

## Concept plan approved for housing privatization

Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, approved the project concept for Columbus AFB's housing privatization plan in an out-brief presented by the Air Education and Training Command headquarters housing privatization team July 9.

The team, comprised of project management personnel, private support contractor representatives and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence representatives, worked with base personnel last week to revise and clarify the Columbus AFB housing privatization proposal.

This effort was the first step for Columbus AFB towards privatizing military family housing.

"The next step will be to incorporate Columbus AFB into Group II, making it one of eight AETC bases grouped into a single housing privatization project, and to drive a final group request for proposal," said Tom Woosley, AFCEE representative.

Housing privatization is a significant improvement to the military family housing community, officials said.

"For years, Columbus AFB families along with the rest of the Air Force has had to live in substandard housing," said Rodney Roberts, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy commander. "The units have very small living space and no storage space, normal amenities found in private sector housing.

"The privatization concept will move the military family housing community into the 21st century by providing new energy-efficient and spacious units comparable to new housing units found off base."

One of the advantages of housing privatization is that it will provide new housing units faster and at little or no cost to the federal government.

There will be some changes to the way residents live in military family housing. One major difference is that residents will pay for electricity and natural gas utilities. A part of members' basic allowance for housing will be returned to them to help pay for these utility costs.

This management style mirrors that of the private sector, where residents pay all utility costs including water, sewer, and garbage pick-up. However, with housing privatization, the developer who wins the proposal pays for water, sewer and garbage pick-up cost.

Base residents should not expect to see any changes in the near future. Officials say they expect to have signed and closed a real estate deal by the fall of 2006 and start construction shortly thereafter.

"I believe housing privatization for Columbus AFB will be a 'win-win' deal because it saves money and provides military housing residents an exceptional place to live," Mr. Roberts said. *(Courtesy of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron)*

*(Editor's note: Updates to the program and schedule will be forthcoming in future Silver Wings articles.)*



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

### Tweet anticipation

**Lt. Col. Mike Sprouse, 43rd Flying Training Squadron, helps wing quarterly award winner Airman 1st Class Amber Ashy, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, adjust her helmet before an incentive flight Tuesday. A luncheon for second quarter award winners is at 11:30 a.m. July 29 at the Columbus Club.**

## 'Army of One' soon to recruit Airmen

**Donna Miles**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — After they "Cross Into the Blue," Army officials said they hope Airmen leaving the Air Force will join the "Army of One."

A new program, Operation Blue to Green, seeks to recruit into the Army Airmen and Sailors leaving their service because of force reductions. The Army is temporarily increasing its ranks.

Plans call for the Air Force to reduce its numbers by 16,000 by the end of 2005, Air Force officials said.

An Army spokesperson called Operation Blue to Green an opportunity that "will definitely benefit the

Department of Defense as well as these individuals."

Details of the program are still being worked out, but an Army Web site says the program tells potential recruits it "will allow you to continue to serve your country, to maintain the benefits of military service and to expand your horizons by gaining new training and trying new things."

Candidates for the program are Airmen and Sailors in grades E-5 and below who qualify for an honorable discharge from active duty. Participation in the program, the Web site says, "is dependent upon your service's willingness to release you from your current active-duty obligation."

New Soldiers recruited under the

program will go through a four-week "warrior transition course" being developed by Army Training and Doctrine Command officials.

Bonuses will be offered to recruits for selected military occupational specialties, although details were not yet available.

While Army officials finalize details about the program, they are wasting no time getting the word out to potential candidates. An online information form encourages interested candidates to sign up for more information.

However, the site notes, "Until formal policies have been approved, Army recruiters cannot accept applications, process paperwork or reserve training seats."

## Airman loses life in Iraq — convoy hit by IED

**LITTLE ROCK AFB, Ark.** — An Airman assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and attached to the U.S. Army's 494th Truck Company at Balad AB, Iraq, was killed in action July 11.

Staff Sgt. Dustin Peters, 25, died when the convoy he was riding in encountered an improvised explosive device.

Sergeant Peters served as the NCO in charge of equipment support for the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Little Rock AFB before his deployment to Iraq.

"We lost a valuable member of the Little Rock AFB team and our Air Force family," said Col. Joseph Reheiser, 314th Airlift Wing commander. "Sergeant Peters will be missed, but his dedication and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

"Right now, our efforts are focused on providing his family and friends the support and assistance they need," he said.

Sergeant Peters entered the Air Force Jan. 29, 1997. After completing basic military training at Lackland AFB, Texas, he attended technical training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., graduating as a vehicle operator journeyman. Before arriving at Little Rock AFB Nov. 28, 2000, Sergeant Peters had assignments at Whiteman AFB, Mo., and Andersen AFB, Guam.

"Sergeant Peters was a devoted patriot and Airman," said Lt. Col. Daniel Hicks, 314th LRS commander. "Since his arrival at Little Rock AFB, he has been a valued member

of our unit and a close friend to many.

"One thing you could count on was his service to our country, and others always came ahead of his own needs and desires. His loss has touched us deeply, and we will miss him."

Sergeant Peters departed for Southwest Asia in February for a 179-day tour, his fourth deployment since arriving at Little Rock AFB.

His military decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and valor device, and an Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster. *(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)*

## AF Intern Program raises future leaders

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** — The Air Force Intern Program Central Selection Board will convene here Sept. 20 through Sept. 24.

The program lets 30 junior captains study the application of air and space power and observe senior Defense Department leadership in critical decision making processes.

AFIP is a fast-paced 18- to 24-month program that is designed to develop tomorrow's leaders. While the program is available to both line and non-line officers, a maximum of three slots are available to non-line officers.

"AFIP is another great opportunity for young officers to continue their development," said Capt. William Schlichtig, chief of the Developmental Education Section here. "It's a method of preparing our very best officers for future key leadership positions."

AFIP combines hands-on experience as an intern in the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense and/or the Air Staff as well as an opportunity to earn an Air Force funded master's degree in organizational leadership from George Washington University.

"Selection for AFIP is based on potential for greater achievement as demonstrated by an officer's ability to handle more challenging jobs," Captain Schlichtig said.

The program consists of two phases for interns not enrolled in George Washington University and three phases for those interns enrolled in the GWU program. The program lasts between one and two years.

Officers incur a three-year active-duty service commitment upon completion of the program. Officers who have not attended Squadron Officer School in-residence prior to AFIP will be allotted quotas to attend prior to attending the program.

For application instructions and more information, visit the Officer Professional Developmental Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme). *(Courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center News)*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the **14th Medical Group, Columbus AFB, July 21 through July 23.**

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organization quality and safety-of-care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Address such requests to:

**Division of Accreditation Operations  
Office of Quality Monitoring  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
or  
fax to (630) 792-5636  
or  
e-mail to [complaint@JCAHO.org](mailto:complaint@JCAHO.org)**

The Joint Commission's Office of Quality Monitoring will acknowledge in writing or by telephone requests received 10 days before the survey begins. An account representative will contact the individual requesting the public information interview prior to survey, indicating the location, date and time of the interview and the name of the surveyor who will conduct the interview.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission's requirements and may not be removed before the survey is complete.

## Do your part to stop terrorism

The first step is knowing what to look for. Always keep an eagle eye out for suspicious behavior. Call 24 hours a day (662) 434-7128.

**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. David Eastman, special assistant to the wing commander, is at 11 a.m. Monday at Phillips Auditorium. His fini flight is at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to a reception in the 37th Flying Training Squadron Heritage Room after the ceremony. For more information, call Ext. 7024.

### FTAC session

The next First Term Airmen's Center session begins Monday and ends July 30. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Bailey at Ext. 2409.

# AF research center receives patent on aircraft paint-removal process

**Lisa Mathews**  
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

**ROBINS AFB, Ga.** — Warner Robins Air Logistics Center experts received a patent on a barrier coating and selective coating-removal process used to fight corrosion on aircraft and weapons systems, a feat experts said is rare for maintenance facilities.

Officials said the patented process is good for the environment, good for the center and good for the Air Force because it seals "chromated" primer. Chromates are considered carcinogens and removing the primer creates large volumes of hazardous waste, which causes safety concerns for those painting and removing the paint.

It is not uncommon for an Air Force research facility to receive a patent, but they are few and far between at maintenance facilities,

said Richard Slife, of the maintenance directorate at Tinker AFB, Okla.

"The barrier coating and selective coating-removal technology was the result of years of study and laboratory testing," Mr. Slife said.

The new system removes only the topcoat, and the barrier layer underneath does not contain hazardous material like that found in the chromated primer, he said.

Once the topcoat of paint is removed using water or a dry media rather than hazardous chemicals, the paint-removal process is stopped, leaving the barrier coating and primer in place.

An added bonus is that stripping the paint to the barrier coating reduces damage to the aircraft and prolongs the integrity of the frame, he said.

Repeatedly removing paint down to the metal eventually reduces the material strength.

The new process will allow experts to remove the topcoat, barrier and chromated primer in very limited areas where they might need to inspect for corrosion or cracking.

At the same time, the chromated primer and barrier coating is left on undamaged areas, reducing excessive hazardous waste, Mr. Slife said.

The first aircraft undergoing the paint-removal process down to the barrier coating will be an F-15 Eagle scheduled to arrive at Robins AFB in September or October. The barrier coating was applied to this aircraft three years ago.

The new process can be used on any aircraft and any weapon system.

There is also a great deal of non-military interest in the process, Mr. Slife said.

He has received requests for information from commercial-aircraft companies and from companies interested in removing graffiti from buildings.

### 14th Flying Training Wing deployed



As of press time, **26 BLAZE TEAM members** are deployed worldwide. Remember to support them while they are away.



1st Lt. Jennifer Moore

### Fifteen minutes of fame

Capt. Tom Hunt, 37th Flying Training Squadron first assignment instructor pilot, briefs 2nd Lt. Mike Opresko, Class 05-09, as Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger, Air Force TV News broadcaster, films them. Sergeant Bellinger visited Columbus AFB this week to produce stories on FAIPS and contract maintenance. The stories will be broadcast at Air Force installations worldwide Aug. 2.

### UCMJ Files



An Article 32 hearing regarding charges against a second lieutenant from the 14th Operations Support Squadron ended Monday.

The hearing included charges of rape, indecent assault and dereliction of duty.

The investigating officer will review all evidence submitted during his investigation and report his findings and recommendations to the 14th Flying Training Wing commander.



**Want to quit smoking?**

For information about smoking cessation classes, call the health and wellness center at Ext. 2237.

# UAV innovations could change face of war

**Staff Sgt. Chris Stagner**  
Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

**NELLIS AFB, Nev.** — Unmanned Aerial Vehicles could start playing a more active role in missions to suppress and destroy enemy air defenses if a UAV Battlelab initiative proves successful.

Fit testing of a new Joint Multi-Platform Weapons Carriage System took place at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev., June 17.

The carriage system could allow several UAVs to carry high-speed anti-radiation missile targeting system pods and also allow remotely piloted aircraft such as MQ-1 and MQ-9 Predators to carry a variety of weapons in greater quantities.

"Right now, we do 'Wild Weasel' suppression of enemy air defense missions with F-16CJs," said Lt. Col. Scott McKinney, UAV Battlelab Operating Location Alpha division chief at Eglin AFB, Fla. "The goal of the 'Little Weasel' initiative is to provide persistent battlefield suppression and allow UAVs to become a part of this key Air Force mission."

"Whenever we can shoot the enemy before they can shoot us, it gives our forces the advantage," said Lt. Col. Mike Stroud, UAV Battlelab deputy commander and former F-4G "Wild Weasel" weapons systems officer. "A

Predator equipped with a HARM targeting system pod could remain in the target area longer than a fighter, and it could get closer to a target without endangering any aircrew. The system could then pass the threat information to an F-16CJ 'Wild Weasel' pilot who could use a HARM to engage the surface-to-air missile system threat while remaining outside the target's threat range."

In order for Predators to support the F-16CJ HARM targeting pod, it was necessary to develop the Joint Multi-Platform Weapons Carriage System. Developers soon discovered the carriage system could do more than just carry the HARM targeting pod.

"The way we were looking to bring the UAVs into the mission was to just put the targeting pods onto the UAVs," Colonel McKinney said. "But, rather than creating a carriage system that would only work just for the pod, the developers created one with the capability to carry munitions as well."

"We've gone down a different path and created a potential system for Predators that could give them the ability to carry more weapons than just the Hellfire (missile)," Colonel McKinney added. "With this new carriage system, we have the capability to carry many more compatible weapons systems such as gravity-drop munitions."

There's one more advantage. "The additional weapons offer more flexibility for the [mission] planners," Colonel Stroud said. "We could



Staff Sgt. Chris Stagner

**Master Sgts. Michael Brooks, 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Weapons NCO in charge, and Lloyd Canty, 757th AMXS Weapons section chief, load an inert AGM-114 "Hellfire" onto an MQ-1 Predator at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev., June 17 as part of a fit test for the Joint Multi-Platform Weapons Carriage System.**

increase our target selections while decreasing collateral damage. It will no longer be about dropping the munitions and having them go on their merry way. With the carriage system, we could use GPS and other laser-guided weapons."

## Summertime lawn safety



Summer is here again — you can almost hear the grass growing; it's sprouting so fast. No computer statistics are available to list the number of mower accidents that occur each year, but it goes without saying that folks do get hurt doing yard work. The following information can help prevent injuries:

- Inspect the area to be mowed before beginning. Clear the grass of stones, wire, glass and other debris.
- Keep small children, pets, feet and hands clear of the mower's moving parts.
- Never operate a power mower when barefoot. Wear shoes of some sort, but not sandals or cloth shoes.
- Always secure footing on inclines. The steeper the slope, the more care is required — especially if the grass is damp.
- Don't pull the mower toward you down an incline, mow across the slope.
- Learn to disengage the clutch or stop the engine quickly in case of an emergency.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire on the mower whenever working on it or unclogging the blades.
- Do not refuel a mower when the engine is hot. Allow the mower to cool before storing it, and ensure that it is stored in a well-ventilated area. (Courtesy of 14th Flying Training Wing Safety Office)



Photos by Donna Lonie

### Oh, that's why

Mike Perryman, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron housing maintenance work leader, changes the air filter in an on-base housing unit. Filters shut down the air conditioning system if they are not cleaned on a regular basis. The housing office recommends cleaning filters once a month. A \$50 fee is assessed to fix air conditioning units that shut down due to dirty filters. For more information or directions on how to clean a filter, see the housing brochure or call the housing office at Ext. 7370.

# Protect DOD resources — prevent fraud, waste, abuse

**Lloyd Clark**  
Office of Special Investigation



What would you do if you reviewed your monthly credit card statement and discovered you were billed twice for the same purchase? I'm sure you would immediately investigate the charges, notify the creditor and demand they remove the excess charge. After all, it's your money!

What if you purchased your wife a new 18K gold necklace and later discovered it was only cheap, gold-plated copper? After exhaustive explanations and desperate apologies, I'm sure you would immediately return the item and demand your money back. After all, it's your money!

As individual consumers, we usually do a pretty good job of policing our personal finances to ensure precise accountability of our money. Overall, we have an acute awareness of our financial dealings. As government employees, we need to apply the same level of alertness within our work centers to identify fraud impacting the federal government. Fraud schemes in the corporate realm

and private sector victimize the Department of Defense.

Fraud is prevalent within the DOD and its strain on our financial resources is enormous. Each year the DOD loses millions of dollars through schemes orchestrated by white-collar criminals and federal employees who cheat the federal government for corporate or personal financial gain. Some common fraud schemes include:

**Corruption** — When somebody in a position of responsibility wrongfully or unlawfully uses his or her position to procure some benefit for himself or some other person.

**Bribery** — Paying, soliciting or receiving a private favor for public action or inaction.

**Kickbacks/gratuities** — An illegal payment or favor made in return for a referral, which resulted in a transaction or contract.

**Embezzlement** — Fraudulent appropriation of money, assets, etc., by a person who has been entrusted with them.

**Product substitution** — A known submission by a contractor to the government for goods that do not conform to contract specifications.

**Contract bid rigging** — An agreement by two or more contract bidders where one or more agree not to submit a bid or to submit bids that were arrived at by agreement.

**False billing** — False description or accounting

treatment of costs, typically labor costs, by government contractors.

**False claims** — Knowingly and willfully submitting a false claim to the government.

**Collusion** — A secret agreement between two or more parties for fraud or deceit.

Other areas include larceny, misappropriation and forgery.

Detecting and deterring fraud is one of Air Force Office of Special Investigation's top priorities. AFOSI routinely teams up with the contracting community and military, civilian and contract employees to neutralize this threat.

In FY03, this team effort and AFOSI investigations resulted in more than \$234 million dollars in recoveries from companies found guilty of fraud.

To put it into perspective, this is more than double the entire AFOSI annual operating budget! However, we cannot accomplish this task alone, and we need your help.

If you have information on indicators of possible fraudulent activity, contact the OSI office at Ext. 2852 or the Air Force Fraud, Waste, and Abuse hotline at (800) 538-8429. Anonymous calls are welcome. Let's work together to protect DOD resources. After all, it's our tax money!

## STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

### Inappropriate summer clothing

**Question:** I would like to bring an issue to your attention. Over the last few weeks, I have noticed several instances of young women wearing what I consider "inappropriate" (i.e., extremely short) shorts in the base exchange and in the BX parking lot at group car washes. I have a young child and I don't want them exposed to this. I know it's getting hot outside but that's no excuse for wearing such clothing.

**Answer:** Thank you for raising this issue. While there is no "dress code" for base personnel, I expect all of us to use

common sense before stepping out of the house. Please remember that what is appropriate for the pool or the beach is not always appropriate for the BX or the commissary. I also expect groups sponsoring fundraisers like car washes to maintain an environment and sense of decorum that's family-friendly.

Let's make sure that we keep Columbus a family-friendly environment. Wear comfortable clothing, but please try to keep other members of the BLAZE team in mind.

Col. Stephen Wilson  
14th Flying Training Wing commander

### Key phone numbers

Base Exchange.....	434-6013
Chaplain.....	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk.....	434-2856
Civilian Personnel.....	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice.....	434-2172
Appointment Desk.....	434-2273
After Hours Care.....	434-2273
Columbus Club.....	434-2489
Commissary.....	434-7106
Finance.....	434-2706
Housing Maintenance.....	434-7370
Inspector General.....	434-2927
Legal Office.....	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity.....	434-2546
Security Forces.....	434-7129
Shoppette.....	434-6026

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

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724, Columbus AFB, Miss., phone 434-7069, or e-mailed to [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil) by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

# Command chief says goodbye to BLAZE TEAM

## Senior leader reflects upon career, shares advice with fellow Airmen

**Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld**  
14th Flying Training Wing

As one ponders the final days as an active-duty member of the most powerful Air Force in the world, one tends to reflect on the course of one's career ... the choices made ... the places visited ... the bad times and the good ... but most of all ... the people of this great organization.

I have enjoyed assignments from the Rocky Mountains to the gulf shores of Biloxi, Miss., and Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; from the high plains of New Mexico to the wild west of Texas. My journey has truly been amazing. It has spanned the globe on three continents. I've served alongside our comrades in arms in England and Korea, with temporary duties scattered throughout Germany, Scotland, Spain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

And yet, places are insignificant when compared to the mission and the people who make it happen.

We — the people of the United States

Air Force — have "come a long way baby" over the past two and a half decades ...

From the late '70s, when we were still recovering from public distaste with the military after Vietnam, to the '80s when we championed technological development and strengthened our forces under the strong leadership of the late President Ronald Reagan. Then the Berlin Wall fell, assimilating Eastern and Western Europe into one and suddenly signaling the end of the Cold War. And in the '90s, we awoke to the invasion of Kuwait — Desert Shield, followed by Desert Storm, which ushered in a new way of thinking — the Rapid Deployment Force, which later transformed into the



**Command Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld entered the Air Force as an airman basic at 19 years old. He retired today after 27 years of military service.**



expeditionary Air Force concept.

Over the last decade, we all have played an integral part in the design, implementation, modification and sustainment of our Air and space Expeditionary Forces. The

foundation of these forces is you.

A plane can't fly without a pilot in the cockpit, a crew chief to preflight it, fuel to propel it, bombs to arm it, intel to target it, and a lean support cadre to sustain it. This is truly a total team effort involving active duty, guard, reserve, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and allies.

So as I wrap up my tenure in our Air Force, I urge you to remember where we came from and those who have paid the

ultimate sacrifice for freedom and our great nation. Never forget the veterans of our distant past, and the lessons learned after Pearl Harbor, the Normandy invasion and the conflict on the Korean peninsula.

Let us also keep the present in focus, ever holding the line against such unprovoked attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City and on our Pentagon in the nation's capital to ensure that it won't happen again. Continue to support those serving now and those who will continue to do so abroad as we battle the Global War On Terrorism.

And last but not least, hold our core values and code of conduct close to your heart — they set the benchmark for future success and ensure our freedom, now and always.

I would like to thank you all for your ceaseless dedication and devotion to duty, honor, and integrity of the BLAZE TEAM during my tenure over the past two years.

You are what makes this nation great. You are our nation's heroes!

# Learning basic math lessons from doughnuts, bicycles

**Master Sgt. Don Perrien**  
37th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**SCOTT AFB, Ill.** — Adapting to the new Air Force Fitness Program has forced me to learn a lot of strange new things over the past six months — some things I wish I never knew.

A lot of that has to do with math. Math and exercise are two things most people don't really enjoy — so we avoid them when we can.

However, I've learned that riding an exercise bike in the fitness center for 20 minutes or so can burn 250 calories, because the little red lights between the handlebars tell me so. That's a good thing.

Unfortunately, in watching the TV news stories while riding my bike, I also learned that the average doughnut has almost the same amount of calories. Looking down at my belly, this tells me that my personal doughnut-to-bicycle ratio favors the doughnuts. That's a bad thing — but I'm working on it.

Another thing I found out while getting "Fit to Fight" is that a mile and a half is longer than it looks. When you're whizzing around in a car at 60 miles an hour, it only takes a minute and a half to travel that far. In sneakers, a mile and a half is at least five miles long. Maybe more. I'm still checking on that.

I think Einstein's Theory of Relativity said something about this phenomenon. Somewhere in that "E equals MC-squared" business is a law that says miles in cars are much shorter than miles in sneakers. I'm hoping maybe next year

I can run my mile and a half in car miles — because sneaker miles are just too darned long.

I think Einstein's theory also covers doughnuts and waist sizes too, but I'm not going to dig out a slide rule or solar-powered calculator to tell me just how many doughnuts it takes to make my jeans feel too tight.

However, I have learned that the fewer doughnuts I've eaten, combined with more time on the exercise bike, has lowered the sneaker length of the mile and a half and made my jeans appear to grow (or my belly shrink).

Somewhere in all this learning, I've discovered a mathematical formula to improve overall physical fitness. I call it the "Unified Theory of Doughnuts," or "D equals B plus M-squared (plus or minus J)."

The Unified Theory of Doughnuts (or UTD for short) says that for every doughnut (D) consumed, I must ride the exercise bike (B) for 20 minutes (M). If I fail to do so, the overall length of the mile and a half run will increase and my jeans (J) will feel tighter.

When I was 16 years old, a mile and a half in sneakers was the same as a mile and a half in a car — and my jeans fit really well. Let's see — I'm 38 years old now. Currently, running a mile and a half in sneakers feels like running

about five miles. That would mean the square root of my waist measurement, divided by something, equals a really big number.

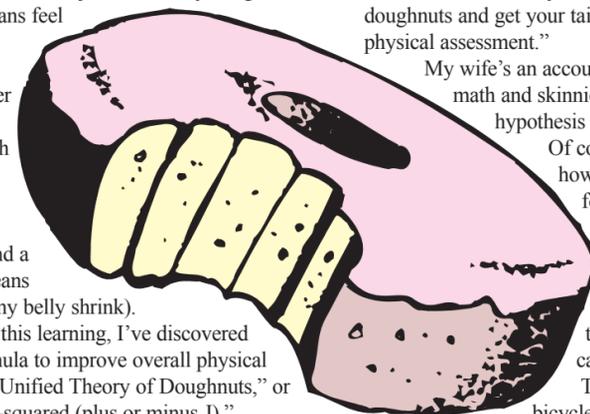
Of course, my wife has simplified the math equation of the UTD into one easy corollary: "Put away the box of doughnuts and get your tail to the gym, or you'll fail your physical assessment."

My wife's an accounting major, generally good at math and skinnier than I am, so I accept her hypothesis as generally sound.

Of course, I still have to work out how much time I need to make up for the last 22 years when the doughnuts I ate far outnumbered the trips I made to the gym. I think solving this particular problem will require one of those 16-digit scientific calculators.

Trust me, it takes a lot of exercise bicycle time to work off 22 years of unaccounted-for doughnuts. The best thing you can do if you find your waistline is violating the UTD is to put the doughnuts away, or at least spread them out along the mile and a half run at really long intervals.

I think I've worked off more than six months' worth of doughnuts. This tells me that vigorous exercise may reduce the time needed to remove the doughnuts from my system. I like the results, but I think that means I'll have to work on the math behind the UTD again. I guess that's a good thing.



# Chief of Staff Sight Picture

## AF housing: A commitment to our Airmen

Gen. John Jumper  
Air Force Chief of Staff



The foundation of our Air Force is our people. Caring for them and their families remains one of our highest priorities. One way we're making good on that commitment is by providing safe and affordable housing. We are committed to providing our Airmen the quality of housing that is commensurate with the society they protect.

Through privatization, increases in the basic allowance for housing and a new dorm standard, we are combating the problems of inadequate housing. There is a myth out there that the new ways of doing business mean that we have abandoned our commitment to ensuring all Air Force members have access to adequate and affordable housing. Let me assure you that nothing is further from the truth.

Secretary (of the Air Force James) Roche and I are committed to ensuring all Air Force members have access to safe, adequate and affordable housing either in the local community or on our installations.

Providing housing options in the local community is our first target. Since 2000, we have reduced the average out-of-pocket expenses for members from 18.9 percent of the cost of housing to 3.5 percent today through annual increases in BAH. We are on track to eliminate these out-of-pocket expenses by next year. These out-of-pocket expenses affect many of the nearly 60 percent of Air Force families who live off base. Through these increases to BAH, you will have a wider range of affordable housing options in your local community.

We are also aggressively targeting the problem of inadequate housing on base. At the beginning of this fiscal year, there were 40,000 inadequate military family housing units, but we plan to eliminate these through partnerships with private developers and military construction projects.

Through a process we call "privatization," we partner with private developers who will build and maintain housing units for Air Force families. These partnership arrangements allow us to provide quality homes more quickly than we can through traditional military constructions.

As of today, we have already built 4,934 new homes through privatization. By 2007, we will have eliminated all inadequate housing units in the continental United States, and two years later, we will have eliminated inadequate units overseas. Secretary Roche and I view the increased use of privatization as key to meeting these goals, so we are working with private developers when it makes sense to do so.

In cases where privatization is neither feasible nor cost effective, we will use traditional military construction programs. We also tripled our investment in Air Force-owned housing and improved the size standards to ensure our on-base homes are comparable in size and quality to model homes available in the local community.

Although we may use developers to construct, maintain and operate military family housing, we have not outsourced our responsibility for the welfare of our Air Force families. We have been and always will be committed to providing the best available housing options for our members — but our methods for achieving this goal have changed. These new methods provide greater flexibility to satisfy our housing needs.

Increases in BAH provide our members greater flexibility to find housing off base. For on-base housing requirements, privatization provides us greater flexibility to build and renovate quality units, while ensuring that the contractors are responsive to the needs of residents.

Currently, we have privatized more than 6,000 units, and have a very high rate of resident satisfaction. Over the next three years, we plan to privatize a total of 45,000 units. In many cases, the privatized housing is on-base property, or just outside the base, making it as convenient as traditional base housing. Privatization is one tool that enables us to provide quality housing to meet your needs.

We are equally committed to providing a quality living environment for our young unaccompanied Airmen. We currently have a shortage of nearly 2,400 rooms, but we are making great strides in filling that gap.

From fiscal year 1996 through this year, we have spent \$1.3 billion in military construction money for new dormitories, and we plan to spend an additional \$735 million over the next five years. With this money, we will eliminate our room deficit and develop an improved room standard called Dorms-4-Airmen.

This improved design provides a larger living/sleeping area and a private bathroom in each room. In addition, the new design improves social interaction by connecting four living/sleeping areas to a large living room and kitchen. Each living room/kitchen area will also have a washer and dryer available to the four occupants.

We are also addressing dormitories for technical training. Currently we have a technical training dorm deficit of more than 29 percent, with 40 percent of our existing technical training dorms having three students in rooms designed for two. However, this deficit will be eliminated by 2009, as we build new dorms each year for the next five years. We have already completed construction of eight new technical training dorms in the last five years and have three new dorms under construction today.

Even as we fight the war on terrorism, we have not lost focus on the importance of quality of life for our Airmen. Providing adequate housing allows Airmen to focus on the mission, knowing that their families have a safe place to live.

Ours is the greatest Air Force in the world because of the remarkable people we attract and retain. The old adage that "we recruit individuals, we retain families" has never been more true. I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in our housing program as we strive to make it worthy of the outstanding men and women who make our Air Force the world's best.

*(Editor's note: This article is the latest Air Force Chief of Staff Sight Picture and may be accessed from the Air Force issues Web page at [www.issues.af.mil](http://www.issues.af.mil).)*

## Abdominal circumference measurement: Friend or foe?

Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
380th Expeditionary Medical Group

Are you frustrated with the abdominal circumference score for the new fitness standard? Have you pounded out hundreds of crunches, pumped oodles of push-ups, only to find your abdominal girth doesn't get you past a composite score of 80?

I must admit that at first I was perplexed and amazed that the numbers and scores didn't change based on height or age. How could that be?

The key to understanding why abdominal circumference takes a huge chunk of your

fitness score is in understanding that our new fitness program is about maintaining the health of your whole body.

What really matters to the Air Force is that you are maintaining a state of health that decreases your risk of preventable diseases. Research has conclusively shown that abdominal size reflects this concept of whole health. Your amount of abdominal fat is a good predictor of your risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke and some types of cancer.

You don't need a palm reader or crystal ball. Just by taking a simple tape measurement, you can get a pretty good

idea of your chance at enjoying a long, healthy life.

Of course, the hard part is deciding what to do if your abs just aren't measuring up.

Take heart! You don't have to look for a liposuction specialist or invest in expensive gadgets advertised on TV to make an improvement. The only proven way to decrease your abdominal circumference is to decrease your body fat.

The fact is that we all have those enviable six-packs of muscle hidden under our abdominal fat. As you lose the fat, the muscle definition becomes clear. If you increase your aerobic capacity and

strengthen your shoulders and core muscle groups, your total body fat will decrease and your abdomen will firm up.

It's a pretty good package deal; as you improve your scores for the 1.5-mile run, push-ups and sit-ups, you should see your abdominal girth decrease. Of course, you will also have to burn more calories than you eat, exercise aerobically while maintaining your training heart rate between 60 and 75 percent, and build more muscle to boost your metabolism.

Okay, so I never said it would be easy. But don't you feel better just knowing it makes sense?

## Course trains Airmen to drive convoys for Army in Iraq

Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Riding in a truck through Iraq, manning a weapon and facing armed adversaries is not a scenario many Air Force vehicle operators thought they would see.

But that is exactly what more than 500 of these Airmen are doing — driving convoys for the Army in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Tate, Air Force vehicle operations career field manager, said a tasking for Air Force drivers to lend a hand came about during a sourcing conference attended by each of the four services.

"The secretary of defense had directed us to develop joint solutions that ensured the combatant commander had the forces necessary to meet operational needs," the chief said. "We looked to see if we possessed a like capability for specific skill sets to help the Army alleviate shortfalls that exist. We determined we had a like capability in the Air Force and the ability to provide Airmen to drive convoys."

To prepare for the mission, the first rotation of vehicle operators underwent six to eight weeks of training. The training was somewhat informal and unstructured, since it was a first for the Air Force, the chief said.

"To remedy that situation for the next rotation and better prepare our Airmen for combat operations, Air Education and Training Command (officials) stood up the Basic Combat Convoy Course, a formal three-week course at Lackland AFB (Texas)," he said.

As soon as the operators complete the course, they will form into units of about 150 Airmen and deploy to Kuwait for convoy live-fire training.

"As part of the convoy live-fire training, they go through a block of training known as close-quarter marksmanship, where they are firing a weapon while on the move," Chief Tate said. "You're five feet from your battle buddy. When you feel the muzzle blast from an M-16 on the back of your neck, (it) raises your hackles, but it's necessary for developing an Airman's confidence in his or her teammates and handling his or her weapon.

"You don't have any choice but to trust your teammates because not only are you depending on (them, they are) depending on you," he said.

The normal span of 30 months between weapons training for vehicle operators did not develop the level of confidence needed in Iraq, the chief said.

"That's why heavy emphasis on weapons training and close-quarter marksmanship is so critical," he said. "Every Airman who went through the training (in Kuwait) fired no less than 600 rounds with an M-16."

Another element of this training was to prepare Airmen to truly defend themselves against enemy forces, Chief Tate said.

"Part of that critical preparation is knowing that your survivability could depend upon your ability to raise and use a weapon against another person," he said. "There are some Airmen who have had to do that."

Training also focused on developing "muscle memory," where Airmen are trained to respond to a situation without an extensive thought process.

"It's a natural reaction," the chief said. "You have hostile contact, and the next reaction is you aim, you fire, you kill."

Once fully trained, vehicle operators deploy into Iraq for a six-month rotation, Chief Tate said. To supply the number of drivers needed, the vehicle operations career field is surging two air and space expeditionary force "buckets."

Air Force officials have committed about 300 Airmen through March 2006, he said.

"So, it's quite possible for some of the Airmen currently deployed to Iraq to have to support a future rotation as well," the chief said.

Facing hostile areas on a day-to-day basis is drawing the units together in many ways, Chief Tate said. Most of the Airmen deployed in support of this mission had no idea they would truly be on the front lines.

"It's really difficult for some to comprehend the team dynamics taking place, but as a leader seeing it firsthand, the cohesion and camaraderie developing as the teams come together is exciting and satisfying," he said. "I saw it when the teams came together and started to communicate to each other their concerns, their fears and what they wanted to achieve while deployed."

This communication and trust is what makes the teams so successful, he said.

"When they go outside the wire on a convoy, they are tight," Chief Tate said. "They are as sharp as you would



Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

**A gun truck from the 2632nd Air Expeditionary Force Transportation Company moves along the main supply route from Baghdad to Tikrit with a 67-vehicle convoy in tow. The company's Airmen provide security to military and civilian convoys as they move supplies to multiple forward-operating bases throughout Iraq.**

want a unit to be. They're alert, they're vigilant, they're confident, and they are certainly combat-capable. I have to say that those elements, along with the leadership they have, are (keys) to the overwhelming success of this mission."

That leadership, the chief said, includes elements of both the Air Force and the Army.

"Even though the Airmen are tactically assigned to Army units, they are still well taken care of by Air Force leaders in the region," he said. "There may be a perception that we've taken Airmen, given them to the Army and forgotten them. That's false — we have Airmen working for Airmen, and we have effective support elements in place."

To make sure things run as smoothly as possible for the vehicle operators, a command and control structure was developed through U.S. Central Air Forces that addresses administrative concerns, the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other personnel issues through Air Force chains of command.

So far, the chief said, the Airmen's performance has been outstanding.

"One Army battalion commander (whom) the Airmen fall under said they are the best unit under his command," Chief Tate said.



**Speakers are needed for the Columbus AFB Speaker's Bureau. Anyone interested in speaking about the Air Force or their career field at civic clubs, career fairs, science fairs, elementary schools or high schools in the Golden Triangle area can come to the public affairs office and fill out an application. Call Ext. 7068.**

## AT THE CHAPEL

## Catholic

## Sunday:

9:15 a.m. — Mass  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

## Protestant

## Sunday:

10:45 a.m.— Traditional worship  
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship  
**Tuesday:**  
Noon — Lunch and Bible study  
**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. — Choir rehearsal  
For information about Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the base chapel at Ext. 2500.

## AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the base theater.

## Today

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (PG, frightening moments, creature violence and mild language, 142 min.)

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint.

## Saturday

"The Stepford Wives" (PG-13, sexual content, thematic material and language, 93 min.)

Starring: Nicole Kidman and Bette Midler.

## July 23

"Garfield" (PG, brief mild language, 85 min.)

Starring: Breckin Meyer and Jennifer Love Hewitt.

For more information about movies, visit the 14th Services Division Web site at [www.cafb.grapevine.com](http://www.cafb.grapevine.com).

## CHANNEL 64

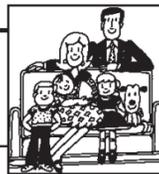
BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

For more information, call public affairs at Ext. 7068.

## Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

FAMILY  
SUPPORT

*(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)*

**TAP Workshop:** A transition assistance workshop for personnel who are within one year of retirement or separation from the military is from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

**Health benefits:** A seminar with information about health benefits available to personnel who are separating or retiring from the military is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

**State employment:** A seminar with information on available services for veterans at the Mississippi Employment Security Commission or state employment agencies in other states is from 9:50 to 10:20 a.m. Thursday.

**Veterans' benefits:** A seminar with information on veterans' benefits is from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday.

**Small Business Development:** A seminar on starting one's own business and whom to contact at a Small Business Development center for assistance is from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

**Federal employment:** A workshop on federal employment and how to apply for it is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

**PDF Jr. program:** BLAZE TEAM member children ages 6 to 12 are invited to participate in Personnel Deployment Function Jr. and learn about deployments from 9 a.m. to noon July 27. Each child receives a photo ID badge, PDF Jr. dog tags, a taste of Meals Ready-to-Eat and more. Children must be enrolled by 4 p.m. July 26. Sign-ups are limited to 75 children.

**Executive TAP seminar:** A transition assistance seminar for people holding advanced degrees and leadership positions is Aug. 3 to Aug. 6. People can register online at [www.aetc.af.mil/dp/family\\_matters/index.htm](http://www.aetc.af.mil/dp/family_matters/index.htm) or call DSN 487-2669.

**Sponsorship training:** A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is

at 9 a.m. Aug. 3. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

**Employment letters:** A workshop explaining examples and the purpose of employment letters is from 9 to 10 a.m. Aug. 4.

**Positive thinking:** "Make Every Day a Terrific Day," a video-based program to reduce stressors, is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 11. Participants learn techniques on how to start days positively, and deal with negative situations and behaviors. Registration is required by Aug. 9.

BASE  
NOTES

**International women's group:** A women's group for wives of international military members at Columbus AFB meets for a potluck luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Monday at the chapel annex.

Spouses are encouraged to bring photo albums to share. This is an opportunity for international women to gather and share a culturally diverse experience. For more information, call Liisi Herring at 356-9267.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

## Hey, put that back!

Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher, 14th Mission Support Squadron, serves Senior Airman Ray Newton and Airman 1st Class James Pennington, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, at the monthly dorm dinner Wednesday in the chapel annex. More than \$200 in prizes were raffled off at the event. For more information about the dinner for unaccompanied Airmen, call Ext. 2500 or contact a first sergeant.

**Proportional per diem training:** A mass training on the rules of proportional per diem is at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. July 23 at Phillips Auditorium.

Commanders are encouraged to mandate this training for resource advisors and orderly room personnel. Training information will also be distributed to all unit commanders via e-mail July 22. To sign up or for more information, call 2nd Lt. Shellonda James at Ext. 2702 or Ext. 2711.

**School registration:** On-base families with children planning to attend Franklin Academy, S.D. Lee Middle School, Hunt Intermediate School, or Columbus High School can register their children from 4 to 6 p.m. July 27 at the community center. Parents are required to bring proof of on-base residence. For more information, call Ext. 2790.

**Pharmacy upgrades:** An upgrade of pharmacy technology is scheduled to begin at the end of July.

The new technology is geared toward preventing prescription processing errors. Expect delays while the new system is installed.

Prescriptions will only be filled for patients who check in after they have seen their providers. People are also encouraged to call in refill prescriptions to allow time for processing. Call Ext. 2799.

## Lots to do this summer for base people, families

**Catfish buffet:** The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Customers may still order from the a la carte menu. Call Ext. 2490.

**Bar bingo:** The enlisted lounge offers one \$300 progressive jackpot bingo game at 5:30 p.m. with three chances to win cash — \$10 for the first straight bingo, \$15 for the first large picture frame and \$300 for overall in 49 numbers or less with a \$50 consolation prize if win comes at 49 numbers or more.

The numbers increase by one each week. Three-on cards are \$1.50. Nonmembers pay a \$5 entry to play. Call Ext. 2490.

**Community center hours:** Effective Monday, the community center's new hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The center is closed Saturday and Sunday. Call Ext. 7450.

**Bowling center steak night:** The bowling center offers this special from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Cost is \$5.95 and includes steak, french fries and a garden salad. Call Ext. 2426.

**Art classes:** The community center offers classes in painting and drawing using pencils, pens, ink and acrylics Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The class is open to all ages. Registration is \$45 for art supplies, and each class is \$10. Call Ext. 7450.

**Adult karate classes:** The community center has several openings for the adult karate classes offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Call Ext. 7450.

**Magnolia Motor Speedway tickets:** The information, ticket and travel office offers half price tickets to the race July 23. Games open at 5 p.m., and the race begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50 at ITT and \$12 at the gate. Call Ext. 7861.

**Casino trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Silver Star Casino July 23. Cost is \$15 and includes transportation and \$15 in coins. Call Ext. 7861.

**Youth dance:** A dance for teens and pre-teens is from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. July 24 at the youth center. Cost is \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Members who

bring a friend pay half price to enter. Refreshments are served. Call Ext. 2504.

**Visionland trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Visionland in Birmingham, Ala., July 24. Cost is \$28 per person and includes transportation and a ticket to the park. The bus departs from outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Call Ext. 7861.

**Youth trip to Libertyland:** The youth center offers this trip to Memphis, Tenn., from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. July 27. Cost is \$30 per person. Must have ten registered by Thursday to offer. Call Ext. 2504.

**Drop-in care available:** The child development center offers drop-in care Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$3 per hour. To make reservations, call Ext. 2479.

**Birthday Parties:** The Strike Zone Lanes offers three different birthday party

packages ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$4.75 per person. For more information, call Ext. 2426.

**All ranks boss and buddy night:** This new program debuts July 29 and will be available every Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Columbus Club. It is open to all ranks. There will be beverage specials, and hot or barbecue wings are 15 cents each from 4 to 6 p.m. Call Ext. 2490.

**Youth advisory group meeting:** The youth center advisory group meets at 5:30 p.m. July 28 at the youth center. This week's session will focus on youth issues, programs, trips, fundraisers and many other youth programs. Call Ext. 2504.

**Member appreciation night:** The youth center's member appreciation night is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 29 at the pool. It is free to members and \$2 for nonmembers. All are invited to join the fun, enjoy great food, games and entertainment. Call Ext. 2504.

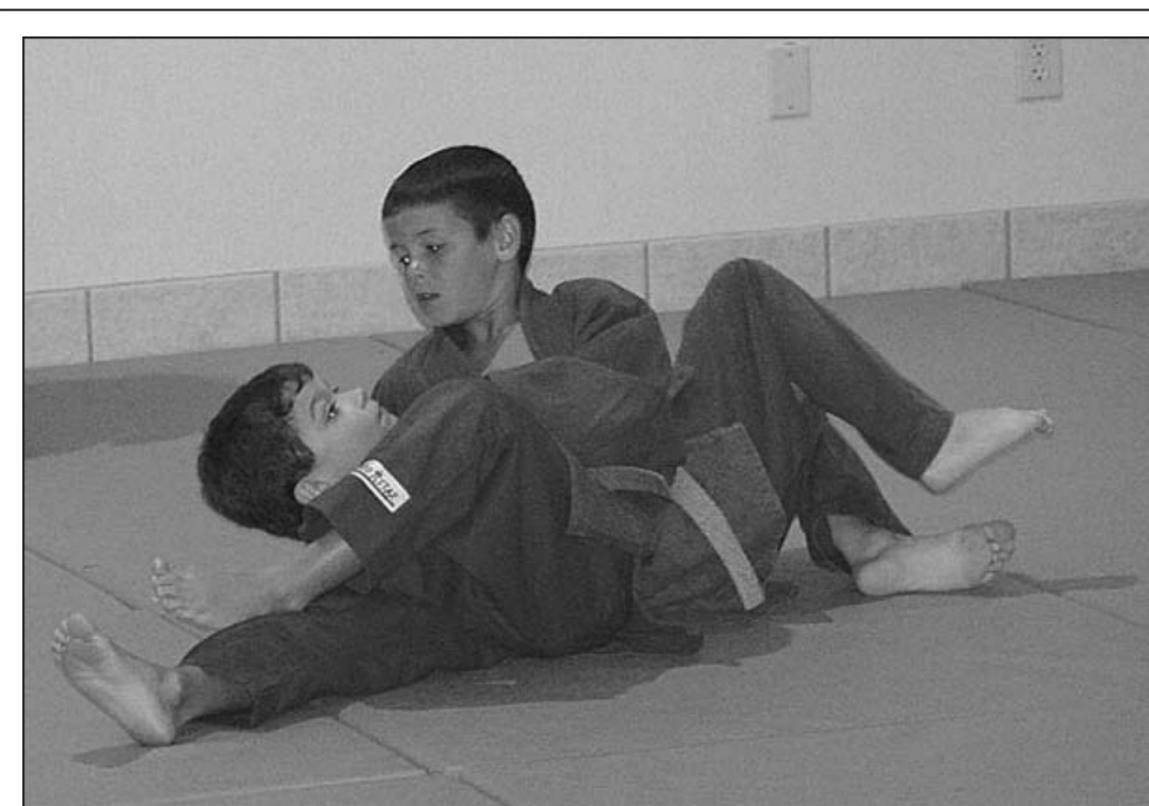
**Family bingo:** The youth center's family bingo program starts at 5:30 p.m. July 30. It is free to members and \$1 for nonmembers.

Five games plus a coverall game will be played. All players enjoy free hotdogs and chips. Call Ext. 2504.

**Youth karaoke night:** The youth center offers this program for ages 9 to 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. July 31. Call Ext. 2504.

**Geyser Falls trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Geyser Falls Water Park in Philadelphia, Miss., Aug. 7. Cost is \$28 per person and includes transportation and a ticket to the park. Call Ext. 7861.

**Instructors needed:** The community activity center is looking for qualified instructors for all types of crafts, exercise programs, party planning, dance, music, flower arranging and more. Instructors can set their own rates. Call Ext. 7450.



Pam Wickham

## Down for the count

Cole Robinson, 9, and Justin Welch, 11, spar during a Judo demonstration at the community center's grand opening June 18. Judo classes are offered from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursdays at the center beginning Aug. 5. Cost is \$35 per month. Call Ext. 7450.

**Movie in the park:** All are invited to watch the musical *West Side Story*, starring Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer, at Ballard Park in Tupelo, Miss., today. The movie starts around 8 p.m. and is free. For more information, call (662) 841-6440.

**Gospel meeting:** The Caledonia Church of Christ invites all to attend its gospel meetings at 7:30 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The meetings take place at the church's location at 818 Main St. in Caledonia, Miss. The guest speaker is Bro. Frank Chessner of Montgomery, Ala. For more information, call 356-6017.

**Children's acting classes:** Terry Gladney, High School of Performing Arts and New York University graduate, instructs acting classes for children ages 8 to 16 years old from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday nights through July 31. Interested students younger than 8 years old must meet with Mr. Gladney prior to being accepted. To sign up, call the Columbus Arts Council at 328-2787.

**Gospel reunion:** A Down Home Gospel Reunion takes place at the Lee County Agri-Center in Tupelo, Miss.,

July 23 through July 24. There will be a gospel choir contest, a barbecue contest, and lots of food. For more information, call (662) 566-5600.

**CPR classes:** The American Red Cross Society offers an adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation class from 6 to 10 p.m. July 26; an infant and child CPR class from 6 to 10 p.m. July 27 and a first aid class from 6 to 9 p.m. July 29. For more information, call 328-5710.

**Sears thanks troops:** As a "thank you" to American troops and their families, Sears Portrait Studio is offering a 20-percent discount on all in-studio and online portrait purchases through December 31. The offer is available to customers who show their military IDs.

Sears Portrait Studio is also creating hundreds of hometown scrapbooks featuring portraits of customers, families and friends.

Sears is offering free studio sessions and four free 3x5 portraits of one pose July 17 through July 23 to customers who want their portraits included in the scrapbook and specifically mention the "Thank Our Troops" project. The scrapbooks will be distributed during Thanksgiving to troops

in all branches of the military who are serving overseas.

To be included in a scrapbook or for more information, call the store's Columbus branch at 241-7969 or visit [www.searsportrait.com](http://www.searsportrait.com).

**Columbus Farmers' Market:** The Columbus Farmers' Market in downtown Columbus is open through October on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Homegrown in-season vegetables, flowers, plants and homemade canned goods such as jams, jellies and pepper sauces are sold. Make a right at Zachary's on 2nd Ave — the lot is two blocks down. For more information, call 328-4164.

**Sponsors needed:** The Caledonia High School girls basketball team seeks sponsors to support their basketball and volleyball programs. Sponsorship packages range from \$60 to \$300. Sponsors' names and organizations will be displayed on a banner in the school's gymnasium. For more information or to purchase a package, call Doll Wilder at 549-5284.

For more event listings, visit [www.columbus-ms.org](http://www.columbus-ms.org).

# Airman swaps jobs with pro baseball player

**Airman 1st Class Ashley Casas**  
305th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

**MCGUIRE AFB, N.J.** — One McGuire Airman traded his flight suit for a baseball uniform June 22 and became an honorary member of the New York Mets for a day.

Senior Airman Chardo Richardson, a boom operator with the 32nd Air Refueling Squadron, shadowed Mets left-handed pitcher Al Leiter in the second part of a job swap. The swap was organized by the Air Force, Major League Baseball and the Mets.

During his visit to Shea Stadium, Airman Richardson participated in batting practice, played catch with players and received a full Mets uniform, complete with his name on the back.

"The first thing Al had me do when I went into the locker room was take off my white shoes," Airman Richardson said laughing. "He said I didn't want to be known as Chardo 'White Shoes' Richardson."

After suiting up and receiving a new pair of black cleats, Airman Richardson did a few stretches with the team and then went right into batting practice.

"I was so nervous," Airman Richardson said. "I had been to the batting cages a few times, but I wanted to represent my fellow Airmen well."

With a small cheering crowd of fellow boom operators and KC-10 Extender crew chiefs behind him, and Mr. Leiter telling him what not to do, Airman Richardson was able to put the bat on the ball a few times.

"After watching him bat, I don't know if he's ready for the major leagues," the Mets pitcher said jokingly. "But I hear they are looking for an area scout down in Mississippi."

Mr. Leiter is in his seventh season with the Mets and the only pitcher in MLB history to beat all 30 teams in the league.

Airman Richardson accepted the razzing from his new friends and teammates; he also started to get a better understanding of what it is like to play a professional sport.

"I got tired so fast while I was batting," Airman Richardson said. "Just getting the bat off my shoulder was tiring, and I am a pretty athletic guy. I can't believe



Photos by Kenn Mann

Senior Airman Chardo Richardson, 32nd Air Refueling Squadron, hits a ball in batting practice with the New York Mets on June 22. He was at Shea Stadium for the second part of a job swap with Mets pitcher Al Leiter.

they do this everyday. It looks so easy on the television, but now I understand that it's much harder than it looks."

"It may seem tiring, but just like Chardo said about operating the boom, it just becomes part of the job," said Mr. Leiter.

When asked who has the cooler job both Airman Richardson and Mr. Leiter chimed in to say "he does!"

"It's all relative on your life," said Mr. Leiter. "My day at McGuire as an Airman is a day I will never forget. It's like nothing else I had ever done."

Airman Richardson has similar feelings about his day as a Met.

"I definitely got the better end of the deal," he said. "I would never get opportunities like this if I wasn't in the Air Force, so I am thankful for everything I get to do."

During the first part of the job swap in May, Mr. Leiter was a KC-10 boom operator for the day. He shadowed Airman Richardson in the boom pod during the air refueling of six F-15 Eagles from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

The day was aired June 19 as a two-minute feature on the Fox television program "This Week in Baseball."

Airman Richardson's day with the Mets was also recorded. Video footage will air around Sept. 11 as part of a special show remembering "9-11."



Right: New York Mets pitcher Al Leiter gives a new pair of black cleats to Airman Richardson.



Airman Richardson (right) shows New York Mets pitcher Al Leiter what goes on inside a KC-10 Extender boom control area at McGuire AFB, N.J.

## Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not resubmit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one): Home    Transportation    Miscellaneous    Yard sales    Pets

Print advertisement: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes  No

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News  Sports  Photos

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).



Courtesy photo

**Double fault**

David Rademacher, 48th Flying Training Squadron, shakes hands with Lex Cloutier, 14th Operations Support Squadron, who won the intramural tennis finals 7-6, 6-2. For more information about intramural sports, visit the fitness and sports center Web page at [www.cafbservices.com/fitness/leagues.html](http://www.cafbservices.com/fitness/leagues.html).

**SHORTS**

**Tournament postponed**

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-15's "Top Gun" volleyball tournament scheduled for Saturday has been postponed due to flying schedules.

The tournament will be rescheduled for late August or early September. For more information, call Cathy Meyer at 434-5554 or Lisha Peacock at 434-8703.

**Golf tournament**

The British Open Golf Tournament is Saturday and Sunday at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Entry is \$10 for members and \$10 plus green fees for nonmembers. Players must pick their tour plays by 9 a.m. Saturday. Call Ext. 7932.

**Cosmic no-tap tourney**

This tournament is at 7 p.m. July 23 at the bowling center. Entry is \$10 per person. Call Ext. 2426.

**Circuit class change**

The fitness center's force circuit class days have changed. Effective

July 28, the classes are from noon to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

**Judo classes**

The community center offers Judo classes from 4 to 6 p.m. starting Aug. 5. For more information, call Ext. 7450.

**First Shirts golf tourney**

The Columbus AFB First Sergeants Council sponsors an 18-hole, three-person scramble golf tournament at 8 a.m. Aug. 7.

Cost is \$15 plus greens fees and includes lunch. The field is limited to the first 18 teams paid. Prizes will be awarded.

For more information or to sign up, call Kevin Hawks at Ext. 7125 or Marty Anderson at Ext. 2291.

**Mixed golf scramble**

This 18-hole mixed golf tournament begins at 1 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Whispering Pines Golf Course. Cost is \$80 for each two-person team and includes dinner at the Columbus Club.

**Air Force Marathon adds new attractions**

The hallmarks that have built the Air Force Marathon into a strong word-of-mouth race will combine with a few new touches and changes for the event in 2004.

The eighth Air Force Marathon will be held at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Sept. 18.

Traditionally, the marathon has been held on the Saturday closest to the Air Force Anniversary. Beginning with this year's marathon and for future planning, the Air Force Marathon will be run on the third Saturday of September.

Organizers have received much positive feedback about how runner-friendly the Air Force Marathon is. Moves have been made to make it even more appealing to wider groups of runners. There were more than 3,300 participants with the addition of a half-marathon and 5K race along with the full 26.2-mile

marathon, wheelchair race and relay race in 2003.

Several new award categories have been added for this year's event. The big additions will be individual awards

for the top MAJCOM male and female finisher in the half- and full-marathon, as well as a MAJCOM total participation trophy. An ROTC category has also been added to the relay teams, and a top overall military male and female category has been added to the half-marathon.

Runners in all events who finish the race will receive a medalion. All awards will be presented on the day of the race at the awards ceremony commencing at 1 p.m.

Marathon day begins with opening ceremonies at 6:30 a.m. The wheelchair race starts at 7 a.m., followed by the full-marathon at 7:05 a.m.; relay at 7:20 a.m.;

half-marathon at 7:40 a.m.; and the 5K at 8:10 a.m.

The pre-race pasta dinner on Sept. 17 has been moved from the Hope Hotel to the Air Force Museum Modern Flight Hangar. The buffet-style pasta dinner is from 6 to 9 p.m. Seating is limited to 800 people, and tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

The runners' expo is from 1 to 7 p.m. Sept. 16 and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 17. It has been moved from the Hope Hotel to the Ervin J. Nutter Center in Fairborn, Ohio. The Living Legends Band will provide live entertainment at this year's expo, and there will also be a new car show sponsored by Planet Ford.

Another tradition that will continue this year, but at a new location, will be the free post-race party for marathon volunteers and runners. It begins at 4 p.m. at the finish line area in the information tent. A two-day carnival begins Sept. 16 in the parking lot across from Area B and the museum on Springfield Street. For more information, call DSN 787-4350 or (800) 467-1823, or visit <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>. (Information courtesy of the Air Force Marathon Web site)



**Three-on-three basketball tournament**



This three-day basketball tournament begins Aug. 3. Units will receive Commander's Trophy points for participation, and first, second and third place winners will receive additional points.

Units may enter up to three teams, and eligible players include active duty service-members, dependents, guardsmen, reservists, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and base contractors. Teams must register no later than July 30; new teams will not be added after the deadline.

For more information, contact a unit fitness and sports center representative, or call Eric Rascoe at Ext. 2772.