

# WARRIOR



2017 AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE

## SENIOR LEADER



# CONFERENCE



► **WELCOME** AFGSC SENIOR  
LEADERS AND CIVIC LEADERS

TEAM WHITEMAN EXECUTES STRATEGIC DETERRENCE, GLOBAL STRIKE AND COMBAT SUPPORT ... ANYTIME, ANYWHERE



# Greetings to Air Force Global Strike Command Senior Leader Conference

By Governor Eric Greitens  
Governor of Missouri

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, his Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) leadership team, and the AFGSC civic leaders to Whiteman Air Force Base (Whiteman) for the AFGSC Senior Leader Conference. We are pleased you have chosen the state of Missouri for this important conference and we hope your stay is productive and enjoyable.

We are honored that Whiteman is located in the state of Missouri. It is a point of pride for our citizens that our state has a role in keeping Americans safe by being a good home to the nation's only B-2 Spirit Bombers. From the day in 1993 when the very first bomber, the Spirit of Missouri, was delivered to Whiteman, Missourians have been proud to see B-2's soaring through the skies of our state, knowing that the bombers and their crews are the finest in our nation. We support and honor Whiteman's mission: *"Execute Strategic Deterrence, Global Strike and Combat Support...Anytime, Anywhere!"*

We are also proud to host Whiteman because of the opportunity to be good neighbors to the thousands of Airmen and their families who have become part of our communities. In a partnership with 509th Bomb Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV, communities in the Whiteman region and the state have embarked on an effort to support children of military families who are assigned to Whiteman. As part of this project, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math advanced placement courses were put in place in local high schools—an initiative that attracted national attention and funding. We are doing our part to support the AFGSC's 2017 "Year of the Family" initiative, focused on the Command's efforts on improving the quality of life for Airmen and their families wherever they live, learn, play, pray, and receive care.

Whiteman is critical to the character, spirit, and economy of Missouri and this region. For all these reasons and many



Governor of Missouri Eric R. Greitens  
and his family

more, Missouri feels fortunate to be home to the finest Air Force base and the most dedicated Airmen and their families in America. On behalf of all Missourians, I am happy to welcome you to your AFGSC Senior Leader Conference. We are thankful for the role the Air Force plays in ensuring our national security and we could not be happier to be supporters of Whiteman Air Force Base. Thank you and God bless you all for your service.

Yours in service,  
Eric R. Greitens

## Whiteman's importance to Missouri

By Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler  
Missouri's 4th Congressional District

Dear Men and Women of Whiteman Air Force Base,

It is my pleasure to address such an extraordinary group of men, women, and families. Whiteman serves as a great example of how a military base and community can join forces for mutual benefit. The base is unique in many ways, but in particular, how the men and women in uniform become so engrained in their local community. I personally cherish this relationship and remain ready to support it in any way.

The nation is indebted to each and every one of you. I have the opportunity to tell the Whiteman story to many people. It gives me great pride to describe how the Active Duty and Guard components come together to fulfill the wide spectrum of missions for the B-2. From taking the fight to ISIS to standing guard with our nation's arsenal, I could not be more proud. Likewise, the 442d's Active and Reserve components are second to none when it comes to employing the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Their fight against violent extremism in the Middle East remains central to our security at home, and I am eternally grateful. I am equally



Missouri 4th Congressional District  
Representative Vicky Hartzler

amazed at the mission of the 20th Attack Squadron. Many people in the area do not realize their neighbors are taking the fight to our nation's enemies 24/7. I cannot imagine the heavy burden of this mission, and I am truly appreciative of

your hard work and dedication. Finally, I applaud the 1-135th Assault Helicopter Battalion. I realize it was a huge burden to transition from the Apache to the Blackhawk, but the professionalism you have shown during this transition is nothing short of incredible. I have no doubt that you will maintain your award winning reputation for years to come!

The ability for our men and women in uniform to perform these critical missions would be impossible without the support of their amazing families. Many do not realize the sacrifices a family must endure in order for a military member to execute their duties day in and day out. I have seen your efforts first hand and my prayers and thoughts are with you, your spouses, and your children daily. I will continue to advocate for you any chance I get. Thank you for your service to this great nation.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you and the rest of Missouri's 4th District. Whiteman holds a special place in my heart, as do all who serve. Every time I visit, I leave energized and inspired by the patriotism and sense of duty you all exhibit. I will continue to fight for the tools and resources you need in order to ensure the safety and security of our great country. Thank you all for your devotion to our nation.

### THE WARRIOR Editorial Staff

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509th Bomb Wing Commander

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Published by the **Sedalia Democrat**, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Whiteman Air Force Base.

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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.

## On the cover

U.S. Air Force illustration/  
Senior Airman Jovan Banks

**Team Whiteman welcomes Air Force Global Strike Command senior and civic leaders to the 2017 Senior Leader Conference at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The conference is being held to discuss issues and affairs that affect the Global Strike mission and the Airmen and their families.**



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Disposition of Personal Effects

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Megan A. Garry is authorized to make disposition of the personal effects of Airman 1st Class Ronald J. Treece, deceased, 509th Security Forces Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-511. Any person having claims for or against the deceased please contact 1st Lt. Megan A. Garry/ DSN: 975-3596, Comm: 660-687-3596, Cell: 574-274-2031.



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)

## 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 5:30 p.m., with an optional discussion on spiritual resilience to follow at 6:30 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.

## WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Chance of Showers	Sunny
Hi 69	Hi 60
Lo 52	Lo 36
Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 67	Hi 75
Lo 38	Lo 54

## Welcome to the AFGSC Senior Leader Conference

By General Robin Rand

Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command

Strikers,

I couldn't be more excited for what the AFGSC Senior Leader Conference has in store for us. Just like in previous years, this Senior Leader Conference is all about discussing issues and affairs that affect the Global Strike mission, you, and your families.

Major events like this don't just happen. In fact, they are the result of hundreds of hours of planning and hard work. As such, I'd simply like to say thanks to all the Strikers who have put their time and effort into putting this event together.

Also, I'd like to personally thank Team Whiteman for its hospitality and for hosting this event. We are all grateful to be at Whiteman – the home of the mighty B-2 bomber and incredible Striker Airmen!

I look forward to an exciting week, and as always thank you and your amazing families for your service to our great nation.

Strike fast and strike hard!



## Weekly commander's message

Greetings, Team Whiteman!

Last weekend our Total Force team hosted our installation's first-ever Soap Box Derby competition. It was great to see you and your families taking advantage of this fun-filled event that was part of our AFGSC Year of the Family initiative. Thanks to everyone who put this successful event together ... we had a terrific turnout!

Once the weekend came to a close, our teammates in the maintenance and operations groups kicked off a full week of flying, including a variety of local, range and long-duration missions. The range sorties included the employment of 500-pound unguided munitions at the Utah Test and Training Range. Furthermore, the long-duration sorties served to hone our aircrew's skills in support of our vital global strike mission. Additionally, we executed numerous T-38 sorties in order to continue to season our pilots with local training flights.

Also this week, we had the opportunity to validate our response capabilities during an IRF/RTF exercise. This exercise, which was executed as a lead up to the Nuclear Weapon Accident/Incident Exercise (NUWAIX) we will conduct in April, advanced our incident management and recovery operations capabilities, while also allowing us to refine our standard operating procedures. Chief Smith and I are very proud of how our entire team responded ... I know we will do very well in April during NUWAIX thanks to your hard work and dedication to excellence!

Tonight we will honor our Chief Master Sergeant selects during our Chief's Recognition Ceremony. To make this already incredible achievement even more memorable, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth O. Wright, will be our guest speaker in order to help honor seven 509th and 131st Chief selects. Please know that we are all very proud of you and we look forward to celebrating with you and our Air Force's highest Senior Enlisted Leader!

Speaking of excitement, next week our Total Force team will host AFGSC's Senior Leader Conference. As part of this event, we will welcome dozens of

military and civic leaders, and we will have the opportunity to show them our deterrence mission firsthand! This is an incredible opportunity to showcase our unrivaled platform, and our dedicated bomber Airmen ... thanks to everyone who has worked so hard leading up to this event!

As always, enjoy your weekend, be safe and watch out for one another.

Defend ... Avenge!

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



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Andy M. Kin  
Airmen from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron process through the contamination control station during the Initial Response Force/Response Task Force Field Training Exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 15-16, 2017.



## Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 • 7 p.m.** **SATURDAY, MARCH 18 • 7 p.m.**  
Beauty and The Beast (PG) Beauty and The Beast (PG)  
Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00 Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19 • 7 p.m.**  
Beauty and The Beast (PG)  
Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

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!

# Whiteman BCC: Proudly supporting WAFB for 20 years



**By Mr. Greg Frencken**  
President, Whiteman BCC

The Whiteman Base Community Council (BCC) has been proudly supporting Team Whiteman for over 20 years.

The BCC at Whiteman is unique in the fact that it is made up from such a large number of surrounding communities. A total of 18 local communities claim Whiteman Air Force Base as their home base. This means service members are living, participating and engaging with their communities throughout a wide geographical area.

The BCC supports community interaction with Team Whiteman and their families by assigning each community a sister squadron to support and build a relationship. Some communities have two squadrons they support. The BCC not only supports the 509th Bomb Wing, but also the Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing, the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command's 442d Fighter Wing, the 20th Attack Squadron, and the Missouri Army National Guard's 1-135th Assault Helicopter Battalion. Many of the personal relationships built through BCC remain long after Airmen leave Whiteman, and often last a lifetime.

There are a wide range of events, activities and programs BCC supports. This past year BCC raffled off a \$20,000 voucher to be applied to a new car, raising \$14,000 in additional funds to support Airmen. We've provided funding for Whiteman events and activities, such as: the soccer team to play in the Armed Forces Cup in San Antonio;

annual awards banquets; Airman & Family Readiness programs; Stealth Lounge meals; Retiree Appreciation Day breakfasts; Airman Thanksgiving baskets; and Airman Christmas Cookie Drives just to name a few.

Most recently, we have been working on the Adopt-an-Airman program. As part of this new program, a host family from the local community is paired with a participating first-term Airman from Whiteman – thus the Airman will have his or her very own home away from home.

There are many new initiatives scheduled in 2017 increasing the BCC presence. The BCC continues moving forward in finding new and better ways to support the base, Airmen, and their families, not only financially but also emotionally.

The BCC and surrounding communities support the base but the base also supports the communities as well. Visit any community during a parade or town event and you'll see a Whiteman presence. Likewise, go to a base event and you'll see a community presence. The relationships squadrons and communities build make this a true team.

However, this team would not be possible without the extraordinary relationship between all base leadership and community civic leaders. Both sides understand the critical importance of establishing and maintaining these relationships for success on all fronts. Our service members will always do their job, and the BCC will always be there to make it just a little easier for them and their families.



Quick Response codes enable readers to access additional content outside the publication.

Most QR code readers are available for free in the Android Market and App Store.



The Official  
Whiteman Website



The Official Whiteman AFB  
Facebook Page





# Selva: Nuclear deterrent is the joint force modernization priority

By Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The joint force puts the U.S. nuclear deterrent at the top of its list for modernization and recapitalization and these no longer can be deferred, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, told House Armed Services Committee members March 2, 2017.

Selva and U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, testified before the House panel on the military assessment of nuclear deterrence requirements. Joining them for the hearing were Navy Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of Naval Operations, and U.S. Air Force Gen. Stephen Wilson, vice chief of staff of the Air Force.

Selva said that over the past decade considered decisions have been made to defer some nuclear force modernization to address urgent needs while maintaining a safe, reliable and secure arsenal and delivery capability.

“But in making those decisions we have squeezed about all the life we can out of the systems we currently possess,” the general added, “so that places an extra premium on a very deliberate long-term investment strategy to replace those systems as existing systems age out of the inventory.”

## Nearing a Crossroad

The nation’s nuclear deterrent is nearing a crossroad, Selva told the panel.

“We are now at a point where we must concurrently recapitalize each component of our nuclear deterrent,” he said, “the nuclear weapons themselves, the triad of strategic delivery platforms, the indication-and-warning systems to support our decision processes, the command-and-control networks that connect the president to our field forces, and our dual-capable tactical aircraft that can be equipped with nonstrategic nuclear weapons.”

Nuclear modernization no longer can be deferred, Selva said, adding, “Any disruption of the current program of record for future acquisition plans will introduce significant risk to our deterrent.”

In his comments, Hyten said that at a time when other nations continue to modernize and upgrade their nuclear forces, nearly all elements of the U.S. nuclear weapon stockpile, delivery systems and other critical infrastructure are operating well beyond their designed service life.

“Maintaining strategic deterrence, assurance and escalation control capabilities requires a multifaceted long-term investment approach and a sustained commitment to maintaining



DoD photo/D. Myles Cullen

**U.S. Air Force Gen. John E. Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, at USSTRATCOM headquarters at Offutt, Neb., Mar. 2, 2017. USSTRATCOM employs tailored nuclear, space, cyberspace, global strike, joint electronic warfare, missile defense and intelligence capabilities that deter aggression, and decisively responds if deterrence fails.**

a credible nuclear deterrent,” Hyten said, “[and] that nuclear deterrent is only as effective as the command and control that enables it to function.”

Unpredictable challenges posed by today’s multi-domain, multi-threat security environment make it increasingly important to optimize the legacy nuclear command, control and communication, or NC3, systems and leverage new technologies and capabilities, Hyten said.

NC3 systems are essential for providing early warning and time-critical information to the National Command Authority for decision making, and effectively directing triad forces in response to a strategic crisis, Hyten explained in written testimony, “any delay, deferment or cancellation of NC3 modernization will create a capability gap that potentially degrades the president’s ability to respond appropriately to a strategic threat.”

## Retaining the Triad

In advance of consultations last year with members of the Obama administration on potential options for how to manage the nuclear triad, Selva said the Joint Chiefs met and affirmed the need to maintain a triad.

This was largely to manage strategic risks from Russia and China as potential nuclear adversaries, an increasingly aggressive North Korea and its pursuit of nuclear weapons and a potential future entry of Iran into the nuclear arena, he added.

“Based on the collection of potential threats and adversaries that exist in the world,” Selva said, “the Joint Chiefs affirmed the necessity to maintain a triad and to modernize the weapon systems, the indications of warning and the command and control associated with that triad.”

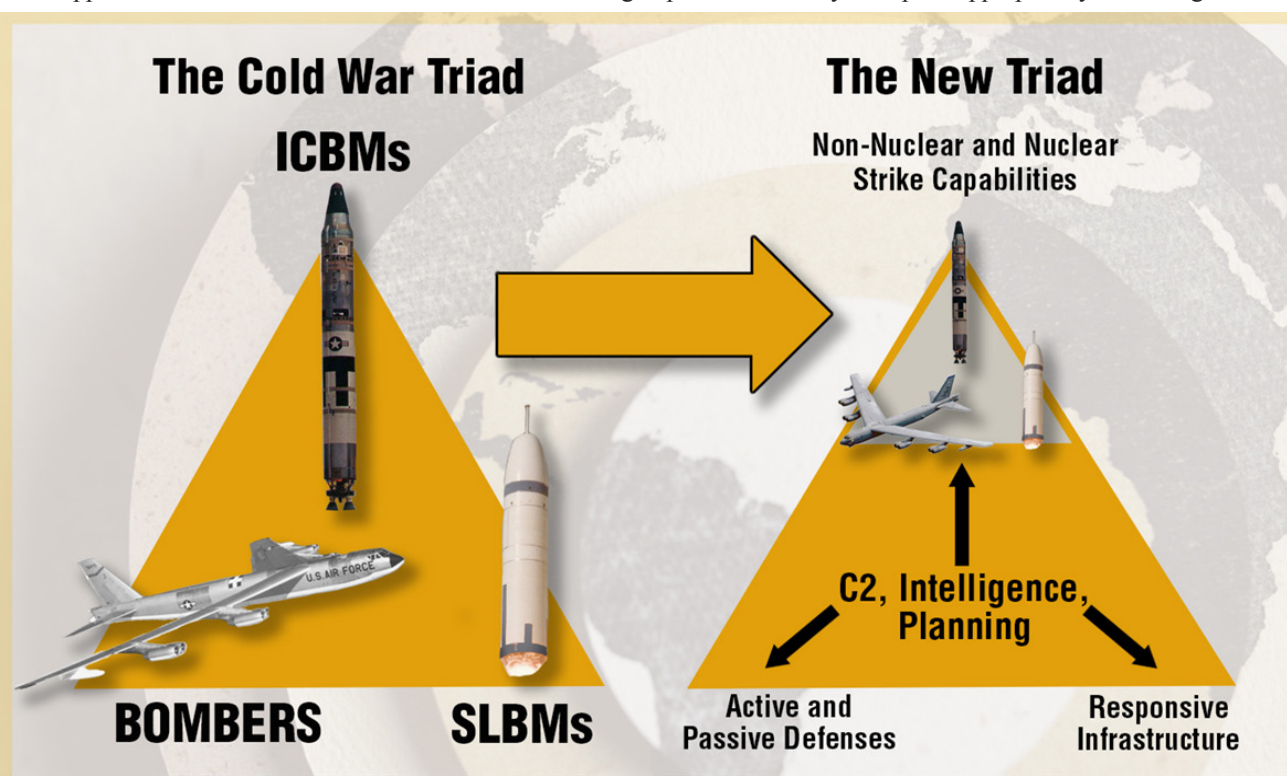
Hyten also believes the triad is fundamental to deterrence and should be retained and modernized. “To deter,” he added, “you have to have a capability that provides the adversary a calculus that he looks at and decides that his options will fail. If the adversary has capabilities to operate from the sea, from the land [and] from the air, we have to be able to turn all those elements. That’s how the triad was developed and that’s how we need to go.”

## Qualitative Advantage

In Selva’s remarks he said the path chosen to modernize and replace the existing nuclear arsenal, “particularly the delivery systems, the indications and warning, and command and control,” potentially puts the United States in a position to retain its qualitative advantage and capitalize on the advantage over time.

The advantage comes with “continuing to have a triad that gives us a ballistic missile force that confounds Russian and Chinese targeting, a bomber force that is resilient enough and capable enough to penetrate enemy air defenses and respond to a nuclear attack, and a survivable portion of that triad, in the case of our strategic ballistic missile submarines, that gives us an ability to respond even if an adversary were to believe that they could execute a decapitating attack on our nuclear capability,” Selva said.

For those reasons, the general added, “it is our strategy going forward to continue to modernize all three legs of the triad in order to continue to pose unsurvivable targeting challenges to adversaries that match us in number and [are] very close to matching us [in the quality of] delivery systems themselves.”



The Cold War Nuclear Triad has evolved to a more “capabilities-based” posture to deal with multiple aggressors across a spectrum of contingencies.



## **AFGSC Year of the Family:** **Soap Box Derby**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jovan Banks

A member of Team Whiteman participates in the 2017 All-American Soap Box Derby, along with racers from 11 different states, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 11, 2017. Team Whiteman represented 24 of the 63 racers that participated in the soap box derby.

**THINK  
SAFETY**



# Team Whiteman executes Strategic Deterrence, Global Strike and Combat Support...anytime, anywhere!



Whiteman's Total Force team executed precision strikes against two ISIS camps in Libya on Jan. 18, 2017. The strikes, which were completed by two B-2s over the course of a 30+ hour mission, were enabled by the dedication and professionalism of every Team Whiteman member.

**509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Staff Report**

Total Force Airmen ensure safe, secure and effective nuclear and conventional airpower each and every day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Home to the B-2 Stealth Bomber – the world’s premier weapons system – Whiteman takes great pride in tackling the unique challenges associated with our vital mission.

Specifically, our dedicated bomber Airmen are tasked by the President of the United States to execute strategic deterrence, global strike and combat support ... anytime, anywhere. To accomplish this mission, our Total Force team of bomber Airmen remain combat-ready, while continuously innovating for tomorrow’s fight.

**The B-2 Spirit**

Together, the 509th Bomb Wing and the 131st Bomb Wing maintain and operate the B-2 Spirit, which provides the penetrating flexibility and effectiveness inherent in manned bombers. Its low-observable, or “stealth,” characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy’s most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most valued and heavily defended targets.

The revolutionary blending of low-observable technologies with high aerodynamic efficiency and large payload give the B-2 important advantages over existing bombers. Its low-observability provides it greater freedom of action at high altitudes, thus increasing its range and a better field of view for the aircraft’s sensors.

The B-2’s low observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. These signatures make it

difficult for sophisticated defensive systems to detect, track and engage the B-2. Many aspects of the low-observability process remain classified; however, the B-2’s composite materials, special coatings and flying-wing design all contribute to its “stealthiness.”

The combat effectiveness of the B-2 was proven in Operation Allied Force, where it was responsible for destroying 33 percent of all Serbian targets in the first eight weeks, by flying nonstop to Kosovo from Whiteman and back. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the B-2 was the first platform to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Furthermore, the B-2 completed its first-ever combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, flying 22 sorties from a forward operating location, as well as 27 sorties from Whiteman while releasing more than 1.5 million pounds of munitions.

**Strategic Deterrence**

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched their fleet and attacked the American forces on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The American people could only read in horror a day later about the 2,403 lives lost during the attacks. This act of war sparked America’s involvement in World War II. Fast forward almost four years later, the Enola Gay and Bock’s Car dropped two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Our predecessor, the 509th Composite Group, proved to the world the importance of strategic deterrence and these vital missions were the reason the group was formed. Our mission was simple; we were tasked with employing the only atomic bombs ever used in war. At its core, our mission

has never changed in regards to our role in protecting our nation’s safety through strategic deterrence. From the Air Force’s early days of Strategic Air Command to today, the 509th Bomb Wing has led the way for our nation’s strategic deterrence and we will continue to do so while “Upholding the Legacy of Excellence” demonstrated by the 509th Composite Group.

**Global Strike**

Because of the B-2’s technological advances and the expertise of our bomber Airmen, Whiteman’s Total Force team can attack anywhere, anytime -- and do so quickly and with greater precision and effects than ever before. Not only were B-2 bombers the first U.S. aircraft to enter Afghan airspace in October 2001, paving the way for other coalition aircraft to engage Taliban and Al Qaeda forces, but more recently we completed combat strikes in Northern Libya to continue the fight against ISIS.

On January 18, 2017, two B-2 Spirit bombers departed Whiteman Air Force Base for Operation Odyssey Lightning, a transatlantic flight to Libya in what would become the B-2’s first combat mission in nearly six years. The 30+ hour strike mission was enabled by the dedication and professionalism of every Team Whiteman member; it was conducted in coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord and authorized directly by the President of the United States. This mission, which was extremely successful and resulted in the deaths of 78 ISIS terrorists, further validated our ability to strike targets across the globe anytime, anywhere.

**Combat Support**

Team Whiteman’s ability to launch B-2s

and strike any target in the world is not the only way the 509th Bomb Wing responds to conflicts across the globe. Currently, Whiteman has several hundred Total Force service members serving Combatant Commanders in deployed locations across the globe. These service members are from numerous careers, ranging from Force Support to Civil Engineers. Furthermore, Airmen from the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings regularly deploy in support of USSTRATCOM’s Bomber Assurance and Deterrence missions.

**Modernization**

Currently, the B-2 fleet is undergoing upgrades to its Defensive Management System (DMS). The goal of the DMS is to pick up where mission planning concludes. Specifically, DMS integrates a suite of antennas, displays and receivers that provide real-time situational reports and awareness to the aircrew. These reports help the aircrew avoid high-risk locations, which likely contain advanced air defense systems.

The upgrades include the addition of new high-tech sensors, software and electronics. These upgrades will help protect the aircraft and its pilots from modern air defense systems that continue to evolve.

The DMS modernization program addresses shortfalls in the previous system and helps pilots evade the ground-based anti-aircraft weapons employed by potential enemies. This modernization does not degrade or reduce the B-2’s stealth capabilities, only adding to the aircraft’s capabilities. In the end, these upgrades will provide Combatant Commanders and the President more options to consider when employing the B-2 in combat and they will ensure the B-2 remains a viable strike platform for decades to come.



The B-2s that struck two ISIS training camps on Jan. 18, 2017, were each loaded with 80 GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The strikes were conducted in coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord, authorized by the President of the United States, and validated our ability to strike targets across the globe anytime, anywhere.



Two U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit aircraft deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., taxi back to the parkway after a local flying mission at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Jan. 16, 2017. Close to 200 Airmen and three B-2s deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and Barksdale Air Force Base, La., in support of U.S. Strategic Command Bomber Assurance and Deterrence missions. USSTRATCOM units regularly conduct training with and in support of the Geographic Combatant Commands. USSTRATCOM, through its global strike assets, helps maintain global stability and security while enabling units to become familiar with operations in different regions.



# ***Team Whiteman mission partner:*** **131st Bomb Wing**

With a heritage that dates back more than 90 years, the 131st Bomb Wing (BW) has well and faithfully served the state of Missouri and the United States. From Jennies, to jets, to stealth bombers, the 131st traces its roots back to the 110th Observation Squadron.

With an interest in organizing a National Guard unit in St. Louis, the 110th was organized by Maj. Bill Robertson and his brothers, Lieutenants Frank and Dan Robertson, owners of Robertson Aircraft Company.

On June 23, 1923, the 110th Observation Squadron of the 35th Division, Missouri National Guard was federally recognized. It is the nation's 8th oldest Guard unit.

The chief pilot on the St. Louis-to-Chicago mail run for the Robertson Aircraft Company was a young aviator named Charles "Slim" Lindbergh. He joined the 110th Observation Squadron in November 1925 and served as a captain in the National Guard in 1927. In May that year, his commander granted permission to make his historic transatlantic, 33-hour, solo flight from New York to Paris in the "Spirit of St. Louis." Afterwards, he was rewarded for his efforts by a special act of the Missouri legislature that promoted him to the rank of colonel.

From natural disasters to service in World War II, the Korean War, Desert Storm, and Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn, the Citizen-Airmen of the 131st BW have responded to changing world events and tasking requirements with dignity and honor.

The 131st BW's primary mission is to provide full spectrum, expeditionary, B-2 global strike and combat support capabilities. The wing also provides combatant commanders with unique civil engineer staff augmentation teams, combat communications and air operations command and control. In addition to the five federal missions, the 131st provides the governor of Missouri with a force that is always ready to assist their Missouri neighbors in times of natural disaster or other emergencies.

The 131st BW's headquarters are located on Whiteman Air Force Base, but the wing still maintains units at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis and Detachment 1, Cannon Range. In 2013, the wing became the Air National Guard's only unit certified to conduct the nuclear mission. With this certification, the 131st BW reached full operational capability with the B-2, bringing to conclusion a six-year journey that began with the unit's transition from the F-15 Eagle mission in 2007.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jovan Banks

**Load crews from the 131st Bomb Wing and 509th Bomb Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons competed in the 2016 Load Crew of the Year Competition (LCYC), at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 17, 2017. The LCYC contestants are winners from quarterly load crew competitions, comprised of 4 team members in a timed trainer munitions load.**



## Team Whiteman mission partner:

# 442d Fighter Wing

The 442d Fighter Wing, which is the only Air Force Reserve Command wing located in the State of Missouri, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and support of a squadron of A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, more commonly known as the “Warthog,” or simply “The Hawg.”

The 442d traces its lineage back to World War II, when the 442d Troop Carrier Group, based at what was then Sedalia Army Airfield (now Whiteman AFB), air-dropped troops and supplies during D-Day and Operation Market Garden. Throughout its illustrious combat history, the 442d has been directly involved in the Berlin Crisis, the Cold War, Desert Storm, and Operations Deny Flight, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Today’s 442d Citizen Airmen carry on the proud tradition of regularly deploying to support allied ground forces using the Air Force’s only aircraft designed specifically for close-air-support.

The A-10 has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and visibility conditions. The wide combat radius and short take off and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness as well.

The Thunderbolt II can be serviced and operated from austere bases with limited facilities near battle areas. Many of the



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Andy M. Kin  
**U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft sit on the flightline at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 14, 2017. The aircraft has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and visibility conditions.**

aircraft’s parts are interchangeable left and right, including the engines, main landing gear and vertical stabilizers.

The aircraft can employ a wide variety of conventional munitions, including general purpose bombs, cluster bomb

units, laser guided bombs, joint direct attack munitions or JDAM, wind corrected munitions dispenser or WCMD, AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, rockets, illumination flares, and the GAU-8/A 30mm cannon, capable of

firing 3,900 rounds per minute to defeat a wide variety of targets including tanks.

Moving forward, the Airmen of the 442d will continue their role of protecting American and allied troops on the ground and they are proud to do so.

## Team Whiteman mission partner:

# 20th Attack Squadron

Assigned to Air Combat Command, the 20th Attack Squadron (ATKS) is a mission partner located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

The 20th ATKS operates remotely piloted aircraft and provides Combatant Commanders with critical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Furthermore, the 20th ATKS and remotely piloted aircraft are relied upon to provide precise close air support in many areas of responsibility, which is a considerable change from the days when unmanned aircraft were used solely for intelligence gathering and real-time reconnaissance.

For years, the 20th ATKS has flown the MQ-1 Predator in combat. However, the unit has begun to transition to flying MQ-9 Reapers, which they will fly exclusively in the future.

While the MQ-1 proved its weapons proficiency, it was never originally



File photo  
**The MQ-9 Reaper is a remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily against dynamic execution targets and secondarily as an intelligence collection asset. The MQ-9 carries a nearly 4,000-pound payload and has the ability to carry both missiles and bombs.**

designed to carry weapons, resulting in a limited 200-pound payload. Simply put, the demand for more attack capabilities

exceeded the MQ-1’s design capabilities.

The MQ-9 design picks up where the MQ-1 left off, boasting a nearly

4,000-pound payload and the ability to carry 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 as it simplifies training and logistics. Moreover, 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 the MQ-9.

Currently, the plan is to stop flying the MQ-1 in 2018. With regards to the 20th ATKS mission, this means they will stop flying the MQ-1 this summer and they will gradually stand up the number of MQ-9 combat lines they are responsible to operate.

By operating the MQ-9, the 20th ATKS will continue to achieve significant combat zone effects daily. They also will continue to lay the foundation for future combat unmanned aircraft.



## **Team Whiteman mission partner:** **1-135th Assault Helicopter Battalion**

In 1958, the 1-135th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) Missouri National Guard called the Skyhaven Hangar in Warrensburg, Missouri, home. In 1975, the unit moved to Whiteman Air Force Base. Over the course of 59 years, the unit has flown numerous aircraft including the AH-1 Cobra, UH-1 Iroquois, OH-58 Kiowa, the A and D models of the AH-64 Apache, and lastly the UH-60A/L Black Hawk Helicopter.

The 1-135th AHB has a long and storied history filled with combat deployments and state directed missions. Specifically the unit flew and helped in the responses for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2006, the unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2011, the state called on them to fulfill their state mandate and they assisted in the Birds Point Levee Flooding. Most recently, the unit once again deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.

Due to the dedication of its Soldiers, the 1-135th AHB received the Superior Unit Award in 2013, the Deployment Excellence

Award in 2014, and the Army Aviation Unit of the Year Award in 2014.

Recently, the AHB underwent a major transition in terms of aircraft. The transition from a 24 AH-64D Longbow Attack Reconnaissance Battalion to a 10 UH-60 A/L Assault Helicopter Battalion officially took place on July 1, 2016. This transition provides the unit with the opportunity to participate in numerous joint service initiatives. These include SMOKEX – a B-2 Weapons School exercise conducted biannually, Explosive Ordnance Disposal qualifications for the Air Force, and various Air Movement/Air Mission Requests from many different joint commands.

Currently, the AHB is charged with six primary tasks now that their transition is complete. Those tasks are air assault, air movement of troops and cargo, casualty evacuation, personnel recovery, reconnaissance and aerial mission command.

In the near future, the 1-135th AHB will execute a rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.

**Service  
Before Self**  
**Integrity First**  
**Excellence  
In All We Do**



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

The transition from a 24 AH-64D Longbow Attack Reconnaissance Battalion to a 10 UH-60 A/L Assault Helicopter Battalion officially took place on July 1st, 2016.



