

WARRIOR



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PARTY TIME

FUN - FAMILY - FIREWORKS PG. 8

INSIDE:

■ LANGUAGE SKILLS

■ TSGT. PROMOTION NEWS

■ WING STAFFER MEETS
PRESIDENT & VP.



Take ownership in your squadron family

By Lt. Col. Nicholas Adcock
393d Bomb Squadron Commander

Commanders often describe their squadrons as a family. What does that mean to you? Think about the dynamics in your own family. What are the challenges? What makes it special? Family means different things to different people.

For some, family means being a member of a group whose members have each other's backs, on or off duty. The group's members are personally invested in the unit and its leadership would fall on his or her sword on an Airman's behalf.

The squadron is the most important organization in the Air Force. It's where we, as a military, win or lose.

Recently, I read an article in *Forbes* magazine that really hit home for me. The article's goal was to explain why family-owned corporations tend to be more successful than others. Think of Walmart, Ford Motor Company and Campbell Soup Company. According to the article, one of the reasons was employees are allowed to take ownership in the company. Just like family

members take ownership of their families, I would like Airmen to take ownership and help guide their squadrons.

When I took command of the 393d Bomb Squadron Tigers last year, I remember telling my wife that I wanted everyone to want to come to work. I wanted them to be an integral part of helping me vector our squadron in the direction I thought it needed to go. I had no doubt they would get the mission done, but I wanted them to enjoy being in the squadron and a member of our Tiger family.

You've probably heard the phrase "the door swings both ways." We all have established chains of command but, based on what I've seen in my short career as a squadron commander, great ideas only sometimes start at the top. Airmen should be aggressive in pushing good ideas to their leadership. I love it when the folks who I work with come into my office and say, "Hey Boss, I've got a great idea ...". Then, I do what I think every good commander should do: provide top cover and get out of the way. That's my job. Yours is to take the initiative and help shape your

squadron. Take ownership in your squadron family. Set the tone and look out for the members of your squadron like you would for your own family.

Striking the desired balance with respect to squadron involvement is a two-way street. It's up to the individual Airman to take advantage of the climate his or her squadron commander creates and get involved. As the fictional sports agent Jerry McGuire famously said, "Help me help you."

Supporting each other, hanging out after work, volunteering together and taking advantage of a climate where ideas can be easily communicated are all essential to morale and a healthy squadron family.

What really makes a squadron family special is when each individual pitches in. Just like in most families, each individual makes his or her own unique contribution. It's not just doing the job itself; it's about all the intangibles an individual can bring to the squadron to make it better.

Build your squadron, take care of each other and, above all, don't let your family down. TIGER ... TIGER ... TIGER.

THE WARRIOR Editorial Staff

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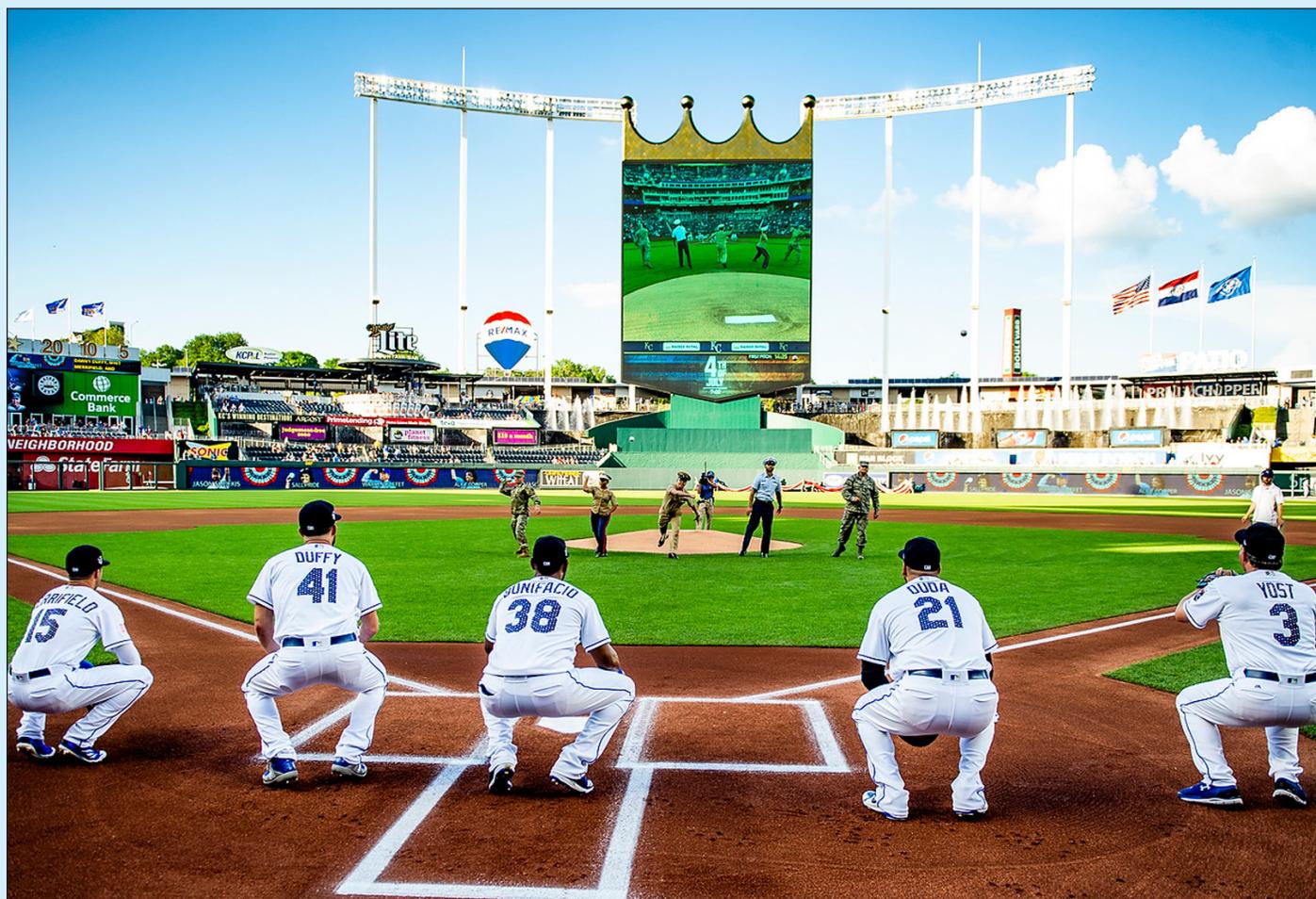
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For more information, call the **Warrior** office at 660-687-5727, email 509.bw.pa@us.af.mil, fax 660-687-7948, or write to us at Whiteman Warrior, 509th Bomb Wing, 509th Spirit Blvd. Suite 116, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

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131st MDG member throws first pitch for July 4th Royals game



Courtesy photos by Jason Hanna

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Morris, assigned to the 131st Medical Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, was among the members of the Armed Forces who threw the ceremonial first pitch to start the July 4th Kansas City Royals versus Cleveland Indians game at Kauffman Stadium, Missouri. Morris was selected by Chief Master Sgt. James Lyda, the 509th Bomb Wing command chief, for his outstanding contributions to Team Whiteman.

On the cover

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

One of Team Whiteman's youngest members scales a rock climbing wall during the Independence Day Celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, July 3, 2018. It was just one of the many family-friendly activities that culminated with a fireworks show at dusk.

NEWS BRIEFS



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WEATHER

Friday Mostly Sunny Hi 95 Lo 74	Saturday Chance of Storms Hi 94 Lo 75
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Sunday Partly Sunny Hi 92 Lo 75	Monday Chance of Storms Hi 90 Lo 73
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Air Force values foreign language speakers, offers additional pay and more career options

By Brye Steeves
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Alan Lin knows if you don't maintain foreign language proficiency, you lose it.

So, Lin, who speaks Mandarin Chinese, enrolls in online language classes, watches Chinese TV shows and even speaks to his wife and kids in his second language at home.

He hopes one day to use his foreign language skills to benefit the Air Force. This is exactly what the Air Force would like, too.

The Department of Defense and the Air Force are renewing their emphasis on strong international partnerships, with both Defense Secretary James Mattis and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson recently reiterating the importance of strategic global partnerships and the importance of foreign language skills.

"I think Airmen who possess foreign language abilities are beneficial to the Air Force," said Lin, a flight kitchen manager assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron.

Whiteman AFB's 509th Bomb Wing commander Brig. Gen. John Nichols, agrees.

"The Air Force values the foreign language abilities of its Airmen," Nichols said. "These skillsets, and the cultural knowledge that comes along with them, are the backbone of the strategic partnerships we have with other nations around the globe."

Language testing

For Airmen, foreign language skills can mean increased pay and more career options. It also means taking some pretty rigorous languages tests: the Defense Linguistic Aptitude Battery (DLAB) and the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

Military personnel interested in pursuing linguistics professionally must first take the DLAB. This is a multiple-choice test with audio and visual portions that use a gibberish language to test a person's potential to learn a foreign language, rather than his or her fluency in a specific foreign language, said Linda Bauer, a test administrator assigned to the 509th FSS.

The DLAB is usually required for those who want to go into a linguist field or apply for certain military programs, such as the Olmsted Scholar Program for officers to pursue graduate-level studies overseas.

Meanwhile, the DLPT is an exam the military uses to assess foreign language proficiency. Results are used for operational readiness and training decisions for military members as well as civilian language analysts in the U.S. government, Bauer said.

All ranks from all military branches and civilians may take the DLPT. About 200 people a year are tested at Whiteman AFB. Language experts typically test every one to two years, Bauer said.

The DLPT tests more than 60 languages. Bauer said the most common languages tested at Whiteman AFB are Spanish and Tagalog, which is spoken in the Philippines.

DLPT tests are computer based and include three-hour reading and three-hour listening components. They are administered on base in the Professional Development Center. In some cases, a linguist will take a speaking test, too, called the OPI, or Oral Proficiency Interview. At Whiteman AFB, the test taker would speak on the phone with a language instructor, who rates him or her.

DLPT scores range from 1, which represents language proficiency at an elementary level, to 5, which indicates a native proficiency.

Increased pay

Scores from the DLPT also determine whether linguists receive additional pay for their language-proficiency skills under the Air Force Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus Program. Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) rates can be up to \$1,000 per month.

"If a person is in a position that requires them to speak a foreign language, their pay is reflective on how well they test," Bauer said, adding that otherwise they may qualify to receive bonus pay for their language proficiency, even if it is not part of their job requirements.

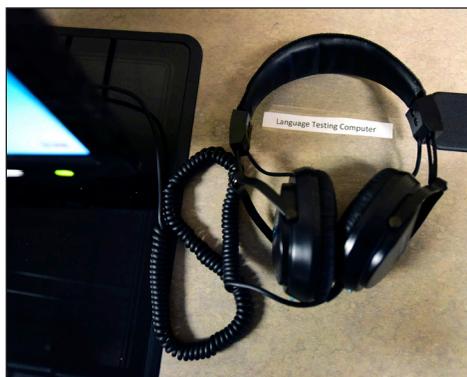
Language testing can lead to a variety of career broadening assignments and joint opportunities, including U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Offices and Security Cooperation Offices; International Health Specialists; Air Force Office of Special Investigations; Exchange Programs; and more.

"These language skills and cultural understandings are critical to the Air Force, and really to our country's presence on the global stage," Nichols said. "Our Airmen's skills ensure the United States has successful partnerships abroad."

For DLPT or DLAB test scheduling, contact Linda Bauer at linda.bauer.2.ctr@us.af.mil. Test times are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 0800 and 1200 at the Whiteman AFB Professional Development Center. For inquiries related to foreign language programs and pay, contact Talaya Hill at talaya.hill@us.af.mil.

The Defense Language Proficiency Tests include more than 60 languages:

Albanian, Amharic, Arabic (Saudi, Algerian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Levantine, Modern Standard, Sudanese, and Yemeni), Azerbaijani, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chavacano, Chinese (Amoy, Cantonese, and Mandarin), Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Haitian-Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kurdish (Kurmanji or Surani), Lao, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Pashto-Afghan, Persian (Afghan (Dari) or Farsi), Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian or European), Punjabi-Western, Romanian, Russian, Serbian-Croatian, Slovenian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Tausug, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Yiddish, and Yoruba



The Defense Language Proficiency Tests are computer based and include three-hour reading and three-hour listening components at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. DLPT scores range from 1, which represents language proficiency at an elementary level, to 5, which indicates a native proficiency.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Alan Lin, a flight kitchen manager assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron, listens to test instructions before taking the Defense Language Proficiency Test for Mandarin Chinese at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, June 19, 2018. All ranks from all military branches and civilians may take the DLPT, which offers tests for more than 60 languages.

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

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Eighth Air Force Safety Gram

July 2018

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Team Whiteman member recognized at White House, meets Trump and Pence

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

President Donald Trump recently invited 40 families of fallen service members to Washington, D.C., for a reception and memorial service to remind them – and our country – what they represent.

Linda Ambard, a violence prevention integrator assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, was there. She lost her husband Phil, who was a U.S. Air Force major serving in Afghanistan, in 2011.

The Gold Star Families event on June 4, 2018, was one of several the White House held to honor U.S. military members who died in battle as well as those they left behind.

The families in attendance were recognized during a candle lighting ceremony. The attendees had their pictures taken with the president, and also met with other Gold Star Families.

The family members were selected to attend for the positive contributions they've made helping others deal with the pain of losing a loved one.

Ambard said being at the event with her two sons and daughter-in-law was an honor, as was receiving recognition for her work following her husband's tragic death. She met the Trump family and was seated near Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen. The Pence couple was so moved by Ambard's story that Pence gave her a Vice Presidential commemorative coin.

"It is humbling to be considered a positive role model for turning the worst moment of my



Linda Ambard places a rose on Maj. Phil Ambard's name plaque during a memorial ceremony that honored her late husband and 10 other U.S. military members killed in Afghanistan in separate incidents, while at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, April 27, 2016.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jamie Powell

life into something positive that makes a difference for other military-loss survivors and military decision makers," Ambard said.

In a statement released after the Gold Star event, first lady Melania Trump said, "It was a privilege to welcome Gold Star Families to the White House today to recognize our nation's fallen heroes and their families. To all those who have lost loved ones in service to our country, our nation grieves with you."

Ambard's husband was killed along with eight others by an Afghan officer seven years ago.

Linda and Phil Ambard had been married for almost 24 years and have five children, four of whom currently serve in the U.S. military. Originally from Venezuela, Phil joined the U.S. military to get his citizenship and spent 16 years as an enlisted Airman before he commissioned and served as an officer for another 10 years – service—and sacrifice—that ultimately earned him a Gold Star.

As part of the induction into the Gold Star Family program, a gold star was placed over a blue star on Phil Ambard's service flag. This is a tradition that dates back to World War I. The service flag has a red border, a white center and one blue star representing each family member serving in the U.S. military. The gold star represents a military member who did not come home, and it signifies the family's pride for their loved one's sacrifice and loyalty to his or her country.

"Phil loved the military and everything the uniform stood for," Ambard said. "He believed that countries could change with education and empathy. He was working with the Afghan military when he was assassinated by someone he should have been able to like and trust—a high ranking military Afghan soldier. Phil gave everything he had to his adopted country."

After losing her husband, Ambard got involved with the Tragedy Assistance Program

for Survivors, a nonprofit organization that offers support to family and friends of military members who have died. She continues to work with TAPS as a peer mentor, athlete and author, and donates all of her proceeds from her book, "Courageously Alive—A Walk Through Military Loss," to the program.

Ambard said she wants to help others who are going through the same thing she went through. She provides support to other widows and speaks all over the world about the choices people can make while coping with grief.

"Initially in the middle of the storm, it is about breathing through the pain one second, minute, hour, mile or marathon at a time," Ambard said. "I have done 140 marathons and there is never one that I think I have in the basket. I know that I am going to want to quit. I know it is going to hurt and it will hurt more tomorrow and more the next day. I also know if I keep focused on the step ahead, I will get there and I will be better for finishing."

"I cannot change the cards I have been dealt, but I can choose how I want to play them," Ambard said. "I speak not for me or for what I can get, but for the families coming after me. My advocacy has allowed me to get something good to come out of the worst day of my life and it has allowed me to honor the man who loved me for 23 ½ years."

Ambard said she plans to continue helping people as long as she can. It helps her, too, and it keeps her husband's memory alive.

Editor's Note: To hear Linda Ambard tell more of her story, watch her two-part video interview at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/540649/one-mile-time-part-one> and <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/540656/one-mile-time-part-two>.



Courtesy photo

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen meet with Gold Star Family member Linda Ambard during a Gold Star Family event at the White House in Washington, D.C., June 4, 2018. Ambard is a violence prevention integrator at Whiteman Air Force Base and a contributor to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors following the loss of her husband, Maj. Phil Ambard.

Missouri Gov. Parson visits Team Whiteman

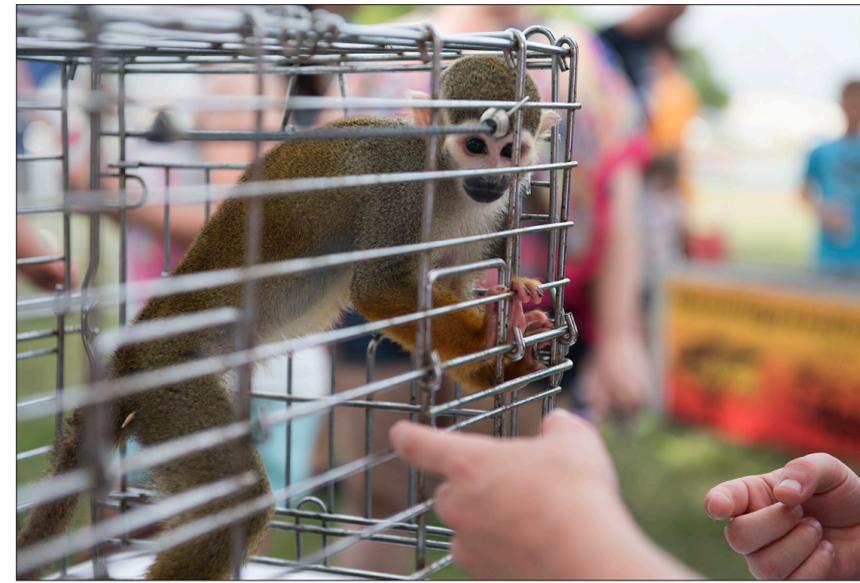


U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson visits Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, July 11, 2018. This was Parson's first visit with Team Whiteman since taking office June 1, 2018. As governor, he serves as the commander-in-chief of the Missouri National Guard. During his visit, Parson learned more about the base's total force integration and the B-2 Spirit mission.



Flares of Freedom: Whiteman's Independence Day Celebration



Members of Team Whiteman enjoy the annual Independence Day Celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, on July 3, 2018. The celebration kicked off with a four-ship T-38 flyover and featured a DJ, live band, petting zoo, games, face painting, rides and balloon artists. The 509th Force Support Squadron and private base organizations sold food and drinks. The festivities concluded with a spectacular fireworks show.



More photos can be found on the Whiteman AFB Marketing Facebook page and the Whiteman AFB app.

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

509th Operations Group Change of Command



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

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, passes the guidon to Col. Justin Grieve, symbolizing Grieve taking command of the 509th Operations Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, July 12, 2018. Grieve is a command pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours in the B-2 Spirit, T-37 Tweet and T-38 Talon. As the 509th OG commander, he oversees the 509th BW flying components.



509th Security Forces Squadron Change of Command



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

U.S. Air Force Col. Aeneas Gooding, the 509th Mission Support Group commander, passes the guidon to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Aaron Williams, as Williams assumes command of the 509th Security Forces Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, July 12, 2018. The 509th SFS provides security for all Whiteman personnel and resources, including its fleet of B-2 Spirit stealth bombers.

Air Force technical sergeant promotion cycle list posts July 19

PROMOTION NEWS

2018 TSgt RELEASE
JULY 19, 8:00 AM CDT
ELIGIBLE - 27,555
SELECTED - 8,416
SELECTION RATE - 30.54 %

 WWW.AFPC.AF.MIL

U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons

Air Force officials selected 8,416 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant of the 27,555 eligible in the 18E6 promotion cycle. The promotion list will post July 19, 2018.

By Kat Bailey

Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas - Air Force officials have selected 8,416 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant out of 27,555 eligible for a selection rate of 30.54 percent.

The technical sergeant promotion list will be available on the Air Force Personnel Center's website Enlisted Promotions page, the Air Force Portal and myPers on July 19 at 8 a.m. CDT. Airmen will also be able to access their score notices on the

virtual Military Personnel Flight via the AFPC secure applications page.

Those selected for technical sergeant will be promoted beginning August 1, according to their promotion sequence number.

Commanders will receive notice of their selects from their senior rater's agent starting July 12, with the intent to notify their selects no earlier than one day before the public release.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the AFPC public website.



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