

# WARRIOR



## READY TO ROLL

PG.8

MEMBERS OF TEAM WHITEMAN PARTICIPATE IN NO-NOTICE HECTIC ROLLER EXERCISE



### RECOGNIZING OUR WOMEN PG.6

WHITEMAN HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

# Weekly commander's message

Greetings, Team Whiteman!

This week our stellar Total Force team demonstrated precisely what we all have been saying for a long time – that Whiteman is and will continue to be America's premier bomber force!

As most of you know, on Monday we kicked off a no-notice operational readiness exercise and since then our team has absolutely crushed it! Col. Eaves and I couldn't be more proud of how our wings validated our ability to execute our nation's most important strategic mission, exactly how we are supposed to, with no notice. Our mission is to execute strategic deterrence and global strike -- anytime, anywhere -- and we successfully accomplished that mission here at Whiteman this week during the exercise, as well as in Libya earlier this year! Furthermore, as part of the exercise we have affirmed our deployment process and our force protection procedures thanks to your dedication and professionalism...talk about Upholding the Legacy of Excellence!

Col. Eaves and I know how hard you all have worked this week and that most of us are still involved with the exercise. We also realize many of you were not able to spend a lot of quality time with your loved ones this week. To blow off some steam and to enjoy some down time with family and friends, we hope you and your families will join us today at Mission's End beginning at 4 p.m. for First Friday. This month's First Friday, which has a St. Patrick's Day theme, will also include a celebration honoring our 17 new Senior Master Sgt. selects!

Chief Smith and I are extremely proud of our 17 selectees! Let me be the first to welcome you to your new role as key, experienced, operational leaders. Our Whiteman AFB selection rate was 12 percent, which is comparable to the Air Force-wide



selection rate of 11.8 percent. This is a significant milestone in your careers, and we're certain you'll continue to meet new challenges...congrats!

As we head into the weekend, please remember there's a reason why the 509th and the 131st Bomb Wings are the reigning Fairchild Trophy winners. And that reason is each and every one of you. I truly appreciate all the sacrifices you and your families made this past week, and I hope to see you all at Mission's End today! Enjoy your weekend, and always remember to take care of each other.

Defend...Avenge!

Nuke

PAUL W. TIBBETS IV  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander, 509th Bomb Wing

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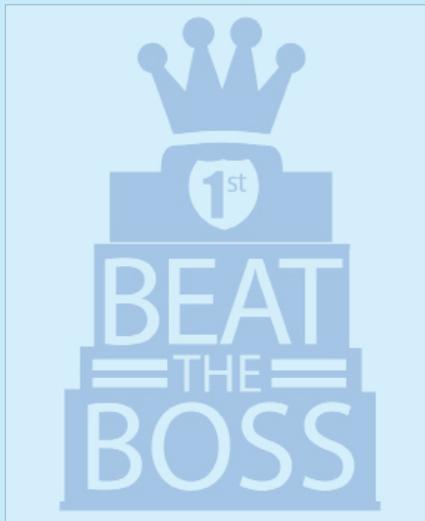
The deadline for article submissions to the Warrior is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submissions do not guarantee publication.

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, 509th Spirit Blvd. Suite 116, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

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

## Beat the Boss

The Beat the Boss program is a monthly PT test competition between 509th Bomb Wing units that recognizes outstanding teamwork and devotion to fitness at the Squadron level. Active duty Whiteman Airmen who score higher than the commander's score of 98.0% will earn a one-day pass, and those who score a 100% receive a one-day pass and a commander's coin.



Here are the Beat the Boss results for Feb. 13-15, 2017:

**1st Lt. Kim Hwarang**  
20th ATKS • 99.3%

**MSgt. William Lemaster**  
509th SFS • 98.6 %

## On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/  
Airman Michaela R. Slanchik  
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Mitchell, the assistant NCO in charge of AFE, left, and Airman 1st Class Michael Heatherly, a 509th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, perform pre-flight inspections on equipment during a no-notice operational readiness exercise (ORE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 1, 2017. The ORE is designed to validate our Total Force team's strategic deterrence capabilities.

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

### Stealth Lounge

If you are a young Airman, let the Stealth Lounge 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 lounge opens at 4 p.m. during the week and noon on weekends. There is free dinner every Thursday 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 Stealth Lounge on Facebook to stay up to date on special events and tournaments.

### Found property

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

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Sunny
Hi 54	Hi 67
Lo 25	Lo 42

Sunday	Monday
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
Hi 66	Hi 71
Lo 49	Lo 54

# Faces of the 131st



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Elise Rich

**By 131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs**  
WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, MO

**Name: Matthew Block**  
**Rank: Airman First Class**  
**Hometown: Ozark, MO**

### What is your military specialty?

3D1X2 – Cyber Transport

### What is your civilian occupation?

Network administrator supervisor information systems for Kanakuk Kamps, they are a group of Christian athletic youth camps on the lakes near Branson, Missouri.

### Why did you join the Air National

### Guard?

To serve the state of Missouri is what first got my interest and the Missouri Air National Guard sounded better than joining any other branches. Looking back, it's one of the best decisions I've ever made and wish I joined about 10 years sooner!

### What do you like best about your job?

I think the best part has been the training opportunities the 131st has provided me in ways that benefit my civilian career. The information technologies and communications training I've received through the ANG has been a huge benefit to my full-time job from network management training

ing to IT service management training.

### What do you enjoy most about being in the military?

The comments I get from my wife when I put on my blues!

### What are your favorite ways to spend your free time?

Getting outside hiking, camping, grilling or just spending free time with family.

### Where do you hope to see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?

In the past month I accepted a position as an officer with the 157th Air Operations Group at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. so within 5 to 10 years I hope to be still climbing in that role as an officer in the ANG. Within that time period, I also hope to be officiating for NCAA Division I women's basketball games.

### What is something on your bucket list?

Visiting our great National Parks. Hiking the Grand Canyon rim to rim with my sons and sharing other adventures with them.

### Do you have any interesting talents or skills?

Basketball officiating. I work high school level games right now. Getting out on the court and working to get the plays right is one of the most fun things in the world for me.

### Tell us about a favorite military memory.

There are a lot of good memories with my 131st family, but catching fish, shrimp and crab with my wife and two sons at the marina on Keesler Air Force Base while I was there for training is the top.

## Tornado drill set for March 7 **Tornado Safety**

Tornado! There were 18 tornados in Missouri in 2016, which was well below the average of 33 from 1950 – 2016. The most active month was April with ten, followed by May with five. This is pretty typical as our most active months statistically are April, May and June. The citizens of Missouri did a good job of being prepared as there were no deaths or injuries reported from the tornadoes.

Warning the public of severe weather is the National Weather Service's (NWS) most important job. To help the public prepare for tornado situations, the NWS has adopted a Watch and Warning program.

### Tornado watch:

This means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms and possible tornado development. This is the time to prepare. Keep alert by listening to National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio, or the commercial media for the latest weather information.

### Tornado warning:

This means a tornado has been sighted or the NWS is seeing signs on radar that indicate a thunderstorm may be capable of producing a tornado at any minute. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life-saving precautions.

In homes and most structures: A basement or other underground location is by far the best shelter from a tornado. If a basement is not available, move to an all interior small room, or other

interior location such as a hallway. Stay away from outside walls, doors and windows. Keep as many walls as you can between you and the wind outside.

### Set up your plan

Everyone should have a severe weather plan for their home. Likewise, businesses need to have a plan for the workplace.

### Practice your plan

Conduct drills and then review the drill to find strengths and weaknesses and make improvements where necessary. It is hard to foresee every circumstance, but drills can often bring out problems that were not previously seen.

### Additional family protection items

Have a family disaster plan. A plan will cover what to do, where to meet and how to contact family members in the event of a fire or severe weather. Give emergency information to babysitters and other caregivers.

**\*\*\*Whiteman Air Force Base will be conducting a tornado exercise on March 7, 2017 in coordination with the state of Missouri. Please do not be alarmed by the tornado alarm as it will sound around 10 a.m. Emergency Management and the WAFB fire department will be posted at the BX parking lot from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. all week for tornado awareness information.**

# Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3 • 7 p.m.**      **SATURDAY, MARCH 4 • 7 p.m.**  
 Gold (R)                              The Founder (PG-13)  
 Adults - \$6.25                        Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5 • 7 p.m.**  
 Resident Evil: The Final Chapter (R)  
 Adults - \$6.25

TEAM WHITEMAN'S MISSION IS TO  
**EXECUTE STRATEGIC DETERRENCE, GLOBAL STRIKE  
 AND COMBAT SUPPORT...ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!**

ENVISIONING BEING AMERICA'S PREMIER BOMB WING  
**TOTAL FORCE AIRMEN EXECUTING SAFE, SECURE AND  
 EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL  
 AIRPOWER...COMBAT-READY TODAY, INNOVATING FOR TOMORROW!**

# Your check engine light

By Airman Michaela R. Slanchik  
 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

You're driving down the road and your "check engine" light comes on. It might be low fluids, a faulty oxygen sensor, or even something as simple as your gas cap not fully tightened.

We are similar to cars. We require maintenance and need to do a "check-up from the neck up" every once in a while. We all experience stressors on a daily basis. Situations out of our control happen to all of us, but it's how we respond to those obstacles that matters.

It took losing a stripe for me to finally realize I needed help.

I heard going to the Mental Health Clinic would ruin my career. I'd get kicked out of the Air Force. I thought I would be judged and deemed "crazy" if I went to the clinic. I needed help and instead of seeking this valuable resource, I made bad decisions that negatively impacted my career.

After doing my research, gaining insight from Maj. Christopher Button, the mental health flight commander and wing director of psychological health, and setting up an appointment for myself, I learned the rumors were not true.

"We have done a great job teaching our Airmen to keep an eye on the "tire pressure" of everyone else's car, but we have not taught them to check their own tires," said Button. "What I would really love to do is get Airmen to spend time assessing their own car, that is...to introspect and examine their own mental well-being."

The Mental Health Clinic's mission is to restore the psychological well-being and functioning of Airmen in distress, it is not to negatively impact the careers and lives of Airmen, nor facilitate the early separation of Airmen.

"The Air Force placed Mental Health providers in Medical Groups to restore the warfighter to the fight," said Button. "We are not here to end careers or ruin lives. None of us [providers] ever took a course in ruining people's lives. We were all trained in civilian universities and academic training programs, we adhere to the same professional ethics and laws as our civilian counterparts. People often believe that the action of seeking help is what causes negative career implications.

"However, it is most often caused by waiting until the problems you are facing become so severe that they significantly affect other important areas of your life. For example, when a relationship problem leads to a drinking problem, which leads to a DUI and occupational problems. And even then, while we may not be able to prevent the career implications of the DUI, we are still able to rehabilitate Airmen and restore functioning whether they remain in, or separate from service."

The only situation in which a member is recommended for release from service is when the nature of their psychiatric condition significantly impairs the member's ability to function in a military environment and the Airman cannot be restored to full duty status or when they cannot be restored within a reasonable amount of time.

In 2016, only 9 (2.1%) of the 433 new patients who sought care at the Mental Health Clinic were administratively separated and

22 (5.1%) were medically retired. In other words, most new patients (93%) were returned to full-duty status or are still actively engaged in treatment and on the road to full restoration.

"Of the 31 patients who were recommended for retirement or separation, none of them reported discontentment with the outcome. Although they may not tell members of their unit, they are generally content," said Button.

Being mentally fit begins with the basics of a healthy diet, exercise, good sleep; and also includes finding a healthy work-life balance as well as living consistent with your values and finding purpose and meaning in your life. However, sometimes we lose sight of these things and our usual coping skills aren't enough.

When should you seek help?

"Life is going to throw tough situations at us, it's going to knock you down," said Button. "When we are hurting and suffering it is okay to take a knee and come into Mental Health and ask for our help."

Indications you should seek help include suicidal thoughts, feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness, feeling like you do not belong or fit in, believing you are a burden to others, or when you may have substance abuse problems, to name a few. Take a moment to self-reflect and consider services that the Mental Health clinic offers and ask yourself, "Do I think I would benefit from seeking help?"

Does my "check engine" light still come on sometimes? Of course it does. But now I am better equipped with the tools to identify and solve the problem, and I am willing to ask for help if the problem is too great for me to solve on my own. There is no shame or weakness in seeking help; it is rather a sign of strength.

The Mental Health Clinic offers psychological evaluations and diagnosis and a variety of treatment options. These include individual and group therapy sessions, medication management, psychoeducational services and much more, along with programs such as the Behavioral Health Optimization Program (BHOP), Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention & Treatment and the Family Advocacy Program.

"We have a limited number of personnel in the Air Force," said Button. "There are so few of us and such an important mission to accomplish. The Air Force needs every one of us at our healthiest, both physically and mentally, in order to effectively execute the mission. The best thing any Airmen, regardless of rank, can do is to seek help...and to seek it early."

All Active Duty, military dependents, and retirees who are empaneled to the Military Treatment Facility are eligible for brief behavioral health services through BHOP (available by calling the appointment line at 660-687-2188) and all Active Duty personnel are eligible for services offered in the Mental Health Clinic (including BHOP). Active Duty personnel may call the Mental Health Clinic at 660-687-4341 to begin screening to determine the appropriate level of care necessary. Most Active Duty personnel will begin with BHOP services, unless the nature and severity of their concerns warrant treatment within the Mental Health Clinic.

# Missouri Air Guardsmen chosen for Glory Trip 221 Minuteman III missile launch



131st Bomb Wing Airmen Staff Sgt. James Torrance (left) and Senior Airman David Phillips toured Vandenberg AFB, California, facilities on Feb. 7, 2017 as part of an Air Force Global Strike Command top performer incentive program, dubbed the "Glory Trip." The 131st BW participated in the incentive program with 509th Bomb Wing Airmen Tech. Sgt. Patrick Alsup and Senior Airman Sarah Smallwood.

**By Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison**  
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

A team of Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) Airmen from the 131st and 509th Bomb Wings were among a group invited to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California to view a launch of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Feb. 7.

Missouri Air National Guard Staff Sgt. James Torrance and Senior Airman David Phillips were chosen to view the launch and tour Vandenberg facilities as part of an AFGSC top performer incentive program-dubbed the "Glory Trip."

"The trip was an outstanding, eye-opening opportunity to connect the dots of our partners in the nuclear enterprise," said Phillips, a combat crew communications technician with the 131st Operations Group. "We were immersed with an in-depth tour and briefing into the world of ICBMs."

The ICBM test launch program demonstrates the operational capability of the Minuteman III and ensures the United States' ability to maintain a strong, credible nuclear deterrent as a key element of U.S. national security and the security of U.S. allies and partners. The ICBM community, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and U.S. Strategic Command use data collected from test launches for continuing force development evaluation.

"One upside to a rainy and misty continuous weather forecast was that everything was vivid and green," said Torrance, an electro-environmental technician with the 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS), of what is considered typical

weather for the winter months around Vandenberg.

"James is a dedicated maintenance professional that is well-deserving of the recognition he's received," said Lt. Col. Mike Belardo, the 131st AMXS commander. "He consistently puts others ahead of himself, works for the good of the team and always has a positive attitude. Truly, both of our Airmen chosen for the Glory Trip are an integral part of the foundation laid by the Missouri National Guard for the B-2 maintenance enterprise."

The tour included a visit to Vandenberg's missile alert facility (MAF), which Torrance and Phillips described as similar in many ways to Oscar-1, the cold war era MAF located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., but with updates. Tour briefs included the effect of test launches on research as well as how personally significant the launches are to those launching the missiles.

"They pull a missile from the field and bring out the team that had previously been maintaining that missile," said Phillips. "Then they invite outstanding Airmen to attend the event from each wing in AFGSC. The Glory Trip is an honor and treat for so many missileers who hope to attend one day."

Unfortunately for Phillips and Torrance, the launch was pushed back 24 hours, and due to work scheduling at their home base, they could not attend the actual launch. But, both had high praise for Glory Trip 221.

"Going through all the facilities, seeing their processes and learning about the crucial mission they are performing at Vandenberg was amazing," said Torrance. "I am definitely grateful for this opportunity, and I can guarantee I will never experience

anything like it again."

Lt. Col. Timothy Rezac, the 110th Bomb Squadron commander, praised Phillips and Torrance as representatives from the 131st Bomb Wing.

"As our '16 Ops Group Airman of the Year, I can think of no better representative than Senior Airman Phillips for the 131st Bomb Wing and the Air National Guard. Both our Airmen selected for the Glory Trip earned the right to take part in an amazing experience. The ability to interact with other members of the Air Force enterprise will only make them stronger and helps us build the next generation of ANG leaders.

"The deterrence mission can be a difficult concept to understand for some, but getting a close-up view of the ICBM environment really brings it home in combination with what we, as a total force, do at Whiteman AFB. We are always ensuring our warriors are ready to safe-guard our nation and strike our enemies."

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Alsup and Senior Airman Sarah Smallwood from the 509th Bomb Wing, as well as Airmen from the 5th Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and the 91st Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, ND., attended GT221, which is an incentive program managed by Chief Master Sgt. Calvin Williams, the AFGSC command chief.

When asked how to relate his day-to-day job at Whiteman to the AFGSC total force mission, Phillips replied, "We may not be able to visit and rub shoulders with the missile wings, but we do have a huge connection. We work hand-in-hand to have viable nuclear options available to our nation's leaders at a moment's notice. The delivery platform is the only, big difference."

# BW CC signs women's history proclamation

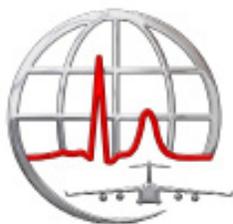


U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV, the 509th Bomb Wing (BW) commander, far left, and Chief Master Sgt. Melvina Smith, the 509th BW command chief, far right, stand with members of the Women's History Month committee following the signing of the Women's History Month proclamation at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 1, 2017. During the month of March, all citizens have the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the heritage and contributions that women have bestowed upon history through various events on the installation.



View the *Whiteman Warrior*  
online by logging onto  
[www.whiteman.af.mil](http://www.whiteman.af.mil)



# BHOP

## Behavioral Health Optimization Program

- For Active Duty, Dependents, and Retirees
- Services within the Family Health Clinic
- Provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Variety of areas addressed
  - Sleep, Stress, PTSD, Depression, Anxiety, Parenting, Relationships, Weight Loss, and MANY more...
- Quicker access to appointments
- Short term treatment alternative to Mental Health



Call 660-687-2188  
Ask for a  
BHOP appointment



**Strengthen your Physical & Mental CAF pillars**

**Service  
Before  
Self**

# Ready to Roll: Whiteman holds base exercise



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jacob Henry, a crew chief assigned to the 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, completes a checklist during a no-notice operational readiness exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 28, 2017. During the exercise, Airmen were tasked with executing procedures and operations to validate Whiteman's strategic deterrence and operational readiness.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Michaela R. Slanchik

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael Heatherly, a 509th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) technician, left, and Staff Sgt. Eric Mitchell, the assistant NCO in charge of AFE, perform pre-flight inspections on equipment during a no-notice operational readiness exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 1, 2017. Team Whiteman's strategic deterrence and operational readiness were practiced during the exercise.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Eric Burns and Senior Airman Joseph Gaffney, both security response team members assigned to the 509th Security Forces Squadron (SFS), extend the exclusion area to ensure proper safety of resources at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 28, 2017, in support of a no-notice operational readiness exercise. During the exercise, SFS Airmen validated Whiteman's force protection procedures.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Michaela R. Slanchik

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Ashley Walton, a 509th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) technician, prepares a top latch for a helmet's PLZT configuration during an operational readiness exercise (ORE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 1, 2017. The ORE is designed to validate our Total Force team's strategic deterrence capabilities.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Michaela R. Slanchik

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael Heatherly, a 509th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) technician, tightens an anti-G garment during a post-flight inspection at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 1, 2017. Whiteman participated in a no-notice operational readiness exercise during which flight equipment was examined to ensure readiness.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

Crew chiefs assigned to the 509th and 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons prepare to tow a B-2 Spirit into its dock during a no-notice operational readiness exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 28, 2017. During the exercise, Airmen were tasked with executing procedures and operations to validate Whiteman's strategic deterrence and operational readiness.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

Crew chiefs and weapons specialists assigned to the 509th and 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons look over the munitions handling unit (MHU)-204 trailer for defects while performing a visual inspection of the assets during a no-notice operational readiness exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 28, 2017. During the exercise, Total-Force Integrated Airmen were tasked with executing Whiteman's strategic deterrence mission while validating operational readiness.

Celebrating Women's History Month

# Women Trailblazers

This year's theme, "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business," honors women who have successfully challenged the role of women in both business and the paid labor force. Women have always worked, but often their work has been undervalued and unpaid.

The 2017 Honoree's represent many diverse backgrounds and each made their mark on a different field. Additionally, the honorees' work and influence spans three centuries of America's history. These women all successfully challenged the social and legal structures that have kept women's labor underappreciated and underpaid.

Facing stark inequalities in the workplace such as lower wages, poor working conditions, and limited opportunities, they fought to make the workplace a less hostile environment for women. They succeeded in expanding women's participation in commerce and their power in the paid labor force. As labor and business leaders and innovators they defied the social norms of their times by demonstrating women's ability to create organizations and establish their own businesses, paving the way for better working conditions and wages for themselves and other women.

They proved women could succeed in

**See History, page 14**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
HONORING TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN LABOR AND BUSINESS**

March 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Women's History Month Proclamation Signing TSgt Hall 687-4143	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> "Friday Feature" in the Warrior POC: TSgt Andy Kin	<b>4</b> Womens History Month LuLaRoe Fashion Show Mission's End / 1730 - 2030 POC: SMSgt Martin 687-1412
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> High School Student Essay's Due POC: MSgt Clark 687-2265	<b>7</b> Women's Self Defense Class Fitness Center / 1530 - 1630 POC: SMSgt Martin 687-1412	<b>8</b> Sisters in Arms Golf Course / 1200 - 1300 Guest Speaker: Col Kress MDG/CC POC: MSgt Hollis 687-8008	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> "A League of Their Own" Movie Showing Stars & Strikes Bowling Center / 1800 POC: Andrea Mitchell 687-7929	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Women's History Luncheon Mission's End / 1100-1300 POCs: MSgt Aguiqi 687-7713 MSgt Lim 687-1731	<b>14</b> Women's Self Defense Class Fitness Center / 1530 - 1630 POC: SMSgt Martin 687-1412	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> "Friday Feature" in the Warrior POC: TSgt Andy Kin	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Women's Self Defense Class Fitness Center / 1530 - 1630 POC: SMSgt Martin 687-1412	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> "Friday Feature" in the Warrior POC: TSgt Andy Kin	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Women's Self Defense Class Fitness Center / 1530 - 1630 POC: SMSgt Martin 687-1412	<b>29</b> Canvas Painting Night Mission's End / 1800 POC: Andrea Mitchell 687-7929	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Capstone Closing Event: Women's History Month 5K/Information Booth Fitness Center / 0630 POC: SSgt Cardoza 687-2188	

# AF prepares for all MQ-9 force



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christian Clausen

**A U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper awaits maintenance Dec. 8, 2016, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The MQ-1 Predator has provided many years of service and the time has come for the Air Force to transition to the more capable MQ-9 exclusively, and retire the MQ-1 in early 2018 to keep up with the continuously evolving battlespace environment.**

**By Senior Airman Christian Clausen**  
Creech Air Force Base

While the MQ-1 Predator provided many years of service, the time has come for the Air Force to fly the more capable MQ-9 Reaper exclusively, and retire the MQ-1 in early 2018 to keep up with the continuously evolving battlespace environment.

The MQ-9 is better equipped than the MQ-1 due to its increased speed, high-definition sensors and the ability to carry more munitions. These combat attributes allow the MQ-9 to complete a wider array of mission sets which can help the Air Force stay prepared in the fight.

“When you ask about readiness, you have to ask ready for what?” said Col. Joseph, 432nd Operations Group commander. “If we talk about the things we could be ready for and what we should be asking our attack squadrons to do, then transitioning to an all MQ-9 force is imperative for readiness.”

Current areas of responsibility call upon combat remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) for more precise close air support engagements from the attack squadrons, a considerable change from the days when MQ-1s and MQ-9s were used solely for intelligence gathering and real-time reconnaissance.

“The reason that the MQ-9 has turned into a CAS platform, and this is the key point, is the fusion of two things,” he said. “The first thing is the technology. We took

an airplane and outfitted it with more raw power and capability, but then we did the other half and mated that technology with a professional aircrew.”

Joseph also explained a third item which is the trust developed with combatant commanders and troops on the ground. This confidence, combined with an ever-changing battlefield, spawned increased demand and desire for more and more combat RPA support.

While the MQ-1 and the crews who flew them proved their weapons proficiency, it was never originally designed to carry weapons, resulting in a limited 200-pound payload. The demand for more attack capabilities exceeded the MQ-1s design.

“In the case of the MQ-1, I think we wanted more out of it but we were at a physical stop on the airplane and needed a new one,” Joseph said.

The MQ-9 design picked up where the MQ-1 left off, boasting a nearly 4,000-pound payload with the ability to carry both missiles and bombs.

These upgraded capabilities directly impact combat readiness and transitioning to the MQ-9 will also help the aircrews stay primed and ready to go.

“Having a single aircraft buys more flexibility, simplifies training and logistics and gives our people more [career progression] opportunities,” Joseph said. “I can’t move my people in between squadrons without paying the penalty of having to train them on another aircraft.”

The Air Force will no longer have to maintain a training pipeline or equipment on two separate aircraft which also eliminates the cost of operating two different airframes. Instead, everything will be specific to an all MQ-9 force.

Currently, the 20th Attack Squadron (ATKS) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, is making the conversion from MQ-1 to MQ-9.

“Right now the plan is to stop flying the MQ-1 in 2018, and that means we need to get transitioned this year,” said Lt. Col. James, 20th ATKS commander. “As part of that, we are going to stop flying the MQ-1 completely by July 1, 2017. We will gradually stand up our number of combat lines on the MQ-9 so by the end of the year we are only an MQ-9 squadron.”

What is unique for James’ squadron is some 20th ATKS aircrews are training on the MQ-9 for two to three months while home station crews are still flying the MQ-1 in daily combat missions overseas.

“For the better part of the last few months I’ve had upwards of 30 percent of my squadron gone at any time,” James said. “It’s been quite a challenge, but the motivation is very high to transition to this more capable airframe, and my squadron is excited to take it to combat.”

“We’re converting an MQ-1 squadron in combat 24/7/365 to an MQ-9 squadron in combat operations without taking a single day out of combat,” Joseph said. “The herculean efforts done by the 20th ATKS is nothing short of remarkable.”

The 20th ATKS, and every unit which flew the MQ-1, achieved significant combat zone effects daily while laying the foundation for future combat RPAs.

“I think when we look at the legacy of the MQ-1 we’re going to be scratching our heads wondering how we did so much with so little,” Joseph said. “The men and women flying them starting with two squadrons took a science project and throughout many evolutionary changes made it what it is today.”

The MQ-1 began as the RQ-1 Predator, an unarmed RPA flown by line-of-sight. Some changes include the adding of the Multi-Spectral Targeting System, the addition of weapons and remote-split operations capability.

“The MQ-1 is a great example where the Air Force took a technology demonstrator and turned it into a major weapons system having daily effects on the battlefield,” James said. “We have learned how to fly an imperfect weapons system very well, and I think we have maximized the effectiveness that we can get out of the MQ-1. I have no doubt that we will continue to find ways to be more effective in combat with the MQ-9.”

James also said the desire for the real-time reconnaissance and persistent strike capabilities that combat RPA aircrew provide to the combatant commanders would never stop.

“We’re hitting a home run by going to the MQ-9,” James said. “We have made a difference.”

# Whiteman AFB Soap Box Derby



**Entry Fee: \$50**  
**Limited Edition**  
**Coin/T-Shirt: \$25**

**Hotel rooms & restaurants**  
**available on base**

**Activities planned after**  
**Saturday races**



**Applications must be**  
**submitted by**  
**February 15, 2017**  
**For applications, contact**  
**Brent Thomas at**  
**660-687-5712/440-823-1576**  
**or email:**  
**brent.thomas.1@us.af.mil**

**Open Track**  
**March 10 from**  
**5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

# **March 11-12, 2017**

**Weigh in starts at 7 a.m.**

**Races start at 9 a.m. sharp @ Hangar 52**

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# History

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every field. While each honoree is extraordinary, each is also ordinary in her own way, proving that women business and labor leaders can and should be considered the norm. Most importantly, the 2017 honorees paved the way for generations of women labor and business leaders to follow.

Barbara Hackman Franklin, former Secretary of Commerce, is chosen as this week's honoree. Her career is trailblazing for both her extensive government and private sector work and for her efforts to open the doors to other women leaders. Franklin served five presidents, and led efforts to increase the number of women in government, normalized commercial relations between the U.S. and China, and is an

expert on corporate governance. As a staff assistant to President Nixon, she led the first White House effort to recruit women for high-level government jobs, nearly quadrupling the number of women in those positions from 1971 -1973. Franklin is president and CEO of Barbara Franklin Enterprises, a private international consulting firm. She has also served in leadership roles for many professional organizations and was a founding member of Executive Women in Government in 1973.

*Story compiled from National Women's History Project*

<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations>



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