

# WARRIOR

## GOODBYE, SIR

Whiteman bids farewell  
to Brig. Gen. Nichols Pg. 8



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## THE WARRIOR

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## On the cover

Brig. Gen. John J. Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, stands for a photo with Maj. Joseph Manglitz, the 509th BW executive officer in, front of the Spirit of America, a B-2 Spirit on April 29, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Following the photo, they prepared for Nichols' last flight in the B-2 as the wing commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

# Operation Spirit: Military kids deploy for a day



Lt. Col. Justin Secrest, the 509th Bomb Wing director of staff gives a mission briefing to children from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, on the third stage of their mock deployment for Operation Spirit on April 27, 2019, at the Whiteman AFB deployment center. The briefings prior to the mock deployment gave the children the opportunity to learn about the basics of pre-deployment functions from leadership and other base agencies. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Volunteers with the Operation Spirit in-processing line inspect the dog tags of children from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, on April 27, 2019, at the Whiteman AFB deployment center. The children met with chaplains and medical after getting signed off for their dog tags before continuing on to the flightline.



A military child poses for a photo with body armor and an AT-4 disposable anti-tank weapon as a part of the Operation Spirit mock deployment on April 27, 2019, at the deployment center at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. At the deployment center various base agencies had displays and gear for the children to see and try on.



Families from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, visit a B-2 Spirit during Operation Spirit on April 27, 2019, at Whiteman AFB. In addition to the B-2 families also visited the A-10 Thunderbolt 2, the T-38 Talon and the UH-60 Blackhawk.





# THE WHITEMAN WEEKLY WIRE

NEWS | UPDATES

The Whiteman Weekly Wire is published weekly in the Warrior and on [www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase](https://www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase).

Items to be published should be submitted no later than noon on Wednesdays to: [whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil](mailto: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](http://www.whiteman.af.mil), and the Straight Talk line, which is 660-687-6397.



## Closures / Downtime

- **The Fitness Center Track and Field** is closed for renovations. 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.



## Advisories/General Information

- **Service members are advised to be aware** of what they consume as some states legalize recreational marijuana and THC. THC and CBD oils are illegal under federal law and Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Products containing them, such as THC beer, can cause a positive urinalysis result in a drug test.
- **TRICAREOnline (TOL) offers online access** for appointment management, prescription refills, health data, the nurse advice line, secure messages with your PCM and more. Go to [www.TRICAREOnline.com](http://www.TRICAREOnline.com).
- **Army & Air Force Exchange Service (BX) shoppers** can now buy items at [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com) and pick them up at their local BX for free. Visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/#>.
- **The base gym has a parking spot reserved during all regular hours and days.** The new space is near the front entrance and is reserved for any wing annual award winner or member of Honor Guard.
- **The Exceptional Family Member Program and Special Needs Support Group** meets at 10-11 a.m. 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.
- **Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items** have been turned in as found property to Security Forces. Visit Building 711, Room 305, or call 660-687-5342.
- **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. 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 at 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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase).



## WEATHER

### FRIDAY

Chance Showers  
Hi 60 – Lo 49

### SATURDAY

Decreasing Clouds/  
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Hi 69 – Lo 49

### SUNDAY

Mostly Sunny/  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 75 – Lo 57

### MONDAY

Chance Showers/  
Partly sunny  
Hi 78 – Lo 63



## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Powell Gardens** is looking for volunteers for the annual Plant Sale on May 3 – 5 and for the Backyard Bugging Family Frolic Event on May 11th. Volunteers will assist in setup and item exchanges. Contact Bobi Hallak at 816-697-2600 ext. 304 or [bhallak@powellgardens.org](mailto:bhallak@powellgardens.org).
- **Powell Gardens** is looking for volunteers ages 16 and older for numerous positions. Volunteers are given free admission year round, along with discounts and other benefits. Call 816-697-2600 ext. 304 or email [bhallak@powellgardens.org](mailto:bhallak@powellgardens.org).
- **Volunteers are needed to place flags in Sunset Cemetery** at 10 a.m. on May 24 in Warrensburg in honor of Memorial Day. Volunteers enter in the west entrance of Main Street and groups will be given a list of names, a map with grave locations and flags.
- **To volunteer for Team Whiteman's Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD)** program, contact Senior Airman Tyler Anderson at [tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil](mailto:tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil).
- **Whiteman Elementary School** is looking for adult volunteers to help with the school building improvement projects. Contact Principal Jessica Stewart at [jstewart@knobnoster.k12.mo.us](mailto:jstewart@knobnoster.k12.mo.us).
- **Whiteman AFB Fitness Center Pool is now hiring lifeguards.** Applicants must be 16 years or older and have a current lifeguard certification. Apply at [www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org) or call 660-687-6476/5215/7876 with questions.



## Upcoming Events

- **The Airmen & Family Readiness Center** will have the Tackling Student Loan Debt class at 9 a.m. on May 3 at the PDC, Bldg. 515 Room 208. Topics will include federal and private loans, basics of student loans, public service loan forgiveness, and how to navigate web resources. Call the A&FRC at 660-687-7132 to register.
- **Soldiers, military families and retirees can attend a free showing of the "Pokémon Detective Pikachu"** movie at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 4th at the Whiteman Reel Time Theater. Tickets can be picked up at Burger King on base. For information, call 687-5110.
- **Powell Gardens will host Family Frolic: Backyard Bugging** from 10 a.m. – 3p.m. on May 11 at their facility in Kingsville, Missouri. Kids can dig in dirt, sift pond sludge, chase insects and more. Go to [www.powellgardens.org](http://www.powellgardens.org) for more information.
- **The 509th Bomb Wing Chapel Services Corps** invites single-parent Airmen to a free two-day retreat, May 24-25 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Parents and their children will relax at a full service resort, and learn life enriching skills that will

sharpen parenting techniques, communication and social interaction. Call the Chapel at 687-3652; reservations are limited.

- **A pre-diabetes class** is 2:30-4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the 509th Medical Group Education and Training room in the basement. Call 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- **EFMP/special needs or deployment/remote status military family** are invited to Coffee & Chat 10-11 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Coffee SKNOBS in Knob Noster. Complimentary coffee with refreshments are offered. Children are welcome with adult supervision. For more information, call 660-687-7132.
- **The Airman & Family Readiness Center** offers financial classes every month. Individual appointments are available. Call 660-687-7132 or 660-619-2735 for more information.
- **Every Sunday at 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** at the Stealth Lounge will host a social for anyone who speaks English as a second language. This social allows anyone who attends to practice their English and meet new people.



From left: Tech. Sgt. Brandon Keith, Air 1st Class Tyler Vaught, Senior Airman Kristina Wright, Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Delouche, Senior Airman Zachary Rogers, (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech Sgt. Colton Elliott)

# Commentary: The culture we need

**Col. Kenneth Eaves**  
131st Bomb Wing commander

We often talk about the culture that we want - more accurately - the culture that we need. However, defining that culture is defining the end state. We often gloss over, or even blow off, describing the path to get there.

I have the privilege of teaching the B-2 instructor upgrade class called Fundamentals of Instruction. In that class, we spend one-third of our time talking about human behavior, because without an understanding of human behavior we cannot truly instruct an individual to achieve an improved end state. One of the major topics in the human behavior block is Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs."

Maslow's theory is that for an individual to attain self-actualization, that individual must first have four levels of needs met. After teaching one of my classes, it dawned on me that this had a much wider and direct application to our

organization.

But, before we get into the application, we need to have a rudimentary understanding of what Maslow theorizes. At the top of the pyramid is self-actualization. Self-actualization can be more easily grasped if you understand that all he is talking about is achieving one's full potential. This is not to say that Maslow's theory can create a super person. To achieve one's full potential is to simply be the best person within one's given capabilities.

With that said, mission execution, readiness, or any other objective seems simple to attain if each individual in an organization is able to reach their full potential. However, there are several factors and needs that must be met for the potential to be realized. Maslow broke these needs out into four specific categories and put those needs of order of which needed to be met first from bottom to top.

The basic of needs are physiological. Physiological needs cover a wide variety of needs like breathing, eating, drinking, etc. Simply stated, how can you focus on doing your job if you haven't eaten or slept in days or if you are having your house repossessed? Do you know the Airmen around you well enough to know if their basic needs are being met?

The next level up the pyramid is safety and security,

which can apply to both the physical and psychological. If you are physically afraid of the job you've been tasked to do, it is unlikely that you can do that job well. Psychologically, if you do not feel safe or secure in your environment, at work or at home, you'll have similar barriers to getting the

job done. Do you know if any of the folks you work with daily or at drill are struggling with safety or security at home or work?

Love and belongingness is the third level and seems to make people feel uncomfortable, because we have made them uncomfortable words over time. Interestingly, a study in Air Force Global Strike Command did a word comparison between AFM 35-15 from 1948 to AFDD 1-1 from 2011. The 1948 manual on command used the word "love" 13 times.

Would you like to guess how many times "love"

was used in the 2011 manual? Zero. What did the greatest generation know about leadership that we've consciously, or unconsciously, removed from our vocabulary? I'm not suggesting that we run around giving hugs and telling everyone that we love them...in fact, please don't. However, we need to remember that we are in the profession of arms. We are called to lay down our lives, if necessary, in the line of duty. There is no greater demonstration of love than that. That is how you should look at the men and women you serve with.

*Continued on Page 5*

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I like to use my relationship with my kids when I talk about love. My kids are not the gushy lovey-dovey types, surprise...they were raised by me. However, they do respond to time spent with them. Whether it be date nights, practicing sports or watching Marvel movies, this is the love that they look for. We need to make time in our organizations to directly interact and converse with our fellow Airmen, our brothers and sisters in arms...each and every one of them.

The final need is self-esteem. Esteem is defined as a favorable opinion, regard or respect. Maslow highlighted that if an individual felt esteem from his or her own environment, that likely would lead to self-esteem. Without the external influence, an individual is left to their own ability to generate esteem, which, depending upon their past, they may not have the capacity to do. This is not to imply that we should go all Stuart Smalley at work (I'll let you Google that one). I mentioned in a commentary last year ("The Art of the Debrief;" July 20, 2018) that we need to debrief. We have to talk about mission execution, successes and failures. Failure does not have to be a bad discussion if addressed correctly. It is a learning point that helps us become better. It's in the presentation, and it's in the reception. Present the facts, good and bad, in a non-judgmental manner... receive feedback without taking it personal.

For the sake of this discussion, let's agree that in most cases, only after all of these needs are met can an individual reach their full-potential. So what? What do we do with this information? How do we apply it to the shop, office and organization?

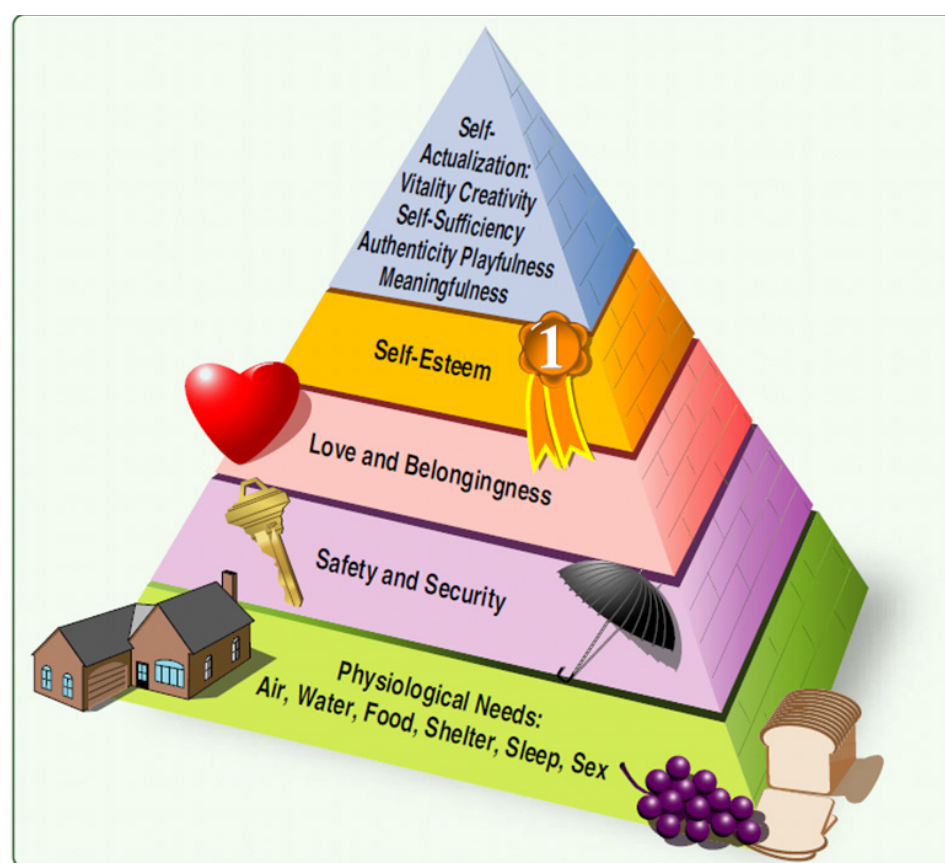
These are actually not difficult questions to answer...you need to ensure your span of control is small enough to be individually engaged. You need to have enough courage to ask questions, and you need to care enough to listen. That's it. Now, implementing these three things is a little more difficult.

Span of control, for this discussion, is simply the number of subordinates that an individual has responsibility for. There are a number of authors, books and articles that address this issue, but for sake of time, there seems to be a consensus that small groups of three to six are the sweet spot.

Maintaining this reduced span of control allows a leader to be interactive and engaged with the team and maintain an appropriate amount of situational awareness on each member. This is not a hard-and-fast number, but a general rule of thumb. While some military organizations are already organized like this, some organizations would have to informally adjust the org diagram to create the right span of control throughout.

Courage to ask is actually the most difficult one of the three to implement, as most of us aren't inherently comfortable with this level of engagement. We are good with a "how you are doing?" type hallway question as long as we only get back an expected "I'm good." Courage is required to ask "how are you doing?" when you know something is wrong or think that you might get back a tough answer. Courage is required to ensure you engage on every one of Maslow's levels with your entire span of control. Most of us weren't trained to engage this way, but I can tell you from experience, it just takes practice. It will not get easier the first time and probably not the fifth time, but it will become easier. And, actually over time, will likely become normal.

Finally, to care enough to listen, is to put yourself and your environment aside long enough to actually hear what the other person is saying. Don't work on your comebacks. Don't get ready to share your same - or worse - experience. Don't worry about your calendar. Be empathetic - not sympathetic.



Make direct eye contact and actively listen. Believe it or not, sometimes this will be all that is necessary to make a difference. Sometimes you will need to respond with empathy. Sometimes you will need to escort the other person to get assistance... here's where courage will kick in again.

Team, we don't need programs in the Air Force to help us with resiliency. We don't need gimmicks to help us achieve greater readiness or meet mission goals. We only need to reach our full-potential. We only need organizations to be set up to allow courageous Airmen the ability to actively engage, not because they want to, but because it is in their nature. Because it is the culture. This is the culture we need.



# Commentary: Whiteman Spouses' Club makes life better for people just like us

**Katye Riselli**

honorary advisor, Whiteman Spouses' Club

I recently had the honor of serving as the keynote speaker for the Whiteman Spouses' Club Scholarship Dinner & Awards ceremony. As an adviser to the WSC Board, I have a front row seat to the tireless efforts by a handful of spouses to benefit our base and surrounding community. Like many similar Air Force spouses' clubs, WSC exists to build connections between spouses and invest in our community.

Today's emphasis on digital community often praises the benefits of remaining connected across geographic distance. Too often those discussions overlook the increasing challenges of cultivating community in our own front yard. But without community in this time and space, I'm lost in a screen, remembering yesterday and dreaming of tomorrow. Enjoying today requires not only my presence, but also my participation.

I believe one of the greatest ways we can participate in our military community is to join an organization dedicated to making

the here and now better, together.

But on too many bases, spouses' clubs are dying. On too many bases, young spouses don't know why they should participate in their spouses' clubs. It's an important conversation no one seems to be willing to have, but if we lose the clubs, we lose the benefits they offer.

To begin the dialogue, I'm sharing here a portion of my remarks from the WSC Scholarship Dinner & Awards Ceremony last week.

\*\*\*\*

This is my favorite event of the year. The WSC scholarship dinner and awards ceremony celebrates what hard work produces: \$20,000 invested in changing lives through education.

Most of our charitable giving is thanks to the tireless, often unseen work of our Thrift Shop Committee. Friends, your work daily benefits the lives of countless families who visit our Thrift Store and these scholarships would not be possible without you. Thank you.

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**Interested in becoming a member of the Whiteman Spouses' Club?**

*For more information, visit*  
**[www.whitemanwsc.com](http://www.whitemanwsc.com)**



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The Air Force may be an all-volunteer military, but it's the volunteer spouses who run just about everything behind the scenes on this base. These volunteers don't get nearly enough recognition, but this event offers an opportunity to celebrate the return on their investment.

Their investment is a story that doesn't get told often enough.

Since the creation of the combined Whiteman Spouses' Club in 2014, the WSC has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships for military spouses and children.

And, over the last five years, WSC has also given more than \$55,000 to the Whiteman community. For a small base in a largely rural community, these are commanding figures. The WSC membership may be small, but you are a mighty force for good.

We partner with the Top Three, the First Sergeants Council, the Airman Leadership School and the Stealth Lounge to care for our Airmen.

We provide funds to Whiteman Youth Programs, the Airmen Family Readiness Center and many other base organizations to care for our families.

We proudly support our local schools to ensure our military kids have access to excellent educational opportunities today, and the skills to succeed wherever they go tomorrow.

Whiteman recently hosted New York Times best-selling author Simon Sinek. He spent two days talking with Airmen and learning about our mission before serving as the keynote speaker for the Whiteman Annual Awards Ceremony.

The genius of his work, I think, is that he tells us what we already know to be true – but he does it in a compelling way that makes us realize we had the keys to our success all along.

This is really true with his book "Start With Why." In it, he explains the key to great leadership. The secret for success, he says, is beginning with a clear understanding of motives or purpose which then drives the process to produce the desired outcome.

This year's scholarship winners understand this truth. Their stories are full of powerful reasons why they are pursuing higher education.

At least one of them already knows writing and telling really good stories can change lives: Kathryn

Schumaker is receiving a WSC Undergraduate Scholarship to continue her undergraduate degree and pursue a career in publishing.

Tonight's High School Senior Scholarship winners will tell you their why begins with their parents' service in the military. They believe a life of service gives direction to their talents and purpose to their life. They know from experience that service is not always easy and may require sacrifice, but it is always rewarding.

Kayla Dugan has chosen to follow in her father's footsteps and just last month enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard. While pursuing her degree at the University of Central Missouri, she'll serve as a Drill Status Guardsman.

Brock Hepler plans to study pharmacy, which is a long program and more math and



Thrift store volunteers pose for photo at the grand reopening event on April 23, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The Whiteman AFB Thrift Store is located at 837 Vandenburg Avenue, next the auto hobby shop, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

science than I want to do. He told us his dad showed him how to balance a demanding career with family as he raised the boys alone and then by watching his adopted mom transition from active duty to the Guard.

In her essay, Caroline Schumaker wrote about how her father's life of service inspired her to become a nurse. Meanwhile, Gabrielle Shull lives the Air Force core value of service before self. Since being diagnosed with cancer in elementary school, she's used her own journey to raise funds to find a cure, mentor other kids with cancer and plans to become a pediatric oncology nurse.

These are exceptional young people and reading their applications made me really hopeful about the future of our country.

This year's scholarship program also recognizes ten military spouses.

My former boss, Mrs. Laura Bush, frequently reminds

audiences, "When you educate and empower women, you improve every aspect of society." From health and education to government and the economy, women's involvement produces positive results for our families, our communities, and our country.

Jesika Hall, who is studying human resources, and Kaitlyn Debrick who is pursuing her degree in accounting are evidence of this. In her essay, Kaitlyn cited a 2017 survey by the Military Family Advisory Network in which 92 percent of participants were in debt or struggling with finances. She plans to use what she has learned about caring for her own family's finances to help other military families.

Nearly all the rest of our spouse scholarships will support women committed to health-care and education. Jordan Rivera is studying to become a medical assistant. Brianne

Southwell will graduate as an occupational therapist. Anna Hurt is pursuing her master's degree in communication disorders. Alyssa Smith is studying to become a family nurse practitioner in underserved communities.

After battling her own health challenges for several years, Serena Browne hopes to use her masters' degree in dietetics to help others find health and healing despite chronic illness.

Larissa Wheeler served six years in the Indiana Army National Guard where she became a certified nursing assistant, and is now pursuing her bachelor's degree to become registered nurse.

Angela Violango knew from a young age she wanted to comfort the sick so she completed her LPN (licensed practical nurse) and worked in California. Since moving to Missouri, she's had to overcome the licensure challenges between states. By completing her nursing degree, she looks forward to being able to practice as a registered nurse no matter where her husband's career takes them.

Our last spouse scholarship goes to a woman who's educating the next generation, including a lot of Whiteman children. Ashley Pierce has been teaching since 2010. She's so beloved by students and families that she's been voted "Warrensburg's Favorite Teacher." She's leading a team to support students with exceptional needs and with her master's in Literacy Instruction, we're sure her students and fellow teachers will continue to excel.

These women are wives, mothers, sisters and friends. Together, they've moved 15 times, endured dozens of deployments or TDYs, and too-many-to-count "training exercises" that wreck havoc on schedules. Every day, military spouses live the unofficial Air Force motto: "Flexibility is the key to air power."

Friends, it's no small feat to continue your education while married to a service member. I know this because I watched my mom do it. My mom married my dad when she was 20 and over the next 29 years they moved 11 times. She worked on her degree by correspondence

from at least five different bases, long before online options, back when different bases had different university partners and you couldn't transfer all your credits. By the time she was done she probably had enough credits for at least three or four degrees, but she only got one.

I distinctly remember the day we went to the education center on base when I was in sixth grade and she walked out with a diploma in a post office mailer. At the age of 12, I barely understood how much that degree cost her.

Decades later, I can tell you my mom's commitment to getting her degree taught me to value education.

Her persistence showed me achieving a goal requires hard work and can take a long time.

It's also been my why for serving on the boards for several spouses' clubs. My other why is because I went to college because of a scholarship from an Air Force wives' club.

Since the beginning of the Air Force, Wives' Clubs – now, Spouses' Clubs – have been raising money to care for each other and for Air Force families. My grandmother was among the first group to decide to raise money for Air Force widows. Together, they established the Air Force Villages where widows, and now retirees, could live comfortably, surrounded by a community who understood their sacrifice.

My mom's clubs continued that work and began funding scholarship programs for military children – to give kids like me a chance to go to college.

Today, we continue their legacy, and we're building on it by awarding scholarships for spouses as well.

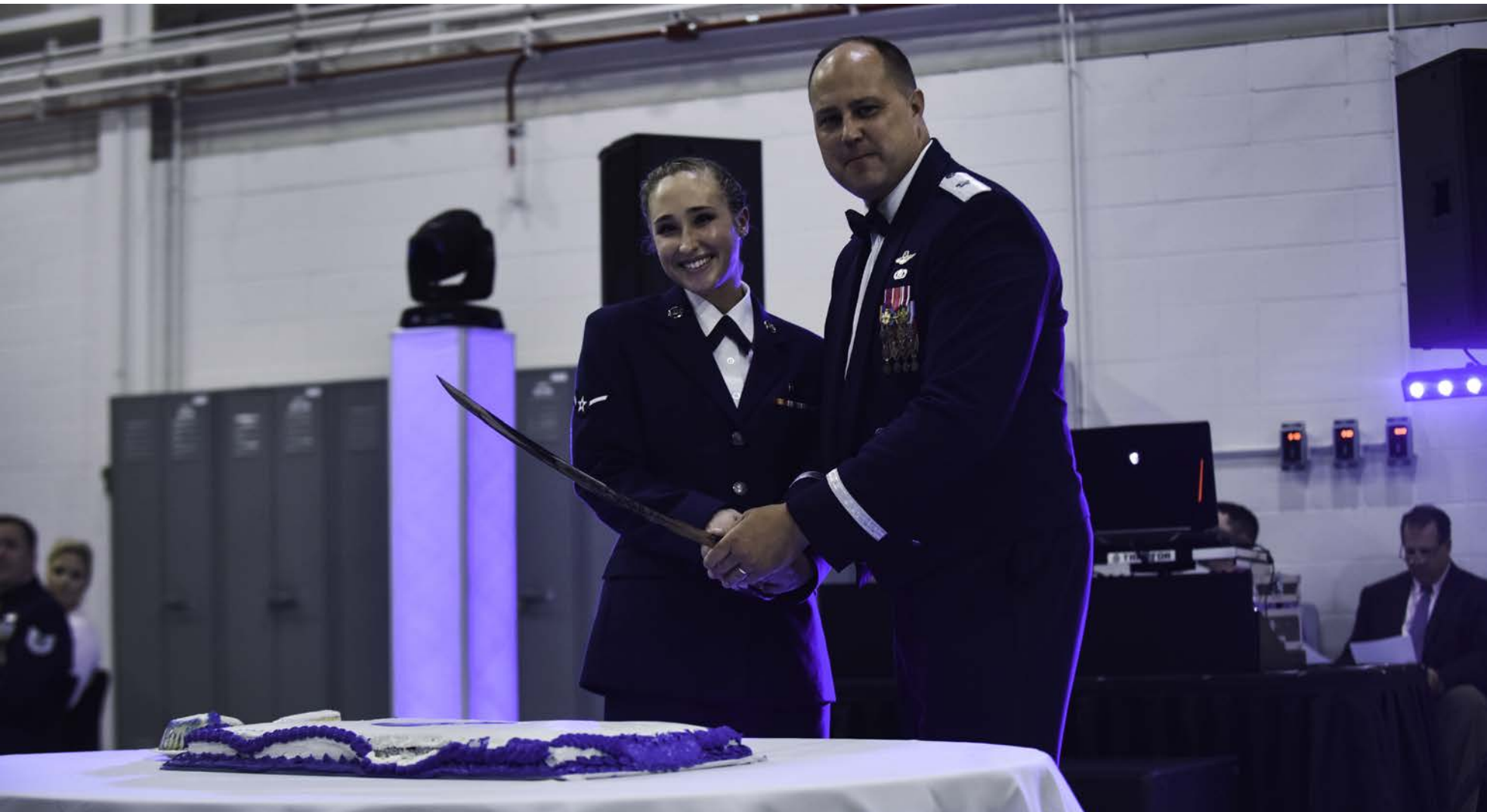
These scholarship winners remind all of us why the WSC exists: Together, we make life in the military better for people just like us.

Katy Riselli serves as an honorary advisor to the Whiteman Spouses Club. She previously served as speechwriter and deputy communications director to Mrs. Laura Bush.

“These are exceptional young people and reading their applications made me really hopeful about the future of our country.”



# Brig. Gen. John Nichols finishes command at Whiteman AFB



## From 509th Bomb Wing Staff reports

After two years at the helm of Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, Brig. Gen. John Nichols leaves command on May 9, 2019, passing the guidon to Col. Jeffrey Schreiner.

Nichols took command of the 509th Bomb Wing in June of 2017.

He has been responsible for the combat readiness of the world's most strategic aircraft: the B-2 stealth bomber. This includes the development and employment of the B-2's combat capability as part of Air Force Global Strike Command.

As Whiteman's installation commander, he provides logistics support for the Air Force Reserve 442d Fighter Wing; Missouri Air National Guard 131st Bomb Wing; Air Combat Command 20th Attack Squadron; and the Missouri Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 135th Assault Helicopter Battalion. Additionally, he manages flying assets in excess of \$46 billion and an annual operations and maintenance budget of \$147 million.

Nichols relinquishes command to Schreiner, the full-time battle watch commander at the U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Global Operations Center at Offut Air Force Base, Nebraska. Check out next week's Warrior newspaper or [www.Facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase/](http://www.Facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase/) for photos from the change of command.

Members of Team Whiteman gather to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the U.S. Air Force at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, Sept. 15, 2018. Attendees also witnessed the cake cutting ceremony with both the highest-ranking Airman, Brig. Gen. John Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, and the lowest-ranking Airman. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jovan Banks)



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John J. Nichols, a B-2 pilot and commander of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, tapped the local high school robotics team, asking students to collaborate with Airmen to create a cover for four-switch panel in the B-2's two-person cockpit. Together, they created a 3-D printed piece that is now used in all 20 of the \$2.2 billion aircrafts. "This is an unbelievable story of partnering and innovation," Nichols said. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)





Brig. Gen. John Nichols, 509th Bomb Wing commander, prepares for an interview in January 2019 in Pasadena, California. Nichols represented Whiteman Air Force Base at the Rose Bowl, during which the B-2 is showcased each year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Keenan Kunst)



Brig. Gen. John Nichols, commander of the 509th Bomb Wing, is sprayed by his wife, Michelle, and his son, Beau, on April 29, 2019. Nichols took his final flight in the B-2 as the 509th BW commander after nearly two years in the position. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ashley Adkins)

### Brig. Gen. John J. Nichols Flight information:

**Rating:** Command Pilot  
**Call sign:** Boris  
**Spirit Number:** 647



**Flight hours:** More than 2423 hours, including 662 combat hours  
**Aircraft flown** T-37, T-38, B-1, MQ-9, T-1, T-6, A-29, B-52, B-2



Airmen with the 509th Maintenance Group stand in a line and salute as Brig. Gen. John J. Nichols, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, taxis past them for his final flight in the B-2 on April 29, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Nichols has been the 509th BW commander since June 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



# Vice chairman stresses realities of strategic nuclear deterrence

Jim Garamone  
Defense.gov

WASHINGTON — Americans need to understand the strategic reasoning behind the U.S. nuclear triad and what those

capabilities mean to the nation and the world, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered a keynote speech during the Strategic Deterrent Coalition's 2019 symposium in Arlington, Virginia, April 25, 2019. The Strategic Deterrent Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-based organization formed to support the nuclear triad by providing educational information on the importance of maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent.

Russian President Vladimir Putin attempted in a speech about a year ago to frighten the world with new classes and types of nuclear weapons, Selva said.

"He revealed the existence of a nuclear-powered cruise missile," the vice chairman said. "He revealed the existence of a special type of ballistic missile that has the range to go southward and not northward, and — in his own words — in an effort to

defeat the defenses of the United States."

America's backstop to these nuclear threats remains the nuclear triad of land-based missiles, manned bombers and submarine-launched missiles. The deployed nuclear forces would reply to any threat or use of nuclear weapons against the United States or its allies. "It's the reason we have a robust triad," the general said.

"It's interesting to hear the debates about whether or not our triad is affordable," Selva said. "That's not a strategic conversation; that's a tactical conversation. The strategic conversation is 'What does the triad give us? What does the triad give us in a world where the only existential threat to the existence of the United States is the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of our adversaries?'"

## A Growing Threat

The conversations about the need for the triad have been muted for decades, "overshadowed by good and righteous conversations about reducing the number of nuclear weapons, about reducing the uncertainty of nuclear weapons in the world," the general said. Selva said he welcomes those conversations.

"But as a practitioner of the art of strategic deterrence, my thesis is it's way too early to have a conversation about a world with no nuclear weapons," he added, "because the world we live in is the world we must survive in. And the world we live in is one of slow and deliberate proliferation of technologies that allows other countries to produce nuclear weapons."

From 1945 to 1949, the United States was the only nation possessing nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union exploded its first one in 1949, followed by the United Kingdom in 1952, France in 1960 and China in 1964. India exploded its first nuclear weapon in 1974, Pakistan did it in 1998 and North Korea exploded a device in 2006.

"That number grows — it doesn't shrink — because nuclear physics is nuclear physics," Selva said. "Knowledge is knowledge, and knowledge has been democratized by this thing we call the internet, and you can figure out how to build a nuclear weapon if you just go to the right website."

The United States must maintain a credible, safe, secure nuclear arsenal "until we can negotiate a set of protocols globally that rid the world of nuclear weapons," the vice chairman said. "That's not an aspirational statement. That's reality."

## Modernization

For the United States, that means modernization is in the cards to ensure the reliability of the deterrent and to keep up with threats from nuclear powers. "Our indications and warning system is threatened by new classes of weapons that it wasn't designed to detect," Selva said. "We have to address that."

Parts of the delivery system for the nuclear triad were built the year the general was born, he noted, adding that those, too, need to be modernized.

There is not a lot of wiggle room in this process, he said. "The Ohio-class submarine will age out of the fleet as we bring in the Columbia-class submarine," Selva said. "The B-52 will be nearly 90 years old when it goes to the boneyard."

The Minuteman III missile was first deployed in 1973. Some of the equipment used to build nuclear devices dates to World War II's Manhattan Project, Selva said, and that must be modernized. "We have to do all of it at the same time," he added. The cost is estimated at about \$320 billion over 23 years.

## Worthwhile Investment

Americans must decide if this investment is worth the money, the general said.

"I would suggest to you it's not only worth it, it's a bargain for what it gives us," he said. "Because without a safe, secure, reliable triad, our adversaries ... could hold us at risk and therefore use nuclear blackmail to achieve an outcome in what otherwise would be an entirely conventional battlespace."

"If you don't believe they're thinking about it, just read the doctrine of our Russian competitors and our Chinese competition," he continued. "Both espouse strategic attacks to achieve conventional effects. Both of them talk about attacking our homeland to cause us to demur in an overseas conflict. Both of them talk about taking away our ability to project power."

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## 2019 Wings Over Whiteman air, space show is June 15-16

From 509th Bomb Wing staff reports

The 2019 Wings Over Whiteman Air and Space Show and Open House is June 15 and 16 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Admittance and parking are free.

This year's show features: Air Combat Command's F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team, the A-10C Thunderbolt II demo team and the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, along with Whiteman AFB's B-2 Stealth bomber and T-38 Talon jet.

Guests will get an up-close look at strategic Air Force assets that our Airmen use to carry out missions across the globe as well as the technical expertise of the U.S. military.

Wings Over Whiteman also features dozens of aircraft static displays, exhibition aircraft, vintage and modern war birds, and much more.

Please visit [www.whiteman.af.mil/WOW/](http://www.whiteman.af.mil/WOW/) or [www.facebook.com/WingsOverWhiteman](https://www.facebook.com/WingsOverWhiteman) for more information.

Contact the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs office at (660) 687-5727 or [509.BW.PA@us.af.mil](mailto:509.BW.PA@us.af.mil) with questions.

**Be sure to check out our video on 2019's Wings Over Whiteman. It'll give you a sneak peak of this year's event and get you excited to attend!**

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# 'The ANG, A Force America Needs' serves as theme for 2019 leadership conference

**Tech. Sgt. Rana Franklin**  
National Guard Bureau

**ATLANTA** — U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, Air National Guard director, hosted over 360 senior leaders from across the Guard, at the ANG Senior Leadership Conference, in Atlanta, Georgia, April 23-25, 2019.

The ANG Senior Leadership Conference is a series of presentations and breakouts intended to enhance leaders' capabilities to lead and support Airmen and address Total Force priorities related to leadership, safety, diversity, sexual assault and suicide prevention.

"My goal for ASLC 2019 is to enhance leader's capabilities to lead and support the more than 107,000 Air Guardsmen who serve the '54' and Total Force with great distinction," said Rice.

This year's conference theme "The ANG, A Force America Needs" was underscored by activities and presentations focused on building the Air Force needed to achieve objectives put forward in the National Defense Strategy.

"I think it's the force American needs and our country is unique among nations and the greatest force for humanity," said U.S. Air Force General Joseph L. Lengyel, 28th chief of the National Guard. "We not

only need the force to be ready, but agile and flexible to be used in new and different ways."

The conference also addressed Total Force priorities related to the wellbeing of Airmen in areas such as readiness, training, care solutions, operational safety and talent management.

U.S. General David L. Goldfein, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, delivered the Air Force update, speaking to the importance of building the Air Force needed to address defense strategies.

"We only ever have from now until the next fight to prepare," Goldfein said. "If we go forward with that sense of urgency we will always win the war fight."

Will Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, brought his specialized knowledge of modernization efforts to the discussion, briefing senior leaders on strategic acquisition.

"We've been able to maintain a domain dominance that no other service has been able to," Roper said. "But if we can't delegate to the lowest level and still fulfill the commander's intent, then we will lose every time."

Breakout sessions by leadership position also provided opportunities to discuss issues of mutual

concern. Presentations included focus on leadership agility, operating in a strategic environment, multi-domain operations and homeland defense.

"Homeland defense is our main priority," said U.S. Navy Rear Admiral John Fuller, speaking on the strong relationship between the ANG and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. "We operate at the speed of relevance."

The three-day conference also provided senior leaders from across the Guard to share best practices that has been successful across the varying platforms and mission sets, while also initiating the development of new and innovative applications.

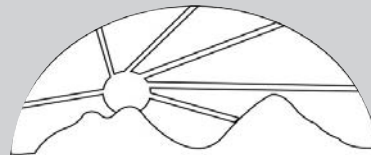
"We continue to reiterate that the force is more ready than ever before because we are," Anderson told conference attendees. "Our ability to not only maintain that, but also grow into the Guard America needs depends on our ability as leaders to take what we've heard this week and shape it to the needs of our Airmen."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, delivered the conference's welcome remarks. The event was supported by volunteers from the Georgia Air National Guard, as well as the Georgia National Guard Milledgeville Youth Challenge Academy, which presented the colors.



**U.S. Air Force General Joseph L. Lengyel, 28th chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke to senior leaders from across the Air National Guard, at the 2019 ANG Senior Leadership Conference, in Atlanta, April 24, 2019. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. David Fenner)**

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**Lion's Club**—2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m. - Jubilation Center

**Knob Noster Area Business Council**—4th Thurs. of each month. 660-563-1633 for more info.

**Masons**—2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - Knob Noster Masonic Lodge AF & AM

**Garden Club**—1st Thurs. of each month 6:30 p.m. - Trails Regional Library - Knob Noster Branch

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**—Every Fri. 8 p.m. - Basement of Methodist Church

**Knob Noster Board of Aldermen**—1st & 3rd Tues. each month - City Hall, 201 N. State Street

**Whiteman Area Piecemakers Quilt Guild**—3rd Thurs. each month 7 p.m. - Methodist Church

**AMVETS**—Membership Dinner 1st Tues. each month 6 p.m. - AMVETS Building

**VFW**—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

**VFW Auxiliary**—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

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**Cub Scouts** - Pack 509 Knob Noster United Methodist Church

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## Whiteman Air Force Base Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

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6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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\$5 Per person | Teams of 4-6 members

For more information call (660) 687-5754.

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

### Youth Recognition Ceremony

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Open Recreation Programs will recognize youth who have participated in clubs offered this quarter. Parents and siblings of those being recognized are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments served after the ceremony.

For more information call (660) 687-5586.

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

### Military Spouse Designer Bag Bingo

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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\$20 Presale | \$25 At the door

For more information call (660) 687-5754.

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

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