

WARRIOR



AUTISM AWARENESS

■ **PG.8** PIECING IT TOGETHER

HOW SPORTS IS HELPING ONE MILITARY CHILD BETTER CONNECT WITH OTHERS

TOTAL FORCE

■ **PG.5** EXCELLENCE

509TH AND 131ST LOGISTIC READINESS SQUADRONS WIN DAEDALIAN AWARD

The Play Project: Helping WAFB children with autism

By Capt. Tosha Vann
509th Medical Operations Squadron,
pediatrician

The 509th Medical Group recently announced a new program for children affected by autism at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

The Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Project is an evidence-based, parent-mediated, intensive behavioral intervention for children with autism.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that one in 68 children is affected by autism – a disorder that causes deficits in social communication and interaction. Autism not only affects the individual with the diagnosis, but also impacts the individual’s family and community.

Here at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, we have several families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) due to children with autism diagnoses. Intensive behavioral interventions, such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy, are the standard of care for treating patients with autism. The PLAY Project is another avenue of quality treatment, supplementing current therapies.

A PLAY Project consultant visits the home and engages with the autistic child and the family to provide detailed plans that are tailored to their individual needs. This project focuses on the family relationship and helps the child to increase social interaction and social-emotional development. With the addition of this engaging new resource, families will greatly benefit from access to evidenced-based behavioral interventions in the comfort of their homes.

We focus our efforts on the children struggling to make basic social connections that most people take for granted, as well as on their families, and the challenges they’ll face as their children mature into adulthood.

The stressors and frustrations parents and siblings experience may have long-term damaging effects.



The PLAY Project seeks to mitigate these factors.

The PLAY Project’s personally tailored, high-quality care to children and families with complex medical needs, decreases parent/caregiver stress and depression, and supports Comprehensive Airman Fitness by decreasing some of the stressors. The 509th Medical Group hopes to enhance the culture of support and resiliency for our community of military families at Whiteman with the addition of the PLAY Project.

The project was initially conceived in 2015 as a consulting program at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Since its inception, it also has expanded to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

For more information, visit www.playproject.org or contact the Exceptional Family Member Program at 660-687-6032.

AUTISM AND THE BRAIN

Cerebral Cortex

The 30 billion neurons of this part of the brain carry out movement, sensation, planning for the future and social behavior. Altered structure and connectivity **may lead to changes in these activities in individuals with autism.** Detailed microscopic study suggests that there may be an increased number of connections between some of the neurons in this brain region.

Amygdala

The amygdala is the danger detector of the brain and may be responsible for the anxiety that is common in autism. The amygdala is **often too large in young people with autism** but is smaller in autistic adults.

Hippocampus

The hippocampus makes memories. **It is bigger in many people with autism.** This change may be associated with the intensive behavioral therapy that many people with autism experience during early life.



Temporal Lobe

The temporal lobe is important for language, hearing and seeing. One part of the temporal lobe, called the fusiform gyrus, allows people to detect differences in the faces of individuals. Many studies indicate that this part of the brain **has altered neurons and connections.**

Glia

Besides neurons, there are other cells in the brain called glia. These provide support to neurons and also contribute to immune function. Evidence suggests that **some types of glial cells are too active in autism.**

Cerebellum

The cerebellum has 100 billion neurons – the most of any region in the brain! These neurons control detailed movements of the body. About half of the people with autism have a **smaller number of a specific type of cell called Purkinje cells** in the cerebellum.

THE WARRIOR

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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 illustration by Senior Airman Jovan Banks

In 1963, the National Autistic Society in the United Kingdom designated the puzzle piece as the primary symbol to represent the mystery and complexity of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The official color for National Autism Awareness Month is bright royal blue. The 509th Medical Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., continues to strive to improve the programs available for service members and their families with complex medical needs.

Fiscal year-end: Is your GPC ready?

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.

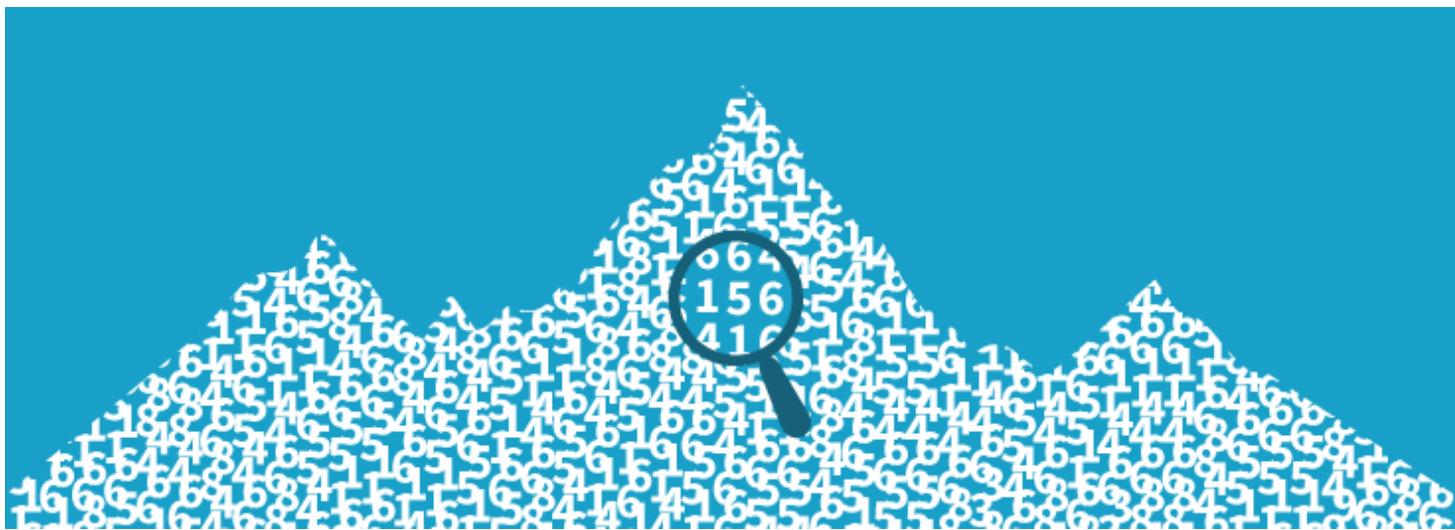
Air Force Housing website

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	Saturday
Sunny	Sunny
Hi 70	Hi 66
Lo 43	Lo 43

Sunday	Monday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 71	Hi 78
Lo 43	Lo 55



By Maj. Leigh Baumbaugh
509th Contracting Squadron commander

Did you know the DoD fiscal year ends on Sept. 30 each year? This means that over the next few months, squadrons will be gearing up to identify and finalize FY18 unit requirements and outline the means between receiving funds and actually making the purchase. Most of these items will consist of small dollar purchases that can be made within the unit.

How does that happen? Enter the Government Purchase Card (GPC) program.

The GPC is an effective program put into place to afford units buying power for small-dollar requirements, such as goods and services your unit needs to meet its daily mission. GPC cardholders are charged with spending taxpayer money, and great care is taken by the GPC office to provide proper oversight of that spending. However, before that occurs, unit approving officials and cardholders must determine if the purchase meets mission needs and is, well, legal.

Sometimes there are questionable, grey areas when a requirement needs to be reviewed further to determine the appropriate pur-

chase path. The Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, GPC office is here to help.

The GPC office provides monthly training to those individuals who are specialized enough to become obligators of the U.S. government's money, as well as consistently provides Whiteman personnel with sound business advice. It is important to understand that only certain people are authorized to obligate government funds: a warranted contracting officer and a delegated GPC cardholder.

Unauthorized use occurs when an unauthorized person obligates government funds – an act that can have dire consequences on your career and your pocketbook. This means that if you identify something your unit needs, it is very important to contact your unit's resource advisor, approving official, and/or GPC cardholder to coordinate the appropriate path to make the purchase.

During the last fiscal year, Whiteman purchased over \$11 million in unit requirements via the GPC, totaling over 14,000 transactions. As we gear up for this fiscal year's end, the Whiteman GPC office is here to ensure your unit is on the right path for small-dollar spending.

If you have any questions, please contact the GPC office at whiteman_gpc_office@us.af.mil, or 660-687-5430.

SEPTEMBER 2018

United States Government Desk Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4				8		
18						
25				29	30	

EOY

RESOLVE COMPLAINTS QUICKLY

Each year the Air Force receives funding for defense related expenditures. At the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, the funding dispersed must be allocated and all accounts must be closed.

U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Micaiah Anthony

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

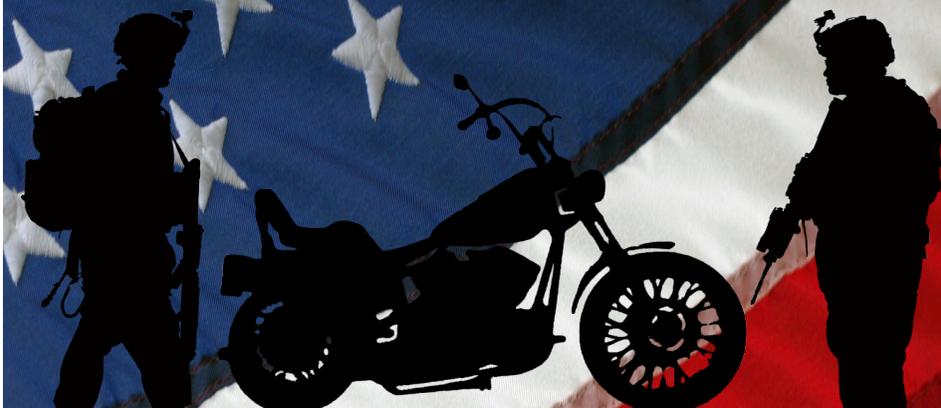
FRIDAY, APRIL 27 • 7 p.m. **SATURDAY, APRIL 28 • 7 p.m.**
Avengers Infinity Wars (PG-13) Avengers Infinity Wars (PG-13)
Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75 Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 • 3 p.m.
Avengers Infinity Wars (PG-13)
Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75

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 AFB Motorcycle Safety Day



**21 May 2018
0900-1400**

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

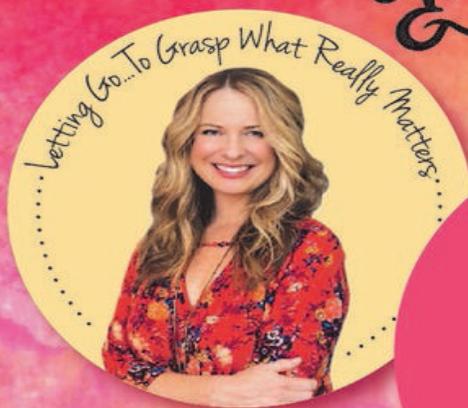
or

Wing Safety SSgt Dillon Neth @ 687-6930

Hosted by 509th Bomb Wing Safety & Green Knights MMC



Presenting Whiteman Spouses' Club Speaker Series
**Love, Laughter
& Inspiration**



featuring
**Hands
Free
Mama**

Rachel Macy Stafford
NYT Bestselling Author

**Thursday,
May 3rd, 7:00pm**
Hendricks Hall
University of Central Missouri
Doors open at 6:30pm

Books
available
for purchase
at event.
Author available for
book signing following
the event.

For more information or to secure your tickets,
email wscspeakerseries@gmail.com or visit www.whitemanwsc.com

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509th, 131st Total Force logistics team named best in the Air Force

By Senior Master Sgt.
Mary-Dale Amison

131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Airmen of the 509th and 131st Logistics Readiness Squadrons were recently awarded the Maj. Gen. Warren R. Carter Logistics Readiness Award, recognizing them jointly as the best Air Force logistics readiness squadron for 2017.

The award was first introduced in 1962 by the Order of Daedalians Foundation and is presented annually to the Air Force unit selected by the Air Force chief of staff that achieved the highest supply effectiveness record in support of mission aircraft or weapons.

“When it comes to Total Force Integration, the 509th and 131st Logistics Readiness Squadrons lead the pack. We work side by side and utilize each other’s capabilities to enhance both missions,” said Lt. Col. Norman Wright, 509th LRS commander. “If you come in any day of the week, you’ll be hard pressed to tell who belongs to the 509th or 131st LRS and that’s how it should be, because in the end we are one Air Force!”

The award culminates a year’s worth of efforts into a single tangible achievement. From humanitarian relief missions to strategic bomber assurance and deterrence missions to supporting exercises for active duty, guard, and reserve, the team collaborated to support a myriad of successes.

“This distinguished award is a testament for how deep our integration goes, capitalizing on strengths the active duty and Air National Guard members bring to the fight to create this benchmark team,” said Maj. Rachel Savage, 131st LRS commander.

Some of the highlights of the past year include:

- Humanitarian relief for 488,000 Haitians by arranging airlift for 155,000 tons of provisions and refueling four cargo aircraft with 30,000 gallons of fuel
- Supported Exercise RED FLAG by transferring 63 short tons of cargo and 132 passen-



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Tyler Neff, a member of the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, transfers weapons with a 10K-AT forklift driver at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 13, 2018, in support of a 442d Fighter Wing deployment. The 509th and 131st work together to ensure missions, such as deployments and humanitarian efforts, are successful.

gers to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, enabling 42 B-2 sorties and 21 pilots to be trained

- Deployment of five equipment accounts for Operation Atlantic Resolve, securing 132 close air support sorties and 334 flying hours
- Transportation of 355 passengers and 248 short tons of cargo in support of eight bombers during the 2017 Bomber Assurance and Deterrence deployments

“Winning the award was a total team effort,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Quinn, 509th LRS superintendent. “We work hard each day to support the bomb wing in accomplishing its

mission. I’m very proud of our Airmen and the outstanding job they perform across the wing.”

As well as receiving the highest supply effectiveness record, the 509th and 131st total force LRS team demonstrated their outstanding “Whole Airman Concept” during 2017. A factor that was taken into consideration by the judges. The team achieved a staggering 5,000 volunteer hours in the local community while simultaneously accumulating 722 college credit hours across 53 programs and 48 institutions, together generating 27 Community College of the Air Force graduates and bachelor’s degrees.

“I couldn’t be more proud of this collective team,” said Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Buser, 131st LRS superintendent. “But it’s no surprise the Airmen earned this award. They truly are among the best.”

Continually demonstrating their worthiness for the Daedalian honor, the 509th and 131st total force LRS team also garnered the 2017 Air Force Global Strike Command Logistics Readiness National Defense Transportation Award. This award recognizes the units for their outstanding contributions to the AFGSC mission and will go on to compete at the Air Force level.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Clement, a fuels lab technician assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, takes samples of fuel at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 8, 2018. The fuels technicians pull samples and test the fuel around base for water, additives and sediment like rocks, dirt or other particles.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison
Members of the 509th and 131st Logistics Readiness Squadrons discuss mission planning objectives at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 25, 2018. Capitalizing on the strengths of the active duty and the Air National Guard keeps the total force team competitive for honors such as the Maj. Gen. Warren R. Carter Logistics Readiness Award.

Different, not less: love of sports helps military child with autism

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla
509th Bomb Wing public affairs

“Strike! ... Ball! ... Strike!”
With each call from the umpire, a vigilant statistician marks small tallies on a clipboard in the home dugout. Although he isn’t wearing a Tigers’ baseball uniform, he is representing his high school team by sporting a cardinal red baseball cap.

Andy Martins is a 17-year-old sports enthusiast and one of the managers of the Warrensburg High School baseball team. Andy has autism. This is his second year on the team, and this season he is responsible for counting pitches.

“This is an important task,” said Andy’s mom, Laura Martins, sitting in the bleachers, as she does for most of Andy’s games. “There is a limit on the number of baseballs a pitcher is allowed to throw during a game to avoid injury. Coaches need to know when a pitcher reaches that limit, and Andy will let them know.”

For Andy, however, the job means so much more than counting. It’s a chance for him to cheer on his high school peers, learn baseball tips from the coaches, and socialize, even with members of the opposing team, after the games.

“He has the ability to make friends with anyone and see the best in people,” said Andy’s father, Senior Master Sgt. Fernando Martins, an avionics superintendent assigned to the 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

Although the high school sophomore has always been very social, it has taken a lot of time and patience from himself and his supporters for Andy to get to where he is today.

Andy was first diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at the age of 2. His parents noticed he wasn’t hitting certain milestones in his development and had difficulty with communication and social interactions.

When Andy was 6, his parents enrolled him in Madison County Challenger Baseball in Edwardsville, Illinois. The league was specifically designed for kids just like Andy and paired them with buddies who were not on the autism spectrum. Each member of the team had a chance to bat with no strikes and no outs, and the last batter always brought the team home.

“Andy had so much energy and enthusiasm. Coupled with a desire to interact with others, he naturally gravitated toward sports,” Lara Martins said. “Once we found the program, he just couldn’t get enough of it.”

He went on to play in a YMCA Challenger Adaptive Sports Program and competed in the Special Olympics.

The more he played sports, the more his world opened up. “He learned geography and state capitals with the help of sports,” said Laura Martins. “For example, he will say, ‘the Kansas City Royals are in Missouri, which is in the Midwest and the capital is Jefferson City.’”

She went on to explain that playing sports has helped to improve her son’s socialization skills by allowing him to share a common interest with people.

“He absolutely loves hanging out with the baseball players and

coaches and to talk shop with them,” said Laura Martins. “Andy’s job as a manager for the Warrensburg Tigers also gives him a sense of purpose. Whenever he is charged with a task, he takes that responsibility seriously and remains focused until it is completed.”

Most of all though, she said sports have helped to bring her family closer.

“We often attend high school, college and professional sporting events together. Pick a team and Andy most likely has some sort of apparel or souvenir with their name on it,” said Laura Martins.

Although Andy’s 15-year-old sister, Vicki Martins, isn’t as big of a sports fan as he is, Vicki said that she enjoys going to her brother’s baseball games and other sporting events because it is something she can share with him.

Andy says he wants to continue working in sports as an adult.

“He really admired (Denver Bronco) Jamaal Charles when he found out that Jamaal participated in Special Olympics as a kid. He felt connected to Jamaal because they had so much in common, like difficulty reading as a child and a love for football,” said Laura Martins.

Meanwhile, baseball outfielder Tarik El-Abour, who signed a minor league deal with the Kansas City Royals on April 2, 2018, is thought to be the first professional baseball player with autism.

“Now that there is a professional baseball player with autism, and he is a KC Royal, batter up, because this is another wonderful role model for our sports-loving son,” Laura Martins said. “Athletes like Jamaal Charles and Tarik El-Abour are great examples of how we should never underestimate someone simply because a diagnosis puts a ‘dis’ in front of their ‘ability.’”

With continued support from his family and community – and his love of sports – Andy’s world continues to open up more every day.

Editor’s Note: For autism resources at Whiteman Air Force Base, contact the Exceptional Family Member Program at 660-687-6032.



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

Remembering the F-117 Nighthawk



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey

Two specially painted F-117 Nighthawks fly on one of their last missions. The F-117s were retired in a farewell ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 22, 2008.

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett,
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- It's been 10 years since the F-117 Nighthawk retired, an aircraft so secret Nevada folklore labeled it a UFO.

The Nighthawk pilots were known by the call sign "Bandit," each earning their number with their first solo flight. Some of the maintainers were also given a call sign, said Wayne Paddock, a former F-117 maintainer currently stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

"The people who maintained the coatings on the aircraft, radar absorbent material were classified as material application and repair specialists (MARS). MARS morphed into Martians," Paddock said "MARS was a shred out from the structural repair/corrosion control career field."

The technology for the F-117 was developed in the 1970s as a capability for attacking high value targets without being detected by enemy radar. It had up to 5,000 pounds of assorted internal stores, two engines and could travel up to 684 mph.

It was the first airplane designed and built as a low-observable, stable and therefore precise platform, said Yancy Mailes, director of the history and museums program for Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and a former F-117 maintainer.

"It was the marriage of the GBU-27 to the F-117 that had a laser designator in its nose that made it such a precise, deadly platform," Mailes said. "It was best demonstrated during Operation Desert Storm when pilots snuck into Iraq and dropped weapons down the elevator shaft of a central communications building in Iraq."

The first Nighthawk flew June 18,

1981, and the original F-117A unit, the 4450th Tactical Group (renamed the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing in October 1989), achieved initial operating capability in October 1983. The Nighthawk originally saw combat during Operation Just Cause in 1989, when two F-117s from the 37th TFW attacked military targets in Panama. The aircraft was also in action during Operation Desert Shield.

Retired Col. Jack Forsythe, remembers being excited when he initially flew a Nighthawk while stationed at Holloman AFB in 1995.

"It was a unique experience," he said. "It's probably the same feeling that a lot of our (single seat) F-22 (Raptor) and F-35 (Lightning II) pilots feel today."

After 25 years of service, the Nighthawk retired April 22, 2008. Forsythe led the four-ship formation to Palmdale, California, where Lockheed Martin staff said their farewells.

"We lowered the bomb doors of each aircraft and people signed their names to the doors," Forsythe said. "It was really just kind of neat; they had designed it, built it and maintained it for these 25 years, so it really hit home – the industry and Air Force partnership that made the Nighthawk great. I think the four of us were just really struck by that and have some really great memories of that flight."

The American flag was painted on the entire underside of his F-117 by the maintainers to help celebrate American airpower.

"I think we all recognized that this was something historic," he said. "We retired an airplane that people still reference today. We really understood that so it was a sentimental flight to say the least. It was a great weapon system, very stable and easy to fly. It's still a memorable experience."