

WARRIOR



MERRY & BRIGHT

Team Whiteman brings
the holiday spirit

INSIDE:

- ▶ HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE H.W. BUSH
- ▶ REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR
- ▶ CLOSING TRICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT SEASON

Act now: TRICARE open enrollment ends Monday, changes to family vision coverage, retiree dental programs

THE WARRIOR

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

To advertise in *The Warrior*, call the *Sedalia Democrat* at 1-800-892-7856.

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As the year comes to a close, TRICARE officials are urging service members, retirees and dependents to take advantage of the open enrollment season before it ends Dec. 10. Changes made during open enrollment will take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

During open season, beneficiaries can:

- Enroll in a plan: Beneficiaries eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select can enroll in either plan for 2019 coverage.
- Change plans: Beneficiaries already enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select can switch plans for 2019 coverage. Beneficiaries may also change their type of enrollment from individual to family coverage.
- Do nothing: Beneficiaries will keep the same coverage through 2019, or as long as they remain eligible.

Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, Defense Health Agency director, said the TRICARE Open Season enrollment period gives beneficiaries a choice in what they want to do with their health care coverage.

"In this enrollment period, people have the opportunity to choose or elect to either stay with the plan that they're on, or they can switch," Bono said. "So if they were in TRICARE Prime and they have a changing health need that would make it more advantageous for them to switch to TRICARE Select, they can do that during open enrollment season."

New to the military?

If you joined the military this year, you were automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

Your eligible stateside family members will automatically be enrolled in TRICARE Prime if they live in a Prime Service Area (PSA). If they live outside of a PSA, they'll be enrolled in TRICARE Select. Family members have up to 90 days to change their plans if they want to.

Changes to retiree dental care

On Dec. 31, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program will end. Retirees can continue dental coverage by enrolling in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program during the Federal Benefits Open Season, until Dec. 10.

Retirees who enroll in FEDVIP will have a choice of 10 dental plans to choose from, instead of just one that is offered in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program.

"They can select that plan that best meets their family's needs," Bono said.

In addition, Bono said beneficiaries will be able to select plans whose costs are based on individual or family coverage and they will be able to calculate those costs and enrollment fees into their household budgets.

For example, average costs for retiree dental plans in San Antonio through FEDVIP range from \$20 to \$40 per month for an individual plan, and \$60 to \$120 a month for a family plan. These costs are compared to the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, which is \$32.25 per month for an individual and \$115 for a family plan.

New vision coverage enrollment for military families

Starting next year, military family members who are enrolled in TRICARE will be eligible for vision coverage, also through FED-

TRICARE
OPEN SEASON
NOV. 12 - DEC. 10
Compare Plans - Take Action Today!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
for Coverage Beginning In
2019
2018 Open Season:
November 2018: 12 Monday
December 2018: 10 Monday
[NOV. 12 - DEC. 10]



TRICARE[®] is implementing an open season for enrollment. You can only enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select or switch plans during TRICARE Open Season or after a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is ending on Dec. 31. Many TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries will qualify for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

I am a(n)...	I Want to Change My TRICARE Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Vision Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Dental Plan
Active Duty Service Member	You can only change plans if you're retiring. At retirement, coverage ends. Learn about your options and what to do at www.tricare.mil/retiring	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan. You will continue to get care as you do now.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You will continue to get care as you do now.
Active Duty Family Member <small>*Not including adult children enrolled in TRICARE Young Adult</small>	You can change plans during the 2018 TRICARE Open Season.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program.
Reserve Component Member or Family Member enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select*	No action needed. This doesn't apply to you.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	You do not qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan. You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program.
Retired Service Member or Family Enrolled in TRICARE Prime[®], TRICARE Select[®]	You can change plans during the 2018 TRICARE Open Season.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	TRDP ends Dec. 31, 2018. You must enroll in a FEDVIP dental plan during Federal Benefits Open Season to maintain coverage.
Retired Service Member or Family Member using TRICARE For Life	No action needed. This doesn't apply to you.	You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	TRDP ends Dec. 31, 2018. You must enroll in a FEDVIP dental plan during Federal Benefits Open Season to maintain coverage.

To learn more about TRICARE Open Season, visit www.tricare.mil/openseason.
For a full description of FEDVIP plans and coverage options, visit www.tricare.mil/benefeds.
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VIP. Family members of both active duty and retirees can enroll for vision coverage during the Federal Benefits Open Season period.

TRICARE provides vision services for family members, but on a limited basis. Once vision coverage is switched to FEDVIP, beneficiaries will have a choice of four vision carriers.

"Like dental, families have different vision needs as well," Bono said. "I think that the great thing is they can actually look at plans and select one that's really tailored made for them, their unique vision needs within their family."

Information on FEDVIP plans and costs is available at <http://www.TRICARE.benefeds.com>.

Enrollment changes made during the Federal Benefits Open Season in both retiree den-

tal coverage and vision for family members will go into effect Jan. 1.

After open season

Outside of TRICARE open season, you can only make enrollment changes when you or your family experience a Qualifying Life Event (QLE), like getting married, having a baby or retiring from active duty. You have 90 days from the QLE to make any enrollment changes. Your coverage is effective on the day of that life event.

Overall, the TRICARE program covers 9.5 million beneficiaries, including active duty, retirees and family members both in the U.S. and overseas.

Editor's Note: TRICARE, health.mil and David DeKunder, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, contributed this report.

On the cover

Santa made an appearance at the Whiteman Air Force Base's annual tree and menorah lighting ceremony on Dec. 4, 2018. See more photos from the event on the base's Facebook page and in next week's Warrior.



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 660-687-6397.

X Closures / Downtime



General information



WEATHER

FRIDAY

Partly Sunny
Hi 32° – Lo 23°

SATURDAY

Partly Sunny
Hi 33° – Lo 23°

SUNDAY

Partly Sunny
Hi 33° – Lo 20°

MONDAY

Sunny
Hi 39° – Lo 24°

- **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.

- **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>.
- **Whiteman Air Force Base exchange hours** for Unit Training Assembly (UTA) on December 8-9 will be different. On Saturday: The Main Store will be open from 7-7 p.m., the MCS will be 8-5 p.m., Starbucks will be 6:30-5 p.m., and Burger King will be 7-6 p.m. On Sunday: The Main Store will be open from 9-6 p.m., the MCS will be 9-4 p.m., Starbucks will be 7-4 p.m., and Burger King will be 7-4 p.m.
- **Food recall alert:** Chukar Cherries, Ultra Dark Chocolate products due to possible undeclared milk. ALFOODACT 2018-075 is for Hiland dairy half-gallons of chocolate milk due to possible undeclared eggnog. All applicable base facilities have been notified.



Volunteer Opportunities

- To volunteer for Team Whiteman's Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD) program, contact Senior Airman Tyler Anderson at tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil.
- 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.

- The African American Heritage Association and the UCM MLK Committee needs volunteers for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day event in January. To volunteer, register at www.ucmo.edu/volunteer by December 7. For information, contact Ricardo Zamora at rzamora@ucmo.edu
- The Whiteman Spouses' Club is hosting a cookie drive for Airmen in the base dorms. Donate solid-texture (no sticky frosting) homemade cookies from 7:30-9:30 a.m., December 18-19 at the base's Mission's End. Volunteers are also needed to organize and assemble cookie packages from 8-10:30 a.m. on December 20.



Upcoming Events

- **Child Safe of Central Missouri** is hosting a Holiday Donation Drive until December 15. Donations are being collected in the Financial Office in the Bomb Wing building between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Items of interest include snacks, comfort items, children's activities (games, coloring books) and personal hygiene products.
- **Love and Logic** will host the Becoming a Love and Logic Parent Curriculum that aims to create Happy Families and Responsible Children. From December 3 to January 14 from 1-3 at the Professional Development Center in Room 223. Class will not be held on December 24. Contact Cory at 660-687-7332 or cory.d.watson.civ@mail.mil to reserve a spot.
- **Toys for Tots** will accept donations of new, unwrapped toys through December 7 at the base Commissary, Base Exchange and bowling alley. For more information, call SSgt Joshua Thompson at 660-687-6928.
- **Brunch with Santa** is 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., December 8 at the base's Mission's End. The event also includes family photos, cookie decorating and make-your-own ornament. For more information or to register, call 660-687-7132.
- **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.

- **Drive through Christmas in the Park** from 5:30-9 p.m. through December 28 in Farrington Park in Windsor, Missouri. Weather permitting, train rides are available Dec. 8, 15, 22, and 28. Admission is free; donations are collected to benefit 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.
- **The 2018 Air Force Art Contest winners** have been announced. The top three participants in each category receive gift cards up to \$400. To see the winners, go to www.myairforcelife.com/arts.
- **The Whiteman Spouses' Club** is accepting applications for scholarships from high school seniors, continuing undergraduates and military spouses. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2019. For an application and more information, email wsc.scholarship1@gmail.com or visit www.whitemanwsc.com/scholarships.html

- **The 12 Days of Development** is a series of briefings and panels offered November 28-December 19 at the base's Professional Development Center's Ford Auditorium. No registration is required; all members of Team Whiteman are welcome.
- **Conflict Management** is led by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Champion from 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. on December 7.
- **The Legal for Leaders** course is led by Lt. Col. Gregory Thompson from 1-2 p.m., December 10.
- **The John C. Maxwell Leadership Seminar** is led by Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) John De La Rosa from 9-10 a.m., December 11.
- **The Leading without Losing Yourself** is led by Senior Master Sgt. Randy Barkalow at 9-10 a.m., December 14.
- **Buying into the Air Force** is led by Master Sgt. Jacques Ridore at 1-2 p.m., December 17.
- **The First Sergeant Panel** is led by Senior Master Sgt. James Gray at 9-10 a.m., December 18.
- **The Chiefs Panel** is led by Chief Master Sgt. Tracie Timmerman at 9-10 a.m., December 19.

Special tactics Airman killed in action in Afghanistan

Senior Airman Joseph Pick
24th Special Operations
Wing Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) – A special tactics Airman was killed when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, Nov. 27, 2018.

Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin, 25, a special tactics combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), was deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Elchin deployed to Afghanistan in August and was embedded with a U.S. Army Special Operations Force Operational Detachment Alpha. His role was to advise the ground force commander, direct close air support aircraft and deliver destructive ordnance on enemy targets in support of offensive combat operations.

"Dylan had an unusual drive to succeed and contribute to the team. He displayed maturity and stoicism beyond his years, and was always level-headed, no matter the situation," said Lt. Col. Gregory Walsh, 26th STS commander. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dylan's family, fiancé and friends. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten."

Shortly after graduating Hopewell High School in Pennsylvania, Elchin enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a special tactics combat controller on Aug. 7, 2012. He immediately entered the two-year combat control training program and upon completion of the pipeline, he was assigned to the 26th STS at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico.

"(Dylan) was the guy everyone wanted to be around, in even the worst of times he had a smile on his face and a way to lighten things up," said a special tactics officer and Elchin's former team leader. "He was always doing whatever it took to get the job done."

Elchin was a qualified military static line jumper, a free-fall jumper, an Air Force-qualified combat scuba diver and a

"Dylan had an unusual drive to succeed and contribute to the team. He displayed maturity and stoicism beyond his years, and was always level-headed, no matter the situation. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dylan's family, fiancé and friends. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten."

Lt. Col. Gregory Walsh
26th STS commander

qualified joint terminal attack controller. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with Valor, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon and NATO Medal.

Elchin was also a Distinguished Graduate of Airman Leadership School. As a special tactics combat controller, Elchin was specially trained and equipped for immediate deployment into combat operations to conduct global access, precision strike, and personnel recovery operations. He was skilled in reconnaissance operations, air traffic control and terminal attack control operations.

The 26th STS is part of the 720th Special Tactics Group, 24th Special Operations Wing, which is the only special tactics wing in the Air Force.



Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin, a Special Tactics combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, was killed when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, Nov. 27, 2018. (courtesy photo)



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Do



A Royal Air Force F-35 Lightning II, U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle and French Air Force Dassault Rafale fly behind a U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing during Exercise Point Blank over the English Channel, Nov. 27, 2018. Training with NATO allies improves interoperability and demonstrates the U.S. commitment to regional security. Exercise Point Blank also represents an opportunity to enhance interoperability and integration between allied fourth and fifth-generation fighter aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Luke Milano)

Air Force Week in Photos



Cadet 4th Class Parker Mascarenhas holds a banner reading "Let's Fly" in the cadet seating section of Falcon Stadium during the U.S. Air Force Academy versus University of New Mexico football game Nov. 11, 2018. The Air Force Falcons defeated the University of New Mexico Lobos 42-24. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joshua Armstrong)

SYMPTOMS

- Leg Heaviness
- Burning
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- Leg Swelling
- Aching/Pain
- Itching
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All are different stages of Venous Insufficiency which is progressive.



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LEGS SWELLING



VERICOSE VEINS



ULCERS



SKIN CHANGES

77th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Airman Parker McCauley
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Seventy-seven years ago, the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) launched a surprise attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, along with numerous other locations across the island of Oahu.

More than 2,400 people were killed in this attack and President Franklin D. Roosevelt described "December 7, 1941 (as) a date, which will live in infamy."

Whiteman Air Force Base's namesake

That morning shortly after the surprise attack began, Sedalia, Missouri, native 2nd Lt. George Whiteman, who had commissioned in the Army Air Corps just a year prior and was stationed in Hawaii, climbed into to his P-40B aircraft at Bellows Field. He had just lifted off the runway when his plane was hit by enemy gunfire and thrown out of control. It crashed just off the end of the runway and Whiteman died in the wreckage.

Whiteman is thought to be one of the first Airmen killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the American Defense Medal with a Foreign Service clasp, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal



The devastating attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941

with one bronze star, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Fourteen years after his death, the Air Force chief of staff announced the recently reopened Sedalia Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Missouri, would be renamed Whiteman Air Force Base in commemoration of Lt. George Whiteman.

Years Earlier

In 1937, the Empire of Japan invaded China where it fought up until the Japanese surrender in 1945. The war in China and the Japanese fleet required substantial amounts of resources that had to be imported.

Due to increasing tensions over that war and further aggression in the Pacific, the United States cut off trade with Japan, which, after failed negotiations, the Japanese government decided to strike the United States in order to seize resource heavy regions of the South Pacific.

The Attack

The attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 a.m., with the first wave of aircraft from six aircraft carriers of the IJN, and their surprise attack on the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. The goal was to humiliate and destroy the United States Pacific Fleet and its three aircraft carriers.



2nd Lt. George Whiteman poses for a portrait in this undated file photo. (Courtesy photo)

Despite the American carriers being out of port, the IJN continued on with the assault. Japan took advantage of the bases' layouts out in order to prevent sabotage — aircraft and ships were close together, allowing them to become vulnerable targets from the air.

Shortly after the assault commenced, the ammunition storage of the USS Arizona, a Pennsylvania-class battleship, was hit by a Japanese bomb. The explosion was catastrophic, resulting in almost half of all American casualties of the attack.

The second wave of the attack faced much heavier resistance from American troops on the ground, on

the decks of ships and in the air, inflicting two-thirds of all IJN casualties in the battle.

Due to the effectiveness of American defenses in the second wave, a third planned wave of attacks was canceled.

The Aftermath

At approximately the same time, Japanese forces invaded the island of Guam, Wake Island and the Philippines along with British Malaya and Hong Kong.

The days and weeks after the attack resulted in a series of Japanese victories in the aforementioned battles along with declarations of war between the United States and Japan in addition to Japan's allies, Germany and Italy to show support of their tripartite pact.

Japanese victories would be short lived, however. In June of 1942, just over six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. aircraft were able to sink four Japanese aircraft carriers, destroying the offensive capabilities of the IJN.

Following this victory, allied forces were able to liberate much of the Pacific until August 1945, when the 509th Composite Group — today's 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base — dropped the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japan's surrender and the end of WWII.

THE END OF THE GAME IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Rivals on the field today. United in service tomorrow. USAA salutes the Cadets and Midshipmen of the 2018 Army-Navy Game.

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GEORGE H.W. BUSH: June 12, 1924 – Nov. 30, 2018

U.S. Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – His background was a little different than most who join the military at the age of 18, but his warmth, love of country and drive to serve made him a leader respected up and down his chains of command.

Service members who worked with former President George H.W. Bush, first as Ronald Reagan's vice president and, later, during his presidential term, spoke of the way he remembered their names and would ask about their families. They were loyal to him and he was loyal right back.

Bush himself said it best in his inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1989: "We are not the sum of our possessions. They are not the measure of our lives. In our hearts we know what matters. We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend, a loving parent, a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood and town better than he found it.

"What do we want the men and women who work with us to say when we are no longer there? That we were more driven to succeed than anyone around us? Or that we stopped to ask if a sick child had gotten better, and stayed a moment there to trade a word of friendship?"

Bush, who died at age 94, was born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, on his 18th birthday in 1942 and immediately joined the Navy. With World War II raging, Bush earned his wings in June 1943.

He was the youngest pilot in the Navy at that time.

Flying torpedo bombers

The future president flew torpedo bombers off the USS San Jacinto in the Pacific. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission over Chichi Jima in 1944. Even though his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire, he completed his bombing run before turning to the sea. Bush managed to bail out of the burning aircraft, but both of his crewmen died. The submarine USS Finback rescued him.

On Jan. 6, 1945, Bush married



In this undated file photo, former President George H.W. Bush watches flight operations from the landing signal officer's platform aboard the aircraft carrier that bears his name, USS George H.W. Bush. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy)

Barbara Pierce of Rye, New York. They had six children: George, Robin (who died of leukemia in 1953), Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy Bush Koch.

After the war, Bush attended Yale and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1948. He and his wife moved to Texas, where he entered the oil business. Bush served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1966 to 1970.

In 1971, then-President Richard Nixon named Bush as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, where he served until becoming chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1973. In October 1974, then-President Gerald R. Ford named Bush chief of the U.S. liaison office in Beijing, and in 1976, Ford appointed him to be director of central intelligence.

Vice President, then President

In 1980, Bush ran for the Republican presidential nomination. Ronald Reagan won the primaries and secured the nomination, and he selected Bush as his running mate. On Jan. 20, 1981, Bush was sworn in for the first of

two terms as vice president.

The Republicans selected Bush as the presidential nominee in 1988. His pledge at the national convention — "Read my lips: no new taxes" — probably got him elected, but may have worked to make him a one-term president.

Bush became the 41st president of the United States. During his tenure, the Berlin Wall — a symbol of communist oppression since 1961 — fell before the appeal of freedom. The nations of Eastern Europe withdrew from the Warsaw Pact and freely elected democracies began taking hold.

Even more incredible was the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself. Kremlin hard-liners tried to seize power and enforce their will, but Boris Yeltsin rallied the army and citizens for freedom. Soon, nations long under Soviet domination peeled away and began new eras.

Leading military action

In 1989, Bush ordered the U.S. military in to Panama to overthrow the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega. Noriega

had allowed Panama to become a haven for narco-terrorists, and he subsequently was convicted of drug offenses.

But Bush is best remembered for his swift and decisive efforts following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The Iraqi dictator claimed that Kuwait historically was his country's "19th province." His troops pushed into Kuwait and threatened to move into Saudi Arabia.

Bush drew "a line in the sand" and promised to protect Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait. He put together a 30-nation coalition that liberated Kuwait in February 1991. Operation Desert Storm showed Americans and the world the devastating power of the U.S. military.

At the end of the war, Bush had historic approval ratings from the American people. But a recession — in part caused by Saddam's invasion, and having to backtrack on his pledge not to raise taxes, cost him the election in 1992. With third-party candidate Ross Perot pulling in 19 percent of the vote, Bill Clinton was

elected president.

Bush lived to see his son — George W. Bush — elected president, and he worked with the man who defeated him in 2006 to raise money for millions of people affected by an Indian Ocean tsunami and for Hurricane relief along the U.S. Gulf Coast.

'Freedom Works'

In his inaugural address, the elder Bush spoke about America having a meaning "beyond what we see." The idea of America and what it stands for is important in the world, he said.

"We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right. We know how to secure a more just and prosperous life for man on Earth: through free markets, free speech, free elections and the exercise of free will unhampered by the state," he said.

"We must act on what we know," he said later in the speech. "I take as my guide the hope of a saint: in crucial things, unity; in important things, diversity; in all things, generosity."

It was the mark of the man.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

Naval Aviator

Navy Office of Information Public Affairs

George H.W. Bush enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve June 13, 1942, on his 18th birthday after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. He had preflight training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and became one of the youngest naval aviators. He was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve June 9, 1943, days before his 19th birthday.

Bush was assigned to Torpedo Squadron (VT-51) as photographic officer in September 1943. As part of Air Group 51, his squadron was based on USS San Jacinto, part of Task Force 58, which participated in operations against Marcus and Wake Islands in May, and then in the Marianas during June 1944. The task force triumphed in one of the largest air battles of the war. Returning from the mission, his aircraft had to make a forced water landing, and then rescued by the destroyer, USS Clarence K. Bronson. On July 25, Ensign Bush and another pilot received credit for sinking a small cargo ship.

During his service as a Navy pilot, Bush had a hit on his aircraft and was rescued by a submarine. According to Naval History and Heritage Command archives, after Bush was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade Aug. 1, San Jacinto commenced operations against the Japanese in the Bonin Islands, 600 miles south of Japan. Bush piloted one of four aircraft from VT-51 that attacked the Japanese installations on Chi Chi Jima in Sept. 1944. Although Bush's aircraft was hit and his engine caught fire during the attack, he was able to complete the mission and bail out successfully. He was rescued by a Navy submarine, the USS Finback. Tragically, his two crew members were killed.

According to Naval History and Heritage Command archives, Bush returned to San Jacinto in November 1944 and participated in operations in the Philippines. When San Jacinto returned to Guam, the squadron, which had suffered a 50 percent casualties of its pilots, was replaced and sent to the United States. Throughout 1944, Bush had flown 58 combat missions for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals and the Presidential Unit Citation awarded San Jacinto.

Bush was reassigned to Norfolk and put in a training wing for new torpedo pilots. Later, he was assigned as a naval aviator in a new torpedo squadron, VT-153. With the surrender of Japan, he was honorably discharged in September 1945, and then he entered Yale University.



President George H.W. Bush meets with troops in Saudi Arabia on Thanksgiving during the Gulf War, Nov. 22, 1990. (Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)

Statement by Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis on the death of President George H.W. Bush:

“President George Herbert Walker Bush, naval aviator, decorated in his youth for valor in combat, took his experience in war to build a better world as our commander in chief. His service to our nation demonstrated how we as a people can draw on our humility, diversity and devotion to our country to meet every challenge with fortitude and confidence. We will miss him, but at the going down of the day, his example will long guide our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines for how to live life without regret.”



From left, radioman Joe Reichert, Navy Lt. j.g. George H.W. Bush, and turret gunner Leo W. Nadeau, stand in front of their TBM-1C Avenger, Nov. 2, 1944. The crew was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS San Jacinto. (Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)



This photo taken in 1944 of Navy pilot Lt. j.g. George H. W. Bush in the cockpit of his Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bomber. (Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)



Two service members lower a U.S. flag to half-mast in honor of former President George H. W. Bush, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-45. Bush died Nov. 30, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica Paulauskas)

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Students engage one another during a group discussion portion of the new Flight Commander's Edge course, Nov. 7, 2018, at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Joint Base Charleston is the first base in Air Mobility Command to take part in the course and third overall in the Air Force. The course's mission was to teach flight commanders how to be better leaders and help meet the goal of Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, to revitalize squadrons and flight leadership. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christian Sullivan)



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Air Force rolls out Flight Commander's Edge program

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS) – Air University's newest effort to revitalize squadron-level learning and support leaders on the cutting edge of operations rolls out across the Air Force this month with the Flight Commander's Edge program.

Managed by Air University's eSchool of Graduate Professional Military Education, the Flight Commander's Edge provides a variety of tools designed to help major command, numbered air force and wing leaders develop and deploy flight-level leadership courses.

"Our biggest challenge was providing expert-level leadership training through an instructional cadre that we would never meet," said Lt. Col. Rose Stoor, eSchool program manager, referring to the fact that most flight-level leadership courses are conducted at the wing or subordinate-unit level.

The eSchool's solution was to provide

discussion-based "experiential" lesson plans that could be customized and taught by anyone. Several iterations of the course have occurred to test out the various concepts and lesson plans, at both Maxwell Air Force Base and Joint Base Charleston.

Focusing on both leadership topics and base-specific content, the curriculum provides lesson plans that can be executed in the classroom by individuals with little or no teaching experience.

Tailorable lesson guides complement the lesson plans. These guides can be customized with insight and perspectives from local senior leaders and base agencies. The eSchool also provides course templates, self-assessments, feedback forms, exercises, handouts and learning aids to speed up the local course design process.

"It is important to remember that this is a wing-level program," Stoor said. "The Flight Commander's Edge is designed to help unit (points of contact) quickly field a quality leadership development program to meet local needs."

An online community is available for course directors at all levels to share information, ask questions and download content.

For more information, visit <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/eSchool/FlightCCEdge/>.

Time to decide: BRS enrollment ends this month

Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – Service members have less than a month left to make a decision about opting in to the blended retirement system, said Jeri Busch, the Defense Department’s director of military compensation policy.

Congress authorized the new system in 2016 and it went into effect on Jan. 1. While all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who began service after that date are enrolled in the new system, Congress authorized service members until Dec. 31 to decide whether to opt in.

The decision to opt in to the new system is a personal one for service members. DOD has no goal or target level of participation. One major difference is that in the new system, service members are vested after two years of service. So, if they leave the military, their retirement benefits go with them.

“Over 80 percent of our service members will not serve a full 20-year military career,” Busch said. “However, through BRS

FIVE-STEP BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM (BRS) CHECKLIST TO SUCCESS

- STEP 1** Determine your eligibility
- STEP 2** Take the mandatory BRS Opt-In Course
- STEP 3** Educate yourself on the BRS and use the BRS Calculator to analyze your estimated benefits
- STEP 4** Schedule an appointment to consult your installation personal financial manager/counselor
- STEP 5** Make your decision between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

www.militarysaves.org



Visit <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/> to find the best retirement plan for you.

Military OneSource is also available 24 hours a day to assist service members and their families.

and by maximizing their [Thrift Savings Plan] contributions, today’s service members can receive a government retirement benefit whether they serve four, 14 or 20 years – a big change to what has historically been a part of military retirement.”

Another difference between the blended retirement system and the legacy system is that BRS adjusts the years-of-service multiplier from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent for calculating monthly retired pay.

The “blend” is the combination of automatic government

contributions of 1 percent of basic pay and government matching contributions of up to an additional 4 percent of basic pay to a service member’s TSP account.

Well-informed, educated choice

“It is a highly personal choice to opt in to BRS, and there are many factors that can effect a member’s decision,” Busch said. “The department’s goal is to ensure that each eligible service member has the resources and tools to make a well-informed and educated choice best for

them and their families.”

More than 300,000 active duty, reserve and National Guard service members have opted in to BRS, Busch said. For those who have yet to make a choice, “time is fleeting,” she said. “There are a number of resources our service members can access free (of charge), to ensure they are receiving creditable and factual information on their retirement choice.”

“Most junior service members may think they can’t afford to contribute to retirement, but I say in today’s environment the average worker – including

our service members – can’t afford not to save for retirement,” Busch said.

For some service members opting into BRS is clearly the right choice for them, she said. For others, staying with the legacy system is the best choice.

“We have strived to ensure all eligible service members are educated on the various elements of BRS, informed on the process for how to opt in, and aware of training and counselling resources and tools available,” Busch said.

One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years took effect Jan. 1, 2018, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System.

Nearly 1.6 million current service members have the option to remain in the current legacy “high-3” retirement system or to choose the BRS.

With less than a month left to decide, eligible Airmen must either accept or decline the Blended Retirement System by Dec. 31, 2018. If an Airman does not opt-in to BRS, they will default to the legacy system.



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Changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill transfer policy

Staff Sgt. Mercedes Taylor
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. (AFNS) – Additional changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits policy were announced in mid-November.

The Department of Defense postponed its previous effective date of July 12, 2018, to July 12, 2019. Since the policy change was effective immediately, service members who were previously eligible found themselves ineligible to transfer their benefits. To ensure issues were addressed fairly,

the effective date was pushed back a year. The previous policy stated members separating under force-shaping before completing the required four years would keep their eligibility to transfer their benefits. This was expanded to include officers who were involuntarily separated due to being passed over for promotions and enlisted personnel separating under high-year tenure policies. The only exception is Airmen separating at high-year tenure following reduction in rank through administrative demotion, non-judicial punishment or court martial.

“Being able to transfer benefits was used as a retention tool,” said Michael Jones, 19th Force Support Squadron education services specialist. “It’s important for Airmen to know what they want to do with their career as soon as they can. If Airmen aren’t looking to stay in for 20 years and they want to transfer their benefits, they should apply at their six-year mark.”

When the policy was first announced in June 2018, it stated the requirement of having at least 10 years of active-duty or selected Reserve service would be suspended. Service members would incur four additional years of service once they applied to transfer their education benefits to eligible dependents.

In addition to the 10-year suspension and the four-year service increment, the following changes are effective July 12, 2019:

- Service members must have four years of retainability from the year they apply to transfer benefits and cannot be prevented from serving their four years due to mandatory retirement date, high-year tenure, retention control point and are not being medically qualified.

- Service members must have served six years minimum at the time of application, but no more than 16 years. Total years served will be determined by the date they applied.

- Service members must not be on limited duty, involved in a medical evaluation board, physical evaluation board or disability evaluation system at the time of application.

- Service members who have applied to transfer education benefits but were previously denied due to being on limited duty or involved in a medical evaluation board, physical evaluation board, or disability evaluation system process can apply again when they are fit for duty and commit to an additional four years.

- Service members with more than 16 years of service who are found fit for duty can apply to transfer education benefits again as long as the member applies within 90 days of being found fit for duty.

All policy changes will be annotated in the next rewrite of Air Force Instruction 36-2649, Voluntary Education Program. For information on transferring benefits, visit <https://mypers.af.mil>.

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Whiteman Air Force Base Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 8th

**Brunch With Santa @ Mission's End
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Enjoy Christmas cookie decorating, ornament making, & a family photo session with the one and only Santa Claus!

Call (660) 687-7132 to register.

Saturday, December 8th

**Bowl With the Grinch
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Come hang out with the Grinch at Stars & Strikes Bowling Center! Kids get a donut & bowl 1 game for \$5.

Call (660) 687-5114 for more information.

Wednesday, December 12th

**Sluggerrr's Strike Out @ Youth Center
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Join us for a fun & interactive show featuring Sluggerrr, the Kansas City Royal's mascot, as he educates youth on the importance of a bully-free environment! Open to anyone with base access.

Call (660) 687-5586 for more information.

Thursday, December 13th

**Blowout Bingo @ Mission's End
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

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\$20 presale tickets | \$25 at the door

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Students must graduate from a high school within 50 miles of Whiteman AFB or home schooled.

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Applicants must be an undergraduate college student attending an accredited program and working toward a first undergraduate degree. Applicants who have previously applied, but have not been awarded a scholarship may reapply. Previously awarded scholarship recipients may not reapply.

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Applicants must be a high school graduate or possess a GED equivalent. Applicants must be planning to be enrolled as a part-time student (6 hours minimum) at a vocational school, college or university for the Fall semester of the 2019-2020 academic year. Previously awarded scholarship recipients may not reapply.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
1.31.2019



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