

Command review team visits CAFB

Four separate teams have been sent to assess the status of the sexual assault response programs at all Air Education and Training Command installations.

Team one, which will visit Keelser and Tyndall AFB, arrived at Columbus AFB Tuesday to assess the status of the sexual assault response programs and the base's climate.

Col. Ken Smith, Air Education Training Commander review team one leader, led the eight-person team, composed of a cross-section of Air Force officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians from the AETC staff.

The team also examined existing plans, policies, programs and procedures to ensure existing programs to address sexual assaults are appropriate and effective in addressing this serious issue.

Team one was instructed to visit Columbus AFB in response to the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley's directive to Air Force Major Commands. The Commander of AETC, Gen. Donald Cook, instructed the teams to assess the status of the sexual assault response programs at each AETC installation.

More than 800 military permanent party personnel and student pilots participated in the survey.

"I have repeatedly said that we have a 'zero tolerance' policy on sexual assaults and harassment," said Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. "These visits are absolute proof that the Air Force has taken the same serious stand on these issues. Any sort of harassment completely contradicts the Air Force core values and won't be tolerated here or any where else in the Air Force."

During their stay at Columbus AFB, the teams reviewed sexual assault reporting processes and programs, and examined the effectiveness of the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

A separate review team has already visited Sheppard AFB, Texas, near Wichita Falls, Texas, and conducted a similar review.

As part of the review process, AETC has set up a hotline that people can use to provide information they think may be helpful to the command's review. The hotline number is (888) 351-9477.

The individual reviews will be compiled and provided to AETC and Air Force leaders for examination and further action as appropriate. (Courtesy of AETC News)



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, signs his Air Force Assistance Fund pledge sheet.

Base kicks off '04 AFAP campaign

The Columbus AFB 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off with a breakfast for keyworkers and base leadership at 7 a.m. Wednesday at the Columbus Club.

"Sometimes I hear, 'But didn't we do this already?' when the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off," said Maj. Robert McGrath, AFAP project officer. "With the AFAP following so close on the heels of the Combined Federal Campaign, it's easy to blend the two worthwhile fundraising drives into one large drive. But the AFAP plays an extremely important role in taking care of our Air Force family."

On average, \$22 million in assistance is distributed Air Force-wide, and only \$4.2 million in AFAP donations is received.

"The demands for AFAS help continue at near record levels as the troops support the war on terrorism and other international commitments," said Lt. Gen. Michael McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer.

During the 2003 AFAP drive, Columbus AFB contributed \$11,855.

"Even though the base donated almost \$12,000 last year, the AFAS provided \$59,474 in emergency assistance, educational grants and community enhancement programs," said Major McGrath. "We're hoping for an even better outcome for this year's campaign."

The original Army Emergency Relief Drive started around

1942 and became the Air Force Aid Society drive when the Air Force became a separate service in 1947. In 1957, President Eisenhower issued the first executive order prohibiting fundraising in the Federal Government other than the CFC.

Recognizing that they had forgotten about internal relief drives, another executive order was issued in 1961 authorizing the service secretaries to establish policies and procedures governing internal solicitation. This led to the first Air Force regulation on fundraising.

Shortly after, the Air Force Village and the Air Force Enlisted Village were adopted as official indigent retiree and widows' homes for the Air Force.

The AFAP was created in 1971.

Initially, the AFAP allowed bases to run separate campaigns or integrate the AFAP as part of their local CFC. Early trials of this idea were not successful and by 1972, both CFC and AFAP policy makers wanted separate campaigns for external versus internal charities.

In 1974, the first AFAP campaign raised \$460 thousand for its three charities. In 1991, the General and Curtis LeMay foundation was added to provide more retiree and indigent widow housing assistance.

For more information, contact any AFAP campaign wing, group or squadron representative. (Courtesy of Columbus AFB Public Affairs office)

Cash for credits: Scholarship options open

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez
Public Affairs

Many scholarship opportunities are available to the Columbus AFB community.

"Taking the time to research scholarship opportunities is very important," said Tara Andrews, education specialist. "There's a ton of scholarship money not being used because people don't explore their options."

The College Blue Book: Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants and Loans, offers a large amount of information regarding financial aid and is located at both the education center and base library.

"*The College Blue Book* is indexed according to scholarship title, sponsoring organization, level of education and subject," Ms. Andrews said. "It lists eligibility requirements, award amounts and contact information for more than 2,500 scholarships."

Information about various scholarships exclusive to military-affiliated people, such



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Senior Airmen Jonathan McQuaig, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, and Tyler Armstrong, 14th Operations Support Squadron, study their notes before a sociology exam.

as those offered by the Officers' Spouses' Club, Defense Commissary Agency, General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program, and Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund, is available

at the family support center.

"Last year, six individuals from Columbus AFB received \$1,500 each from the Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program," said

Shirley Pinckney, volunteer resource programs specialist.

Another outlet is the Scholarship Resource Network, a software program available at both the family support center and library. The SRN contains a database of over 8,000 programs with a distribution level of over 150,000 scholarships, grants and loans for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

"Users fill out a one page application with questions that help tailor search results to their wants," Ms. Pinckney said. "The database then returns a detailed list of awards relative to the information provided, complete with application procedures, eligibility requirements and deadlines."

Ms. Andrews encourages people not to be intimidated by the tedious process of finding and filling out applications.

"All of the research, time and effort are well worth the money to pay for an education," Ms. Andrews said.

For more information about scholarship opportunities, call Ext. 2790 or Ext. 2562.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Lucile Temple, Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alva Temple and Zellie Orr talk about Colonel Temple's experience as a pilot with Lyndsee Spears and Cassidy Reed, Caledonia High School ninth graders. On Friday and Saturday, Columbus AFB celebrated the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen with a Red Tail Angel exhibit dedication, a Tuskegee Airmen Ball and a medal ceremony for Tuskegee Airman Lt. Quitman Walker.



In honor of Women's History Month, display boards and trivia question boxes about influential females from the past have been placed all over Columbus AFB.

Trivia boxes and history boards can be found at locations such as the fitness center, Magnolia Inn, Cardinal Inn Dining Facility, Whispering Pines Golf Course, bowling center, 14th Flying Training Wing front office, Military Personnel Flight customer service, base education office, library, clinic lobby and chapel.

People who attempt to answer the trivia questions receive one entry for a prize drawing held at the Women's History Luncheon. Those who give correct answers will receive two entries.

The Women's History Luncheon is at noon March 31 at the Columbus Club. More than \$300 in prizes will be given away, but trivia participants must be present to win.

For more information, call Peggy Guenther at Ext. 2317.

NEWS BRIEFS

Power outage

A power outage for the fitness center, theater, chapel and library is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Ext. 7966.

Auto seminar

A one-hour workshop on purchasing and leasing a vehicle is at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the family support center. For more information, call Ext. 2790.

Warrant officers wanted

The Army seeks highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for qualified applicants. Servicemembers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, all forms and documents, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call (502) 626-0484.

FSC hours update

The family support center is now closed for training every Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

Wing change of command

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, will relinquish command to Col. Stephen Wilson of Barksdale AFB, La., during a change-of-command ceremony March 24.

Reminder

Columbus AFB policy on discrimination and sexual harassment is zero tolerance. BLAZE "We Care" cards with important telephone numbers are available at the wing public affairs office.

Servicemembers may apply for expedited U.S. citizenship

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Foreign-born servicemembers can now speed up the process to obtain American citizenship.

The immediate eligibility for servicemembers to become naturalized citizens is based on Executive Order 13269 signed by President Bush on July 3, 2002. Section 329 of the 8 U.S. Code allows the president to authorize expedited citizenship during periods in which the United States is engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

For example, servicemembers who have served honorably for any period of time beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to apply for expedited U.S. citizenship, said Col. Michael Pachuta, director of the

CAFB learns proper GTC use

2nd Lt. Amy Gardner
14th Comptroller Flight

Many in the Air Force are accustomed to traveling. It is an inherent part of the Air Force way of life.

One thing that goes along with traveling in the Air Force is the government travel card. All Department of Defense civilians and military personnel who travel on official business at least three times annually have the privilege of using a Bank of America Visa Government Travel Card, commonly referred to as a GTC.

A GTC is a valuable and simple means of managing travel expenses. However, along with the numerous benefits of having a travel card, there are certain responsibilities that should be taken very seriously.

"Government travel cards can only be used to pay for expenses incurred while on official travel," said 1st Lt. Ariol Paz, acting Comptroller Flight commander. "Items normally charged to cards include meals, lodging and transportation."

Unless otherwise exempted, all DOD personnel are required to use the government card for expenses arising from official travel. Certain classes of expenses exempt from mandatory use of the travel charge card include parking, laundry, dry cleaning, tips and taxi fares. Notice mandating use of a government card is usually given on travel orders. If not, check with an agency program coordinator about exempt categories.

Cardholders may obtain cash with their travel card, as authorized through auto-



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Government travel card abuse is not tolerated and punishable under the UCMJ.

mated teller machines. Amounts vary depending on cash limits established during the initial stages of acquiring a government card.

Cardholders are not exempt from making payments because of extended temporary duty or deployment. They are responsible for making full and timely payment for each monthly bill. As a traveler, it is mandatory to file travel vouchers within five duty days of returning from TDY. In addition, filing accrual vouchers, if on continuous travel, will allow bills to be paid on time. An accrual voucher can be filed after 30 days of TDY and every 30 days thereafter. These are available at <https://columbusweb/ftw/Comptroller/forms.htm>. Travel card purchases made

while on TDY must be split-dispersed to cards when filing vouchers.

Misuse of a GTC could result in disciplinary action. Travel cards are issued in servicemembers' names. Therefore, it is their responsibility to use the card properly and to adhere to the regulations that govern the travel card program.

To find out about government travel card purchases and cash limits, call Bank of America at (800) 472-1424.

For more information concerning government travel cards, refer to DOD Financial Management Regulation Volume 9, Chapter 3, or contact unit agency program coordinators, Sharon Mosley at Ext. 2730 or 2nd Lt. Amy Gardner at Ext. 2654.

Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare and Recreation policy office.

The peacetime waiting period is shortened to one year of honorable service, thanks to the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

Before the executive order, the peacetime waiting period was three years of honorable military service, Colonel Pachuta said.

Beginning Oct. 1, the new law allows for U.S. citizenship applications to be finalized at U.S. embassies, consulates and selected military installations overseas, to include citizenship interviews, testing and oaths of allegiance, he said.

Also effective Oct. 1, the new law waives the \$310 citizenship application and fingerprint fee.

The new law also provides sped-up avenues for the non-U.S.-citizen spouses, children and parents of servicemembers who have died as a result of service in

combat to obtain "immediate relative" alien status, Colonel Pachuta said.

He said the new citizenship application rules cover active-duty servicemembers and National Guard and Reserve people who are classified as members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve.

Servicemembers who want to become naturalized U.S. citizens must apply for it.

Soldiers and airmen seeking to become naturalized U.S. citizens under the expedited process can contact their military personnel offices, while sailors and Marines can contact their legal assistance offices for help.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Web site provides forms, instructions and more helpful information about the naturalization process at <http://uscis.gov>. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Safety urged through construction, weather changes

Senior Airman Steven Johnson
14th Security Forces Squadron

Right now, Columbus AFB's roadways are going through major changes, which include construction on Simler Boulevard and near the east gate visitor's center. Additionally, construction on Highway 45 presents hazards to the base populace. Drivers both on and off base are urged to remain vigilant through the ever changing conditions of the roadways.

With the construction on Simler Boulevard, drivers should keep an eye open for pedestrians, construction workers, equipment operating near open lanes of traffic, detours and closed roads. Slowing down through construction areas and being aware of your surroundings can prevent most accidents.

Also, as the "wet season" draws near, drivers must place an emphasis on driving in adverse weather conditions. Besides construction congestion, heavy rains

mixing with loose gravel also create a hazard. Speed and low visibility are major factors during these times. In adverse weather, it is wise to slow your speed to help reduce the risk of hydroplaning. Hydroplaning not only puts yourself at risk, but it also endangers the other motorists that are traveling near you, since you are no longer in full control of your vehicle.

Finally, another "driving safety" issue happens right before dawn and right after sunset. This would be the time of day that deer are on the move around the base, primarily in the vicinity on Independence Avenue and Perimeter Road. While driving around either of these areas, be on the lookout for deer and other wild animals. Be sure to obey the posted speed limits for each area, as well as keep an eye out for deer. A good rule of thumb when dealing with deer is that when you spot one, there is almost always more than one lurking around.

We have seen an increase in accidents



Kenn Brown

14th Civil Engineering Squadron and Baptist Memorial Hospital personnel carry a victim from the scene of an accident Monday on D street near the photo lab.

within the last few months. While they are destined to happen, motorists can take precautions to lower the risk of being in and/or becoming hurt in an accident.

Most importantly, the use of safety restraints by all occupants inside a vehicle is the single greatest safety measure to

consider. By wearing the seatbelt, you lessen your chances of being severely injured in a motor accident.

Every person is important, and we need you to be in the best condition possible, in outstanding support of completing the mission.

STRAIGHT TALK LINE**Pharmacy policies improve service**

Question: Recently, I stopped by the pharmacy and was informed that some of my medications would no longer be available at Columbus AFB. What are my options in obtaining my medication elsewhere?

Answer: Recent Air Force-level budgetary modifications have resulted in reducing the number of medications available at the Columbus AFB pharmacy.

If you have a current prescription of the unavailable medication with us, we will provide you with a one-time, 30-day supply, as long as supplies last.

No new prescriptions for these medications will be given out. However, there are a few other avenues to take in acquiring these medications.

Option 1: Formulary alternative

Inform your physician that your medication is no longer available at the pharmacy. If your physician will prescribe a comparable, yet effective medication that is already on our formulary, the physician must write a new prescription for the alternative medication. The switch cannot be automatically made by the pharmacy.

If your physician wants you to continue using the same medication, you still have two more options.

Option 2: TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

If you have TRICARE, you can receive 90-day generic supply of your medication by mail for a fee of \$3 or a 90-day brand name supply for \$9. Active-duty personnel are not charged. Use the following steps to get the process started:

— Obtain a new prescription from your physician

— Stop by the TRICARE office, the pharmacy, or log on to www.express-scripts.com for TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy information and registration. You can also call (866) 363-8667.

Option 3: TRICARE-affiliated pharmacies

If you have TRICARE, you can receive a 30-day generic supply of your medications for a fee of \$3 or a 30-day brand name supply for \$9 from TRICARE-affiliated pharmacies such as CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Fred's, Rite Aid, Winn-Dixie and Kroger. Active-duty personnel are not charged.

These new measures should provide quality service to you and all our beneficiaries. For more information, please contact the pharmacy at Ext. 2168.

Col. Steve Schmidt
14th Flying Training Wing Commander

SILVER WINGS

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Silver Wings Editorial Staff**14th FTW commander**

Col. Steve Schmidt
Chief, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. John Chandler

Editors

Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

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



Capt. Scott Dillman
Ashland, Ky. (ANG)
C-130E, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



Capt. Kyle Hayes
Pensacola, Fla. (AFRC)
C-141, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



1st Lt. Camille Chigi
Staten Island, N.Y.
C-17, McGuire AFB, N.J.

SUPT Class 04-06 earns silver wings



1st Lt. Mohammad Haque
Comilla, Bangladesh
L-39, BAF Base Zahur, Bangladesh



2nd Lt. Juan Bravo
Alausi, Ecuador
A-37, Manta AFB, Ecuador



2nd Lt. Scott Brooks
Ostrander, Ohio (ANG)
C-130 Mansfield Lahm Airport, Ohio

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-06 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the theater.

Twenty-five officers prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot.

The graduation speaker is Maj. General O'Riordan, commander of the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. The center is responsible for developing personnel programs, implementing personnel policies and conducting personnel operations for almost 500,000 Air Force military and civilians worldwide.

Students received their silver pilot's wings at today's ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

Capt. Scott Dillman, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Freeman, T-38, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lts. Luke Spathes, T-1, and Adam Wickes, T-38. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Captain Dillman, Lieutenant Freeman, and 2nd Lt. Matthew Lilly, T-1, were named distinguished graduates.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week pre-flight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 Tweet. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics,

emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes about 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours. After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track. Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38 Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet.

T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation.

Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place business jet.

Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions.

Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 flying hours.

The class reunites on graduation day, when students receive the aeronautical rating of pilot and begin their careers as U.S. Air Force pilots.

(Editor's note: The class's pilot partners are The Grill, Sweet Pepper's Deli, and Harvey's.)



2nd Lt. John Bulmer
Caswell County, N.C.
C-21, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



2nd Lt. Gregory Crew
Elizabethtown, Ky.
C-130, Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Bryan Foley
Mobile, Ala.
C-5, Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Robin Lease
Melbourne, Fla.
T-6, Moody AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Matthew Lilly
Gilbert, Ariz.
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Van Lucas
Indianola, Iowa (ANG)
F-16C, DesMoines IAP, Iowa



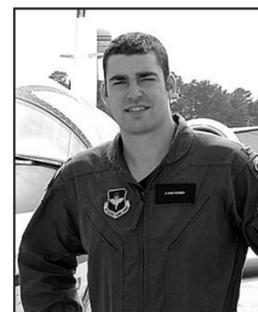
2nd Lt. Anta Plowden
Miami, Fla.
C-130, Pope AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. John Son
Bowie, Md.
KC-135, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



2nd Lt. Luke Spathes
Anaheim, Calif.
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Ryan Stolmeier
Endicott, Wash.
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Adam Wickes
Montesano, Wash.
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Elizabeth Young
Haleiwa, Hawaii
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Greg Zickefoose
Bridgeport, W.Va.
C-21, Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. Nathaniel Freeman
Lubbock, Texas
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Ross Graham
North Pole, Alaska
T-37, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Jerad Hand
Goldsboro, N.C.
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. David Manning
Fredonia, N.Y.
C-17, McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Emily Marr
Norfolk, Neb.
T-37, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Rimmy Meneses
Oruro, Bolivia
T-33, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Rise in minorities means mentally preparing for diversity

1st Lt. Chandra Peek
14th Flying Training Wing



Did you know that according to Census Bureau projections, the population of the United States will increase by 50 percent between now and the year 2050? The bureau predicts that within the next 50 years, only 53 percent of America's population will be non-Hispanic white. For minorities, on the other hand, the population is projected to rise. Hispanics currently make up 10.2 percent of the population. That percentage is expected to increase to 24.5 percent. The Asian population will rise from 3.3 to 8.2 percent, and blacks from 12 to 13.6 percent of the American population. Furthermore, although today women make up half of our nation's workforce, by the year 2050, that percentage is expected to increase as well.

So what should these statistics mean to you and me? Because the military is a microcosm of American society, as the population of our country becomes more

and more diverse, so too, will the Air Force.

Not only will the Air Force as a whole begin to physically look differently in terms of race, ethnicity and gender, but we may begin to sound a little different, too. With the speculated increase in groups with diverse backgrounds, there is a possibility that members of the Air Force may communicate more frequently in languages other than English. In fact, this might be the case for some duty sections today.

But is it okay for me to converse with one of my co-workers on the job in say, Japanese? Well according to the Air Force, as long as my speaking Japanese does not interfere with safety and the efficient accomplishment of the mission, it is indeed okay. Remember, to arbitrarily deny a person the right to speak another language in the workplace is a form of unlawful discrimination based on national origin.

With the changing demographics, religion is another area expected to shift. By the year 2050, we may find that religions that currently have smaller followings may become practiced by a much larger percentage of the population. So in addition to your Christian co-

workers, working alongside Muslims and Buddhists may become more common.

The Department of Defense places a high value on our rights as members of the Air Force to practice our respective religions. DOD policy states that commanders should approve requests for accommodation of religious practices provided that it will not have an adverse impact on military readiness, unit cohesion, standards or discipline.

Remember, to arbitrarily deny a person the right to practice their religion in the workplace is also a form of unlawful discrimination.

Our country is the most diverse nation in the world. It is often thought of as the melting pot where anyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion or sex, can thrive and succeed.

As our demographics shift within the next half-century, it is important that we mentally prepare for diversity. Our communities are rich with resources. Don't ignore and discard our differences. Instead, recognize, respect and value them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col. Stephen Schmidt and his wife Sarah for all of their support of Columbus-Lowndes Habitat for Humanity during their time at Columbus AFB. They have touched the lives and hearts of so many people associated with this organization.

As most of you already know, Habitat is a non-profit Christian organization that depends on donations, contributions and volunteer labor in helping to eliminate substandard housing in Lowndes County. I have only been with this organization a little over two years, but during that time, no matter what was needed, we could always count on people from the base to meet those needs. Many times when I would visit the work site, I'd find Colonel Schmidt working alongside everyone else doing his share of painting, nailing or whatever was needed that day. Under his leadership, Colonel Schmidt appointed Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bachant to coordinate volunteers over a year to build the largest Habitat for Humanity home Lowndes County has ever built. Not a weekend went by when there wasn't a crew on site working. On behalf of the partnership between Habitat and Columbus AFB, Colonel Schmidt presented the keys to the new homeowners. Tears were shed on both sides as strong friendships and bonds had been built over the months of working together.

In addition to her husband's support of this

organization, Sarah Schmidt wrote several magazine articles and used the publicity to praise the mission of Habitat for Humanity. In the winter 2003 Volunteer Leadership magazine, the cover story was Sarah's article about Columbus AFB personnel teaming with Habitat to take on the challenge of a five-bedroom home building project.

Sergeant Bachant was quoted in this article as saying, "People in the military have been instilled with the goal of leaving a place better than they found it. What our effort says is that this Air Force base cares about the community just as much as it cares about our own military families."

What a true statement! Our military personnel play such a crucial part in our community, and we, the citizens of Lowndes County, are better for it.

It has been an honor for me to work with Colonel Schmidt and his wife during their tour here in Columbus, and I wish them well on their new assignment at Randolph AFB. They will be greatly missed here, not only by Habitat but the entire community of Columbus. But our loss will be Randolph's gain.

God Bless You,
Jackie Hager
Executive Director

Columbus-Lowndes Habitat for Humanity

Thank YOUR Parents

U.S. AIR FORCE

Register online at our secure website
www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com
Secretary Roche and General Jumper will send your parents lapel pins to thank them for their vital support of America's Air Force

Air Force Parent Pin Program

Thanking the Parents of America's Airmen

AT THE CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday activities:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

Protestant

Sunday activities:
9 a.m. — Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

Tuesday

Noon — Lunch and Bible study

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study
7 p.m. — Choir rehearsal
For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

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

Today

"The Big Bounce" (PG-13, sexual content, nudity, violence and language, 88 min.)

Starring: Owen Wilson and Morgan Freeman.

Saturday

"Calendar Girls" (PG-13, language, sexual content and some drug references, 108 min.)

Starring: Julie Walters and Helen Mirren.

March 19

"Barber Shop 2: Back in Business" (PG-13, language, sexual material and brief drug references, 106 min.)

Starring: Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer.

For more information about movies, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

CHANNEL 64

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

Call public affairs for more information at Ext. 7068.

Weekdays

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

Air Force Television News

Monday through March 19

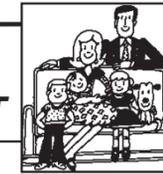
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination

Program Tapes:

Social Science

FAMILY SUPPORT



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

Education survey: The 14th Mission Support Squadron is conducting a kindergarten through 12th grade education survey through March 23.

BLAZE team members can access the survey via the Columbus AFB homepage at www.columbus.af.mil.

Completed surveys may be turned in to any Community Action Information Board suggestion box, the Family Support Center or the Military Personnel Flight customer service office. Surveys in electronic format may be emailed to k12edusurvey@columbus.af.mil

Heart Link: An orientation for all spouses, especially those with less than five years in the military, is from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 22. This event is filled with information on protocol, finance, benefits and helping agencies.

Stress workshop: A stress workshop for supervisors is at 11 a.m. March 24. It discusses types of stress, identifies stressors in the work environment, strategies to reduce workplace stress and coping techniques.

Depression workshop: An informational session on depression as a treatable illness is at 2 p.m. March 24. It teaches participants how to recognize symptoms and provides factual information on depression.

Hearts Apart social: A social gathering for families of deployed or remote personnel is at 5:30 p.m. March 25. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

Letters for jobs: A class teaching people how to write cover letters, thank-you letters and other letters associated with jobs is at 10 a.m. April 7.

Time management: A class on how to better organize for efficiency and less stress is at 11 a.m. April 8.

Medical transcriptionist: Registration is open for classes in medical transcription and terminology. Each course lasts

about nine weeks. Pre-requisites apply.

AFAS: The Air Force Aid Society is available to provide financial assistance in the event of sudden emergencies.

Calling cards: Free \$20 value calling cards, sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, are offered to all personnel going on contingency tours of duty for 30 days or longer. These must be issued to the military member.

Remote/deployment briefing: Military personnel going remote or being deployed must attend a mandatory briefing held daily at 9 a.m.

Teddy Bear Program: The family support center and the Mississippi State Troopers have partnered to solicit and collect stuffed animals in support of the Teddy Bear Program. The request is for small stuffed animals or 'hugging' type toys.

State troopers travel with a few of these donated stuffed animals in their cars to comfort children whose families are involved in accidents, traffic stops and domestic calls.

People can drop off clean stuffed animals for this program at the family support center.

Recipes needed: The family support center is collecting favorite "quick and easy" recipes from base personnel to create a newcomers' cookbook. Categories include appetizers, soups and salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads and desserts.

Drop off recipes with name, organization and phone number, or e-mail them to FSC@columbus.af.mil. This is open to all Columbus AFB personnel.

BASE NOTES



Portal accounts: The deadline to set up Air Force Portal accounts is today. Log on to www.my.af.mil, click on the registration link and follow the instructions. For more information, call Ext. 3499 and select option one.

Scholarship: The deadline for the General Henry Arnold Education Grant Program scholarship is today.

The scholarship is for family of Air Force active duty, retired and reservists on extended duty. Up to \$1,500 is awarded in grants. Applications are available at the family support center. For more information, call Ext. 2855 or Ext. 2790.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Spring is here

Gavin Gilder, 2, does his part around the house to get ready for Spring. Residents are reminded to keep their lawns, flowerbeds, gutters, flags and driveways within regulations. For more information, call Ext. 7281.

Bible study: A midweek Bible study is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex.

The focus of the study is the video series "The Measure of Spiritual Maturity," and dinner is provided.

A Bible study is held at noon Tuesdays in the chapel annex. The focus of the study is the Fruit of the Spirit Bible series: Building Healthy Relationships.

A teen Bible study is held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex for ages 12 to 19. "Crossroads" is the focus of the study, and dinner is provided. For more information, call Ext. 2500.

Relay For Life: The 12-hour Lowndes County Relay For Life starts at 6 p.m. April 16 and ends at 6 a.m. April 17.

Teams of eight to 15 people camp out and take turns walking around the Saunders Field on Highway 45 next to the Master Host Inn hotel in downtown Columbus.

Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. The Relay For Life is an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society to raise money for the fight against cancer. The goal is for each team to raise \$1,000 dollars, and there is no registration fee.

Live entertainment and games are provided through the night. For more information,

Variety of programs available to base families

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

Club card drawings: The Landing Lounge and enlisted lounge offer a club card drawing for cash every Friday around 6:30 p.m. Card holders must be present to win. Call Ext. 2490.

Disc Jockey Maze: The enlisted lounge features the sounds of Disc Jockey Maze at 9 p.m. today. Call Ext. 2490.

Movie marathon: The youth center movie marathon begins at 2 p.m. Saturday. Call Ext. 2504.

Midday bingo: The Columbus Club offers bingo at noon Mondays. Three games are played — two \$25 games and a \$500 progressive jackpot game with a \$50 consolation prize if the coverall game does not go in 51 numbers or less.

Cost is \$1.50 for 3-on-1 cards for the \$25 games and \$2 each for the jackpot game. Call Ext. 2490.

Adult and youth crafts classes: The skills development center offers classes for adults on Tuesdays and for youth on Wednesdays. A display of the craft projects is available in the center. Call Ext. 7836.

Youth drug and alcohol mini-seminar: The youth center offers this seminar at 4 p.m. Thursday for all base youth and their parents. Call Ext. 2504.

Silver Star casino trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip March 19. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation and \$15 in coins. The bus leaves the community center parking lot at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call Ext. 7861.

Techno night and St. Patrick's Day party: The enlisted lounge features techno night and a St. Patrick's Day party at 9 p.m. March 19. Call Ext. 2490.

Youth center St. Patrick's Day dance: The youth center offers a dance from 7 to 10 p.m. March 20. Admission is \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

NTN competition: The enlisted lounge features an NTN contest March 20. Call Ext. 2490.

All-ranks brunch: The Columbus Club offers a brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 21. Cost is \$8.95 for members and \$10.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2489.

Auto shop special: The auto shop offers a 10 percent discount on auto repairs during March. For appointments, call Ext. 7842.

Youth center spring fling: The youth center's annual spring fling is from 10 a.m. to noon April 3 at Freedom

Park. Volunteers are needed to help with this program. If interested, call the youth center at Ext. 2504.

Dance classes: The youth center offers dance classes in tap, jazz and ballet. Ages 5 to 7 may register for the preparatory dance classes offered Mondays at 4:30 p.m.; ages 8 to 13 may register for the Jazz II classes Tuesdays; ages 3 to 4 may register for the creative movement classes at 4:30 p.m. Thursdays; and adults may register for the jazz dance classes at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. 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. Stop by the bowling center to find out what is offered with each party package. Call Ext. 2426.

Quick shot bingo: The bowling center offers quick shot bingo anytime the center is open. Cash prizes are awarded. Cards are \$1 each. Call Ext. 2426.

Vacation packages available: The information, ticket and travel office, located at outdoor recreation, offers vacation, cruise and airline packages. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

The "Happy" burger: Stop by the Columbus Club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Order a Happy burger, fries and a drink for only \$3.95 for members. Nonmembers pay \$5.95. An a la carte menu is also available along with a take-out service. Call Ext. 2489.



Athena Brimer

So many choices

Maj. Kelly Holbert, 37th Flying Training Squadron, and Elizabeth Davis, visual information specialist, make their soul food buffet selections at the Columbus Club during African-American History Month. The club offers a St. Patrick's Day buffet Wednesday and an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

Speedway: The 3rd Annual Rebel Challenge begins at 7:30 p.m. today at the Columbus Speedway. Grandstand tickets are \$15 per person and pit passes are \$25 per person. Ages 10 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 241-5004.

Art class: The Art of Stained Glass is at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Rosenzweig Arts Center in downtown Columbus. Participants learn the art of stained glass by creating a glass stepping-stone. Cost is \$20 per person. The registration deadline is Thursday. For more information, call 328-2787.

Children's photography class: The Art of Photography I is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Rosenzweig Arts Center in downtown Columbus. Tuition is \$20 per student for all four sessions. Ages 8 to 11 are welcome. For more information, call the Columbus Arts Council at 328-2787.

Museum exhibit: "The Middle Passage 101 Tour" of the Sankofa Museum is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Hogarth Student Center on the Mississippi University for Women campus. The exhibit includes historic artifacts such

as "legal" documents of enslavement and newspapers with runaway slave advertisements. For more information, call 329-7352.

Book sale: The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library sponsors a book sale from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. March 19 and March 20 at Leigh Mall. All proceeds benefit the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System. For more information or to volunteer, call 329-5300.

For more event listings, visit www.columbus-ms.org.

BARGAIN LINE

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 re-submit 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.

Weather team helps base squadrons plan for fitness



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Members of the 14th Medical Operations Squadron's Aerospace Physiology Unit do log cabin pushups at Freedom Park as part of their standard physical training workout.

This year, the Air Force introduced a physical fitness program with new fitness standards.

Unlike the bike test, the new fitness test includes performing outdoor physical activity. Columbus AFB's weather conditions have a direct impact on this new program.

According to AFI 10-248, Fitness Program, there are several weather conditions that can impact an Airman's ability to complete a valid physical fitness test.

"These restrictions exist for safety reasons and to ensure conditions are not too extreme

for those being tested," said Wing Weather Officer, 2nd Lt. Mike Bielas.

Among other conditions, testing is prohibited if lightning or hail occurs within 25 miles of Columbus AFB. Winds greater than 20 miles per hour will also prohibit valid testing.

To provide people with information to plan workouts or fitness tests, the Columbus AFB Combat Weather Team has conveniently created a five-day fitness forecast. It is located on the 14th Flying Training Wing's weather Web page at <https://columbusweb/og/weather/wx.htm>.

Once at the weather Web page, select the "Fit and Planning WX" button on the upper left side of the page. This button links to the five-day fitness forecast.

The forecast is updated every Monday and Friday morning with minor adjustments throughout the week.

It is a stoplight chart with green colored circles forecasting favorable conditions and red colored circles forecasting unfavorable conditions. Red circles will have a number inside indicating the forecasted weather limiting factor.

The key for the unfavorable conditions is located below the stoplight chart. The morning forecast is valid until noon, and the afternoon forecast is valid until 5 p.m.

"BLAZE Team members are encouraged to use this fitness forecast slide in pursuit of physical fitness and provide us with feedback on its usefulness and accuracy," Lieutenant Bielas said.

For more information, call the Columbus Weather Flight at Ext. 2970 or 2971. *(Courtesy of the 14th Operations Support Squadron)*

Mountain Home AFB offers military people summer travel destination

MOUNTAIN HOME AFB, Idaho — Active-duty, retired military, civilian Department of Defense personnel and their families can rent trailers for the summer from April to September at Yellow Stone National Park, Idaho.

The trailers are offered by Mountain Home AFB's Outdoor Adventure office.

"If Yellow Stone National Park is in your vacation plans for 2004, there are a few different accommodation options to consider," said Mark Lothrop, Mountain Home AFB outdoor recreation director.

There are a number of campgrounds within the park, and

people will need to make reservations several months in advance.

"We will have over 400 families take advantage of this program," Mr. Lothrop said. "We are open from Memorial Day through mid-September. With 13 trailers at two great locations, we should be able to meet your needs."

Since the trailers have fully functioning kitchens including ovens, refrigerators and microwaves, families can enjoy substantial savings over restaurant eating. Motels in the area are well over \$100 per night and do not have spots for evening campfires or cooking.

Flagg Ranch, just outside the park's south entrance, is close to Grand Teton National Park and is \$70 per night. Lionshead Resort, with its five trailers, is eight miles from the park's west entrance. Lodging there is \$60 per night.

As of April 1, the outdoor adventure office will begin accepting telephone reservations for May and June. Beginning May 4, they will accept reservations for July. Starting of June 1, people can phone in reservations for August and September.

For more information or to make reservations, call (208) 828-6288 or DSN 728-6288.

SHORTS

HAWC hours

Beginning Monday, the health and wellness center is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 7:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays. For more information, call Ext. 2477 or Ext. 2236.

Soccer coaches needed

The youth center is in need of soccer

coaches for the spring season. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Sports physical day

The 14th Medical Group is conducting sports physicals for school-aged children who are enrolled beneficiaries from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 1 at the clinic.

To schedule an appointment, call Ext.

2273 or (800) 982-4260.

All star basketball camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only, and boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply. Players from 50 states and 11 foreign countries attended the 2003 camp.

Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Grant Hill and Antwan Jamison.

College basketball scholarships are also possible for players selected to the All-American team. Camp locations include Lebanon, Tenn., Atlanta, Hickory, N.C., and Blacksburg, Texas. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.