

WARRIOR



FAREWELL FLIGHT

THE 509TH OPERATION GROUP REARRANGES SQUADRONS PG 3



SLAM POETRY PG. 8
WHITEMAN AIRMAN WINS OVER CROWD WITH WORDS

Why Do You Serve?

By Col. Mark Riselli
 509th Maintenance Group commander

Studies show three primary reasons people fail to achieve their goals: They don't know what to do to be successful; they don't know how to accomplish their goals; or, they don't know why they want to succeed in these goals. Of the three, researchers show that knowing why is the cornerstone to all success. When you know why you're pursuing a goal, you can learn what to do or how to do it. Pursuing success without establishing your foundation of why is like building a skyscraper on shifting sand. Identifying your why is equally fundamental to your career in the Air Force. Although many of us who have taken the oath "to protect and defend" would point to a desire to serve as our why, each service member has a unique set of stories that explain why we choose to put on a uniform every day. Because these unique stories define our individual why, our success will be dependent upon our ability to identify and articulate why we serve.

Perhaps your why, like mine, began with the educational benefits of service.

Perhaps your why, like mine, has roots in a family heritage of service.

Perhaps your why, like mine, appreciates the opportunity to travel and see more of the world.

Regardless of where your why begins, I'd like to suggest discovering your unique why – that story is a far more powerful driver of success. Look for the day that your generic why became personal: The day you recognized you are part of something bigger than yourself, and that you have a direct role in the success of the mission.

Over the course of nearly 23 years, there are several distinct days that define why I serve, but without hesitation, I can tell you the day my generic why became personal.

I was a young captain, assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan, standing on the flightline early in the morning as my unit participated in the response effort after the mid-air collision of a U.S. Navy aircraft and a military aircraft from a nearby Pacific region nation.

That day, I saw first-hand how our military could be used to influence an international situation. Despite tensions, the situ-



ation resolved peacefully. My unit was tasked to respond, and we delivered. More than that, I caught a glimpse of why I serve. I had specific leadership tasks that were time sensitive and my success had a direct impact on the success of our response efforts.

That day left an impression on me because it was the first of many days I realized that even though I was part of a massive organization, I had a personal stake in its success. To this day, when asked why I'm still serving, I know my answer is rooted in my experience in Okinawa. We train to carry out our nation's will with force if required, but every day we are capable of using that same training to save lives.

Why do you serve?

Base Chapel Announcement: GOOD NEWS!

**The Stealth Lounge is opening again, beginning with the Thursday night meals.
 Starting this Thursday, April 19 at 5 p.m.**

**The Whiteman Air Force Base Spouses Club will be serving a
 home-style meal that will leave your taste buds satisfied!**

The Stealth Lounge will be open every

Thursday 5 - 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 - 10 p.m.

The base has given \$45,000 for renovations of the Stealth Lounge!

**Included in the renovation will be new commercial grade/wood look flooring,
 new furniture, new video-gaming chairs, new paint, fireplace nooks,
 popcorn machine, patio furniture, outdoor games and more.**

**We will have a poster and book on display on how the
 completed project will look. We expect completion in July.**

**Some of the projects will include self-help so consider lending your time and
 muscle as work progresses.**

**The Chapel is grateful for what is coming and asks for your patience,
 understanding, and help as we strive to make the Stealth Lounge a
 no-kidding quality space for you ... you're worth it!!!**

See you this Thursday at 5 p.m!

THE WARRIOR

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509th Bomb Wing Commander

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Layout and Design

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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 660-687-5727, 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

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

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, left, and Lt. Col. Geoffrey Steeves, the 13th Bomb Squadron commander, retire the 394th Combat Training Squadron guidon during the 13th BS assumption of command ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 13, 2018. During the ceremony the 394th CTS was inactivated and members merged into the 13th BS.

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

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.

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.

WEATHER

Friday Sunny Hi 62 Lo 64	Saturday Mostly Cloudy Hi 59 Lo 42
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Sunday Mostly Cloudy Hi 60 Lo 45	Monday Mostly Sunny Hi 66 Lo 45
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Whiteman's two bomb squadrons merge, B-2 schoolhouse renamed

By Public affairs staff report
509th Bomb Wing

Members of the Armed Forces always move forward. From the late 1920s when the U.S. Army first discussed expanding the Army Air Corps, the military has continued with its forward-thinking outlook. The 509th Bomb Wing recently made its own step forward, streamlining its B-2 Spirit bomber operations.

The wing inactivated its 394th Combat Training Squadron Friday, April 13, 2018. It is now the 13th BS, which will continue to serve as the formal training unit for America's bomber—the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber.

The 393d Bomb Squadron absorbed those who originally fell under the command of the 13th BS to fortify the lineage of the bomber heritage. The 393d is now the premier operational B-2 squadron.

The official ceremony began at 1:13 p.m. (1313) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Following the inactivation of the 394th CTS, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Geoffrey Steeves assumed command of the 13th BS.

Although it changed its name, its core capabilities remain the same.

"As the 394th CTS transitions to the 13th BS, our mission will remain unchanged," said Steeves. "As the Air Force's only B-2 bomber school house, we'll continue train world-class B-2 pilots that will go on to execute our nation's most strategic nuclear and conventional missions."

With this historic milestone, Airmen had the opportunity to reflect on the past of their former squadron, while embracing new roots. Although an adjustment, the squadron has successfully demonstrated flexibility.

"Overall, the 394th's resiliency has been remarkable," remarked Steeves. "While our Airmen are saddened to see the inactivation of the Air Force's sixth oldest squadron, we are all very proud to have been part of this distinguished flying unit that served proudly as a World War I training squadron, helped deliver victory in the Pacific Theater during World War II and skillfully trained aviators for 22 years as the first B-2 formal training unit."

The former 394th Airmen wrote notes that will be sealed, along with other modern-day 394th memorabilia, and stored at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The former 394th CTS commander said the initial news of this change was not upsetting when he learned they'd transition to an even more storied combat unit – the 13th BS Devil's Own Grim Reapers, which just celebrated its 100-year anniversary last summer.

"As the only squadron in our nation's history that has employed nucle-



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jovan Banks
U.S. Air Force Col. Brian Gallo, the 509th Operations Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Geoffrey Steeves, as Steeves assumes command of the 13th Bomb Squadron, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 13, 2018. The 394th Combat Training Squadron was inactivated and its personnel shifted over to the 13th Bomb Squadron, which now serves as the formal training unit for the B-2 Spirit.

ar weapons in war, the Tigers hold a special place in history," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Adcock, the 393d BS commander. "Every Tiger hopes to live up to the expectations of those who have

gone before us, and we hope to make those who follow in our footsteps proud to be Tigers, as members of the most lethal aviation squadron in history.

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 • 7 p.m.

I Can Only Imagine (PG)

Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 • 7 p.m.

Pacific Rim Uprising (PG-13)

Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 • 3 p.m.

Sherlock Gnomes (PG)

Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75



Are you a new
DAD?
...or going to be?

Dads the Basics

Thursday, April 26, 2018

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Professional Development Center

Room 213

Dads the Basics is an informational course designed to help understand some ins and outs of being a new dad, brought to you by other Airmen and dads who have been there!

Some topics will include:

- Diapering, bathing baby, and packing a diaper bag
- Common reactions and stresses to being a new parent
- Attachment, communication with spouse, labor and delivery, and coming home from the hospital
- Stress and deployment

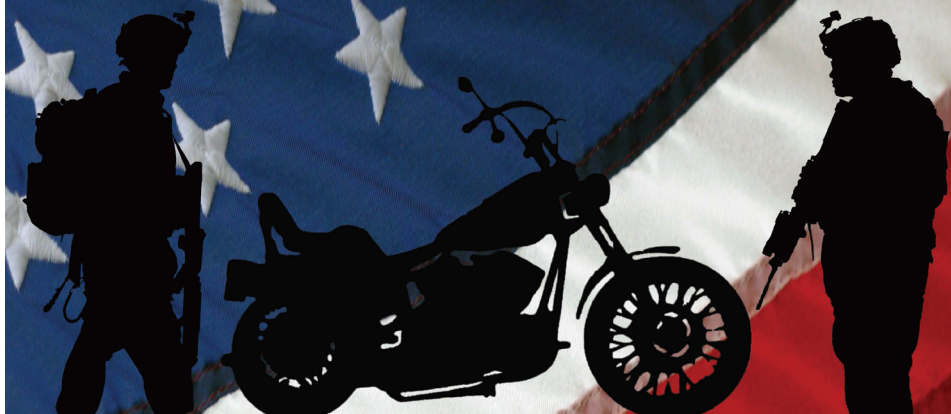
Being a new father does not have to be scary!
RSVP today!

Contact Cory Watson to RSVP at (660) 687-7332
or cory.d.watson.civ@mail.mil



RECYCLE This Paper

Whiteman AFB Motorcycle Safety Day



21 May 2018
0800-1300

Commissary Parking Lot

Motorcycle Inspections, practice course,
local vendors and food provided by USO

Alternate Duty Location for Motorcycle Riders!



For more info please contact
President Dave Sheets @ 687-5915

or

Wing Safety SSgt Dillon Neth @ 687-6930

Hosted by 509th Bomb Wing Safety & Green Knights MMC



**No one is LOL now.
Stop distracted driving!**

Going from stripes to bars: Whiteman's enlisted commissioning fair



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Thomas Cadwell, an air-crew flight equipment technician assigned to the 509th Operations Support Squadron, talks about his commissioning options with 2nd Lt. Dan Menendez, the plans and programs officer in charge assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, left, and 2nd Lt. Nick Featherston, the distribution officer in charge assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, middle, during an Enlisted Commissioning Fair at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 11, 2018. During the event, Airmen were able to talk face-to-face with officers who have been through the commissioning process.

By Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

While officers decide what needs to get done, enlisted members determine how it gets done. For those who are ready for a change of pace and seek to make decisions in a leadership role, there are various commissioning programs available to ease the transition from stripes to bars.

As a way to educate Airmen on the available commissioning programs, an enlisted commissioning fair was held April 11, 2018, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

"The purpose of the event was to allow enlisted Airmen the opportunity to explore the various commissioning avenues, as well as connect with officers who were successful in navigating those

programs," said Charay Zimmerschied, the 509th Force Support Squadrons lead education specialist.

During the fair, officers explained the processes, requirements and challenges applicants may encounter.

"It was great to be able to sit down and speak face-to-face with officers who've actually been through it," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Thomas Cadwell, an aircrew flight equipment technician assigned to the 509th Operations Support Squadron. "I got a lot of great information about the medical commissioning programs and the Air Force Academy."

Representatives who went through programs like the Nurse Education Commissioning Program, Officer Training School, and the Air Force Academy, attended the fair to provide encouragement and information to those interested in commissioning.

"Anyone transitioning from enlisted to officer should be open to learn," said U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Anthokira Dobbs, who was prior enlisted. "Even though you come with experience from your enlisted time, remember you can learn something new from anyone."

Along with information from officers on how to progress and reach goals, the fair also provided Airmen with the opportunity to speak to financial and educational counselors.

"If you're planning to commission, have a Plan A, B and C," said Zimmerschied. "Commissioning as an enlisted member is not easy; it takes a great deal of time, dedication and attention to detail to build a strong package to submit. You have to want it and commit to the process."

For more information about commissioning contact: Charay Zimmerschied at 660-687-1695.



Three U.S. Air Force second lieutenants discuss the process of commissioning through Officer Training School at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 11, 2018. Airmen from different career fields around Whiteman attended the enlisted commissioning fair to learn about different commissioning options like OTS, the Air Force Academy, medical commissioning programs and more.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Josh Mousaw, an investigator assigned to the 509th Security Forces Squadron, reads through the Medical Service Corps pamphlets during an Enlisted Commissioning Fair at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 11, 2018. The MSC allows eligible Airmen to apply for the program in order to become officers in the medical field.

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer

**Power in words:
509th CONS Airman
communicates
through poetry**



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Cone, a contract administrator assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, recites one of his slam poetry pieces, titled “Daughter,” at Whiteman Air Force Base Mo., April 6, 2018. The poem described what his life would be like if he had a daughter and a father’s pride.

By Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As he took the stage for the first time, he looked out into the audience and felt like a fish in a fishbowl. Even though the nerves were there, he felt prepared after spending two weeks memorizing his piece. The stage lights were shining in his face as everyone stared up at him, waiting for him to speak. The crowd grew quieter as the room became darker. He took a deep breath, and on an exhale he began to recite his work.

“I wanted to create a piece to show just how much love a man can have for a woman, and it is called ‘Daughter.’ Now, it’s important that you understand at no point now, or even in the near future do I want a kid, but like many people in my age group, I have thought about it, and I always thought that if I could raise a young man to be as intelligent and handsome as me, then I could make Darwin proud. And, I thought these thoughts until recently, when someone I look up to came to me talking about his 6-year-old girl. And, it wasn’t that she was some sort of amazing 6-year-old girl who could do things no other girl her age could do. She liked to read, dance and play. No, the pride came from the claim he could put on her: ‘my daughter.’”

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Cone, a contract administrator assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, spends his free time writing and performing slam poetry as a way to creatively express himself.

“Slam poetry is generally a more intense and unfiltered version of what you would expect from poetry,” said Cone. “There is no mandatory rhyme scheme

or pattern that needs to be followed since the main priority involves expressing emotion as effectively as possible.”

Cone got started with slam poetry after graduating high school, when his friend introduced him to Watsky Watsky, a high-energy slam poet and rapper. After listening and connecting with his words, Cone began to write his own.

“I heard a few slam pieces from him and one that I really connected with was ‘Tiny Glowing Screens Part Two,’” said Cone. “The part that resonated with me the most was, ‘I pick the angle that you view me and select the nicest light.’ I think social media, shallow relationships and everything else where you pretend to be happy is a part of this. You’re hiding your true self, picking the angle you want to be viewed and making yourself look good. I think we can all be guilty of this, we don’t want to be rejected so we go out of our way to make everyone think we live a happy and normal life.”

After hearing some of Watsky’s pieces, something clicked inside Cone and he immediately started writing his own poems, one after another, with topics that most anyone could relate to.

Slam poetry gave Cone the opportunity to express emotion in a raw and unfiltered state that he felt most methods of poetry couldn’t reach.

“It offers a unique way to reach people in a world where it’s easy to be distant,” he said.

“And I started to think about what it would be like to say those words: my daughter. I could teach her to read, and dance, and tell her that boys are gross, because they are. And as she gets older, she might tell me she might doubt herself and even tell a few lies, but she would look so perfect in my eyes. I might

even tell her the world doesn’t need to see her cleavage, an order she might disobey, and that’s okay, she can upload those photos of her at the beach anyways, because I know, at a certain age I only wanted my best features on display!”

“I write about issues that affect everyone like the importance of treating people the right way and being able to be yourself without fear of judgment,” said Cone. “Ultimately, I want to inspire millions of people.”

Cone said he finds the inspiration and drive to write from the reactions and support he receives from his listeners.

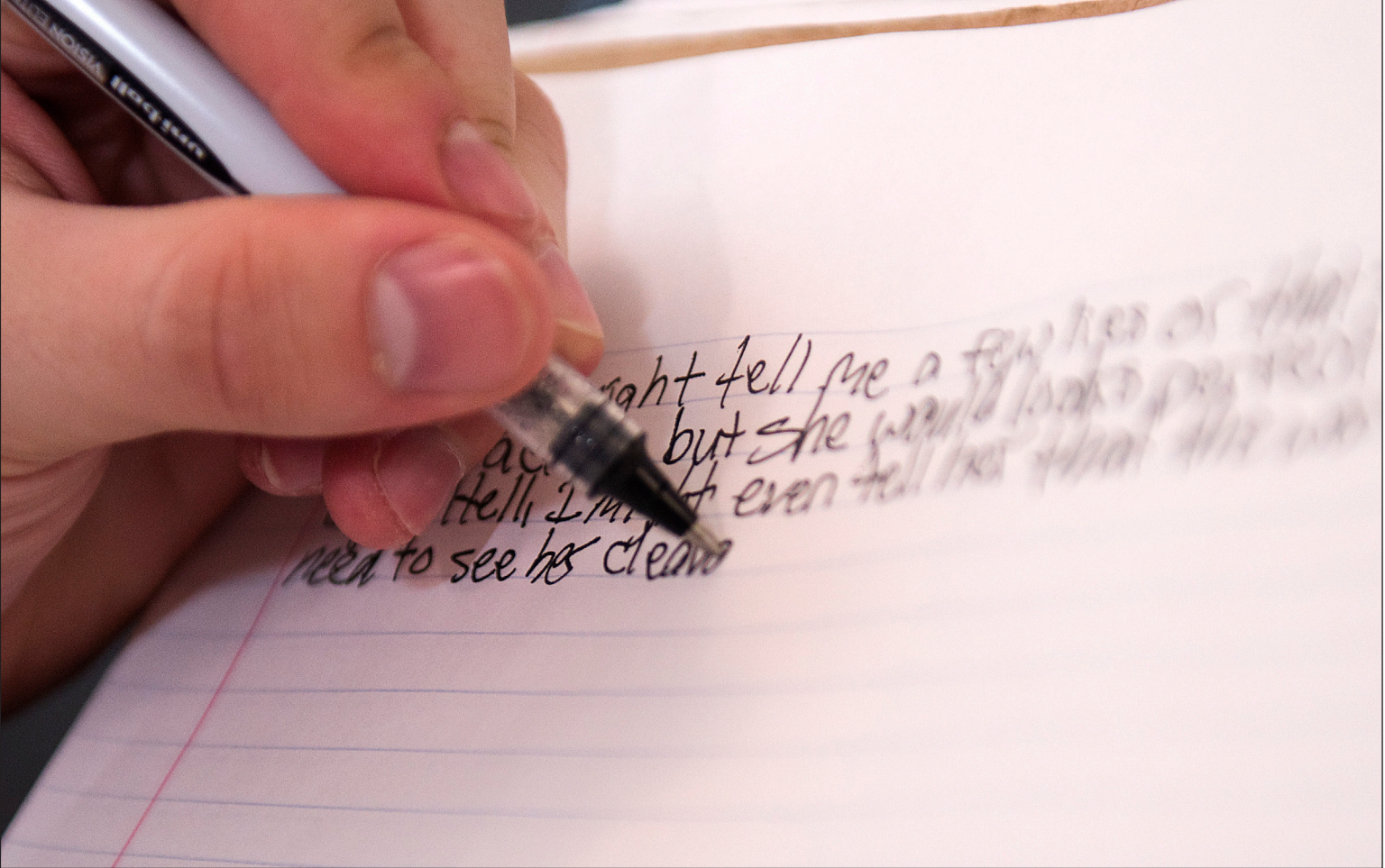
“Whenever I teach someone something important, or help people find meaning in what I said, it completely validates the entire endeavor,” said Cone. “I’ve had moments where I get off stage and people have come up to me crying with joy or overwhelmed with happiness just because I shared who I am with them.”

A feeling that was validated by Airman 1st Class Robert Kersten, an avionics technician assigned to the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who attended one of Cone’s performances in support of his friend.

“The place fell silent as he hit his stride and erupted at the conclusion of his performance,” said Kersten. “I felt the emotion he put into his work. It brought things into perspective and made me realize how unique everyone’s story is.”

For Cone there is nothing quite so rewarding as the feeling he gets after he has inspired and touched others through his poetry.

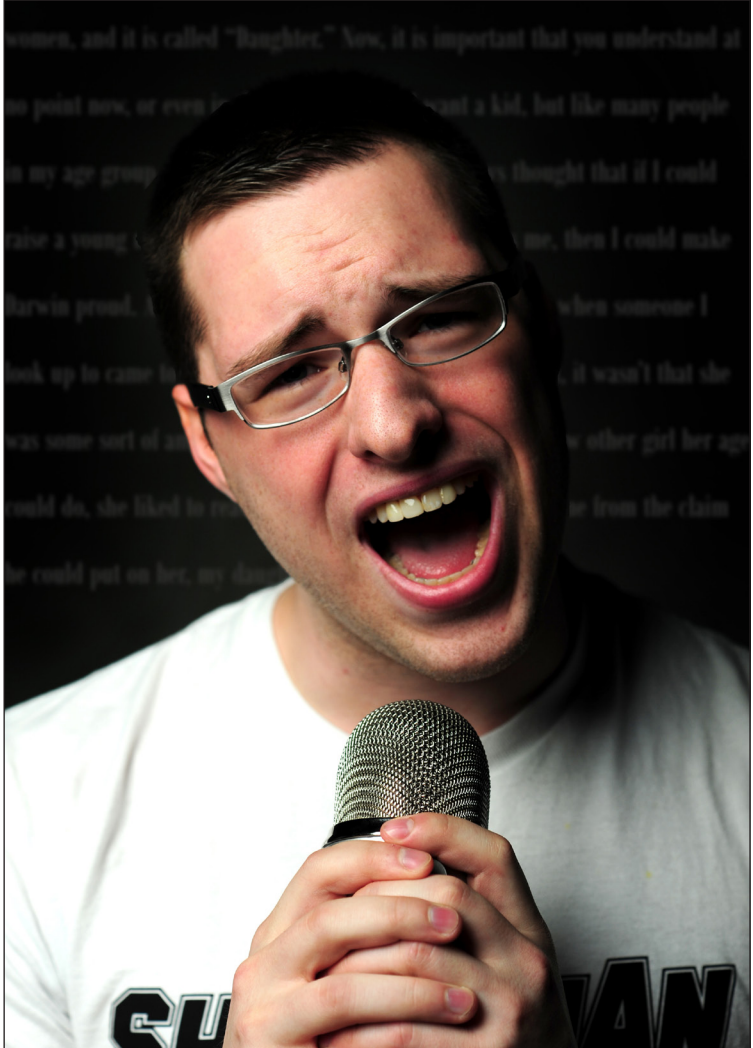
“And as she gets older still, and leaves, she will love me for eternity. And my love for her will not waiver or falter, she is my daughter, and my love for her will not waiver, or falter, I am her father.”



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Cone, a contract administrator assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, writes one of his slam poetry pieces at Whiteman Air Force Base Mo., April 6, 2018. Cone writes about topics that most people can relate to like relationships and family. Slam poetry gives Cone the opportunity to express emotion in a raw and unfiltered state.



A Blue Yeti USB Microphone is a popular microphone used to record clear audio at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. U.S. Air Force John Cone, a contract administrator assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, uses this type of microphone when performing slam poetry, a type of poetry allowing people to recite their poems without props, costumes or music.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Cone, a contract administrator assigned to the 509th Contracting Squadron, recites one of his slam poetry pieces, titled “Daughter,” at Whiteman Air Force Base Mo., April 6, 2018. Cone spends his free time writing and performing slam poetry as a way to creatively express himself.

*U.S. Air Force photos and photo illustration by
Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer*

Changes in your life may mean changes to your TRICARE options



TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- When life changes for you and your family, your TRICARE options may also change. With TRICARE, certain life events (like moving due to a permanent change of station, getting married or divorced, adopting or having a baby, becoming Medicare eligible or losing health coverage) are called Qualifying Life Events. QLEs include military and family-related changes.

Depending on your eligibility, a QLE may allow you to enroll in a new TRICARE plan or change your coverage options. If you want to enroll in or change your plan, you must make the enrollment changes within 90 days following the QLE. No matter when you initiate this change,

coverage starts the date of the QLE. You must pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

"This is similar to civilian plans, where changes outside the annual enrollment window are only allowed after certain life events," said Ken Canestrini, acting director, TRICARE Health Plan. "This allows families to reevaluate health plan options and make any changes to have the health plan option that best meets their situation."

If one member in a sponsor's family experiences a QLE, all eligible family members may change their enrollment status during the QLE period.

This is one of several enrollment changes you'll hear more about throughout the year. Learn more about upcoming TRICARE changes and take command of your health care.

Whiteman EOD safely disposes Kansas City UXOs



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Five Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians assigned to the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron recovered and safely disposed of 13 unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in the Kansas City metropolitan area April 2-6, 2018.

The UXO recovery mission is part of the collective effort of the Kansas and Missouri Bomb Tech Working Group, which includes local, state and federal bomb disposal technicians. The group was on standby during the Explosive Ordnance Recovery Week and requested the public's assistance in recovering the items.

Many of the UXOs may have been brought home as mementos of war by service members. Some of the devices, such as grenades and artillery shells, were possibly purchased at swap meets or similar venues. Ordnances like these can contain high explosives or dangerous chemicals that become less stable as time passes.

"Off-base UXO recovery accounts for al-



most 50 percent of our responses all year," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Jason Kons, the EOD flight commander assigned to the 509th CES.

The Air Force Response Team from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, led by Tech. Sgt. Paul Hartzog and his EOD technicians Staff Sgt. Justin McCaleb, Staff Sgt. Brian Jones, Senior Airman Tyler McConnell and Senior Airman Conner Walsh, recovered several munitions that hailed from the World

War I and World War II eras.

"The items are rarely found in their original condition, making the process of identification very challenging and a time consuming effort," said Kons. "The process requires the team to find out where the item came from, who made it and how it works in order to verify its safe condition."

Hartzog had the opportunity to see the entire recovery through to completion.

"Getting to work hand-in-hand with local bomb techs and the FBI was priceless," said Hartzog. "True operational alignment throughout the local community was achieved during the recovery effort – and that's something that just cannot be discussed in a meeting."

The Whiteman EOD technicians will continue to work with the Kansas City Bomb Tech Working Group.

"Our participation in these types of operations is driven by safety," said Kons. "When the next opportunity arises to remove multiple hazards from the local community and keep people safe, you can bet that Whiteman EOD is all in!"