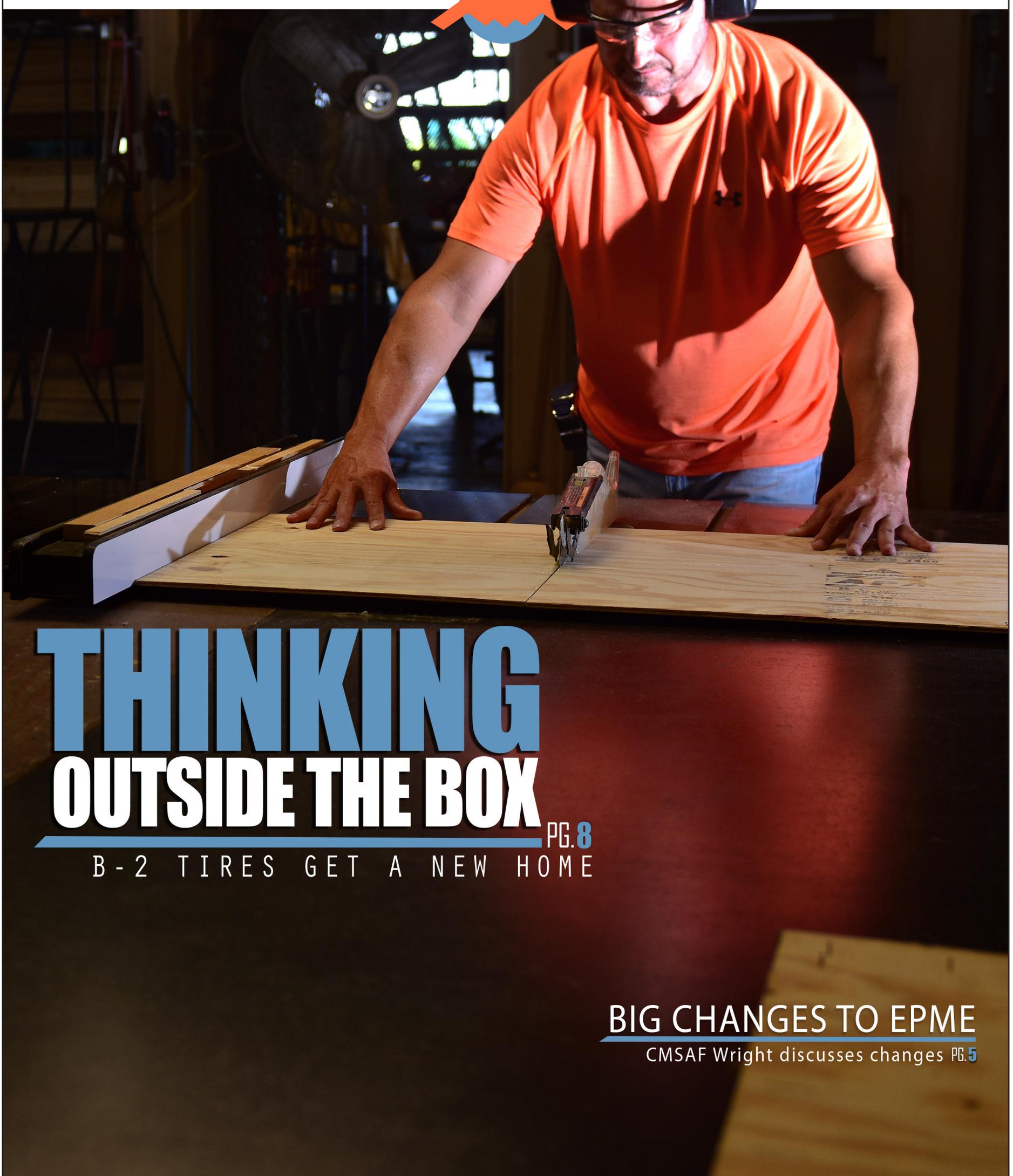


WARRIOR



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

PG. 8

B-2 TIRES GET A NEW HOME

BIG CHANGES TO EPME

CMSAF Wright discusses changes PG. 5

Weekly commander's message

Team Whiteman,

On Saturday evening, our Total Force team launched the Spirit of Pennsylvania for a training mission involving a flyover of the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) in the United Kingdom. Not only did our surprise participation in RIAT wow Sunday's enormous international crowd in attendance, but it also helped demonstrate our commitment to global security and assurance for our European allies.

The excitement continued this week as we learned that 75 of our Staff Sergeants were selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant and that 10 of our Captains were selected for promotion to Major. Being selected for Technical Sergeant is historically one of the hardest grades to achieve for our enlisted teammates and becoming a Field Grade Officer is a major milestone in any officer's career. I am incredibly proud of all our selects--ensure you take time to celebrate responsibly with your loved ones and your Wingmen!

As a reminder, today two American Ninja Warrior alumni, Kevin Klein and Brittany Reid, will be here signing autographs as we lead up to the Alpha Warrior competition on Saturday. The autograph sessions will be at the Fitness Center from 10:55 – 11:55 a.m. and later at the Youth Center from 2:20 – 3:25 p.m. The competition will take place tomorrow inside Hangar 52 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Best of luck to everyone who is competing!

Next Wednesday we will be hosting representatives from AFPC who will provide an overview of assignment philosophies and priorities, volunteer programs and the DSD program. Additionally, they will discuss the Over-

seas, Overseas Returnee, and Mandatory Mover cycles and timelines. The briefing, which will be held in our Professional Development Center, is open to everyone and no RSVP is required.

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. E6 and below
- 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. E7 and above
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. E6 and below
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. E7 and above

For all the parents out there, I wanted to pass along that FIRST LEGO League will be offering an introduction in robotics for children 9-14 years of age. An informational meeting is scheduled for August 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Youth Center if you are interested. The league will meet beginning in August and run through January.

Lastly, as many of you know, Chief Smith will be moving on to a new assignment shortly. Since her first day here, she has had a tremendous impact on our mission and team and we are all grateful for her service and leadership. Chief, please know that we wish you and your family the best and that you have had a true impact here at Whiteman.

Have a safe, relaxing weekend. Watch out for one another and be a proactive Wingman to your fellow Airmen and their families.

v/r

JJN

JOHN J. NICHOLS, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 509th Bomb Wing

An honor and a pleasure

It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your command chief over the past 13 months. We're excited about the new opportunity that lies ahead, it's truly bittersweet leaving our Whiteman family. From day one, I knew this would be a challenging yet rewarding assignment, and it proved true. I was immediately impressed with the pride and professionalism across the installation demonstrated through your hard work, ethics, customs and courtesies, and dedication. Together we have achieved many major accomplishments and I am in awe by the level of commitment given throughout the wing to the mission, our priorities and to one another. It's been extremely rewarding to work alongside the caliber

of Total Force professionals amongst the Team Whiteman community, our military and civilian leaders, civic leaders and mission partners. Thank you for always leading boldly to defend this great nation. Derek, the family, and I wish you continued success and look forward to our paths crossing again. No one, absolutely no one, does it better than Team Whiteman ... DEFEND ... AVENGE!

v/r

Chief Smith

MELVINA A. SMITH, CMSgt, USAF
Command Chief, 509th Bomb Wing

Congratulations promotees!

Major Selects

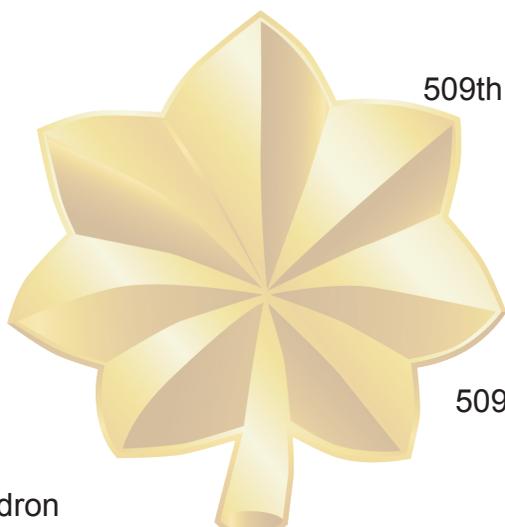
Nicholas Anderson
13th Bomb Squadron

Christopher Englert
13th Bomb Squadron

Gaetano Falcone
13th Bomb Squadron

Matthew Gray
393rd Bomb Squadron

John Grunzinger
509th Operations Support Squadron



Krystelle Jeanmichael
509th Medical Operations Squadron

Joseph Manglitz
13th Bomb Squadron

Matthew Small
393rd Bomb Squadron

Karl Wiest
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Christopher Young
393rd Bomb Squadron

THE WARRIOR

Editorial Staff

Col. John J. Nichols
509th Bomb Wing Commander

Capt. Karl Wiest
Chief, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Tyler Alexander
Editor

2nd Lieutenant Allen Palmer
Senior Airman Danielle Quilla
Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith

Airman Michaela Slanchik
Airman Taylor Phifer
Photojournalists

The Sedalia Democrat
Layout and Design

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.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of **The Warrior** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the **Sedalia Democrat**.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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 660-687-5727, email 509.bw.pa@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

Charles Wellman, the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron wood working supervisor, crafts new crates to house the B-2's tires at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 17, 2017. The Air Force is considering Wellman's new crate blue prints for standardization.

NEWS BRIEFS



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

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 the AFOSI web page at <http://www.osi.af.mil>.

How to report an anonymous tip using a smart phone:

1. Open 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 "AFOSP" 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 enjoyable. 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.

Like the Stealth Lounge on Facebook to stay up to date on special events and tournaments.

Air Force Housing website

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

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
Hot	Hot
Hi 98	Hi 98
Lo 76	Lo 77

Sunday	Monday
Chance of Storms	Mostly Sunny
Hi 90	Hi 87
Lo 74	Lo 68

Congratulations promotees!

Technical Sergeant Selects

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Erik Antonson
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | A. Huffstetler
509th Medical Operations Squadron | Adrian Moya
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron |
| Julius Atienza
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | D. Huffstetler
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | Patrick Paine
509th Security Forces Squadron |
| Jessica Bailey
509th Force Support Squadron | James Hunt
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Christopher Patricelli
509th Operations Support Squadron |
| Mark Bedwell
509th Maintenance Squadron | Merlin Jewell
509th Bomb Wing | Jeffrey Porter
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron |
| Taw Browning
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron | Thomas Jirkovsky
509th Operations Support Squadron | Giacomo Restivo
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron |
| Raymond Burgess
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron | Cameron Kessinger
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | Andrew Richardson
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron |
| Angela Carrasco
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Andrew Klein
509th Maintenance Squadron | Tristan Ritter
509th Operations Support Squadron |
| Raven Carter
509th Operations Support Squadron | Austin Kocher
509th Maintenance Squadron | Ian Rowswell
509th Maintenance Group |
| Isaac Chiellini
509th Operations Support Squadron | Krista Kollias
509th Medical Support Squadron | Michael A. Rozsa
509th Munitions Squadron |
| Timothy Crimson
509th Communications Squadron | Stephan Kuipers
509th Bomb Wing | Corey Schuler
509th Bomb Wing |
| Joel Cruse
509th Munitions Squadron | Jared Lamb
509th Operations Support Squadron | Lorne Shepherd
509th Maintenance Squadron |
| Stephen Davis
509th Maintenance Squadron | Eddie Love
509th Operations Support Squadron | David Smith
509th Maintenance Group |
| Curtis Douglas
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Jim Loyd, Jr.
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Jonathan Stansbury
509th Civil Engineer Squadron |
| Kevin Elkins
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | Steven Lynch
509th Maintenance Squadron | Jason Stevenson
509th Force Support Squadron |
| Keith Folsom
509th Maintenance Group | Matthew Madore
509th Medical Operations Squadron | Steven Stuer
509th Maintenance Squadron |
| Daniel Fowler
509th Maintenance Squadron | Alex Mange
509th Operations Support Squadron | Jeremy Swick
509th Security Forces Squadron |
| Justin Francisco
509th Maintenance Group | Bryan McCart
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Travis Toberman
509th Medical Support Squadron |
| Ryan Froberg
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron | Joshua Meidell
509th Munitions Squadron | Randall Vaughn
509th Operations Support Squadron |
| Victoria Gainey
509th Bomb Wing | Matthew Meron
509th Security Forces Squadron | Lukas Waby
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron |
| Jessica Gibson
509th Maintenance Squadron | Eric Mitchell
509th Operations Support Squadron | Keith Walker
509th Medical Operations Squadron |
| Charles Heady
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron | Joseph Mitchell
509th Civil Engineer Squadron | John Walling
509th Maintenance Squadron |
| Damian Herbert
509th Maintenance Group | Derek Moland
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron | Kimber Webb
509th Force Support Squadron |
| Justin Heupel
509th Maintenance Squadron | Phillip Montano
509th Munitions Squadron | Adam Wolfe
509th Maintenance Squadron |
| Bryan Horvath
509th Communications Squadron | Travis Moore
509th Maintenance Squadron | Eric Young
509th Munitions Squadron |
| Mya Hudson
509th Maintenance Squadron | Kenneth Morgan
509th Bomb Wing | Dustin Zeilemaker
509th Maintenance Squadron |

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

FRIDAY, JULY 21 • 7 p.m.

The Book of Henry (PG-13)

Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

SATURDAY, JULY 22 • 7 p.m.

The Beguiled (R)

Adults - \$6.25

SUNDAY, JULY 23 • 3 p.m.

Captain Underpants (PG)

Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

An ounce of prevention



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

In 2015, changes to Basic Allowance for Housing for service members included the elimination of renter's insurance. For those who are renting on or off base, the change led to an optional out-of-pocket expense for military members to protect their personal items, should the unexpected happen.

By 2nd Lt. Allen Palmer

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Imagine waking up for your daily workout and noticing that your trusty water bottle is nowhere to be found. As you leave your home, you tell yourself that "it's no big deal" and that "a new one is only a couple bucks." Now, imagine returning from your workout to find a crew of firemen frantically trying to extinguish the flames engulfing your home and having the Fire Chief inform you that all of your belongings have been destroyed. In what feels like mere moments, those couple bucks for a new water bottle just turned into potentially tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket all because you did not invest in renter's insurance.

We never know when an accident that threatens our financial stability will occur. However, we can take steps now to make the recovery from such an event much easier. Renter's insurance is a precaution that can protect you from personal belonging replacement expenses, as well as unforeseen problems associated with your home. There are four key myths about renter's insurance that may cause you think it is unnecessary.

First, "I don't have enough stuff to need insurance." If this is you, consider the cost of replacing only a computer, refrigerator, and television set. Just these objects alone can cost in upwards of \$5,000 to replace. If you are still on the fence, go room by room through your home and catalog everything in eyesight, then consider how much it would cost just to replace those items.

Second, "since I am a renter, my landlord will cover property damages." This is not true. Landlords are under no obligation to cover your damaged personal property and therefore many only have insurance on the building itself. If you are living on base, the military does not cover your personal belongings from damage. In 2015, the National Defense Authorization Act eliminated renter's insurance from the Basic Allowance for Housing formula. This means that Air Force privatized housing no longer has to provide renter's insurance as part of their leasing package, leaving your belongings in the dorms and houses at risk. Improvements to premises done by the renter are also not covered.

Third, "renter's insurance only covers my personal belongings." Renter's insurance can cover damages to your neighbor's personal property if accidentally caused by you. For instance, if you overflow your bathtub and cause water damage to the apartment below you, renter's insurance can cover the cost of their damages, keeping cash from coming out of your pocket. Renter's insurance can also cover legal fees that result from an accident in your home, such as being sued by a colleague for medical expenses resulting from falling at your home.

Fourth, "renter's insurance is too expensive." Unlike car insurance or homeowner's insurance, renters insurance is not a huge monthly cost. Roughly costing the same as a Netflix subscription, renters insurance typically only adds \$180 to your yearly expense. This is a relatively small price for peace of mind.

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!

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

AF announces Enlisted Professional Military Education redesign

By Senior Master Sgt. Katherine Grabham
Office of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials announced major changes to the enlisted professional military education program today via an initiative called Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21st Century, or "EPME 21."

A major initiative of EPME 21 is that time in service will no longer dictate an Airman's EPME enrollment -- Airmen will only be required to complete distance learning courses as a prerequisite to their resident attendance. This initiative is now in effect.

Also, the Air Force will transition to 100 percent resident EPME, allowing all active duty, Guard and reserve Airmen an opportunity to attend Airman Leadership School, the NCO and senior NCO academies prior to promotion.

The changes are a result of the 2017 EPME triennial review, said Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass, the Chief of Air Force Enlisted Developmental Education at the Pentagon.

"The committee determined changes were needed to the existing EPME structure in order to align EPME with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's policy requiring rank-based educational opportunities," Bass said. "This also enables all Airmen an opportunity to attend resident PME in order to truly leverage the educational experiences gained from instructors and peers."

One of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright's three priorities is leadership -- developing Airmen who are ready to lead. One of his objectives in this is to cement EPME changes and infuse agility into Air University processes to improve the ability to provide timely, updated content delivery.

"If this sounds familiar, it should. It was the staple of our EPME for almost 43 years before a recent change to a time in service model," Wright said. "While this model was effective for some, we quickly found it didn't meet the needs of all our Airmen, causing many NCOs to lose

the opportunity to attend in residence at all."

Rather than requiring Airmen to complete EPME at set times based on how long they've been in the Air Force, the new model transitions to a rank-based continuum of learning.

Removing the TIS determination "just makes sense," Wright said. "We must ensure timely, focused and operationally relevant training and educational solutions at all levels. Providing Airmen with the appropriate PME at the right times in their career is a must. If we deliver it too soon, it's not effective for where they are in their careers. If we deliver it too late, it's not effective at all."

Wright notes that the model provides Airmen greater flexibility and time, allowing them to focus their energies on the mission.

"Commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and supervisors remain central to inspiring a culture of innovation, agility and excellence, while promoting a continuum of learning that spans an Airman's career," he said.

Airmen will not be notified from the Air Force Personnel Center or Air University on when to enroll themselves into distance learning, but must manually enroll themselves.

"This new EPME structure allows Airmen to decide the best time frame to complete their distance learning," Bass said. "They will have to complete the distance learning prior to being scheduled for the resident portion, but each Airman now has more flexibility as to when the right time is for them."

Bass explained that distance learning provides students with basic competency development and the resident courses allow students to apply what they learned.

"It is necessary to complete both the distance learning and the resident courses to achieve development of the required competencies at the appropriate proficiency levels," she said. "We expect staff and master sergeants to complete their respective distance learning so when they become technical and senior master sergeants, they are immediately eligible for resident attendance."

Resident EPME is a promotion requirement -- Airman Leadership School, NCO Academy, SNCO Academy and the Chief Leadership Course are required for promotion to E-5, E-7 and E-9, respectively.

Airmen who have previously completed NCO or SNCO distance learning courses under the previous policy and have not attended resident EPME, will still receive EPME credit and will not be required to attend the resident portion. Additionally, those currently enrolled in NCO or SNCO distance learning courses may still complete the course and receive credit upon completion. Or, they may withdraw with no adverse actions and re-enroll at a later date, prior to attending resident EPME.

"This change clearly sends a signal that our senior leaders value deliberately developing our enlisted corps," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the Air Force Deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. "This is a positive move in the right direction, as we continue to develop the force and support our Airmen."

Additionally, EPME 21 will institute a new requirement called Professional Development Unit that will capture diverse education, training and life experiences. Each Airman will complete 24 PDUs per year with one PDU equating approximately one hour of learning, which equates to three days of development in the span of a year.

Many activities that enlisted Airmen already do will count towards the 24 PDUs. Professional Enhancement Seminars, Senior Enlisted Joint PME, college classes and even earning professional certifications accumulate points. Many Airmen have already attended programs like Profession of Arms Center of Excellence or other major command courses. Additionally, Airmen actively plan and participate in Air Force, Joint and coalition exercises, gaining experience in warfighting activities ranging from aircraft generation, command and control and force protection. And finally, Airmen deploy and lead both small and large teams across our Combatant Command Areas of Responsibility. These all count.

Taming the wild

By Tech. Sgt. Tyler Alexander
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Appalachian Trail stretches roughly 2,200 miles across 14 states. The trail begins at Springer Mountain in Georgia and runs all the way to Mount Katahdin in Maine and most hikers can finish the trail in five to seven months. Ultrarunner Karl "Speedgoat" Meltzer set the record for the fastest thru-hike of the trail in 2016 at 45 days 22 hours and 38 minutes. That's 45 days through potential snow, extreme heat, vast wilderness and steep mountain terrain. One wrong step could mean a broken leg or worse. That's where U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Dexas "Dex" Copeland and Airman 1st Class Fredy Velasquez come in.

As part of the University of Central Missouri (UCM) on the Appalachian Trail program, Copeland and Velasquez, along with 14 students and faculty from UCM, took up residence at Konnarock Base Camp near Sugar Grove, Virginia and spent seven days repairing a dilapidated part of the trail.

"The hardest part of the trip was carrying the tools up the mountain to the work site on the first day. Our group had eight people, four sledgehammers, four pick-axes, four 18-pound



Courtesy photo
U.S. Air Force Airman First Class Fredy Velasquez, a public health technician from the 509th Medical Operations squadron, stands "ready" to hike the Appalachian Trail at Sugar Grove, Virginia, May 27, 2017. Velasquez spent eight days repairing a section of the Konnarock Trail as part of an outreach program with University of Central Missouri.

six foot tall iron bars, and some other small digging tools. It's a lot to carry up a mountain," said Copeland.

For eight hours a day, Copeland and Velasquez hauled rocks, weighing anywhere between 200-500 pounds, from a nearby quarry and dug perfectly-sized holes to place them in as steps. This process replaced an old wooden section of the trail and made it safer for hikers.

"Being recognized by the hikers as they went by while we were working was amazing," said Velasquez.

In the end, the trip was all about service--service to a national treasure and service in support of something bigger than yourself.

"Being able to contribute to something that will last for hundreds of years to come is pretty sobering," said Copeland. "Countless hikers will hike the new trail and step on a step that I placed there. It's pretty cool when you think about the long term impact of your service to people that don't, and probably won't, know who you are."

Commandant visits WAFB



U.S. Air Force photo/ Airman Michaela Slanchik

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Danny Doucette, the U.S. Air Force First Sergeant Academy commandant, visits with Whiteman's first sergeants at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 18, 2017. Doucette was the first ever Air National Guard commandant of the Air Force First Sergeant Academy. He spoke with Whiteman's first sergeants about the total force integration of shirts, provided updates, answered concerns and laid out the way forward for the diamond wearer.



Boxed and ready to roll

By Airman Michaela Slanchik
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

“There’s a way to do it better -- find it!” America’s greatest inventor, Thomas Edison, had this mindset, and changed the world as we know it. This mentality is engrained in today’s Airmen as we strive to keep the U.S. Air Force the greatest Air Force in the world.

“I believe all members of the Air Force should be aware of what they can do to save money,” said Charles Wellman, the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron wood worker supervisor. “So often, an Airman will say, ‘It doesn’t matter what I do, I’m only the little guy in the whole scope of things.’

“I say, turn off the lights,” added Wellman. “Turn off your monitor. Truly be a good steward of our own taxpayer dollars.” The Air Force has implemented many programs over the years aiming to save taxpayers’ money. These proposals are oftentimes created by the Airmen who serve today -- Airmen just like Wellman, and just like you.

In order to support Whiteman’s mission of providing strategic deterrence and global strike at anytime ... any place, there is a fleet of aircraft tires in storage.

On a \$2.2 billion aircraft, these tires are not cheap. Each main tire costs nearly \$30,000.

There is a heat shield on every one of these tires within the rim.

In the past, these tires have been stored in a metal housing where each rim leaned against a support beam that unknowingly was causing damage to the heat shield. When this heat shield was damaged, it cost the Air Force between \$2,000 and \$4,000 to repair, averaging \$110,000 at any given time in order to make

the fleet deployable. In addition to the price, it takes between 12 and 18 man hours to fix each tire, depending on the extent of the damage.

After a recent inspection, it was found that some B-2 wheels in storage have been unserviceable since 2013.

This discovery prompted Wellman to begin building a custom prototype for a new, functional home for each tire.

“The solution to this issue is simple and eliminates 100 percent of any possible damage and man hours applied to the mated tire of its heat shield,” said Wellman.

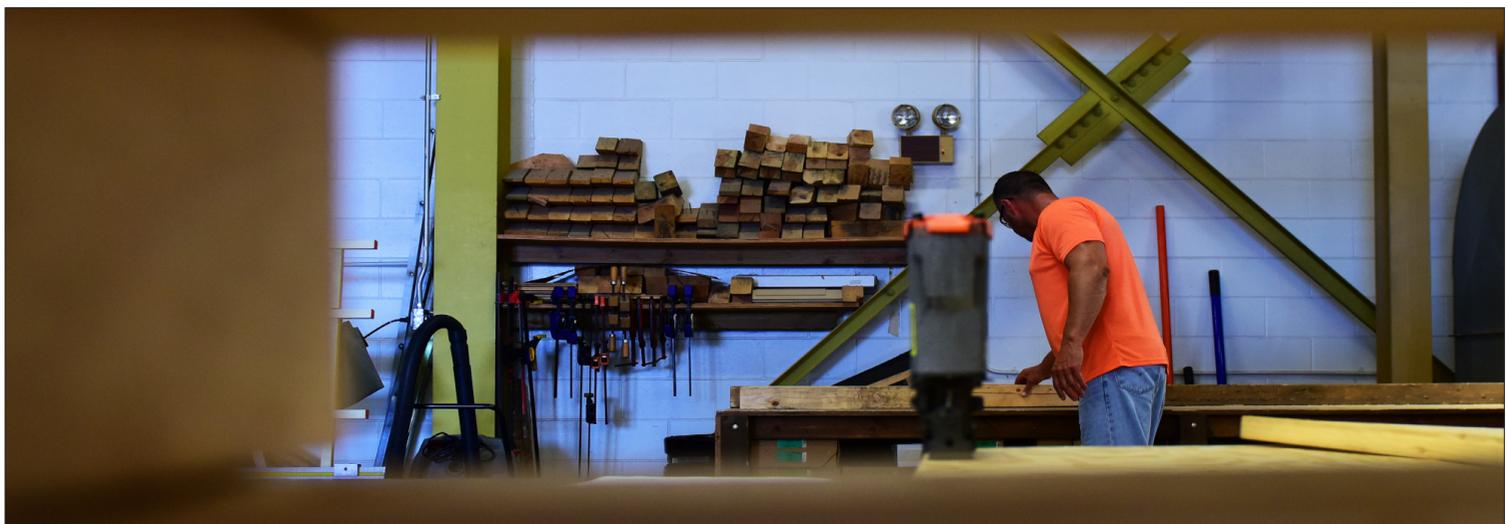
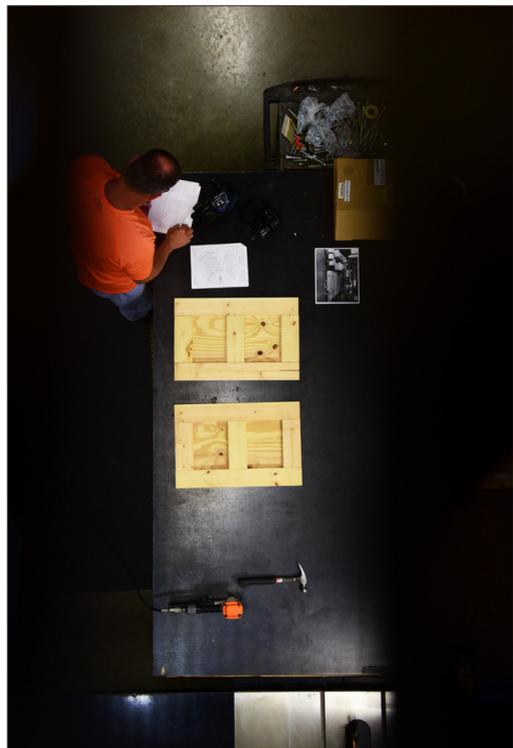
Each crate costs about \$700 to build and can house four main tires, as well as six nose tires. The way the tires fit inside of the crate, there is no room for damage to the heat shield or any other components. These crates have a one-time investment of about 16 man hours with two personnel to create, saving the Air Force thousands of dollars. Most importantly, the crates are deployable and make the tires ready to ship at a moment’s notice.

The Air Force at large is adopting this strategic plan and is taking the lead for mass production of a long-term solution, which may involve Wellman’s model made with a lightweight metal.

Now, when an Airman searches for the technical order to build a crate for these tires, Wellman’s custom blue print will appear.

After 26 years of honorable service, and more than 10 years as a Department of Defense civilian, Wellman is still looking for ways to practice his pledge of excellence and improve the Air Force every day.

“We have to serve our country to truly understand and appreciate how great our nation is,” said Wellman. “Greatness will come from simply turning off the lights!”



Charles Wellman, the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron wood working supervisor, crafts new crates to house the B-2’s tires at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 17, 2017. Wellman has been practicing wood work for nearly 36 years and has created new blue prints for the crates that might be used Air Force wide.

*U.S. Air Force photos/
Airman Michaela Slanchik*

2017 Royal International Air Tattoo



View the *Whiteman Warrior* online
by logging onto www.whiteman.af.mil

U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Brian Kimball

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Stealth Bomber from the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and two F-15C aircraft fly past spectators during the 2017 Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) located at Royal Air Force Fairford, United Kingdom, July 16, 2017. This year commemorates the U.S. Air Force's 70th Anniversary which was highlighted during RIAT by displaying its lineage and advancements in military aircraft.

Commanders to have more say in developmental education opportunities

By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS)— Air Force officials recently announced changes to the nomination process for officer developmental education beginning with the results of the March 2017 Line of Air Force (LAF) Major Board.

The March 2017 LAF Major's Board results were released publicly July 18, 2017, and did not include in-residence, developmental education (DE) selection or "select" status.

"The decision to separate school selection stemmed from inputs from the field and discussions with wing commanders about how we continue to improve joint warfighting excellence. This is about lethality. Winning in combat starts with great leadership," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

Effective immediately, commanders will now nominate in-residence, DE selection based on individual performance.

"Our commanders know their people best, and must identify Airmen whose consistent high performance makes them best suited for these developmental opportunities," said Goldfein. "This also continues Secretary Wilson's and my emphasis on pushing decision authority back to commanders where it belongs."

The new DE policy impacts in-residence DE nominations beginning in 2018 for academic year 2019 and beyond.

"This change offers all eligible officers a

more transparent and equitable process toward which they can attend in-residence developmental education," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

Those previously identified as "selects" from a promotion board will retain their status until completion of their respective intermediate or senior DE opportunity. At this time, the number of Intermediate Developmental Education (IDE) and Senior Developmental Education (SDE) opportunities will not change, explained Grosso.

As grandfathered school selects rotate through IDE and SDE, senior raters will be provided the ability to nominate an increasingly higher percentage of eligible officers to the IDE/SDE Central Board. Previously, senior raters were limited to no more than 20 percent of candidates for IDE and 25 percent of candidates for SDE.

"This changes the process by which we select our best based upon commanders' assessment of officers' sustained performance and their potential to lead in the complex global security environment we operate in," said Goldfein.

Specific guidance on the future selection process will be sent to commanders no later than February 2018. Nominations for academic year 2019 and beyond will consider commander inputs, Air Force requirements and officers' records of performance.

Company Grade Officer of the Month



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla

U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Jonathan Dahm, a flight commander with the 509th Security Forces Squadron, receives the Company Grade Officer of the Month from Col. Mark Ely, the 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, and members of the Company Grade Officer Council at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 12, 2017. In addition to overseeing 120 personnel daily, Dahm has taken on major projects for the wing to include organizing and leading a base visit by the Reserve Officers' Training Corps detachment from the University of Notre Dame.

Air Force rolls out phased retirement programs for eligible civilians

By Richard Salomon

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Eligible Air Force civilian employees now have the option of working part time in a "semi-retired" status, according to new Air Force Instruction 36-817, Civilian Phased Retirement Program.

The civilian phased retirement program allows eligible full-time employees to request to work on a part-time basis and receive a portion of their retirement annuity. Under the program, phased retirees will work half the number of hours they worked as full-time employees immediately prior to entering phased retirement.

"This program allows dedicated employees with decades of experience to pass on critical knowledge to our other employees in the organization," said Annette Castro, a human resource specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center. "It serves as a mentoring and training tool to ensure the next generation of civilians are prepared for success. Institutional knowledge is often difficult to replace."

Participation is voluntary and requires the mutual consent of both the employee and the Air Force. To be eligible, employees should be employed on a full-time basis for at least three consecutive years before beginning the program. The phased retirement period is for one year with an option to extend for an additional year.



myPers

The rules for employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) differ slightly from those employees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Retirement-eligible employees under FERS will need to have at least 30 years of service and have reached the minimum retirement age (between 55 and 57, depending on the birth year) or have at least 20 years of service and be at least 60 years old. Under CSRS, employees will need to have at least 30 years of service and be at least 55 years old or have at least 20 years of service and be at least 60 years old.

Under the guidelines, civilian employees in the phased retirement program remain in the same position authorization they were in prior to entering the program and should not be moved to an over-hire billet or to another authorization while in phased retirement. Hiring officials may hire an additional part-time employee to carry out the remaining 50 percent manning hours or a full-time, over-hire

employee only if funding is available to support both the phased retiree's part-time salary and the part-time/full-time replacement.

Additionally, phased retirees will be required to mentor other employees for at least 20 percent of their working hours. Air Force organizations can establish mentoring guidelines to best suit their needs.

"Mentorship plays an important role in shaping our future leaders and for passing on knowledge to successive generations," Castro said. "It's an investment that requires time, effort and dedication."

Civilian employees considering phased retirement are encouraged to fully research the program.

The new AFI can be found at Air Force e-Publishing. For more information, visit the myPers website and search "Phased Retirement." Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Personnel Center website.