up, serving food, helping with the hunt and games, handing out prizes, cleaning up and more. To volunteer email hheimsoth@childsafefoundation.org.
- **The Airman & Family Readiness Center is looking for volunteers** to support Operation Spirit 2019 on April 27 at the Deployment Center on base. Volunteers help children with their mock deployment: in-processing, applying make-up, serving as chalk leaders and escorts for the obstacle course, setting up and tearing down, and assisting the USO serve food. To volunteer and for more information, call 660-687-7132.
- **Powell Gardens is looking for volunteers** for numerous positions. Volunteers are given free admission year round, along with discounts and other benefits. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. For more information, call 816-697-2600 ext. 304 or email bhallak@powellgardens.org.
- **To volunteer for Team Whiteman's Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD) program**, contact Senior Airman Tyler Anderson at tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil.



31 Upcoming Events

- **The 509th Medical Group is offering a nicotine cessation class** in the B-2 conference room at the clinic. Attending all four sessions is recommended. Session 1 is complete; Session 2 is 3-4:30, March 26; Session 3 is 3-4:30, April 2; Session 4 is 3-4:30, April 19. Call Health Promotion at 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- **The Whiteman PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)** is hosting a chili cook-off and family bingo night from 5-8 p.m. April 12 at the Whiteman Elementary School cafeteria. The event is open to everyone on base. The cost is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door; PTO members and their families are \$5. For additional information, contact whitemanpantherspto@gmail.com.
- **A pre-diabetes class** is 2:30-4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the 509th Medical Group Education and Training room in the basement. Call 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- **EFMP/special needs or deployment/remote status military family** are invited to Coffee & Chat 10-11 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Coffee SKNOBS in Knob Noster. Complimentary coffee with refreshments are offered. Children are welcome with adult supervision. For more information, call 660-687-7132.
- **The Airman & Family Readiness Center** offers financial classes every month. Individual appointments are available. Call 660-687-7132 or 660-619-2735 for more information.

Advisories

- **If you are experiencing heating issues on base**, please contact the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron at 660-687-6350.
- **The Whiteman AFB Tax Center** will not be stood up this year as a result of December's partial government shutdown. Options to assist you with filing your taxes, including free online software and tax consultants available via phone, are detailed at www.whiteman.af.mil/taxcenter/. Taxes are due to the IRS by Monday, April 15 (April 17 for residents of Maine and Massachusetts). The IRS is accepting tax returns now.
- **Food Recalls:** Monogram Meat Snacks recalled ready-to-eat Duke's pork sausage products due to contamination/adulteration. All applicable base facilities have been notified. Review recalls at <http://www.dla.mil/TroopSupport/Subsistence/FoodSafety/fso/ALFOODACT.aspx>.

Guardsmen optimize mission readiness, enhance Army combatives program



A U.S. Air Force Airman throws a fellow Airman onto the water during a U.S. Army Combatives course exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Adan Cavarez)

By Capt. Adan Cazarez
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii — U.S. Air Force Maj. Frederick Cruz from the Hawaii Air National Guard, pins down fellow Airman on shallow ocean waves as water splashed after each body hit. Sparring with Airman 1st Class Christian Torres they

alternated control with each movement. Both Airmen participated in a U.S. Army Combatives Level-1 program sponsored by the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Feb. 19 – 22.

Approximately a dozen U.S. Soldiers and Airmen from active-duty and the National Guard grappled with white-knuckled concentration during the Army Combatives program in the four-day course.

According to the website featuring the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, based at Fort Benning, Ga., the mission of the U.S. Army Combatives Course is to train Leaders and Soldiers in close quarters Combatives in order to instill the Warrior Ethos and prepare Soldiers to close with and defeat the enemy in hand to hand combat.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeffery Jenkins, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, also a Level-3 Combatives instructor with the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, reinforced the mission statement regarding mental toughness.

“The importance of the U.S. Army Combatives is that it helps build individual fitness, confidence and mental strength,” said Jenkins. “The benefit of this program is to help instill the Warrior Ethos mentality with the never quit attitude, never leave a fallen comrade and place the mission first.”

The 40-hour course tests participants from varying physical fitness levels, experiences and backgrounds.

Jenkins stated that endurance and mental intensity, not solely physical strength, are paramount in successful hand-to-hand combat.

“The most challenging part of the course has been keeping up with the physical training and staying on my toes at all times,” said Torres. “Especially remembering my techniques when you’re physically and mentally exhausted.” The enemy doesn’t care if you’re tired, he added.

Training others is just what Soldiers and Airmen like Cruz hope to take back with their new skillset.

“What I hope to get out of the course is a better understanding on how to defeat opponents using hand-to-hand combat,” said Cruz. “This has been a great opportunity to learn from the U.S. Army Combatives program and I look forward to taking this new set of skills and knowledge learned to my fellow Airmen.”

The Modern Army Combatives Program started in 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion. It has been incorporated into the new TC 3-25.150, the Army Ground Fighting Techniques publication, and Basic Combatives is one of the Forty Warrior Core Tasks of the Warrior Ethos initiative.

“What we’re teaching these Soldiers and Airman today is quite simple and that is to be confident and mentally prepared to defeat their enemy if needed in hand to hand combat,” said Jenkins.

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Whiteman remembers first women to sit alert at missile launch facility 33 years ago

From 509th Bomb Wing staff reports

Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, made history when two of its crew members from the 351st Strategic Missile Wing went to work on March 25, 1986.

Capt. Linda Aldrich and Capt. Nancy Dean were the first women to do so when they sat alert at the base's Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch control facility. Soon after, alert crews at other bases allowed female crews, followed by female-male crews.

By the early 1980s, the Air Force reexamined its policy and allowed women to serve on the Minuteman and Peacekeeper alert crews, as it faced the looming deactivation of the Titan II ICBM, said David Grisdale, the director of historical properties at Whiteman AFB.

"Up to this time, all Minuteman and Peacekeeper crews were to be male," Grisdale said. "There was opposition to women serving on alert crews because of the confined space of the capsule where the crews worked."

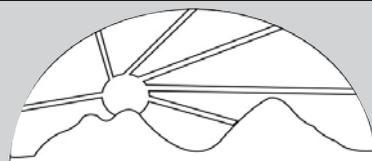
By February 1985, Strategic Air Command announced that all-women crews would be allowed to serve on ICBM crews. The implementation plan called for women to join the Minuteman force, one wing at a time, beginning with Whiteman's 351st Strategic Missile Wing.

Because of the excellent results of the Whiteman program, the Strategic Air Command asked other missile wings to follow suit, Grisdale said.

The 351st Missile Wing was inactivated in 1995. The Minuteman II facility – known as Oscar-1 – was active from 1963 until 1995. Oscar-1 is preserved as a heritage center and is open to the public for free tours. For more information, call 660-687-6560.



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- Lion's Club**—2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m. - Jubilation Center
- Knob Noster Area Business Council**—4th Thurs. of each month. 660-563-1633 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
- Knob Noster Board of Aldermen**—1st & 3rd Tues. each month - City Hall, 201 N. State Street
- 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 Knob Noster United Methodist Church, Arnold Sauther, 660-441-5219
- Cub Scouts** - Pack 405 Ben Pancoast, 660-238-5936
- Cub Scouts** - Pack 509 Knob Noster United Methodist Church
- Girl Scouts** - Jo Ellen Elwell 563-3514
- Freedom of Road Riders, Local 33** - 3rd Sun. 1 p.m. - AMVETS Building

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Offutt AFB battling flood waters



An aerial view of Offutt Air Force Base and the surrounding areas affected by flood waters March 17, 2019. An increase in water levels of surrounding rivers and waterways caused by record-setting snowfall over the winter in addition to a large drop in air pressure caused widespread flooding across the state of Nebraska. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Blake)

55th Wing Public Affairs Staff Reports

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AFNS) — Like large portions of Nebraska, Offutt Air Force Base personnel are battling flood waters that started to creep onto the installation March 15.

An increase in water levels upstream due to a record-setting snowfall

this winter, in addition to a huge drop in air pressure earlier in the week, has overwhelmed the southeastern side of the base with water from the Missouri River and Papio Creek.

“Team Offutt has done an incredible job working together to battle this historic flood as best we can,” said Col. Michael Manion, 55th Wing

commander. “We can’t thank our on-base mission partners enough for their support through this as well as officials from the City of Bellevue, the city of LaVista, Sarpy County, the state of Nebraska and the Omaha Public Power District.”

Base officials evacuated the base lake early Friday and personnel worked around the clock to fortify facilities with more than 235,000 sandbags and 460 flood barriers to minimize damage as much as possible.

All streets south and east of the Offutt Field House are impassible with water reaching approximately 30 buildings including the headquarters facilities of the 55th Wing, 55th Security Forces Squadron, 97th Intelligence Squadron, 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron as well as the Bennie L. Davis maintenance facility among others.

“Our team worked as rapidly as possible to improve water defenses around critical infrastructure,” Manion said.

In addition, portions of the flightline are covered with water and multiple aircraft have been evacuated to other locations.

The STRATCOM Gate is also closed at this time due to water crossing the road. In response, the 55th SFS is utilizing the Meyer Gate for cargo and construction traffic and is expected to open the Bellevue Gate full time on March 18.

“We’re requesting everyone’s patience as we work through this together,” Manion said. “Our defenders are working hard to keep everyone safe, so please obey all traffic control point personnel.”



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OCP rollout begins at Whiteman AFB

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — The Military Clothing facility at Whiteman Air Force Base began selling the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform on March 15, 2019.

At this time, the uniforms are available only to Whiteman AFB personnel and each individual is allotted two complete sets.

Squadrons have staggered time slots for Airmen to pick up their OCPs to avoid overwhelming the facility.

OCP Rollout Schedule

- **March 21-22nd:** 509th Comptroller Squadron and Bomb Wing Staff
- **March 25-26th:** 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **March 27-28th:** 509th Medical Group
- **March 29th and April 1st:** 509th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **April 2-3rd:** 509th Operations Group
- **April 4-5th:** 509th Force Support Squadron
- **April 6th:** 131st Bomb Wing staff
- **April 8-9th:** 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **April 10-11th:** 509th Communications Squadron
- **April 13th:** 442nd Fighter Wing
- **April 12th and 15th:** 325th Weapons Squadron, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, 53rd Test Management Group, Det. 2
- **April 16-17th:** 609th Contracting Squadro

According to the Air Force's Personnel Center, online ordering through AAFES is anticipated to be available to Airmen around October 2019. All Airmen are required to wear OCPs by April 1, 2021.

For more information, review AFI 36-2903 or visit the Dress and Appearance page on the AFPC website at www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Dress-and-Appearance/.



Boxes of Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform items sit ready to be purchased in the Military Clothing facility at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, on March 15, 2019. Each squadron was given a designated day for their Airmen to purchase two sets of OCPs. The squadron's leadership was present to assist the Airmen in finding their correct sizes. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla)



Maintenance Professional of the



Senior Master Sgt. Geoff Robertson, a production flight chief with the 509th Munitions Squadron, fires foam darts from a compressed air cannon during the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. As the cannon fired, lights flashed on the MUNS table topper and a siren wailed. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

At left: Airman 1st Class Gary Yoonfield, a munitions system technician with the 509th Munitions Squadron plays the national anthem on his electric guitar during the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Before the banquet Yoonfield practiced the national anthem and several other songs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Award winners pose for a group photo with their awards after the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The ceremony served to recognize the accomplishments of the Airmen, civilians and spouses of the 509th and 131st Maintenance Groups. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

Year Award Banquet

Medallions hang before they are presented to nominees for various awards throughout the 509th and 131st Maintenance Groups prior to the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. During the ceremony, all the nominees for various awards wore their medallions to recognize them for their accomplishments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Below: The 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron table topper emits smoke during the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The 509th AMXS won the table topper competition. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



At left: Awards sit on the stage during the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet on March 15, 2019 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Members of Team Whiteman including 509th and 131st Maintenance Group Airmen, civilians and spouses earned awards for their performance and contributions throughout 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

509th MXS key spouse takes home Global Strike Command level-award

By Airman Parker J. McCauley

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

A 509th Maintenance Squadron Key Spouse mentor received the Joan Orr spouse of the year award at the Air Force Global Strike Command level for 2018.

Dover Biery, an MRI technologist with the Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia, Missouri, is one of the 106 Key Spouses on base. She is married to retired Senior Master Sgt. John Biery, who served as the low observable maintenance flight chief with the 509th MXS.

The Joan Orr Award recognizes active-duty spouses and their significant community contributions.

"I've grown a lot as a military spouse over the years and I've realized it is a community and a culture that it's very prideful, very exciting and can be very rewarding if you allow yourself to learn and be a part of the community," said Biery. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

She was a key spouse at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany, for four years and has served in the position at Whiteman AFB for almost three years, where she mentors 10 other spouses.

"The Key Spouse program is a collection of spouses that are appointed by their commander," said Biery. "We are under the privacy act, we are highly trained and continue to train throughout the year. Our main goal is to provide information from the squadron to the spouses and from the base to the spouses. We want to bridge the gap and try to include them into the community."

She explained the roles and responsibilities of the Key Spouse program. The spouses receive training through the Airman & Family Readiness Center and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for a variety of things such as suicide prevention training. Key spouses also attend financial counseling and briefings so they can pass information to the spouses they mentor.

The program provides education opportunities with the A&FRC and pre/post deployment support and guidance. They also work to support each other and run monthly social events.

Squadron leadership including Maj. Philip Rehmert, the 509th MXS commander, nominated her for the award because of her impact throughout 2018.

"It's quite overwhelming and also humbling," said Biery. "I'm very lucky to be part of a great team. I have a wonderful commander and senior leadership that really devote a lot of time and support to the key spouse program and they allow us to reach out to not only family members and spouses but we also try to have a rapport with young Airmen as well."

She helped organize an Easter egg hunt for over 180 single Airmen in the squadron.

She participated in the unit effectiveness inspection in August 2018, where she was the only non-government volunteer and was named a superior performer.

She prepared 800 treats and helped hand out over 2000 total treats in three different shifts the 509th Maintenance Group during Global Thunder 19.

"I am blessed to have found such a close community that puts so much time and effort in building up not only the Active duty members but spouses and family," said Biery. "I can't thank them enough for the opportunity to represent Whiteman."



Col. Tyler N. Hague, a NASA astronaut, waits to be lowered into the pool containing a mock-up of the International Space Station at the Johnson Space Flight Center's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory for Extravehicular Activity training in Houston, Texas, April 27, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by J.M. Eddins Jr.)

US Air Force Astronaut Col. Nick Hague makes second launch to ISS

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, VA. —

Few Airman astronauts have aborted their space flight mission after launch, and even fewer received the opportunity to relaunch just months later.

Col. Nick Hague, an astronaut, is scheduled for a second mission to the International Space Station aboard a Soyuz MS-12, March 14, 2019, from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Hague, who is set to join the Expedition 59 crew, will conduct hundreds of research investigations and technology demonstrations to advance scientific knowledge of

Earth, space, physical and biological sciences, according to NASA.

On Oct. 11, 2018, Hague and his commander, Russian astronaut Alexey Ochinin, were forced to abort their mission when their rocket booster failed to detach once they reached zero gravity.

“We (were) at the apex of our trajectory, and I’m staring out there at the curve of the Earth, and the darkness of space ... you’re so close you can touch it,” Hague said. “And to have that ripped out of your hands, that’s devastating.”

As they plummeted to Earth at 4,700 miles per hour, Hague’s years of Air Force training enabled his life-saving response.

“The career I had leading up to that launch prepared me to respond to that situation,” Hague said. “It wasn’t my first in-flight emergency – we had those when I was doing flight testing out at Edwards Air Force Base (California). I think what you realize as you gain these experiences is the best thing you can do in the situation to help yourself is maintain your cool and trust in your training.”

Hague began training with NASA in 2013, and learned to handle maintenance activities, maintain the space station as a national laboratory for research and conduct space walks to fix issues outside the station. A sizable amount

of his training also included learning to fly the Soyuz with Ochinin.

“There’s this common understanding we have with each other ... that even though I may be speaking broken Russian to him, and he’s speaking broken English to me, we understand each other,” Hague said. “We’ve been able to sit in the simulator over the last year and a half, to the point where we know how each other is thinking and we anticipate each other’s moves and we’re backing each other up ... it feels like a well-oiled machine and no different than any crew I could put together in the U.S. – we’re in it together.”

Though his arrival to the ISS

was temporarily delayed, Hague knows the information gathered from this mission will be worth it.

“The mission we’re doing is so important,” Hague said after his initial launch. “It’s a mission where we’re going up there and collecting data so the scientists on the ground can better understand our world, they can better understand our bodies, they can better understand the world around us ... and that’s a vital mission that’s benefitting all of humanity.”

“Just because there’s some bumps in the road, or some obstacles, doesn’t mean we give up,” he continued. “We learn from our failures and we move forward.”

509th Medical Group new beneficiary tour

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MQ-1B, MQ-9 flight hours hit 4 million



An MQ-9 Reaper, armed with GBU-12 Paveway II laser guided munitions and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, piloted by Col. Lex Turner flies a combat mission over southern Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force Photo / Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt)



An MQ-1 Predator armed with an AGM-114 Hellfire missile flies a training mission. The MQ-1's primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets. (Courtesy photo)



Tech. Sgt. Daryl Knee, Air Combat Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. (AFNS) — The MQ-1B Predator and MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft reached a historic flight hour milestone on March 1, 2019.

The Airmen who are responsible for the MQ-9 are located at Whiteman AFB, Missouri; Creech Air Force Base, Nevada; Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota; and Shaw AFB, South Carolina.

The Predator and Reaper have now been flown more than 4 million hours in support of a 24-hour mission around the world conducting persistent attack and reconnaissance, search and rescue, and strike and support to civil authority missions in support of multiple combatant commands.

The MQ-1B entered the Air Force fleet in 1996 and retired in 2018, and the MQ-9 mission began in 2007.

“The total number of hours for the birds is wildly impressive,” said Jim Roche, the 20th Secretary of the Air Force, who served from 2001 to 2005. “But, even more impressive is the 4 million hours of pilot and sensor operator time. That’s over 450 years of operations time

per crewman. Add in maintainers, planners and support personnel, and this means that our RPA operation was and will remain massive and deadly when needed.

“Our country and a number of our allies have benefited in wartime in ways we would not have believed before the turn of the century,” continued Roche, who was instrumental in the weaponizing of the MQ-1 after 9/11. “To all who made this happen, to include the design and manufacturing of the aircraft and who continue to adapt these devices to emerging threats, our wholehearted thanks and admiration. Well done, Airmen.”

Born out of innovation

The capability these aircraft provide to the Department of Defense is unique and the Air Force is committed to building on the successes of the RPA enterprise.

“This is a weapons system and community that was born out of innovation,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein during a visit to Creech AFB in January 2019. “We needed to build an enterprise to better understand the adversary and keep their heads down so they could never put together a complex attack. The Airmen here are delivering combat capabilities every single day.”

“Every day, Airmen in this wing — from

maintenance, to sensor operators, to pilots, to mission intelligence coordinators, to the thousand Airmen who have their fingerprints on every aircraft, every sortie that takes off, to every line that we fly — are bringing new innovative ideas to how we do this business,” Goldfein said. “It represents some of the most flexible operations that we have in our inventory.”

The flight hours are a testament to the value of the aircraft. The MQ-1 and MQ-9 hit the 2 million hour mark in 2012, the 3 million hour mark in 2016 and the 4 million hour mark in March of 2019. Separately, the MQ-9 itself is anticipated to hit the 2 million hour mark this summer.

“They’ve essentially changed the face of warfare,” said retired Gen. Mark Welsh, the 20th Air Force chief of staff, who served from 2012 to 2016. “There really aren’t too many groups in history that have truly done that. The most exciting thing to me is that 4 million hours is just the beginning. I can’t wait to see what these great Airmen can do with better and better technology.”

“They’re pioneers,” Welsh continued. “I hope they’re as proud of what they’ve accomplished as we are of them.”



Activities & Events

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Brie Larson, lead actress in the 2019 superhero film *Captain Marvel*, poses for a portrait in front of a B-2 Stealth Bomber. Larson's character is a young Air Force pilot in the 1980s who becomes infused with extraordinary powers. (Courtesy photo)

Higher, further, faster: Captain Marvel embodies the warrior ethos

Staff Sgt. Jannelle McRae, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AFNS) – Less than one percent of the American population know what it's like to serve in the Air Force. However, big-budget action movies give global audience a glimpse into the service's history of breaking barriers and a taste of its fighting spirit.

To ensure an accurate depiction of military service, filmmakers and actors immersed with Airmen from across the Air Force during the filming of *Captain Marvel*, starring Brie Larson as Carol Danvers.

Larson's character is a young Air Force pilot in the late 1980s. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, she excels in pilot training, flies the F-15 Eagle and moves quickly to the world of test flight. A flight test incident leaves Carol infused with extraordinary powers.

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson spoke during the showing of *Captain Marvel* at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., March 7, 2019.

"When I graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982," Wilson said, "there were about 150 women pilots in the

United States Air Force, and none of them were fighter pilots because it was actually against the law for women to fly fighters. Today, we have 850 women flying for the United States Air Force and the defense of this country, and about 80 of them are fighter pilots."

She added, "I've talked to Airmen who have helped with the technical assistance on this film and they were pleased that the co-directors had really captured what it means to be an American Airman ... that ethos of going higher, further, faster."

Airmen partnered with Marvel Entertainment through the Air Force Public Affairs Entertainment Liaison office, which offered direct access to resources including personnel, aircraft and equipment, technical assistance and military advice and locations. This ensured the portrayal of the Airmen and missions were plausible and realistic.

"Our mission is to project and protect the image of the U.S. Air Force through entertainment media," said Lt. Col. Nathan Broshear, Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office director. "Major motion pictures, like *Captain Marvel*, provide an incredible platform to educate and inform the American public about the people, culture

and heritage of the U.S. Air Force ... inspiring the next generation of Airmen."

Ryan Fleck, who co-directed the movie with Anna Boden, expressed his appreciation for every Airman's professionalism and respect.

"Everyone we met in the Air Force was so selfless and giving to our process, and I was really impressed," he said. "We couldn't necessarily figure out what an intergalactic space warrior was up to, but we could come to the Air Force and see what it was like to be a pilot. Every detail, every phase of the process was huge, not only for us in the writing, but for Brie (Larson) as well when she is playing the character ... from how she held her helmet to how she walks."

Additionally, materials collected from Airman Magazine archives and consultations with Air Force Materiel Command, Edwards Air Force Base, California, and U.S. Air Force Academy historians resulted in period-correct hardware, uniforms and details from the 1980s and 1990s.

The Air Force's involvement also impacted character development and storylines. In December 2017, Larson, Boden, Fleck and producer Jonathan Schwartz visited Nellis AFB, Nevada, and spent

one-on-one time with Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Air Force Recruiting Service Commander and the Air Force's first female fighter pilot.

"We put Brie Larson in the backseat of an F-16 (Fighting Falcon) so she could experience being in a high performance fighter aircraft firsthand. I think that helped her understand what it was like," said Leavitt. "I appreciated the fact that they wanted to get the characters to be an accurate portrayal of a female fighter pilot in the Air Force."

Continuing cooperation between the Air Force and Hollywood has resulted in support of hundreds of films and television programs, including multiple Transformers and Iron Man films.

"It's important to know these partnerships are conducted at no cost to the taxpayer—studios reimburse bases for any expenses incurred as a part of the military unit's participation in selected projects—but our investment of time and energy provides an incredible return on investment for all involved," Broshear said. "Airmen are able to be a part of cinematic history, ensuring audiences see an accurate portrayal of lives dedicated to excellence, integrity and service before self."

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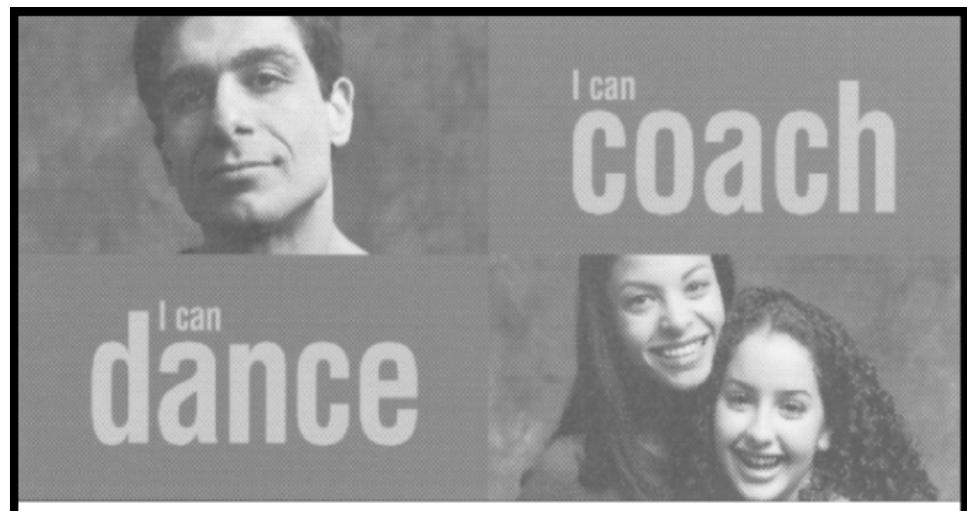


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