

WARRIOR



INITIAL SUCCESS

EOD AIRMAN WINS NCO OF THE YEAR

PG. 3

MPOY

■ MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR PG. 8

No fuel, no fight

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

Airmen assigned to the petroleum, oil and lubricants fuels flight of the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, are an important asset to executing strategic deterrence, global strike and combat support... anytime, anywhere.

These Airmen work to ensure aircraft are fueled whenever the mission calls for them to be ready to go.

“Our mission is vital because without clean fuel, we can’t support the aircraft or the equipment needed around the base and thus, the mission can’t be completed,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Joshua Thompson, a distribution operator assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Throughout their careers, these Airmen learn that attention to detail is an essential skill for the job. POL fuels flight Airmen need to be vigilant every day in order to avoid potential accidents that could occur with fuel.

“It’s important that we get everything right and that everything’s within its limit to ensure there are no incidents,” said Airman 1st Class Hali Conner, a laboratory technician assigned to the 509th LRS. “We

pull samples and test the fuel around base for water, additives and sediment like rocks, dirt or other particles. We also have the ability to lock out any piece of equipment if the fuel doesn’t pass.”

Sampling and testing the fuel around Whiteman is critical because this ensures the fuel is safe to use in an aircraft or any fuel-based system.

“Not doing our job correctly could potentially lead to an aircraft engine failure,” said Thompson. “To prevent accidents, we need to be focused on what we are doing 24/7.”

Although the job can be stressful at times, the LRS Airmen enjoy what they do and take pride in completing the mission.

“I like this job because there’s always something new to learn,” said Conner. “I’ve been in the lab for almost a year and before that I was a distribution operator. I think it’s great that we have the opportunity to move around in this career field because it’s good to know the different sections and their roles to accomplish the mission.”

The fuels flight works all day, every day to ensure the fuel is passing inspection and moving correctly. With the help of the laboratory technicians, distribution operators and all other members of the fuels flight ensure the mission at Whiteman is being accomplished.

“Everyone has a purpose on base to support the mission, ours at the fuels shop is - no fuel, no flight,” said Thompson.



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 Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Clement, a fuels lab technician assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, tests the fuel at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 8, 2018. The fuels technicians pull samples and test the fuel around Whiteman to ensure it is safe to use in an aircraft or any fuel-based system.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Clement, a fuels lab technician assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, takes samples of Jet A fuel at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 8, 2018. There are additives in the Jet A fuel and the fuels technicians perform specific tests to ensure the amount of additives are within their passing limits as well as making sure there isn’t an abundance of water and particulates in the fuel.

THE WARRIOR

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On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo by
Staff Sgt. Joel Pfiester

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Vallejo, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, poses in his gear at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, March 9, 2018. Vallejo was named Whiteman’s 2017 NCO of the Year.

NEWS BRIEFS



U.S. AIR FORCE
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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.

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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

Today	Saturday
Showers	Mostly Sunny
Hi 62	Hi 55
Lo 44	Lo 40
Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Showers
Hi 61	Hi 56
Lo 37	Lo 46

EOD Airman wins NCO of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Joel Pfiester
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Courage, selflessness, bravery, professionalism, vigilance ... The list goes on and on when speaking about traits that an individual should embody when dealing with explosives and other hazards on the battlefield.

One Whiteman Airman possesses them all.

Recently named Whiteman Air Force Base's 2017 NCO of the Year, U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Vallejo, a 509th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team leader, distinguished himself at home station and while deployed.

While deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Vallejo led five emergency responses and eliminated 20 unexploded ordnance items, ensuring the safety of 4,000 coalition forces, 49 aircraft and two airfields.

Vallejo was able to coordinate a 120-hour U.S. Army Air Assault course, which resulted in two EOD Airmen earning their Air Assault wings while downrange. This marked the first time in history that Airmen have graduated from the course while on a contingency operation deployment.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Vallejo, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, poses with his wife Laura, and his children Brayden and Mylie after returning from a deployment. Vallejo was named Whiteman's 2017 NCO of the Year and received an incentive flight in a B-2 Spirit.

He continued to make a name for himself by coordinating large scale training events which he developed to focus EOD operators on real-time threats being faced down range. For one major event, he compiled intelligence on enemy tactics, techniques and procedures to coordinate with eight units from throughout the Central Command area of responsibility for a week-long field training exercise. Vallejo led 43 joint EOD technicians through 81 scenarios he developed.

While there, Vallejo then forward-deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan to support the forensics lab where he processed evidence acquired from multiple battlefields in the region leading to 16 enemy bomb makers being identified.

As a team leader, EOD technicians receive training on collecting evidence from post-blast scenes or during a normal IED response, yet Vallejo didn't really know much about the work going on behind the scenes. His time in Afghanistan allowed him to get better idea of what happens with the evidence that is collected.

"My time at the lab opened my eyes on the science involved in processing DNA, latent print, weapons, and electronic evidence. There's a lot of work those folks put in to try to get bad guys building IEDs to kill our brothers and sisters out of circulation," said Vallejo. "Honestly, while my first combat deployment had its exciting moments, I feel that my time at the forensics lab was the most fulfilling of my career."

See NCO of the Year, page 4



Courtesy photo



Tech. Sgt. Michael Vallejo, a 509th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team leader, receives a personalized flight suit from Brig. Gen. John Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. James Lyda, the 509th BW command chief, during the 2017 Annual Awards Banquet at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 2, 2018. Vallejo was named Whiteman's 2017 NCO of the Year and received an incentive flight in a B-2 Spirit.

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16 • 7 p.m. **SATURDAY, MARCH 17 • 7 p.m.**
Black Panther (PG-13) Black Panther (PG-13)
Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75 Adults - \$7.00, children - \$4.75
SUNDAY, MARCH 18 • 3 p.m.
Peter Rabbit (PG)
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!

NCO of the Year

Continued from Page 3

That fulfillment Vallejo felt was further validated during Whiteman's 2017 Annual Awards Banquet when he was announced as NCO of the Year at the wing level. Vallejo was also presented a personalized flight suit by the 509th Bomb Wing commander, Brig. Gen. John Nichols, and the 509th BW command chief, Chief Master Sgt. James Lyda. Much to his surprise, he was awarded with an incentive flight in a B-2 Spirit.

"I had an incentive flight a long time ago, but to receive one on a B-2 bomber is something I did not expect," said Vallejo. "I don't think any previous incentive flights could top getting a ride on the stealth bomber."

Very few enlisted Airmen have the privilege of getting to fly in the B-2, a privilege that one can earn through hard work and superior performance.

"Tech. Sgt. Vallejo is a savagely aggressive leader with strategic vision that consistently exercises extreme ownership over all faucets necessary to project airpower in today's challenging world," said Senior Master Sgt. Alejandro Rodriguez, the 509th

Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight chief. "He honed his abilities and skills to not only survive, but thrive in any hostile environment. He is an Airman warrior and it is my honor to serve alongside him."

Vallejo's attributes his success to the support system surrounding him.

"This award could not be possible without the support of my wife Laura, and my kids Brayden and Mylie, who put up with me being gone for so long this past year, and have supported me in everything I do," said Vallejo. "I am also lucky to be a part of an awesome, savagely aggressive Whiteman EOD brotherhood, with leadership that has supported us in every endeavor."

I view this recognition as a team award that I would not have received without the love and patience of my family and the motivation and guidance from my EOD brothers. I feel that this honor is validation that with an awesome team backing you up, it is possible to dream big and affect change in an organization to directly enhance mission success."

***See Something ...
Say Something***

Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination

Women's History Month Lunch and Learn

28 March 2018
1100 - 1300
Location: Stars and Strikes Bowling Center
RSVP NLT: 23 March 2018
POC: TSgt Lindsay Miller/687-7713
Email: lindsay.miller3@us.af.mil

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MARCH 2018

Self Defense Class

Every Tuesday in March
Location: Fitness Center Jiu Jitsu Room
POC: SSgt Furnari/687-6659
Email: nikki.furnari@us.af.mil

Canvas Paint Night

14 March 2018
1800
Location: Stars & Strikes Bowling Center
\$30
POC: SSgt Ulin/687-5576
Email: amy.uln@us.af.mil

Women's History Month "A League of Their Own" Showing & Bowling

22 March 18/1530
Location: Stars & Strikes Bowling Center/\$1 Games/\$1 show rentals
POC: MSgt Norris/687-6469

Fashion Show featuring LuLaRoe

18 March 2018
1500-1800
Location: Mission Ends
POC: A1C Velasco/687-4621
Email: cristina.velasco@us.af.mil



Designed by DODM - Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute



Chaplain named CGO of the month

Whiteman's newest SMSgt. selects



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Capt. Emmanuel Okwaraocha, a 509th Bomb Wing chaplain, is recognized as the Company Grade Officer of the Month at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 6, 2018. Recently, Okwaraocha raised \$500 for Whiteman’s Operation Warmheart, led more than 30 catholic services and 12 religious studies, providing spiritual care for thousands of families, Airmen and civilians. He has provided counsel for more than 730 service members and three marriages were saved as a result of his guidance and support.

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

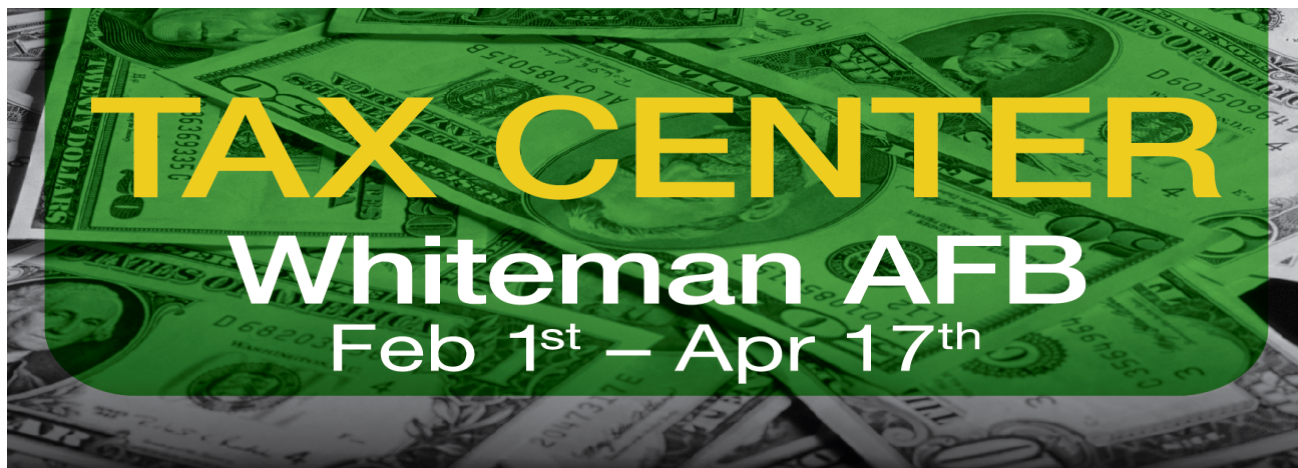
Senior master sergeant selects gather for a group photo at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 7, 2018. This year a total of 1,549 master sergeants were chosen for promotion in the U.S. Air Force with 17 being from Whiteman.

Master Sgt. Dennis Caldwell Jr., 509th FSS	Master Sgt. Jacqueline Hudson, 509th AMXS
Master Sgt. Jonathan Cates, 509th AMXS	Master Sgt. Jerome Jackson, 509th AMXS
Master Sgt. Tony Cuevas, 509th MXG	Master Sgt. Courtney Jones, 509th CS
Master Sgt. Catherine Engel, 509th AMXS	Master Sgt. Misty Moreno, 509th FSS
Master Sgt. Brandon Finefrock, 509th AMXS	Master Sgt. Anna Norris, 509th FSS
Master Sgt. Ernest Fishburne, 358th FS	Master Sgt. Bobby Palmer, 509th OSS
Master Sgt. Travis Gatchell, 509th AMXS	Master Sgt. Adam Stadler, 509th CES
Master Sgt. James Gray, 509th BW	Master Sgt. Shane Sudman, 509th SFS
Master Sgt. Amanda Van Wagenen, 509th MDOS	

SEDALIA SIG
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502515

STORE YER STUFF
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2"
Black
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500354

BEARD & ASSOC
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515326



The Whiteman Air Force Base Tax Center is scheduled to open Thursday, 1 Feb 2018 for free advice, assistance, preparation and electronic filing of federal and state income tax returns through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Active duty military members, retirees, military dependents, and Department of Defense civilians may receive assistance.

TO RECEIVE TAX PREPARATION/E-FILING ASSISTANCE, YOU MUST BRING:

- Photo IDs – Proof of identification (taxpayer/spouse)
- Social security cards (or ITIN card, if applicable) (taxpayer/spouse/dependents)
- Birth dates (taxpayer/spouse/dependents)
- Prior year tax return (they no longer have copies of prior returns for previous clients)
- Wage/income statements (i.e. W-2s, W-2G, 1099-B, 1099-R, 1099-G, 1099-Misc.)
- Interest and dividend statements (1099-INT, 1099-DIV)
- Affordable Care Act healthcare documents (IRS Form 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C)
- Dependent care information (daycare provider name, address, tax ID # and amount paid)
- Education credit information (1098-T and receipts or out-of-pocket expenses)
- Proof of bank routing and account number (for direct debits or direct withdrawals)
- Any other forms applicable to your return (i.e. "1098-E Student Loan Interest Paid", 5498 IRA contributions, 1098 Mortgage Interest Paid, real estate taxes)

LOCATION:

Professional Development Center
Bldg. 515, Rm. 209

HOURS:

APPOINTMENT ONLY:

Day: Monday – Thursday
Time: 0800 – 1500

WALK-IN'S:

Time: 1000 – 1500

CONTACT:

**SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT
OR QUESTIONS:**

A1C Tayler Griffin
509th BW Legal Office
687-3672



WORSHIP SIG
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U.S. Air National Guard graphic by Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison

BOTWELL
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Process color
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Whiteman wins best Strategic Bomber award

By Staff Sgt. Joel Pfister
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 509th and 131st Bomb Wings were announced as the best Strategic Bomber units and winners of the 2017 Omaha Trophy award, Feb. 26, 2018, by U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command.

The Omaha Trophy, which dates back to the United States Air Force's Strategic Air Command, is presented in five official categories: Global operations, Inter-continental Ballistic Missile, Strategic Aircraft Operations, and Submarine Ballistic Missile.

The 2017 Omaha recipient organizations are:

- **Global Operations Trophy:**
460th Space Wing, Buckley, Colorado.

- **ICBM:**
341st Missile Wing Trophy:
Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana.

- **Strategic Aircraft Trophy:**
Strategic Communications Wing One,
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

- **Ballistic Missile Submarine Trophy:**
USS Alabama (SSBN 731),
Naval Submarine Base,
Bangor, Washington.

- **Strategic Bomber Trophy:**
131st and 509th Bomb Wings,
Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

"This year's Omaha Trophy winners demonstrated the highest levels of excellence in support of our global warfighting command," said U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten, USSTRATCOM commander. "These recipients best represent the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and civilians across USSTRATCOM who are critical to our nation's most important mission: deterring attack and delivering decisive capabilities from, in, and through all domains wherever and whenever needed."

Previously only one trophy was awarded to the command's best wing, but has since evolved to five separate awards that represent USSTRATCOM's mission areas, their role in global operations and USSTRATCOM's continued emphasis on strategic deterrence. Selections are based on formal evaluations, meritorious achievement, safety and other factors such as community involvement and humanitarian actions.

"Our Airmen work incredibly hard to deter our enemies, assure our allies and keep our bombers flying; we are a world-class installation supported by the very best our country has to offer," said Brig. Gen. John Nichols, 509th BW commander. "This is a very big deal. The Omaha Trophy recognizes our vital contributions to both national and global security through strategic deterrence, global strike and combat support."

The Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing and U.S. Air Force 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base were recently announced as co-winners of the 2017 Omaha Trophy in the Strategic Bomber Category.

Winners recognized during 2017 Maintenance Professional of the Year ceremony

Members of Team Whiteman participate in the 2017 Maintenance Professional of the Year Awards Banquet at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 9, 2018. The banquet included live music from the band Ruckus, a presentation of the maintenance professionals' achievements in 2017, and nearly 50 awards were given out during the event. U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Spencer Thrasher, a crew chief assigned to the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, received the 2017 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Thomas N. Barnes Crew Chief of the Year award and has earned the opportunity to fly in a B-2 Spirit.

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



Holidays For Heroes

Who: Open to all (Groups and/or Squadrons welcome)

What: Every major holiday, come share your stories and hear theirs while enjoying homemade cookies

Where: Missouri Veterans Home, 1300 Veterans Rd, Warrensburg Mo, 64093

When: 17 Mar 2018 from 1000-1100

How: Volunteer your time or drop off baked goods to Bldg. S6, Rm. 101 on 16 March 2018



For more information, please call or email SSgt Eric Zimmerman at 687-6589 or eric.zimmerman.6@us.af.mil