

Weather

Friday PM Thunderstorms High 72°F Low 53°F	Saturday Thunderstorms High 64°F Low 64°F	Sunday Foggy High 80°F Low 58°F
Monday Partly Cloudy High 77°F Low 55°F	Tuesday Thunderstorms High 77°F Low 60°F	Wednesday Cloudy High 72°F Low 55°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Quarterly Awards Ceremony

The Team BLAZE 1st Quarterly Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. April 28 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. April 30 in the Kaye Auditorium.

SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-08 is graduating at 10 a.m. May 1 in the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Life

Daryl Fort, sexual violence prevention consultant, speaks during a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response briefing April 20 at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Fort spoke on how to stop the little things that ultimately lead to sexual violence.

SAPR awareness briefing inspires Airmen to change culture

Airman Daniel Life

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A Sexual Assault Prevention and Response briefing was held April 20 at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base. The briefing, titled “Mentors in Violence Prevention,” dis-

cussed how there has been, and still is, a problem with violence toward women.

“This is not anybody’s opinion; it is a fact that there is a serious problem related to sexual assault particularly, but not

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Inside



Feature 8

Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention Month is highlighted in this week’s feature.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-02)	1.12 days	-1.83 days	May 15	48th (15-08)	-0.86 days	-0.47 days	Apr. 23	49th (15-GBC)	2.29 days	2.35 days	May 4	T-6	2,080	1,483	14,947
41st (16-01)	0.47 days	-2.37 days	Apr. 23	50th (15-08)	-2.91 days	-0.45 days	Apr. 23					T-1	742	772	5,643
												T-38	588	538	4,554
												IFF	318	274	2,129

The graduation speaker is Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.



BUILD OUR FUTURE BOND

On May 12, 2015, the voters of Lowndes County will be afforded the opportunity to help Lowndes County Schools in profound and lasting ways.

SAPR

(Continued from page 1)

exclusive, to men's violence toward women," said Daryl Fort, sexual violence prevention consultant.

The definition of objectification is to present as an object, especially of sight, touch or other physical sense. Fort explained how culture has a way of objectifying women.

"How many of you asked your chair if you could sit on it before you sat down?" Fort said. "No one, because it is an object, and we are in a culture where women are sometimes viewed as an object of desire, not a person."

Fort continued to explain that the foundation for rape and other sexual assaults begins with little things such as jokes, and that Airmen need to step up and create a culture that stops the little things.

"It does not matter where you fall on the totem pole; you can behave in a way that affects and inspires other people, and that is the

exact kind of behavior and attitude it is going to take to solve this problem," he said. "There is always going to be 'nay-sayers' that say it can never be done or 'I don't want to do it.' Fortunately there have always been people that are willing to say 'I am willing to do this.'"

Fort expressed that Airmen do have the power to change the culture around them.

"We make up the culture and the context, and through that we have the power to make changes in it," he said. "At the end of the day it's all up to us as individuals. We have to confront these little things that make up the foundation of this entire culture."

Fort concluded by speaking on how we all need to be the leaders who are willing to step up regardless of rank or age.

"We better be willing to stand up against this regardless of where we are," he said. "This goes from personal to professional; we have to have leadership inside out. Make it a priority of doing what you can from where you are."

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 23 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
27	28 Suicide Prevention - Mr. Kevin Hines, 9 a.m./1 p.m. @ Kaye First Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 3:30 p.m. @ Kaye 14th MDG closed for training	29	30 Enlisted Promotion Ceremony, 3:30 p.m. @ Club	1 SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation, 10 p.m. @ Kaye AFAF Campaign final day	2/3 2nd - Daedalians Spring Golf Tournament	<p>May 21: SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation</p> <p>May 21: Memorial Day Retreat</p> <p>May 22: AETC Family Day</p> <p>May 25: Memorial Day</p> <p>June 4: 37th FTS Change of Command</p> <p>June 5: 14th CPTS Change of Command</p> <p>June 12: SUPT Class 15-10 graduation</p> <p>June 16: 50th FTS Change of Command</p> <p>June 19: 49th FTS Change of Command</p> <p>June 25: 14th SFS Change of Command</p> <p>July 1: SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation</p> <p>July 2: AETC Family Day</p> <p>July 3: Federal Holiday (Independence Day)</p> <p>July 4: Fireworks on the Water</p> <p>July 24: SUPT Class 15-12 Graduation</p>
4 Columbus Club closure until January 2016	5 14th FSS Assumption of Command, 9:14 a.m. @ Fitness Center	6	7	8 CCAF Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Shooting Range ribbon cutting, 2 p.m.	9/10	

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Transportation

For Sale: 2012 Toyota Rav4 SUV. Price reduced, one owner with only 24,000 miles in excellent condition. \$18,900 or best offer. Please call 327-1205 for more information.

Homes

For Sale: 1996 Waverlee 16-foot by 80-foot single-wide mobile home. Three bedroom, two full baths. Home must be moved by buyer. Home is located at 1572 Spruill Rd, Caledonia, Mississippi. New roof, with 3-inch foil-backed insulation. New Rheem 3.5-ton central A/C unit. Includes covered front porch and back porch, power pole and underpinning. \$15,000 or best offer. Contact Chuck or Melissa Skelton at 251-1786 or 434-7348/9.



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KLX110	\$2249	\$2049
KX85	\$4049	\$3399
KX65	\$3649	\$2789
2014 MODELS		
ZX636	\$12699	\$10949
KX85	\$4349	\$3949
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Prices good through April 30, 2015.

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Recycling Tips: Ways to Recycle More

- Many recycling programs don't accept paper cups because of the waxy lining, but the cardboard sleeve can still be recycled.

- Plastic bags and film recycling doesn't only mean grocery bags. Recycle your dry cleaning, newspaper, & bread bags and also the plastic film on products like paper towels. Many grocery stores have a drop-off point for these items.

- Don't forget the cap. Plastic bottle caps are usually recyclable along with the bottle. Check with your local solid waste & recycling office to be sure, but many recycling programs accept bottle caps, made from #5 and #2 plastics.

- Stop it before it starts. Reduce your unwanted mail by unsubscribing via https://www.catalogchoice.org.

- Phone it in. Charitable organizations like Cell Phones for Soldiers offer free recycling. Any proceeds are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards for troops and provide emergency financial assistance to veterans. Visit cellphonesforsoldiers.com/shippinglabel-generic.php for donation information.

- Everything counts. Although you can't recycle your whole pizza box, you can tear off and recycle the top half, as long as it's grease-free. Learn what your community recycling program accepts from such things as cereal and tissue boxes to magazines and mail. Many things we may overlook can be recycled.

- Remember to recycle throughout



the house. Plastic shampoo bottles and toilet paper rolls are a few things that can usually be recycled.

- Recycling is not just for soda cans. Metals are among the most valuable materials in the waste stream and almost all recyclers welcome aluminum and steel.

- What you don't put in your recycling bin is just as important as what you do. Know what's recyclable in your community so you don't contaminate the recycling process. Check with your local recycling and solid waste office for details on your community recycling program, and look up nearby drop-off facilities at AmericaRecycles-Day.org/find-recycling where you can bring those harder-to-recycle items.

- Buy recycled items. Recycling is the first step in the cycle, then the material is processed, and the last step is up to you. Keep recycled content products in demand.

Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Did you know the Optometry Clinic at Columbus AFB offers annual eye examinations to retirees with no more than a two week wait? Retirees are also provided two pairs of AF issue glasses. For more information contact the Optometry Clinic at 434-2273 or the Retiree Activities Office at 434-3120/3121.



USC Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets tour Columbus AFB



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day
1st Lt. Travis Jackson, 41st Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot, explains how to egress from a T-38C Talon to Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the University of South Carolina during their tour of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, April 17. Detachment 775 visited the simulation rooms for each aircraft on Columbus AFB — the T-38C, T-1A Jayhawk and the T-6A Texan — and got a chance to experience flying each of them.

What is the LeMay Foundation?

Air Force Assistance Fund website

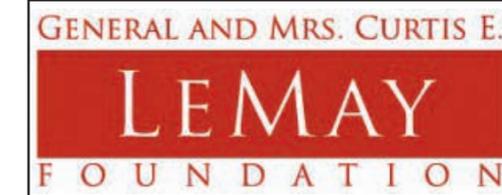
(Editor's note: The Columbus Air Force Base Air Force Assistance Fund campaign ends May 1.)

The LeMay Foundation awards grants to enlisted and officer retirees' surviving spouses.

The Foundation responds because they believe the surviving spouses are entitled to a dignified lifestyle and it is a privilege to serve them as they served along with their spouses.

Our primary beneficiaries are stalwart widows who supported their families and active duty spouses. In 2013, the foundation gave over \$426,302 in assistance that benefited widows with monthly grants to augment incomes that fall below the poverty line and provided one-time grants to assist with needs like hearing aids, dental care, and minor home repairs.

The foundation continues to give our recipients gifts of \$100 at Christmas, \$50 for Thanksgiving



and a \$100 gift for each widow in honor of their spouse for Memorial Day. In addition, they give a monetary gift for their birthday. Our grants are awarded without fanfare, like a gift to a beloved family member.

When the foundation can help a spouse stay at home, near their church and neighbors, they stay true to the vision of our founders, General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay. If you give to the Air Force Assistance Fund, in whatever amount you are able, your sacrifice helps those who sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

Columbus AFB Airmen selected for U.S. Air Force Academy, prep school



U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra
Airman 1st Class Alexander Colon, 14th Contracting Squadron Specialist, receives notification from Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, April 20 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, that Colon was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development Program. LEAD delegates authority to unit commanders to nominate outstanding and deserving Airmen with officer potential for this commissioning program.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day
Col. Allen Kidd, 14th Medical Group Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th FTW Command Chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Brandi Thomas, 14th Medical Group, congratulate Airman 1st Class Shanasty Mahi-Lyons April 12 at the Koritz Clinic on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, on her acceptance to the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School. Mahi-Lyons will study mathematics, English, Science, and Military History while participating in strenuous military training and athletic programs.

Dollars & Sense

2nd Lt. Harry Oms
14th Comptroller Squadron

“I just returned from a deployment or TDY, what receipts do I need to file my vouchers?”

Congratulations on your return from your deployment or TDY. Remember, after completing official travel you are required to file your travel voucher within five duty days of return.

Receipts are required to support any claim of \$75 or more. Receipts are also needed regardless of amount for the following expenses: lodging, airfare, rental car and gas receipts for rentals, excess baggage, and shipping of excess baggage. They must also include the weight being certified.

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Receipt Checklist

- Is the receipt legible?
- Does the receipt show traveler’s name and amount charged?
- Do the receipts match the amount and date charged?
- Does the receipt show the name of the company providing the product or service?
- If lodging, is the receipt itemized with daily charges such as taxes?

If the receipt is for a conference or registration fee, does it include any deductible meals?

If the receipt is missing, does the traveler issue a valid explanation of why receipt is not available?

If a receipt is lost, destroyed or not provided, a lost receipt statement must be provided for reimbursement. If you would like your own copy of the receipt checklist please visit our site at columbus.af.mil/units/14thcomptrollersquadron.asp. Under Travel Documents on the web page there is a document labeled TDY Receipt Checklist.

Please feel free to contact your 14th Comptroller Squadron anytime Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to address any concerns or questions you have in regards to finance related matters. Your Financial Services Office can be reached via email at 14CPTS.FCS@us.af.mil, at DSN 742-2705, or at the Finance Office located in the main lobby of the 14th Mission Support Group building.

Col. MacArthur presents Volunteer Excellence Award



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens
Col. Howard MacArthur, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, presents the Volunteer Excellence Award to Brenda Marciel, spouse of Capt. Daniel Marciel, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Element Chief, April 16 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The VEA was established to recognize federal civilians, family members, military retirees and federal retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. Brenda provided selfless service to Columbus Air Force Base and the Columbus Community from August 2013 to the present, specifically for the 14th FTW Chapel and the 14th FTW International Spouse’s Group.

TAKE BACK

(Continued from page 12)

thousands of schools, organizations and military bases to inform and empower others to put an end to sexual assault.

“As an Air Force Academy cadet, you don’t ever leave an Airman behind,” she said. “It’s having the courage of shattering the silence and speaking up when silence would be the easiest way out. I don’t want anyone to ever say ‘It doesn’t fit in my schedule,’ to spend five minutes to intervene. Saving a life doesn’t just mean saving someone from bleeding to death or who can’t get enough oxygen. It includes saving someone from a lifetime of not being able to be in healthy relationship again because their trust is so broken.”

It’s important to focus on how men can make a difference, Koestner said. “It’s not just a women’s issue,” she said. “It’s a people issue and it’s one that we need to be united on. One of the catchphrases for TBN is, ‘The people united will never be divided.’”

TBN is the Academy’s centerpiece for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. At the end of the evening, cadets raised glow sticks to shine light on their role in eliminating sexual assault and supporting victims of the crime.

Nearly 400 red glow sticks glistened to represent sexual assault victims here in the last 10 years.

“We want to allow individuals to proclaim that they have the right to walk freely within their communities day or night without any harassment or sexual assault in their way,” said Col. Carrie Bausano, the vice commandant of culture and climate. “We want them to feel empowered to take these education pieces and let victims, whether military or civilian, know they can come forward to report sexual assault.”

Cadet squadrons, athletic teams and

other units here designed T-shirts campaigning against sexual violence, including slogans such as “Hurts one, affects all,” “Stand up, speak out,” and “H.O.P.E. — Hold on, pain ends.”

“It’s our chance to step up and highlight the institution’s efforts as a whole year and throughout Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM),” said Cadet 1st Class Avery Larkin, a cadet wing personal ethics and education representative. “It’s a chance for us to come together and reflect on what our role is to prevent sexual assault and actively support victims. It also gives cadets a chance to come together as a cadet wing and be reminded of an issue that affects everyone.”

The event was open to all Academy personnel and Defense Department ID cardholders. This year’s SAAM theme is: “Know your part, do your part.”

All are affected by sexual assault regardless of race, religion, social background or gender, Koestner said.

“It’s important to paint an inclusive picture about the problem,” she said. “No one should ever threaten your right to feel comfortable here. There is no alternative Academy to go to. It’s even more important you all hold each other to the highest standards of respect because respect is so critical to helping us solve this problem.”

Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Stephen Williams hosted the event and said the conversation on sexual assault must continue here.

“Why are we letting this happen within our own ranks to our own brothers and sisters in arms?” Williams asked cadets. “If you don’t have the courage to stop this kind of behavior, how will you have the courage to sacrifice your life for one another? We need to enable an environment here that supports survivors while addressing the ongoing problem of sexual assault. Don’t look to others to fix this. This is everybody’s problem.”

Enlisted members selected for promotion to get EPR on “select” grade closeout date

Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — In line with a recent update to the Air Force policy on enlisted performance report static closeout dates (SCOD), effective immediately, all future EPRs for promotion-selectees will close out on the date of the promotion-select grade.

At the direction of Headquarters Air Force, Airmen promoted to technical sergeant between Dec. 1, 2014, and Jan. 31, 2015, and to staff sergeant between Feb. 1, 2015, and March 31, 2015, will receive an EPR with an April 30, 2015, closeout date.

These HAF-directed EPRs will serve as a one-time transition to ensure the impacted staff and technical sergeants have current evaluations on file, given their promotion-grade static closeout date has already passed.

“We received feedback from the field that there were many tech and staff sergeant selects who did not receive an EPR based on timing of their promotion and SCOD dates,” said Col. Joe Atkins, the AFPC Operations Division chief. “The Air Force established a one-time EPR SCOD so these impacted Airmen who sewed on during those four months would not go almost 23 months without a performance report.”

All other enlisted members with line numbers for promotion will have EPRs on the SCOD of the grade to which they will be promoted. As an example, a staff sergeant with a line number for promotion to technical sergeant will get an EPR on the Nov. 30 technical sergeant static closeout date, rather than on Jan. 31.



EPR SCODs are among changes to the enlisted evaluation promotion systems which have been implemented in stages since July 2014. Implementation will continue for the next year to two years for regular and Air Reserve Component forces.

Those Airmen impacted by the April 30 closeout date include 1,374 new staff sergeants and 1,086 new technical sergeants. Personal notifications to affected Airmen and their commanders are complete, and Air Force Personnel Center officials are working with military personnel sections to inform affected members’ supervisors and commanders to ensure evaluations are completed.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by going to <http://www.retirees.af.mil>.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

April 30
An East Mississippi Job Fair takes place from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle Campus Lyceum. Come learn what job opportunities are in our area and how volunteering can boost your resume!

May 1-2
20th Market Street Festival: The 20th Market Street Festival is scheduled to begin at historic downtown Columbus. Market Street Festival began in 1996 and has grown to be the largest special event in the state. Market Street Festival is held the first weekend in May each year and encompasses 12 city blocks and the Riverwalk in historic downtown Columbus. A crowd of nearly 40,000 gathers each year to enjoy all the two-day festival has to offer including over 250 arts, crafts and food vendors, dozens of special events, musical acts, and activities throughout the festival.

May 2
20th Market Street Festival Splash of Color 5k: A Splash of Color 5k run is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. at Ruben’s Parking Lot during the 20th Market Street Festival. Entry fees are \$20 before April 24 and \$25 after. Students and military members can enter with \$15 and children can join free of charge. For more information or to register call 328-6305 or go to racesonline.com.

May 15
Applications are due this day for Volunteer Day Workers and Overnight counselors for Camp Rising Sun, a camp for children being treated for or who have been treated for cancer. To download an application online, go to camprisingsun-columbusms.org or call 327-8352. You must be age 18 or older to apply, and to serve as overnight counselor you must be available for the entire week.

Take Back the Night 2015: 'Shattering the Silence'

Amber Baillie

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, along with the first survivor to speak out nationally about date rape, spoke to cadets during the U.S. Air Force Academy's second annual Take Back the Night (TBN) event April 16 at Clune Arena.

Katie Koestner, the executive director of the TBN Foundation, recounted details of being sexually assaulted at 18 years old, encouraging cadets to know their part in ending sexual violence.

"I'm personally honored to speak and share my story with cadets because there is no more personal way to go about motivation than to say, 'This can affect real lives and real human

beings in ways that don't heal themselves quickly or easily,'" Koestner said in an interview before the event.

At TBN, James told cadets that if a wingman is in trouble they have to say "no" to crude behavior, hazing and being silent.

"We need to rid of attitudes placing blame on the victims and place responsibility on the shoulders of the perpetrator," she said. "Beliefs such as 'men can't be raped' or 'women who've been drinking are at fault for being assaulted' are myths that keep victims from reporting and keep us from achieving the goal of preventing sexual assault in the first place."

James asked cadets to make an equal commitment and assume responsibility, to defend each other against the crime of sexual assault.

"We're making progress in the Air Force but it's not good enough," she said. "Our work is not done and we need to keep the focus on prevention. We need to show persistent focus, leadership and action, and together we can make it happen. Together we can defeat sexual criminals, cultivate a culture of dignity and respect and an environment free from sexual assault."

In 1990, Koestner was a freshman at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, when a man she had been dating for less than two weeks assaulted her. In 1991, she appeared on the cover of the magazine TIME, publicizing her experience. In 1993, HBO produced a movie about her story and since, Koestner has shared her story worldwide at

See TAKE BACK, Page 13

Doolittle Raiders share Congressional Gold Medal with the world

Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

DAYTON, Ohio — On April 18, 1942, 80 men inspired a nation by flying 16 B-25 bombers off the deck of the USS Hornet and dropping ordnance on Tokyo. Now, 73 years later, Congress honored these men with the Congressional Gold Medal, presented to the Raiders in Washington D.C., April 15.

The medal, which is the highest civilian honor Congress can give on behalf of Americans, was flown on a ceremonial B-25 flight, in the care of Brian "Bear" Anderson, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association sergeant at arms, and landed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 18. The B-25 "Panchito," owned by Larry Kelley and Lorie Thomsen, was crewed by Larry Kelley, Calvin Peacock, Lorie Thomsen, Don Penny Schneider, Harry Fox and Matt Sager.

Later that night, the two remaining Raiders, retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" E. Cole and former Staff Sgt. David J. Thatcher, presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force to be housed in the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders B-25 exhibit.

"Seventy-three years ago today David Thatcher and I, along with 78 fellow flyers took off on a mission that was based on trust in our leader — James H. Doolittle," Cole said. "Ten years ago today the surviving Raiders put their trust in the decision of appointing a new guardian for our silver goblets — the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Today, April 18, 2015, Dave Thatcher and I find ourselves putting the Doolittle Raiders' trust once more in the hands of the director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. We proudly hand over



U.S. Air Force photo/Will Haas

Doolittle Raiders retired Lt. Col. Dick Cole and former Staff Sgt. David Thatcher pose with the Congressional Gold Medal after it arrived at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, following a ceremonial flight on board the B-25 "Panchito" April 18, 2015. The medal is on display in the museum's World War II Gallery in the Doolittle Raid exhibit.

our Congressional Gold Medal to (retired Lt. Gen.) Jack Hudson, who we trust will respectfully guard it and have it securely displayed in (the) Doolittle Raider exhibit for the world to see and appreciate."

The Doolittle Raid, which took place before the Air Force became a separate service, not only motivated a nation, but proved strategic airpower is necessary for global reach and the joint fight.

"The actions of these brave Airmen al-

tered the course of World War II, and put our nation on the glide path to where we are today," said Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, the commander of Air Force Materiel Command. "It is absolutely an honor to play a part in this well-deserved tribute for a tremendous group that we proudly claim as predecessors to our Airmen of today."

The Raiders look back on the Raid as just another mission in the war. They said they were just average American volunteers.

"The Doolittle Raiders came from a generation that spoke proudly of service to their country, but rarely drew attention to their own courage," said Sen. Sherrod Brown. "They sought no recognition, but oh, how they've earned it."

The medal is displayed at the museum, rotating near the Raiders' 80 silver goblets, only two of which remain upright. The Raiders said they hope the Doolittle Exhibit educates the younger generation, and Thatcher had advice for current and future Airmen.

"Be prepared for anything you run into — we weren't," he said. "Learn everything you possibly can, and be good at it."

Both Cole and Thatcher spoke of the raid and their fellow crew members with fondness and twinkling eyes, all with an undercurrent of humor and humility.

"Tonight's affair couldn't have been planned more accurately," Cole said. "As I remember, the mission was over, it was Saturday night, on the 18th of April and about this time, David Thatcher was on the beach in China saving the rest of his crew, and I was hanging in my parachute in a tree."

With only 158 Congressional Gold Medals ever awarded, the Raiders are in the company of men like former President (Gen.) George Washington.

"The Congressional Gold Medal is a testament to the heroic achievements and lasting impact of the Doolittle Raiders," said Rep. Mike Turner. "We want you to know that the United States of America is forever indebted to you, for not only the sacrifices and valor you displayed that day, but also for how you have shared and honored the legacy of our veterans...it is an example of unwavering commitment to service by the men and women in uniform to our nation and to each other."

Columbus AFB's many outdoor opportunities with Mike and Mike

Mike Blythe and Mike Jago

14th Civil Engineer Squadron

With 1,400 acres of natural forest, Columbus Air Force Base provides numerous free opportunities to get exercise, view wildlife, picnic and enjoy time with friends and family.

In addition to trails, the base maintains a stocked lake, butterfly gardens and allows hunting and fishing for nominal fees.

Spring is here, so the time is now to explore the outdoor beauty of the base. While there are no endangered species in habitat at Columbus AFB, opportunities to enjoy wildlife along the base's five miles of trails are plentiful. Wild turkeys, rabbits, deer, coyotes, hummingbirds, and armadillos are a few of the species to be seen along the trails. Bald eagles flying over or dipping down to catch small prey may even be observed, so a camera is recommended for outings.

The nature trails are located on the north end of the base, by following Independence Drive toward the SAC Alert Facility. Look for signs leading to SAC Lake and the Timberline Nature Trails.

Butterfly gardens were developed to distract birds from the airfield. As a secondary benefit, base personnel may enjoy a variety of species of local butterflies by visiting the gardens.

Butterflies are also important to the pollination of wildflowers and woody plants. To attract the butterflies, Columbus AFB's Environmental Element provided food, shelter, and breeding needs by finding a sunny area and providing just the right amount of shrubby plants, puddles and rocks. The Mississippi State Butterfly is the Spicebush Swallowtail, identified by its blue and black wings with light-blue markings at the tail and white dots along the edges. The very lucky observer will spot the Spicebush in its caterpillar phase with amusing markings that appear as a face. The Butterfly Gardens are located near SAC Lake.

SAC Lake is stocked with catfish, brim and bass. Fishing at SAC Lake is allowed year-round with a Mississippi State fishing license and a low-cost base fishing permit. A base permit may be obtained at Outdoor Recreation, where they



Courtesy photo/Frank Lockhart

Columbus AFB provides five miles of recreational trails for Airmen, families and personnel to enjoy. One of the trails is part of the Timberline Nature Trails system.

cost less than \$10. Money from base permits is used to restock the lake and feed the fish.

For sportsmen, seasonal hunting at Columbus AFB can be rewarding. Deer, squirrel and occasionally ducks may be hunted at the base. State license and a base hunting permit are required. Outdoor Recreation manages hunting licenses and permits; a safety briefing and map of available hunting areas are provided when the permit is issued. Hunting is not allowed near SAC Lake or the Timberline Nature Trails. Hunters must learn and understand the rules, as privileges are revoked for non-adherence.

Columbus AFB nature trails have uses other than recreation. The Timberland Nature Trails are also used for training and research purposes. The 14th Security Forces Squadron often uses the area for important All-Terrain Vehicle and Ground Combat Skills training. The trails provide unique and realistic training space. Additionally, Mississippi



Courtesy photo/Frank Lockhart

SAC Lake is stocked with catfish, brim and bass for personnel to fish. With the proper licenses, fishing is allowed year-round at SAC Lake.

State University's College of Veterinary Medicine recently visited the trails to collect plants that can be poisonous to animals, including Oak, Azalea, Fescue and Rhododendron.

The care and maintenance of the trails system at Columbus AFB requires effort on the part of everyone who enjoys them. When hiking, fishing or hunting, common etiquette applies in addition to rules for specific activities. Personnel should clean up after themselves, including their dogs. Unless authorized to do so, samples should not be taken. Leave flowers and other items in place so other hikers may enjoy them. Marked trails should be the only place where hiking occurs. Walk on the right, pass on the left, and acknowledge others in a friendly manner.

Personnel are invited to play a larger role in trail maintenance by volunteering to participate in a trail and streambed cleanup and other activities. Keep checking Silver Wings for more details on these activities as Earth Day approaches.

Commander's Action Line

434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

TMO numbers have changed

PCSing and traveling commercially? The numbers for the commercial travel office have changed.

Correct numbers for Travco (CTO):

During duty hours: (855) 804-4942

After duty hours: (855) 324-7648

Correction

In a cutline on the front page of the April 17, 2015, Silver Wings, Chris Murff, Maintenance Director, Hunt Housing, was incorrectly identified as Skip Thompson, Director of Operations for Tidewater Landscaping. We apologize for the error.

Visit us online!

www.columbus.af.mil

Victims remembered during Holocaust Days of Remembrance

Airman 1st Class John Day
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Week, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, hosted a museum at the Columbus Club April 21 dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust.

"This kind of event is something worthy of observance," said Master Sgt. Carolyn Stewart, Holocaust Remembrance Committee Project Officer. "Airmen everywhere need to be made aware of these events so that history does not repeat itself."

The genocide that took place during the Holocaust from 1941 to 1944 led to the death of approximately six million Jewish people.

In 1942 many of the Jewish that were in containment by the Nazi regime and its collaborators were sent to concentration camps where they were forced into extreme labor. The majority of these camps were dis-

ease-ridden and their inhabitants were suffering from extreme starvation.

During the last months of the war the concentration camp guards moved the prisoners between camps on forced marches, often referred to as death marches, in an attempt to evade Allied forces.

The last official day of World War II in Europe was May 8, 1945, as the German forces surrendered the day before.

The museum consisted of a 15-minute documentary and a room with props and educational boards.

The film documented the survivors of the Holocaust and showed their experiences through that time and how they reclaimed their lives afterward. The museum had boards from the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center detailing the survivor's stories and gave a brief history of the Holocaust.

"The events we have put on today really have encapsulated just went on during the Holocaust," said Airman 1st Class Sean Ju-



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Airman 1st Class Sean Juroviesky, member of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee, poses for a photo near a Holocaust Days of Remembrance light display April 21 at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The committee put together a museum featuring a video on the Holocaust and a room full of informational boards and props.

roviesky, member of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee. "The video and static displays are very powerful communicators."

Hosting yearly events like this keeps Airmen educated and allows the victims to not

be forgotten.

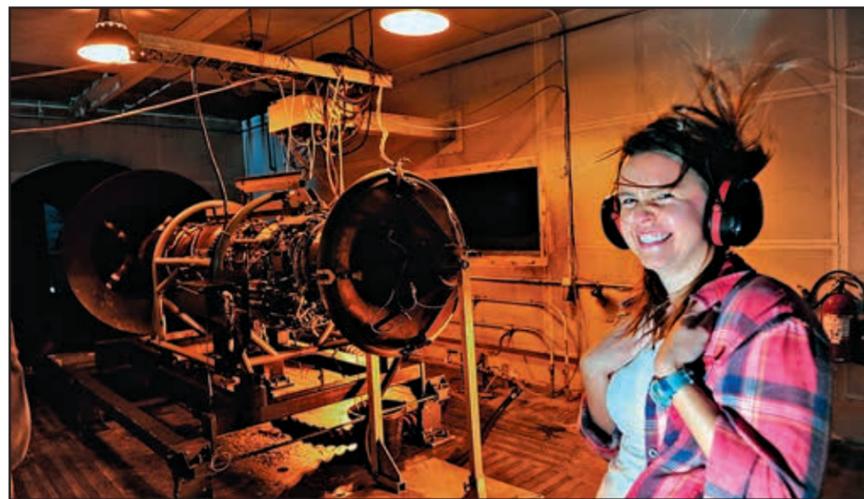
"The Air Force is diverse," Stewart said. "Recognizing all nationalities and the struggles they have endured make us more resilient."

Mississippi State University students tour Columbus AFB



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Aerospace engineering majors from Mississippi State University examine a T-38 Talon engine that is out of the aircraft and being maintained April 22 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The students also flew in the simulators and went inside the engine test cells.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Ashley Kosturock, Mississippi State University student, experiences being up close to a T-38 Talon engine at full afterburner while in an engine test cell April 22 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The students were all aerospace engineering majors on a base tour.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

East MS Job Fair

A job fair is scheduled from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 30 at East Mississippi Community College, GT Campus Mayhew, Mississippi. For a list of vendors, go to jobfairs.ms.gov or for more information call 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. May 4-8. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has Seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, MS Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance 8 - 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register call 434-2839.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 11-12. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants to make. To register and for more information call 434-2790.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen, (both single and married) their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges, such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC call 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Air-

Team BLAZE cleans Whispering Pines Golf Course



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Lt. Col. Elizabeth Harwood, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, and Capt. Andrew McUmb, 14th Medical Group Bio-environmental, pick up trash on the Whispering Pines Golf Course for Earth Day April 22 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Earth Day has evolved into an international celebration of our commitment to protect and conserve Earth's natural resources.

man & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional de-

tails are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

Temporary Jobs for the Summer

Job opportunities include: Clerical, Lifeguard, Recreation Aid, Computer Clerk, General Laborer and others. Posting on USA Jobs began March 9 at usajobs.gov.

Base Community Organizations

Learn How to Read Your LES

Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Well, Finance has you covered. If you would like for Finance to come you're your next CC call on Profession Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Senior Airman Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

DRMO

Recycle first by using the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office as your facility's source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply.

Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

Last Look Area

Recycling is what the Last Look Area provides! Slightly used furniture and equipment is available to all Columbus Air Force Base facilities for free. Pick-up and delivery is the customer's responsibility. There is a three-day maximum for customers who wish to reserve items. Facility hours are from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Need more information? Contact Inspections at 434-7231 or 434-7332. Parking is available at the back of building 158.

Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

Catholic Community

Sunday:
3:15 p.m. - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Chapel Annex)
3:45 p.m. - Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)
4 p.m. - Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. - Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. - Mass w/Children's Church
Tuesday:
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass

Protestant Community

Sunday:
9 a.m. - Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service
Tuesday:
5 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesday:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Force Support Squadron Website

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

Supply Drive for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

The Youth Center needs your help with their Community Service Project. Paper, pens, markers, etc. can be dropped off at the Youth Center Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. April 1 – 30. For more information and a complete list of items needed, please contact 434-2504.

Trivia Night at the Club

The Columbus Club is offering Trivia Night at 7 p.m. April 24. Doors open at 5 p.m. Enjoy trivia, food, fun, drink specials, and a chance to win \$150 in prizes. For more information, contact 434-2329.

Bench Press Competition

The Fitness Center is offering a Bench Press Competition at 5 p.m. May 4. Male and female divisions; all rules and weight classes per AAU standards. Free t-shirt to participants and those who make the 300 goal. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Military Spouse Appreciation 5K Run/Walk

The Fitness Center is hosting a Military Spouse Appreciation 5K Run/Walk and 10K Bike Ride at 7 a.m. May 8. Commander's Trophy Points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Mother and Child Bingo

The Youth Center is offering free Mother and Child Bingo at 4:30 p.m. May 8. Register by May 7. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Players Championship Open Pick 3

The Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering Players Championship Open Pick 3 May 9. The cost is only \$10 plus green fees and cart. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Moms Bowl Free

Moms bowl free May 9 in honor of Mother's Day at the Bowling Center. Free shoe rental included. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Independence Pool Opens

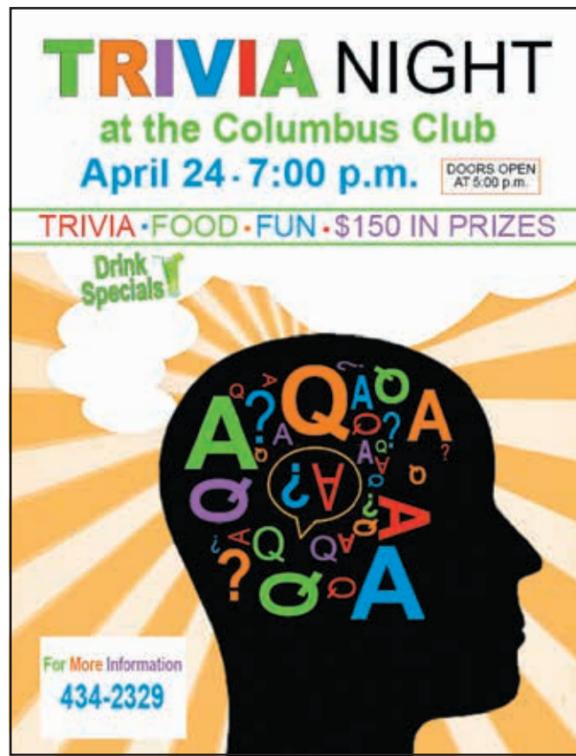
Purchase your pool passes now at Outdoor Recreation. The base pool opens May 22. For more information about swim times and lessons, contact 434-2505.

Summer Day Camp Registration

The Youth Center is offering summer day camp May 26 – Aug. 5. Registration is open until all slots are filled; first come basis. The cost is based on total family income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Get Golf Ready

Learn the basics of golf with Whispering Pines Golf Course at 6 p.m. daily April 28 – May 1. Includes lessons on chipping, putting irons, woods, and specialty shots; once completed each participant receives a \$50 credit toward a set of clubs purchased



thru the pro shop and two rounds of golf with a cart. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Disc Golf Tournament

The Fitness Center is offering a single round 18-hole disc golf tournament at 5 p.m. April 29. Commander's trophy points awarded. All equipment provided. Sign up at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Youth Basketball Registration

The Youth Center is offering youth basketball registration May 4 – 21 for ages 8 – 18. The cost is \$10 per player; register May 4 – 8 and save \$5 per player. All games played on base. Physicals required for registration. Play will begin in June. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

America's Kids Run

Join the Youth Center for this free event for kids of all ages May 16. Run begins at 8 a.m. at the Youth Center parking lot. Register online at www.americaskidsrun.org. For more information, contact 434-2504.

British Soccer Camp

The Youth Center is offering British soccer camp June 8 – 12 for ages 3 – 18. The cost varies according to age. Stop by the Youth Center or call 434-2504 for more information or register online at challengersports.com.

New Hours of Operation for Library

The new hours of operation for the Library are as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday closed; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday open 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Sunday open 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

New Lower Prices at Golf Course

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering new lower prices for club memberships and golf fees. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Wood Shop Self Help

Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

Hot Hula Fitness Class

Polynesian dance workout is an easy to follow, low impact exercise that strengthens arms, abs, and legs. Classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

RV Storage Lot

Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

Green Plate Special

The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Fitness on Request

CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

Ride in Style

If you don't want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Transportation one way is \$175 for Birmingham and \$50 for Columbus. Call 434-2505 for more information.

Hot and Easy to Use

Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style.

MyMC2 app

Welcome to the My Military Communities information page. MyMC2 is the mobile application that centralizes all of your installation's community events, organizations and services right in your pocket.



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for "MyMC2", or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



iPhone QR code Android QR code

If you have any questions or need support please visit www.facebook.com/mymc2support

Is sexual assault relevant to you?

By A Survivor

In the Air Force we receive lots of Sexual Assault briefings, and sometimes I often feel people take them as a joke.

During one of these briefings someone turned to me and said, "The Air Force needs to make this stuff more relevant."

The person went on to say, "I am tired of listening to these briefings and the numbers don't really mean anything to me, the AF needs to come up with something to make it real."

Even though it has nothing to do with sexual assault, I immediately thought of a used car sales person. They always pitch to you why you need a new car. Most of us who are really not in the market of looking for a new car, we hear them but we half listen. We don't really get why we should care about what this person is saying because what that person is saying is not relevant to us.

So when someone sits in a SARC briefing and hears that 1,350 Airmen were sexually assaulted this last year and can still turn to me and say something like what this person said to me, all I can think of is it must not be relevant to them.

It is confusing to me — I would think one Airman reporting the crime would make it relevant, and would require our attention. But then I thought deeper and I said, "Maybe they just don't understand what us survivors go through; surely if they knew, compassion and outrage over this crime would overflow."

So I am going to explain what I suffered through.

I immediately thought it was my fault. I didn't really need victim blaming; I had blamed myself more than anyone would know or understand. I had to do something to entice my family member to rape me at 10 years old.

This is one of the most common reactions victims feel when we report this crime. It should really come as no surprise that survivors blame themselves; it seems that society only takes rape seriously when the victim was violently overtaken by a stranger jumping out of the bushes.

For most, the rapists were wolves in sheep's

clothing. They were our dates, our friends, our teachers, our cousins or fathers or mothers or husbands. He was my cousin and he visited my room too often for the wrong reason and guess what — I didn't tell. Not because I didn't think my parents would not have believed me, but because I didn't understand what just happened to me, so I froze.

In the Air Force, one in three survivors now reports the crime. This is great news. However of those, only a small percentage of rapists are convicted.

I am smart enough to know that there is more to conviction, but yet it still seems so unfair to me because then victims are considered a liar or they label it as regret sex when you know everything in you said no. Maybe she just didn't have the voice to say it out loud.

When the courts aren't placing responsibility where it belongs, it becomes even harder for society to see us as victims whose actions played no role in what happened. And, therefore, it becomes even harder for us as survivors to realize we are not to blame. So by the time I was a teenager and it happened to me again on a date, I was totally convinced it was my fault and something inherently was wrong with me. Until later in therapy, I had no idea that I had no boundaries, no voice to say no, and what was physically happening to me were panic attacks.

We make hundreds of choices each day. Some are clearly good (wearing our seatbelt) and some are more neutral (eating potato chips for lunch instead of an apple). But some choices we make end up being bad only because of an intervening factor.

For instance, one day I left all the windows down in my car and guess what, it poured down rain and my car was soaking wet. It cost me \$500 on an Airman's salary to dry it out. "How stupid," I thought. "If only I had rolled up my windows. What a bad choice I made!"

For rape survivors, we often think, "Why did I get in the car with him?" "Why did I go to that party?" "Why did I get drunk?" This is risky business, this second-guessing of our actions. We can second-guess all day long, but the bottom line is that we would not have been raped had our rapist chosen to respect us and our au-

tonomy, to not commit a crime, to be a decent human being. The buck stops there.

While not all choices are "good," we have the right to make neutral or bad choices without anticipating someone else will take advantage of us and rape us. We have the right to have a drink or go on a walk through a park. We have the right to be a child without someone violating us, stealing our soul. Drinking unsafely and walking alone at night is likely to make a person more vulnerable. I think most survivors would agree with that. But no one has the right to rape us, ever, no matter what we say or do.

No rapist rapes by accident. He or she makes a choice. He or she is not just another victim. The rapist, as opposed to the victim, has plenty of time to make a choice. Unfortunately, the rapist makes the wrong choice and we suffer for years because of it.

As survivors we have to rewrite our internal script. We have to understand that you had the right to drink. You had the right to go on a walk. You had the right to dress however you wanted. You had the right to trust him. You had the right to make your own choices, and you are responsible for them. But no one has the right to perpetrate abuse against another. No one had the right to rape you.

As a child, you are supposed to trust your family. But as an adult, were there choices you could have made that would have protected you? You could have spent your life learning self-defense. You could have never trusted a soul. You could never walk by yourself. You can spend an eternity making a list of the choices that would have saved you from being raped. But the absolute bottom line is this: only one person makes the choice to rape.

There are things we can and should do to protect ourselves, but the only person who can prevent rape is the rapist themselves. Bad decisions, neutral decisions, good decisions — to me it doesn't matter. We should be able to live our lives; we should be able to trust our family and our neighbors. Rapists should not rape. Period.

This is why I think it is relevant what the Air Force is teaching us in those briefings, because I am one of those who was silent until now and I found my voice.

Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website, with exception of Air Force publications, through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

Sexual Assault: A conversation with a survivor

Tech. Sgt Terri Paden
15th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — She had just returned from a party her freshman year in college when a close friend of the family and trusted mentor did the unthinkable. It was the first weekend she'd been allowed to stay off campus. After having one too many drinks she was picked up from the party by her boyfriend and driven to the home of her rapist to sleep it off until morning. Her boyfriend left thinking she was in good hands and that's when the man she looked up to as a father figure took advantage of the drunk 18 year old passed out in his house.

"I felt destroyed ... like I had nothing left," she said of her emotional state after the rape. "I had no confidence and I felt like everything was taken from me and like I had no control. I didn't feel safe anymore."

Prior to the incident, this survivor describes herself as, "on top of the world."

"I was captain of clubs and high school soccer teams," she said. "I was choral leader and an avid performer. I simply loved the lime light and, frankly, was good at it. The stage, the spotlight, none of it made me nervous, which was quite the contrary to the pale shaking girl many of my college classmates witnessed almost the entirety of my three years in college after 'that' happened."

After learning this was not the first time he had done this to someone, she decided to report him.

"I felt like if nobody else was going to do anything then I would do something because I knew that he would keep doing this and getting away with it unless someone stopped him," she said.

She said the resulting legal process was one of the hardest things this survivor ever had to endure.

"The biggest adversity was finding the confidence to take my life back into my own hands," she said. "One part of that, the hardest part actually, was the two-year legal process. I didn't want to prosecute him because it only dragged on the painful memories longer and more prevalent in my mind. There were times I wished with all my heart that he would have killed me, rather than left me to live forever soiled by his disconcerting pleasure. One of the many things that kept me going was remembering the words of his daughters several days after ... 'this wasn't the first time ... we should have known.'"

Since the incident involved a civilian and did not take place on school grounds, the survivor reported the rape to the civilian authorities. Though the legal process took place in the civilian justice system, the survivor was also given a victim advocate from the sexual assault prevention and response office at her school and so began her healing process.

Her appointed VA attended legal appointments and court appearances with her, even representing her in court at times she didn't feel strong enough to attend herself.

With her VA by her side she spent the next two years making her case through three separate district attorneys and legal teams before finally learning that her rapist had entered a plea agreement of "guilty" to the lowest charge, one count sexual assault, meaning her case would never make it to trial.

Though it wasn't the outcome she'd originally hoped for, her rapist was finally convicted and put behind bars with a lesser sen-

tence, an outcome she said was necessary for her healing process.

"If there isn't a conviction of some kind it might cause the victim to feel half believed and invalidated," she said. "It's so much more empowering when in a court of law your story is believed and accepted. I was really glad when the legal process was done. I didn't get everything I wanted but I knew I had done the right thing and I felt justified. There was no longer a weight hanging over me or any unfinished business. It was a relief."

This survivor said after the conviction she became more involved with the SAPR office at her school, and though she is not an official victim's advocate, she believes it's her duty to continue telling her story and speaking out against sexual assault.

"Even when I was going through the process I was very involved with other girls who were going through the same things. I think I'm one of the stronger ones," she said. "I'm pretty open about my feelings because I think that's the best way to deal with things. It's really hard for people to understand the act of rape, but they can understand and identify when you tell them how you feel as a result of it."

This survivor encourages victims to not be ashamed and to speak out and report perpetrators who might otherwise slip by undetected and continue to victimize others, but she advises them to be prepared for any outcome and not let their healing process rest solely on court proceedings.

"I want other victims to know they aren't the only one," she said. "What pushed me was the thought that until somebody stopped them they weren't going to stop. This isn't just for me or you. You're making the world a better place by stopping them from doing this to someone else."

Since the incident, she has tried to find the balance between her outreach efforts and her own healing process.

"It's going to take me the rest of my life to recover," she said. "I'm never going to be normal. I'm never going to be the same, but the more I help others the more comfortable and assertive I become also."

She advises Airmen to be less judgmental and more supportive of their friends, family members or co-workers who might have experienced similar situations.

"Just being there to listen sometimes is the best thing you can do," she said. "It's not your job to judge and offer your own opinions because it causes more drama for everyone involved when you do."

She also cautions Airmen against believing consent is implied rather than given—a common misconception she said bothers her the most.

"Consent to one thing does not mean consent to another," she said. "Doing one thing does not mean you are willing to do something else. If someone buys you dinner you do not owe them sex, and just because you are willing to drink or you are drunk does not mean you are willing to have sex."

Finally, she suggests thinking of wingmen as family members instead of just co-workers.

"I think about the wingman concept a little differently," she said. "Instead of looking at someone as just your wingman think about them as you would your mother or father or sister or brother. Treat them with the same respect you would your own family members and look out for them the same way you would your own family members."



The Columbus Air Force Base Library offers a display of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response information available to Team BLAZE members on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

AF top leaders hold event for Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention Month

Senior Airman Hailey Haux
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — Airmen gathered in the Pentagon with the Air Force top leaders for a 'chalk walk' to raise awareness about sexual assault, April 20.

As Airmen began to collect in the hallway, which was covered with paintings of previous Air Force leaders, there was something different. On the floor in the center of the corridor, was a line of posters Airmen had made.

Written on the posters were messages like: 'It's all on us,' 'no means no,' 'Airmen take care of other Airmen,' and they were only a few of the many that stood out to Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James.

"Today marks near the end of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but it is certainly not the end of the crusade, the work goes on," James said. "We have Air Force bases and installations all over the place that are highlighting our commitment to ending sexual assault."

She went on to say the Air Force has made progress with

reports being up and prevalence being down.

"Our sexual assault response coordinator's, victim's advocates and special victim's council are providing leading edge care to our survivors," James said. "All of that is great, but none of it is good enough. There is a lot more to be done. The work goes on and together we are going to get there."

Both James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, stressed that this is a round-the-clock commitment.

"Today is about reminding ourselves to continue to value each and every individual and their right to live in an environment that values diversity, inclusion, respect, and the contribution of every single person who serves our Air Force," Welsh said. "And it's their absolute right to an environment free from harassment or assault of any kind. It's a 24/7, 365 commitment to changing this environment where it still exists in our Air Force and absolutely never, ever tolerating it. That's why we're here."

As things came to a close, every person in the hallway linked arms and had a moment of silence as a representation of how serious the Air Force is about going forward together.

Male Sexual Assault: Do you understand the myths?

By Daisy Jones-Brown
14th Flying Training Wing
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Male survivors of sexual assault and rape are less likely to report or disclose the event to others.

In fact, according to research, males are the least likely to report a sexual assault, even though it is estimated that they make up about 10 percent of all victims.

The preconceptions that prevail in society about men can make it appear even harder for males to be seen as the victims of sexual crime. Myths and incorrect assumptions propagated by both survivors and non-survivors alike, can lead to a veil of silence driven ultimately by fear about how others will see them, as well as how they identify with themselves.

Greater understanding about the rape and abuse of males by both male survivors and society as a whole is vital if men are to feel able to report and disclose their experiences in order to get support, help and justice. Part of this involves dispelling the myths that surround male rape and assault.

Myth: Men cannot be raped / sexually assaulted

Anyone can be sexually assaulted/raped, regardless of their gender, size, strength, appearance or sexual orientation. The vast majority of the literature or discussion about sexual assault/rape is discussed from the perspective of the female victim. Until very recently, there has been very little in the mass media about male victims of sexual assault, and this absence leads to the belief that sexual assault simply doesn't happen to men. This is untrue.

The legal definition of what constitutes sexual assault/rape can vary a bit from state to state. However, sexual assault generally includes any unwanted or non-consensual sexual contact or attention, i.e. inappropriate touching or harassment. More specifically, sexual assault in the form of male rape involves unwanted, non-consensual or forced anal or oral penetration.

Myth: Male rape is not as serious as female rape

All victims, regardless of their gender, undoubtedly suffer as the result of sexual assault/rape. It is simply not true that women suffer more than men, or indeed that men suffer more than women.

In the aftermath of sexual assault, as groups, male and female survivors share dealing with many of the same issues, i.e. self-blame, anxiety, flashbacks, nightmares, guilt, shame, etc., to the same intensity and severity — and all are equally as valid. It is true, however, that there are certain issues that do tend to be gender specific — for example, women have to deal with the trauma of potential pregnancy after rape, whereas male victims have to deal with the increased risk of STDs after male-on-male rape.

Myth: Men who are sexually assaulted are not real men

From very young children, we are taught that boys and men should be "brave," "strong" and "tough" — and therefore it is understandable that experiences which leave you feeling scared, vulnerable and abused can leave some men feeling inadequate and ashamed.

Being victimized in this way is certainly not an indication of a manliness or physical strength. It's important to appreciate that rape/sexual assault is about the abuse of power and control. Certainly this power can be in the form of physical strength, but it can also be in the form of psychological control, emotional blackmail, abuse when incapacitated, coercion, etc.

Myth: Women cannot sexually assault a man

While the vast majority of perpetrators who abuse males are male themselves, an estimated 3 percent are female. Again, rape and sexual assault is not about physical strength, but about power and control. In addition to this, because many men have never even considered the serious possibility of being raped or sexually assaulted by women, there is a high likelihood that you may just freeze in the situation.

It takes many people by surprise that men can in fact be assaulted by women, and often a man may fear that disclosure of the assault may be greeted with disbelief or that it will not be taken seriously. However, a man can be raped by a woman and the legal authorities are beginning to take this with the seriousness it deserves.

Myth: If a man sexually responds during rape, then it's not really rape

Sexual response in men (in the form of erection or ejaculation) often occurs during male rape. However, this response is a mechanical one, and the only thing it shows is that your body is reacting in the way it is supposed to react to sexual stimulation. It is a near biological certainty that pressure in the prostate gland will result in a physical sexual response. It does not, in any way, mean that you have enjoyed it — and it certainly does not stop the rape being a rape. It is simply a reaction to which your body naturally responds, in much the same way someone who does not want to laugh, may laugh against their will while being tickled.

Myth: Being raped by a man means you are homosexual

Many men, especially those who have a physical sexual reaction during a rape, fear that this means they are homosexual. This is totally untrue. Physical stimulation of the erogenous zones in your body, whatever the gender of the perpetrator, is likely to result in sexual arousal. Your body does not distinguish between whether the stimulation is performed by a man or women.

Hopefully, explaining these myths provides a better understanding of male sexual assault. All victims of sexual assault suffer greatly, and it is not tolerated in our Air Force.