Team Whiteman thanks community partners at Missouri State Fair for mission success, progress

By Brig. Gen. John Nichols
509th Bomb Wing commander

Last weekend, I had the pleasure of speaking at Military Appreciation Day at the Missouri State Fair, held annually in our community partner city of Sedalia since 1901. When I took command of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base in June 2017, my first off-base speaking event was actually at the Missouri State Fair. I have to say, it was great to be back. I was humbled to share the stage last weekend with a fine group of leaders, including Col. Eric Towns, Fort Leonard Wood garrison commander; U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Stephen Danner, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard and Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe. A thank-you for the opportunity goes to the State Fair, the Department of Agriculture and to Mr. Joe Driskill, Missouri state military advocate.

Before I share my message from last weekend, I have to brag about the crowd there. My wife and I have been serving in the United States Air Force for over 26 years. We’ve moved 16 times. We have never lived in a more patriotic state than here. Missouri’s support of our men and women in uniform is simply the best. This support enables mission success and Team Whiteman is eternally grateful.

It’s been a dynamic year at America’s only B-2 base and we remain laser-focused on our mission of providing strategic deterrence, global strike and combat support…anytime, anywhere.

We do this mission in cooperation with our Total-Force partners, including the Missouri Air National Guard’s 131st Bomb Wing, the only B-2 Guard unit; the Air Force Reserve’s 442nd Fighter Wing, which flies the awesome A-10 Thunderbolt II; the Missouri Army Guard’s First Battalion of the 135th Aviation Regiment, which flies the venerable Black Hawk helicopter; and our 20th Attack Squadron which operates MQ-9 Reapers halfway across the globe in ongoing combat operations in the Middle East.

This is an incredible team, providing significant muscle to America’s military efforts – and it’s all happening from right here in Missouri. Two instances come to mind from the past year that remind us how much Team Whiteman means to America’s strength in the world.

Last fall, things with North Korea weren’t going so well. The country was popping off missiles at a rapid rate. Tensions were high across the globe and certainly in Pacific Command. And it was in September, when President Trump decided to wish the U.S. Air Force a Happy 70th Birthday in a televised speech from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

President Trump at the podium and behind him were about 50 Airmen from across the Air Force, including several from Whiteman AFB. Behind that group and in front of a huge American flag was the mighty B-2 bomber, on full display for the world to see.

You know, the president could have picked any aircraft to serve as the backdrop for that important event, but he chose the world’s most strategic aircraft. He was sending a message to our adversaries and allies alike. Don’t mess with the United States.

That’s the power of the B-2 bomber. It doesn’t have to drop a single bomb to influence world politics. Everyone in the world pays attention where we go, when we fly, and what we do. That’s global power; that’s global reach.

This month, we remembered two significant dates in world history: August 6th and August 9th. Back on those two fateful days in 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Those two powerful bombs devastated Japan and brought our enemy to its knees, bringing World War II to a close.

But oh how the world has changed. This past fall, the Japanese government asked the U.S. Air Force if a B-2 bomber could participate in a flyby over Japan. We were bit perplexed at the request because the last time a bomber from the 509th Bomb Wing flew over mainland Japan was in August 1945, when 509th aircraft and aircrews changed world history and brought us into the Atomic Age.

But the Japanese knew exactly what they wanted— they wanted the world’s most strategic aircraft in their neighborhood.

This is a story of how old adversaries have become new allies. This is a story of deterrence and assurance. This is what the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings do for America.

And those efforts were recognized this past spring, when Gen. John Hyten, the commander of U.S. Strategic Command, delivered the Omaha Trophy to Whiteman AFB. The Omaha Trophy recognizes the best Bomb Wing in all of Strategic Command. The 131st Bomb Wing commander and I were honored to accept this prestigious award on behalf of the men and women of Team Whiteman.

Remember, Whiteman AFB is working hard every day to provide for your collective defense. But, as I said upfront, your supports enables our mission success.
Following her dream:
Whiteman SF Airman commissions into medical field

A U.S. flag, a firmly spoken oath, a strong salute and a dream came true as a security forces NCO became a commissioned officer here Aug. 10, 2018.

The brief ceremony, however, represented years of hard work that led now-2nd Lt. Jasmine Scott to this moment.

Scott enlisted in the U.S. Air Force five years ago to follow in her parent’s legacy of service and little could hold her back. Taking the first available slot to basic training she soon found herself at security forces field training in San Antonio, Texas.

“She said, ‘Mom, I want to go, I want to do something outside,’” recalled Scott’s mother, U.S. Army Maj. Darla Deauvearo, adjudicator for the physical evaluations board at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. “I was in Iraq when she enlisted and I found out she had joined security forces. But she wanted to start sooner rather than later.”

After initial training, Scott arrived at Whiteman AFB, where she was assigned to a variety of patrol and guard duties as a first-term security forces Airman.

Despite the grueling schedule, Scott soon completed her Community College of the Air Force degree in criminal justice. Later, she said, she realized that she wanted to follow her mom’s footsteps in the medical field. After some research, Scott pursued a commission in the Medical Service Corps (MSC) — all while studying for the staff sergeant promotion test.

“School was definitely tough,” Scott said. “Especially with the shifts we work, I was tired a lot and complained a fair amount. But my mom kept motivating me and cheered me on.”

To speed up the process after spending considerable time on her CCAF degree, Scott enrolled in Air University’s Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC) program, which allows students to transfer credit to earn certain bachelor degrees in less time. The AU-ABC was created to help enlisted Airmen pursue advanced education beyond the associate level and links CCAF graduates to accredited civilian academic institutions that offer online or distance learning bachelor’s degrees.

“This program works,” Scott said. “It helped me get my bachelor’s degree on time. There are people who graduated high school with me, and I really only graduated college a year after them, but already have a full career. That makes me feel proud.”

A duty shift to the armory gave Scott additional time and allowed her an increased focus on personal goals: setting her sights on commissioning to become an officer. In addition, Scott shadowed medical professionals at the Whiteman AFB clinic and said the support from the medical services units has been a major factor in her success.

“It’s a different world,” Scott said. “You have everybody’s family you get to take care of, which is a big responsibility. But going
Display excellence, build discipline – join the Honor Guard

From 509th Bomb Wing staff reports

Think you can represent your fellow Airmen to the world?

Members of the Whiteman Air Force Base Honor Guard promote the mission, uphold the standards, perfect the image and preserve the heritage of the United States Air Force at ceremonies, military funerals and other events.

And they’re looking for others to join them.

An Honor Guardsman is an Airmen of the highest integrity, who is responsible for protecting and perfecting Air Force standards. This position requires outstanding devotion and commitment to duty, say members of the Whiteman Honor Guard.

In turn, Airmen will gain comradery, leadership skills and professionalism. Be an icon of excellence. Join a hand-selected team.

For more on the Honor Guard mission, check out this video on the Whiteman AFB Facebook page: https://goo.gl/cbcC9Y

Ready to serve in the Honor Guard?
Contact the Whiteman AFB Honor Guard at (660) 687-6532.
Whiteman Elementary staff and students begin the first day of school Aug. 16, 2018, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Whiteman Elementary serves students entering kindergarten through fourth grade living on Whiteman AFB. W.E. is a community school that serves more than 360 military children and their families.

Principal, Jessica Stewart, was just as excited to start the school year as the students. “We embark on this year, ready to create a culture of learning that includes engaging, rigorous and relevant work in our classrooms,” Stewart said.

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer
Whether it’s Facebook, Instagram or any other social media platform, silence is security.

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein recently reminded Airmen and their families to protect sensitive information by practicing sound Operations Security, or OPSEC.

In a joint statement, they wrote, “Clearly in times past, we have sought to protect key operational details, but today’s informative standard should be more cautious, and we need your enduring vigilance to ensure compliance.”

Whiteman Air Force Base is no exception, said Col. Seth Graham, vice commander of the 509th Bomb Wing. “We all need to practice smart OPSEC, especially as social media continues to expand its reach,” Graham said. “Our adversaries know they can exploit this – it’s up to all of us not to let them. Practicing sound OPSEC reduces risks and keeps our Airmen and their families safe.”

What is OPSEC?

OPSEC means safeguarding information to protect activities. This concept is not new, though it was formalized in 1988 by then-President Ronald Reagan, who tasked organizations to protect their critical information.

Today, with the pervasiveness of social media, this means not sharing details that could be disseminated broadly and ultimately compromise missions and safety. “Every bit of information – no matter how small – is like a puzzle piece,” Graham said. “One mention of a deployment, one picture of a location, one comment on troop movements – these can be pieced together by our adversaries, giving them the complete picture.”

Deployment-related posts

Even details that seem insignificant or are intended for a small, private audience can still be used with harmful intent. Examples of information that should not be shared include:

• a countdown to a deployment departure or until a deployment return;
• deployment dates before they are publically released by the Air Force;

See OPSEC, Page 7.
Amended Notice of Intent for the Air Force Reserve Command F-35A Operational Beddown Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) F-35A Operational Beddown EIS (Vol. 83, No. 56 Federal Register, 12568, March 22, 2018). The NOI provided the public with instructions on how to submit scoping comments to the USAF in consideration of the four alternatives being considered, which include: Homestead Air Reserve Base, Homestead FL; Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, TX; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, AZ; and Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, MO. The USAF has subsequently been made aware that the address provided for submittal of courier delivered public scoping comments (e.g., Federal Express or United Parcel Service) was incorrect. Consequently, the USAF is providing the correct address below and 10-working days to resubmit scoping comments from the time resubmittal instructions are published in the Federal Register. During this 10-working day period, the USAF is offering multiple ways in which comments can be resubmitted. Comments can be provided through the project website (www.AFRC-F35A-Beddown.com), via email to the email address provided below, and via regular mail or via courier to the addresses listed below. The website also provides additional information on the EIS and related materials. The USAF will consider all additional scoping comments submitted.

The 10-working day resubmittal period extends from 13 August 2018 with the publication of the amended NOI in the Federal Register and concludes 27 August 2018.

ADDRESSES:
The address for courier delivered (e.g., Federal Express or United Parcel Service) public scoping comments is:
AFCEC/CZN
(ATTN: Mr. Hamid Kamalpour)
3515 S. General McMullen Drive, Suite 155
San Antonio, Texas 78226-1710

The address for U.S. Postal Service mail delivery:
AFCEC/CZN
(ATTN: Mr. Hamid Kamalpour)
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA-Lackland Air Force Base, Texas 78236-9853

PUBLIC COMMENT
For more information or to submit written comments, please visit the project website at https://www.AFRC-F35A-Beddown.com or contact:
Mr. Hamid Kamalpour, hamid.kamalpour@us.af.mil

The USAF will accept comments at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. However, to ensure the USAF has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, please submit comments by 27 August 2018.

OPSEC
Continued from Page 6.
• specifies on deployed Airmen, including how many are deployed, which units they are from, their actions or tasks, their full names or other identifying information;
• specifies on deployed locations and times of movement;
• information on accidents or incidents that occurred during deployments.

Be careful not to inadvertently share information, such as a group picture that includes someone wearing a T-shirt that says “half of my heart is deployed” or a picture from a social event for deployed spouses, for example.

Home-station posts
Information related to home-station missions and daily operations should be protected with the same vigilance as deployment details. Whether Airmen work longer hours due to exercises or real-world operations, every piece of information is valuable to adversaries.

In general, it’s also safest not to share on social media channels specific details about where you live and work, travel plans, and personal data, such as your birthdate. And, be mindful of fake accounts and so-called trolls who pose as military members or other personas in an effort to get information.

Why is OPSEC important?
OPSEC is vital to both the Air Force and military families, and could have significant consequences for both. Revealing troop movements before they happen, for example, could postpone those movements and delay families from being reunited with their Airmen. Or worse, information about locations could help our adversaries harm Airmen.

“OPSEC should play a big role in everyone’s social media use, both day to day and during a deployment,” Graham said. “We need to make sure, as we post and share, that we aren’t passing on things we probably should not.”

If Airmen or their family members have questions about practicing OPSEC, they can contact unit-level supervisors or the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs at 660-687-5727.
ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — "If it's not raining, it's not training!" is a common adage in the military, meaning weather makes a valuable impact on any training exercise.

The same could be said for the Kansas City Chiefs, who completed a wet pre-season training session Aug. 14, 2018, in St. Joseph, Missouri, which is about 130 miles northwest of Whiteman Air Force Base.

More than 150 military personnel and veterans from all service branches joined the Chiefs as part of a special invite to their training camp. After the Chiefs sloshed around the soaked field, service members were invited to meet their favorite players for autographs and plenty of selfies.

As a special thank-you to troops, Airman 1st Class Paige Kling, member of the 509th Operations Support Squadron and select representatives of the U.S. Navy, Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard received signed game balls from Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid.

Retired Marine Gunnery Sgt. Herbie Ochoa, who was wounded during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, led the training camp visitors and football players in a collective "Go Chiefs!" during the post-training huddle.

Whiteman Airmen get field access to Kansas City Chiefs training camp

By Tech. Sgt. Alexander W. Riedel

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

WHY TRUSTED CARE?

The Air Force Medical Service is a continuous learning and improving organization that partners with patients and families in a single-minded focus on safety and Zero Harm.
bothwell

worship
over there (to the clinic) helped me confirm that this is what I want to do, that I could do this.”

Scott was later accepted as an officer in health services administration.

“I wanted to commission since I joined,” Scott said. “The faster I completed my studies, the faster I could get into the career field of my dreams. In addition, my momretires next year after 30 years of service, and I wanted her to be able to commission me. That was a big push for me.”

Finally at the end of her enlisted journey, Scott was promoted in front of the same caged armory counter where she spent many shifts caring for weapons and ammunition in support of the base defense mission.

“We’re so proud of her,” Maj. Deauvano said. “I’d like to think we had an influence on her choices, but we knew she could do whatever she set her mind to.”

Her father Ray exchanged the staff sergeant chevron patch for the bronze lieutenant bar and her mother administered the official oath of office to her daughter.

“It’s amazing. I’m so happy,” Scott said wearing her new rank. “I’m definitely not going to forget where I came from. I’m thankful for my experiences and my time here will help me become a better leader in the future.”

Her commissioning also marked her last day at Whiteman AFB. On Aug. 13, Scott began Commissioned Officer Training, a demanding five-and-a-half-week program at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, that introduces legal, ministry and healthcare professionals into their military leadership roles.

“I’ll have a lot more responsibilities, that’s for sure,” Scott said. “But I think I’m prepared for it. I want to be able to lead my peers and those who depend on me to the best of my ability so they too can accomplish whatever their goals are. That’s a big passion of mine. I want to help people — whether it’s small or big goals.”

For more on becoming an officer as an enlisted Airman, visit https://www.airforce.com/how-to-join/process/enlisted-to-officer

To read about Scott’s acceptance into the Medical Service Corps, visit https://www.whiteman.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1336441/armed-with-motivation-sfs-airman-accepted-into-medical-service-corps/