



The Kirtland Air Force Base NUCLEUS



Leon Smith, nuclear pioneer, dies



Photo by Todd Berenger

Leon D. Smith gives a presentation Nov. 19, 2010, at Kirtland AFB to Airmen of the 898th Munitions Squadron about his experiences in the Army during World War II.

By John Cochran
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Leon D. Smith, a pioneer in the United States military's nuclear enterprise, died Oct. 14 in Albuquerque at age 92.

"The nation has lost one of the founders of our strategic deterrent. I was honored to know Leon Smith. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marie, his wife of more than 70 years, and all their family members," said Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, commander of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center here.

Smith began his service in the nuclear enterprise at the dawn of America's atomic age. He was drafted into the Army during World War II, serving as a private in the field artillery, and then was sent to study communications at Yale, electronics at Harvard and radar at the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology. After being commissioned as an Air Corps lieutenant, Smith served as a weaponeer in the ordnance squadron of the 509th Composite Group, which dropped the atomic bombs that effectively ended World War II.

After the war, he left the Army to join the bomb fuzing group at Sandia National Laboratories, when it was attached to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. He served as a weaponeer for the first postwar nuclear test in 1946.

In the decades that followed, Smith is credited with leading revolutionary developments in weapons technology, including work on components, such as the permissive action link, that continue to play a major part in the national commitment to nuclear weapons safety, security and

See Leon Smith

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Airman promoted to staff sergeant

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

One Airman from Kirtland Air Force Base was selected for promotion as part of the October enlisted supplemental promotion process. More than 500 Airmen were selected Air Force wide.

Senior Airman Marco Nelson, 377th Weapons System Security Squadron, was selected for promotion to staff sergeant.

AFRL officer creates free iPhone deployment app

By Jeanne Dailey
Air Force Research Laboratory

The Apple Corp. now features a free application that an Air Force Research Laboratory officer created in his spare time. The app, called "iDeploy" and available through iTunes, serves family, friends and military members as a deployment countdown timer for iPhones, iPads and iPods.

Maj. Torrey Wagner, of AFRL's Laser Division, developed the countdown timer, which displays

the days, hours, minutes and seconds until the military member is on the way home. It shows hundredths of seconds to indicate the time is flying by, and a photo can be included.

Apple's approval of the "iDeploy" app is especially noteworthy, considering the company's rigorous approval process and high percentage of disapprovals.

"The main reason I created the "iDeploy" app is that I wanted deployed Airmen and their families to have an app that was just

for them, as a morale boost and something that might make the deployment more tolerable," said Wagner.

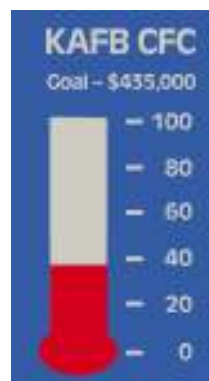
Wagner said it took him about 65 hours over a two-month period to complete the app, after spending three months learning the basics of iPhone app development.

Wagner offered some advice to Airmen who want to develop an app.

"First, start small and use tutorial and question-and-answer websites, like *stackoverflow.com*,

to figure out the process. Second, set realistic expectations and schedule an hour a day to learn this new programming language — many times, I'd only figure out a solution after not thinking about it for a day. Finally, make your app something that you care about — that will make it easier to stay motivated to put in the hours."

The app is available at Apple's App Store, at <http://itunes.apple.com/app/ideploy-photo-edition/id560907062?mt=8>.



NEWS BRIEFS

Auto Hobby Shop to stay open

The Auto Hobby Shop has received a reprieve from the planned Oct. 1 closing date.

Although still working toward financial sustainability, it will remain open under a get-well plan. Now open Wednesday through Saturday, the hobby shop focuses on do-it-yourself customers. Mechanics will be available during operating hours to help

and advise customers.

Mechanic services, other than oil changes, will no longer be provided. The hobby shop will continue to offer long-term vehicle storage and a sales lot for customers to buy or sell personal vehicles.

Customer use will determine the facility's future. Continued and increased usage will be necessary to sustain it. The hobby shop will

undergo a review in late December to assess its standing.

For more information, send an email the 377FSS.FSO@kirtland.af.mil.

Military widows and widowers

The Military Widows and Widowers will meet at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 3 at the Kirtland AFB Chapel.

The meetings offer all military retired widows and widowers of all

ranks and branches an opportunity for friendship, comfort, mutual support, and a realization that we need information regarding our status as military dependents.

A program called "Keeping Healthy in Today's World" will be presented by Capt. (Dr.) Mark Stevens from the Kirtland AFB Clinic

For more information, call Mary Lou Cooper at 296-2103.

716 Total number of saves by Kirtland Against Drunk Driving in 2012
KADD: Friday and Saturday 10:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. ☎ 853-8888





Courtesy photo

Dustin Akins displays the carcasses of a blacktail rattlesnake, a prairie rattlesnake and a bullsnake to children at the library during a presentation Sept. 15. Akins will present and answer questions about a variety of amphibians from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 20 at the library.

Wildlife hops to the library

■ Dustin Akins to give educational presentation on toads and other amphibians at 11 a.m. Saturday

By Jonathan Rejent
Nucleus staff writer

Following a presentation on snakes, the Kirtland Air Force Base library will host a second wildlife education event from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 20.

Dustin Akins, who works in Natural Resources on base and is the vice president of the Junior Force Council, will present the material and answer questions about toads and other amphibians.

“Living in the city, kids aren’t often exposed to native animals. This is a great opportunity for them to interact with these animals firsthand,” Akins said.

Akins said he acquires the animals both from an on-base herpetologist — a scientist who studies reptiles and amphibians — and by finding them in the wild.

“The kids can expect a variety of toads, as well as a tiger salamander,” Akins said. “If I’m able to catch

one, I’ll bring a tarantula, as well.”

In September, more than 90 children attended the presentation on snakes at the library. In the past, Akins has presented to groups at the Youth Center, but he said the event at the library has been his largest audience yet.

Because of the young crowd, Akins said he will have more living specimens during the upcoming event and plans to limit the amount of factual information.

“I’d rather the kids enjoy the animals and take away one fact from the presentation,” Akins said.

Akins said involving children in wildlife events at a young age can create an interest in the animals themselves and in the environment as well.

“No matter what, children will always be the future,” Akins said. “As time goes on, these kids will be making the calls on environmental law and procedure, directly and indirectly.”

AFOSI launches app to anonymously fight crime

By Carl Grusnick
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

In an effort to stem the “insider threat” to Air Force people and resources, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations is taking advantage of a primary means of communication among Airmen — smartphones.

Using a new application, “TipSubmit Mobile,” all smartphone users have the ability to communicate with AFOSI.

“We want to give Airmen a convenient, and most importantly, an anonymous means, to report activity detrimental to fellow Airmen. With this system, they can get involved without fear of exposure or retribution from others,” said Christian Oliver, superintendent of AFOSI Detachment 116. “Airmen really want to do the right thing, but are often hesitant because of perceived social repercussions,” added Oliver.

Of special concern to Air Force officials are violent crimes against Air Force members, sexual assaults, and drug use.

The application uses industry standard Secure Socket Layers connection, which encrypts information exchange

to ensure anonymity. When accessing the app, and submitting a tip, a file number is created for retrieval. Later, the tipster can check back and see comments by an OSI agent and provide more information on their concern.

“With SSL, the agent can only review the posted information, which is only accessible by the tipster and the OSI,” says Oliver, “Air Force members and the OSI agent can continue to converse anonymously through the secure system.”

TipSubmitMobile is also available from personal computers, and whether by smartphone or PC, the app allows tipsters to submit electronic photos.

To download the free smartphone app, go to the Apple Application Store or Android Market function.

You can also send in tips by texting ‘AFOSI’ and the tip to 274637 (CRIMES).

For more information, go to <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=1111> or <http://www.osi.af.mil>.

To download a detailed trifold on the program, go to <http://www.osi.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-121003-042.pdf>

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use control.

During his 40-year SNL career, he initiated systems engineering in 1955 and directed the components, weapons development, and monitoring systems groups before retiring in 1988.

On Sept. 29, 2011, Smith was in the first class of eight people inducted into the “Order of the Nucleus” at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque.

At that event, Harencak lauded the honorees, collectively and individually.

“These patriotic Americans are supporting and have supported the nuclear enterprise with great distinction. Recognizing these outstanding contributors in this way is a small token of our esteem for all they have done to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent that has guaranteed our liberty for generations. All of you here support or work for the nuclear enterprise directly. You have significantly enhanced our mission and continue to do what our president told us to do — ‘Provide a safe, secure and effective deterrent for us and for our allies.’”



Leon Smith

On Nov. 19, 2010, Smith visited Kirtland AFB and gave a presentation to Airmen of the 898th Munitions Squadron about his wartime experiences.

The electrical engineer spoke about being chosen in 1944 for the seven-member fuzing group assigned to the 509th Composite Bombing Group and his subsequent experiences at Wendover Field, Utah, where the group conducted design and flight-testing activities under technical direction of Robert Brode, head of the Fuze Development Group at Los Alamos.

He addressed the fuzing group’s experiences in the summer of 1945 on Tinian, a Pacific is-

land in the Northern Marianas chain, where they continued flight-test activities and prepared “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” for delivery.

“As one of three weaponeers in the program, I lost a coin flip or I would have been on the Enola Gay on the August 6 mission over Hiroshima,” Smith said.

He said the most common question people ask him is about how he felt when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

“It had been a long war, with fierce battles and high casualties on both sides. It was estimated that in the planned land invasion of Japan, the U.S. would lose 1 million more soldiers. I felt a sense of relief because the war would soon be over,” he said.

Smith ended his presentation by quoting British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who spoke to the U.S. Congress in January 1952 about the value of maintaining an effective nuclear deterrent.

“Be careful above all things not to let go of the atomic weapon until you are sure, and more than sure, that other means of preserving peace are in your hands.”