

WARRIOR



TASTE OF THANKS

Learn to bake with
Airman 1st Class
Alexis Taylor Pg. 8



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- ▶ BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOSTS BOMBER BALL

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On the cover

Airman 1st Class Alexis M. Taylor, lead baker assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron, poses for a portrait on Nov. 20, 2018 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Taylor aspires to own a catering company after her time in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

Seven Tips to Having a Successful Friendsgiving

Airman 1st Class Dedan Dials
436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For many Airmen, the Thanksgiving holiday is spent away from their families. Many of these Airmen, however, will celebrate Friendsgiving.

When spending Thanksgiving with your family isn't an option, as is the case for many service members, Friendsgiving is an opportunity to bring everyone together. It's also a great reason to eat a week's worth of calories in one sitting. And, just like family gatherings, there are some things you can do to make the festivities more successful. Here are seven tips to a successful Friendsgiving:

1. Be aware of dietary preferences:

Look, we get it. Your grandmother just sent you the recipe for her peanut turkey stuffing and you're just dying to try it out. But is it worth eating it in the hospital? Send a quick text or call to your guests and ask them if there are any ingredients you should avoid bringing to the dinner table, due to allergies or dietary preferences. It might just save you a trip to the emergency room.

2. Who brings what: Imagine this. You're sitting around the Friendsgiving table, surrounded by your favorite people and turkey, three bowls of stuffing, two plates of yams and two more bowls of stuffing. Make sure to ask the host what he or she wants you to bring to avoid replication. And for the host, don't ask too much of your guests. For example, it's a given that the host should make the turkey unless otherwise discussed. There are a multitude of websites geared toward organizing potlucks. Websites like Perfectpotluck.com, Thingtobring.com and Signupgenius.com/potluck are useful



for events just like Friendsgiving.

3. Don't be afraid to invite co-workers, even supervisors: Hey, your boss likes turkey, too! For many of us, our co-workers are like our family away from family. Friendsgiving can be an opportunity to talk about things that don't pertain to the shop or your job. Take off the rank, watch the game and maybe your supervisor will even turn out to be a normal person! Just remember to keep it classy and professional.

4. Bring your own containers: Friendsgiving is still Thanksgiving, so there will be leftovers. Don't steal the host's containers; bring your own.

5. Friendsgiving in the dorms: You may be thinking that there is no way to host Friendsgiving in the dorms. But, many do have kitchens; just find a table big enough for your group. An event like this can definitely attract some stragglers, so be sure to have places set for new friends as well.

6. Lots of ice: You may run into

problems with refrigerator space with all the food and drinks coming in and out of the kitchen. A cooler or two can help, just make sure to buy plenty of ice. This is an easy way to free up fridge space and keep everything cool.

7. Help clean up: Finally, don't leave your host's home a mess. There will be plenty of dishes, pots and pans that are just too much for one set of hands. But if everyone pitches in, you could be done before dessert. Leaving the host's home clean is a great ending to an evening of friends and food.

Spend this holiday season with the people closest to you, even if that doesn't mean family. Maybe this season, the people that are closest to you are the ones who have been with you through swings shifts, late-night shifts and on-call shifts. Maybe it's your roommates, coworkers or supervisors. Friendsgiving can be the perfect day to give thanks for them.

Fellow Airmen:

As we approach this holiday season, we pause to reflect and thank you for the contributions you and your families make to America. You continue to meet the challenge and deliver air and space power for the Nation daily. We hope you'll take time to consider the deeper meaning of everything you've accomplished this year, and thank your family and friends who provided their unwavering support to your mission.

Many of you, along with our joint teammates, will be deployed this holiday season. You and your families hold a special place in our

hearts as we await your safe return. On behalf of all Americans, thank you for the security you provide for the nation.

Our fellow citizens will celebrate this holiday season at peace knowing you stand watch at home and around the globe on their behalf. We are deeply honored and humbled daily to be part of this superb Air Force team. We wish you and your families' joy in this holiday season.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force



David L. Goldfein
General, USAF Chief of Staff



Kaleth O. Wright
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



THE WHITEMAN WEEKLY WIRE

NEWS | UPDATES

The Whiteman Weekly Wire is published weekly in the Warrior and on www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.

Items to be published should be submitted no later

than noon on Wednesdays to: whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil with the subject "Weekly Wire Request." Your submission must be five lines or less, including contact information. Attachments cannot be included.

The status of the installation during inclement weather or other circumstances is updated on Facebook, www.whiteman.af.mil, and the Straight Talk line, which is 660-687-NEWS (6397).

Closures / Downtime

- **The Qualified Recycling Program** is open for drop-off 24/7 with reduced customer service staff. Cardboard, paper, newspaper, printer cartridges, lead acid batteries, scrap metal, and aluminum cans are accepted.
- **The Fitness Center Track and Field** is closed for renovations until January 2019. PT tests will be conducted at Knob Noster High School. All tests are run through the Fitness Assessment Cell (FAC); the FAC will transport testers to the high school to complete the walk/run portion of the test. The Knob Noster track is not available for squadron PT, but if you'd like to run and get a feel for the track, it is only available after school hours.



General information

- **TRICARE** open season for enrollment runs until December 10. For more information, visit <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/OpenSeason>.
- **Whiteman Air Force Base gate times** for Unit Training Assembly (UTA) weekends on Saturdays and Sundays is 24 hours at the Spirit (main) Gate, with additional staffing from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., and 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. for inbound traffic only and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for outbound traffic only at the Arnold (Knob Noster) Gate.
- **Calling all NFL fans:** Support your favorite team by recording a video shout-out to be aired in stadium during the 2018-19 season. Contact Public Affairs at 660-687-5727.
- **Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items** have been turned in as found property to Security Forces. To inquire, visit Building 711, Room 305, or call Detective Steven B. Scott at 660-687-5342.
- **Materials left outside the Whiteman recycling center** are base property; taking them is theft. Contact the recycling center with questions at 660-687-6253.
- **Are you interested** in joining a vanpool or starting your own? The Department of the Transportation (DOT) manages the vanpool program for the DoD. As part of joining, the DOT will establish and acquire funding for each DoD member (no out of pocket costs for you). This program is open to active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Contact Maj. Keith Bratton at keith.bratton@us.af.mil.

- **Have you checked out the Whiteman Air Force Base smartphone app?** The app is frequently updated with new content and resources, including events, a base directory, medical information and information for inbound and outbound personnel. A link to the download the app is available on the Whiteman website.
- **For the latest news,** photos, and videos please refer to the official Whiteman Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.
- **Family photos in front of the B-2** taken on November 16 are on the Whiteman Air Force Base Flickr account for download at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskJkys5n>.



WEATHER

FRIDAY

Partly Sunny

Hi 37 – Lo 15

SATURDAY

Sunny

Hi 39 – Lo 29

SUNDAY

Partly Sunny

Hi 45 – Lo 28

MONDAY

Chance Rain/Snow

Hi 38 – Lo 22



Volunteer Opportunities

- The Airman and Family Readiness Center needs front-desk volunteers to schedule appointments, answer phones, refer clients and more. Hours are flexible and childcare may be paid. Call (660) 687-7132.
- Help those in need in Sedalia this holiday season with Meals on Wheels. Ten volunteers are needed to prepare, box and delivering meals on Dec. 21. Volunteers will work at the facility, 2311 W, Main St., Sedalia, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Airman Anderson at the Family Health Clinic at 660-687-7190 or 660-687-3769.
- Operation Warm Heart is organizing a holiday bell ringing drive on base to provide emergency monetary assistance to members of Team Whiteman as well fund two holiday programs for those in need. To volunteer, contact MSgt Kenneth Daugherty at 660-687-6503 or 660-525-2486, or your unit's first sergeant.
- Holidays for Heroes is 10-11 a.m. November 24 at the Missouri Veterans Home, 1300 Veterans Rd. Warrensburg, Missouri. Volunteers can share stories while eating homemade cookies. Volunteer there, or drop off baked goods on November 21 on base at Building 509, Room 206. Questions? Call 660-687-6589 or email eric.zimmerman.6@us.af.mil.



Upcoming Events

- **Christmas in the Park** includes commercial vendors, crafts, family entertainment and more from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. beginning November 24 through December 28 in the Farrington Park in Windsor, Missouri. Admission is donation based and benefits local groups.
- **Exceptional Family Member Program and Special needs Support Group** meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Whiteman AFB Youth Center. The group provides free information, speakers, children's activities and other events. Call 660-687-7132 for more information.
- **Los Angeles-based artist Gisela Colon's exhibit "Pods Exhibition"** is at the Daum Museum at the State Fair Community College in Sedalia through Dec. 16. Admission is free.
- **Submissions for the 2018 Christmas Greeting Card Contest** are due by noon on November 27. Squadrons can win up to \$500 in gift cards. The winner will be announced at the holiday lighting event on December 4. Contact the marketing office at 660-687-7929 or marketing3@us.af.mil for more information.
- **The 2018 Air Force Art Contest** is accepting entries through November 30. There are five categories: ages 6-8, ages 9-12, ages 13-17, and two categories for novice and accomplished adults. The top three participants in each category receive gift cards up to \$400. For more information, go to www.myairforcelife.com/arts.



Free relationship classes for Airmen in January, February in Warrensburg

Airman Parker J. McCauley
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Northside Christian Church in Warrensburg, Missouri is scheduled to host free relationship classes for singles, including Airmen, beginning in January.

These courses make up a joint program between ShowMe Healthy Relationships, Cornerstones of Care and University of Missouri Extension along with two other community organizations in 21 counties of Missouri.

According to the ShowMe Healthy Relationships website, its goal is to help adults build healthier and more-stable relationships, become better parents, manage stress, increase well-being and improve money-management skills.

“At some point in most people's lives, there comes a time that we begin to pursue companionship,” said Cory Watson, a family advocacy intervention specialist with the 509th Medical Group. “We may experience ‘love’ and attraction in middle school and high school, feel heartbreak, and do our best to navigate the direction of our next opportunity for love.”

Watson says he feels these courses could help bridge the gap left in most high school curriculums.

“Most high schools don't offer a class on dating or picking a partner,” he said. “I think it's safe to say that the



younger we are, the more vulnerable we might be in jumping into relationships too quickly or we may not have a frame of reference that helps us to distinguish when our goals and intent with the relationship are the same as our partner's.”

The classes are from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesdays from January 22 to February 26, 2019 at the Northside Christian Church, 500 N. Ridgeview Drive.

How to Pick a Partner is a 10-hour course split into a five-week program with a focus on helping singles choose the right partner for a happy and stable relationship.

“These classes are greatly beneficial for individuals who seem to have difficulty finding compatible partners and identifying early red flags in the relationship,” said Watson. “This curriculum helps individuals with asking the right questions to inspire meaningful, revealing conversations with a partner.”

The courses are designed to help participants learn to judge character based on compatibility, relationship skills,

friends and patterns from family and previous relationships.

“It may also help them with resolving some of their own emotional baggage, in turn, helping them to be more ready for a healthy relationship,” said Watson. “The curriculum is based on years of research on marital and premarital happiness.”

In addition to the singles course, there is a course for couples and several follow-up courses.

The couples course is the same length as the singles course intended to help couples enhance their marriage or relationship through skills such as how to build a healthy friendship, manage conflict and work as a team.

There will be free child care in addition to gift cards and snacks for attendees.

Registration is due by January 15.

For more information call 855-778-5437 option 3 or email familysupports@cornerstonesofcare.org.

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Holiday heart-to-heart



(U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Thomas Barley)

Airman Tierney R. Wright,
Commander Support Staff
509th BW CSS

"I am thankful for all the chances and opportunities I've been given this year and am also thankful for all of the support I've gotten from family, friends and leadership."

Airman Andrew S. Carr,
Commander Support Staff
509th BW CSS

"We don't have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. When I was in tech school my dad came down with my sister and we went to a Chinese buffet and then a week later my mom came down and we went to a hotel buffet. It was the weirdest Thanksgiving ever."

Tech. Sgt. Anna M. Arbic, Protocol NCOIC
509th BW Protocol Office

"In 2012 I was deployed, came back and immediately PCSed, so I wasn't able to spend Christmas with my family for the eighth year in a row. We did Christmas in August instead, so that I could come back home and celebrate Christmas with my whole family."

Staff Sgt. Elizabeth M. Nefzger, Protocol Specialist
509th BW Protocol Office

"I'm thankful for my family and my friends. I'm especially thankful that I'll be home for the holidays. I've been away from home for my last three Thanksgivings and Christmases. I have family in the local area, so I get to go to my aunt's house and have a big ole Thanksgiving feast and be around my family"

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Advance assignments now available to Airmen deploying for 365-day Extended Deployments

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - Effective Nov. 1, active duty Airmen selected for an extended deployment may apply to receive an advance assignment up to 16 months prior to the projected Report Not Later Than Date of the assignment.

This means Airmen can have permanent change of station orders in hand immediately after completing all required PCS actions and before departing on their deployment, providing their dependents the option to move early to their next assignment location.

"This change recognizes the need for us to increase stability and predictability for

our Airmen and their families and helps our Airmen focus on their mission while deployed," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. "The ability to receive an assignment prior to departing for an extended deployment allows Airmen to make decisions that are good for them and their families."

Previously, Airmen on extended deployments were required to be deployed for at least 60 days before being notified about potential assignments, and orders were not published earlier than 120 days prior to the new reporting date, making it difficult for Airmen and their families to plan.

In 2017, the Air Force's Personnel Center

chartered a 365-Day Extended Deployments Working Group to look at initiatives to find better ways to accommodate and incentivize year-long deployments. Approximately 400 Airmen per year are selected for 365-day extended deployment.

The 365-day deployment policy change allows Airmen time to out-process from their losing base, provides the option to

move their dependents to the new assignment location, and gives Airmen the option to request movement from their deployed location directly to their new assignment without having to return to their currently assigned unit first.

Airmen selected for an extended deployment should contact their local Military Personnel Section for more information.



In this file photo, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark D. Kelly, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, gives the oath of enlistment to 11 Airmen during a re-enlistment ceremony at Camp Cunningham, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Sept. 11, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young)

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Airman 1st Class Alexis M. Taylor is the lead baker assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. She prepares all types of meals at the Ozark Dining Facility, but her specialties are desserts, including coffee cakes, pastry puffs and the mini chocolate pies shown here. Taylor learned to bake growing up and hopes to work in the catering business one day. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

Taylor crafts confections at Ozark Inn

Staff Sgt. Kayla White
Bomb Wing Public Affairs

In the Ozark Inn Dining Facility, before the sun rises over Whiteman Air Force Base, the lead baker begins crafting culinary creations.

"I can't really complain though," said Airman 1st Class Alexis M. Taylor, shrugging her shoulders and smiling. "I wake up early and spend my day doing what I love."

Taylor, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron here, is the mastermind behind the dessert display case.

The Omaha, Nebraska native spends most days covered in baking ingredients, jamming out to her favorite music.

"It's usually R&B or gospel," said Taylor. "Anything upbeat, really. It will have me wiggling here and there as I get through my work."

Taylor, her voice a mellow sing-song and her demeanor seemingly as sweet as the food she makes, has a long history with food.

"I wake up early and spend my day doing what I love."

Alexis M. Taylor
Airman 1st Class

It all started with easy stuff like breakfast foods when I was 8 or 9 years old, she said.

"I would do this thing where I would add food coloring to everything," said Taylor, beginning to bubble with warm laughter. "Guess what, Mom? We're having green pancakes today!"

Taylor's inspiration comes from the women in her family.

"My mom, my older sister and I would make just about anything from scratch," she said. "My mom would just open up one of her cookbooks and we would find something new to make. I can definitely say that my love of cooking comes from her."

Although geographically separated from her family, cooking keeps them connected.

"I can call or text them any time and we'll tell each other which recipes to use and which ones to stay away from," said Taylor.

She brings that desire to experiment to her work in the Air Force.

"I try to take the recipes the Air Force gives me and personalize them as much as I can," said Taylor.

The positive feedback she receives about her food from her family and customers motivates her to pursue her dreams.

"After I leave the Air Force, I want to open a catering business," she said.

Being able to cultivate her passion for cooking while in the military has left Taylor feeling prepared to chase that dream, she said.

"If I can handle people and the workload within the Air Force, I think I can handle just about anything," said Taylor.



Chocolate Pudding Pie

Prep Time 5 mins Cook Time 12 mins
Total Time 27 mins

Servings: 8 slices

Ingredients

- For the chocolate filling
 - 1 deep dish pie crust
 - 1/4 cup cocoa sifted
 - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour sifted
 - 1/3 cup sugar
 - 3 egg yolks beaten
 - 1 and 1/2 cup whole milk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoon real butter

For the meringue

- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

- Prepare pie crust as directed on package for 1 9-inch pie crust. Cool 10 minutes.
- In a large saucepan at medium temperature, whisk together sugar and egg yolks until combined.
- Whisk in flour and

cocoa powder to egg mixture. Whisk to combine. Add milk and stir gently to combine (In steps 2, 3, and 4, after combining ingredients, go to the next step. You don't have to cook any before adding the next set of ingredients.)

• Stir continually on medium-low heat until pudding becomes thick.

• Take off heat and stir in butter and vanilla.

• Stir until butter melts.

• Pour into pie crust.

• Top with meringue or whipped cream. If you're topping it with whipped cream, go ahead and bake the pie 8 minutes

Before you put the topping it with whipped cream, allow pie to cool before adding whipped cream. If you're adding meringue, follow instructions below for meringue.

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Air Force announces bases to support B-21 Raider mission

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force has selected Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, to coordinate maintenance and sustainment of the B-21 Raider and Edwards AFB, California, to lead testing and evaluation of the next generation long-range strike bomber.

The decision to use these bases marks the next milestone in the development and eventual deployment of the B-21, a long-range and highly-survivable aircraft capable of penetrating air defenses and conducting a range of critical missions. The plane is expected to be delivered in the mid-2020s. The Air Force announced last spring that Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, Dyess Air Force Base in Texas and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota have been chosen as possible bases to host the new B-21 bomber.

The Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker AFB has an Air Logistics Complex with a deep and accomplished history. In selecting Tinker AFB, Air Force leaders acknowledged that the organization has the right knowledge and expertise to support planning for the bomber's depot maintenance.

"With a talented workforce and decades of experience in aircraft maintenance, Tinker AFB is the right place for this critical mission," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather A. Wilson.

Robins AFB, Georgia, and Hill AFB, Utah, will support Tinker AFB to ensure the advanced B-21 is maintained and, when necessary, overhauled and upgraded. The workforce at the bases will also be equipped to rebuild parts, assemblies or subassemblies of the plane as well as testing and reclaiming equipment as necessary for depot activations.

Edwards AFB was selected as the location of the B-21's Combined Test Force. The base is home to the Air Force Test Center, which leads testing and evaluation for the Air Force to ensure aircraft and other equipment meet rigorous standards.

The testing program at Edwards AFB is also designed to provide timely, objective and accurate information to decision makers.

"From flight testing the X-15 to the F-117, Edwards AFB in the Mohave Desert has been at the forefront of keeping our Air Force on the cutting edge," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. "Now, testing the B-21 Raider will begin another historic chapter in the base's history."

Northrop Grumman's Melbourne, Florida, facility is the site of the B-21 Raider design and development headquarters. The B-21 is in the engineering and manufacturing development phase of the acquisition cycle.





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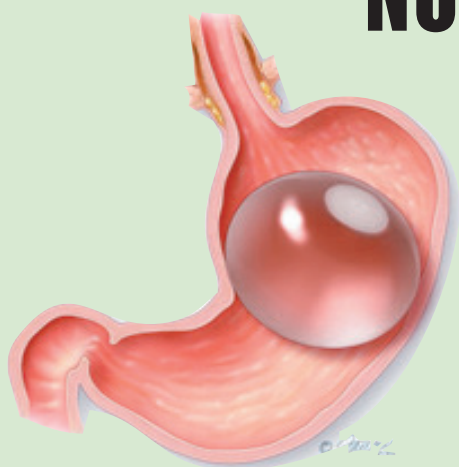
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AF Week in Photos



Staff Sgt. Keaton Truman, 36th Mobility Response Squadron mobility crew chief, marshals in a C-130J Super Hercules with the 347th Airlift Wing from Yokota Air Base, Japan, at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), on Nov. 10, 2018. Service members from Joint Region Marianas and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command are providing Department of Defense support to the CNMI's civil and local officials as part of the FEMA-supported Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua J. Garcia)



Staff Sgt. Kevin Greene pushes hard to make it up the court during wheelchair rugby practice at the Northeast Region Warrior CARE Event at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Adaptive sports are dynamic and fast-moving, giving each warrior an opportunity to see what they can do. The Wounded Warriors coaching staff works hard to move around participants' mental barriers to increase their restorative care for long-term success in their overall recovery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Shawn Sprayberry)



A rainbow appears over F-16 Fighting Falcons from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing, on the flightline at Boca Chica Naval Air Station, Florida, Nov. 9, 2018. Maintenance, operations, logistics and security personnel from the wing traveled to the Key West Naval facility to take advantage of the weather and fly numerous training sorties and incentive flights. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley)



Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Kunkel, 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules flight engineer, conducts a pre-flight inspection prior to launch on Nov. 13, 2018, at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Kunkel reached 10,000 flying hours in October, which is a number considered prestigious amongst military aviators. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

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PCS Child Care for Army, Navy, & Marines

This program is for Army, Navy, and Marine families (all ranks) assigned to active duty Air Force installations who are arriving or departing from the AF installation. Twenty hours of care per child is authorized in AF licensed or affiliated FCC homes. All reservations must be made through the FCC office. Call for more details.

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Whiteman Air Force Base Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 27th

The Nutcracker Ballet @ Youth Center

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Warrensburg's Center Stage Academy will be showcasing several dances from their upcoming performance of The Nutcracker.

Call (660) 687-5586 for more information.

Monday, December 3rd

Ham Jam @ Youth Center

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Score big & win a ham just in time for the Holidays! Hams will be given to the boy & girl winner from each age group. Free event!

Call (660) 687-5586 for more information.

Tuesday, December 4th

Tree Lighting @ Mission's End

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Bring your loved ones to observe the lighting of the Christmas Tree, take pictures with Santa & ice skate on our very first ice skating rink!

Call (660) 687-5754 for more information.

Saturday, December 8th

Brunch With Santa @ Mission's End

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

You'r invited to brunch with Santa! Enjoy Christmas cookie decorating, ornament making, & a family photo session with the one and only Santa Claus!

Call (660) 687-7132 to register.

Wednesday, December 12th

Paint Night @ Mission's End

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Come & join us for our last paint night of the year! Let's prepare ourselves for the upcoming Holidays...together!

Call (660) 687-5754 for more information.

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Base Community Council sends 10 Whiteman Airmen home for the holidays

Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Ten Airmen will be getting a free ticket home for the holidays this year thanks to the Whiteman Base Community Council. The Airmen first heard the news during the inaugural Bomber Ball fundraiser event held at the University of Central Missouri on Nov. 16, 2018.

“Last year was our first year hosting the Airman Home for the Holidays and we were able to send five Airmen home,” said Karl Kramer, the Whiteman BCC president.

The opportunity came just in time for two of the Airmen, whose hometowns in Puerto Rico were devastated by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. They were both able to be there with their family and friends in a time of need.



Karl Kramer, the president of the Whiteman Base Community Council, gives opening remarks at the inaugural Bomber Ball Nov. 16, 2018, at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. The ball was an opportunity to thank the military members from Whiteman Air Force Base and to fundraise for BCC programs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Jennings)

“As we looked into 2018, we wanted to have a larger impact, so we elected to change that five to 10,” said Kramer. The

rank restriction was also lifted to allow non-commissioned officers and senior non-commissioned officers the opportunity

as well. Each Airman was nominated by their supervisors and were asked to submit a 250-word essay on what going home for the holidays means to them.

The cost of the plane tickets was not a factor in the selection process, with some of the Airmen traveling as close as California, and others flying outside the United States to West Africa and South Korea.

“We are proud to be part of such an awesome opportunity,” Kramer said. “We truly care for Whiteman’s Airmen and their families – that is at the core of what our mission is as the Base Community Council.”

Currently, the BCC is made up of more than 350 members who represent 18 communities, from California, Missouri, to Lee’s Summit, Missouri. The purpose of the council is to enhance relations between Whiteman AFB and its surrounding communities. In addition to the Airman Home for the Holidays program, the funds raised by the BCC go to support programs like Adopt-an-Airman, Key Spouse Initiatives, which offer support to military families, and the Stealth Lounge, which offers to support to young Airmen at Whiteman.

To hear the stories from last year’s recipients of the Airman Home for the Holidays, go to www.whiteman.af.mil and search “Whiteman Air Force Base Community Council: Home for the Holidays” in the video section.

Congratulations to the 10 Airmen who were selected for the Airman Home for the Holidays program:

Airman 1st Class Gary J. Yoonfield
509th Munitions Squadron

Airman 1st Class Devon E. Navarro
509th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Tyler S. Dedmon
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Chelsey N. Reynolds
509th Force Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Angel Perez
509th Medical Operations Squadron

Airman 1st Class Damien P. Waterman
509th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Pierce A. Jolly
131st Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Jeftha N. Amoah
442nd Force Support Squadron

Airman Matthew R. Leach
358th Fighter Squadron

Airman 1st Class Brandon W. Alford
20th Attack Squadron



Senior Airman Jeftha Amoah, a Reserve Citizen Airman with the 442d Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, smiles as he learns that he’s going home for the holidays while at the inaugural Bomber Ball on Nov. 16, 2018, at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. Amoah will be travelling home to Africa to meet his infant daughter for the first time. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Jennings)



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