

## CAFB gets four new Wingmen

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
Public Affairs

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, honored four members of the local community by selecting them as Columbus AFB Wingmen Thursday at the Columbus Club.

The Honorable Jeffrey Rupp, retired Col. Nick Ardillo, Lori Kesler and Stephen Imes will join the 14 other Wingmen in an honorary designation that recognizes outstanding members of the community who have made exceptional contributions to the base.

"I'm really honored to have been selected and take after my father in becoming a Wingman," said Stephen Imes.

Mr. Imes' father, Birney Imes, was one of the original Wingmen.

The purpose of the award is to honor members of the community who have provided unparalleled support to the wing commander during his time at Columbus AFB.

The designation "Wingman" comes from the aviation term for a pilot who flies his or her aircraft in formation with another aircraft such that the power and strength of that formation is greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Gen. Robert H. Foglesong established the Columbus Wingman Award in November 1993 during his time here as commander of Columbus AFB. He viewed the award as a way to recognize and "give something back" to outstanding members of the local community who have done great work with the base over an extended period of time.

These are individuals who have worked continuously to enhance the well being of the base community, as well as to ensure the effectiveness of the overall mission of the 14th FTW.

"I have always admired the sacrifices our ancestors and military families have made, and this could not be a more opportune time for me to assist them in any way that I can," Ms. Kesler said. "The men and women who serve are a tremendous inspiration and source of pride for me as a community citizen. To be selected is truly humbling, as there are so many here in our community who have worked over the years to support our base's mission."

The Columbus AFB Wingmen are: Charles Youngblood, George "Happy" Irby, Bobby Harper, Fred Hayslett, Gene Smith, Mark Alexander, Charleigh Ford, Linda "L.L." Gates, Senator Sonny Montgomery, Albert Simmons, Stan McCrary, Tommy Southerland, and the late Birney Imes and Ralph Webb.



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Airman 1st Class Joel Johnson, trained by Senior Airman Mark Thompson, 14th Operations Support Squadron, learns to sequence aircraft to the final approach course to Columbus AFB in the 40-year-old Radar Approach Control facility. The base opens its new state-of-the-art RAPCON during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. today.

## State-of-art RAPCON opens today

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
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Columbus AFB officially opens its new Radar Approach Control facility near the flightline at 1 p.m. today.

The new radar approach control facility, or RAPCON, provides air traffic control service over a large portion of Mississippi's skies, including 13 airports and three military operations areas, improving the safety of flight for military and civilian aircraft.

The RAPCON provides air traffic control service to 212,000 aircraft operations annually, making it the fourth busiest RAPCON in the Air Force.

The new facility will feature modern electronics that will replace the late '60s, early '70s technology used in the old RAPCON that is housed in a 40-year-old building.

The old facility provided limited space for operations, training and support.

The new building is complete with technologies to improve service and training of RAPCON personnel, such as state-of-the-art communications that allow for future growth and enhanced radar coverage that can be used by other Federal Aviation Administration sites throughout the region.

The ribbon-cutting event will also include a groundbreaking ceremony for Columbus AFB's new control tower.

"We're getting a brand new digitized system and experiencing a total rebuild of infrastructure and equipment, modernizing air traffic control," said Master Sgt. Barry Braswell, RAPCON chief controller. "These upgrades will bring us into alignment with the FAA, our civilian counterpart."

The RAPCON and control tower were designed simultaneously by the same design firm to ensure integrated architectural compatibility, communications and power requirements.

## New defense medal issued to recognize Korea veterans

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — A new defense medal will be issued to military members who served in the Republic of Korea, or adjacent waters, after July 28, 1954. This includes those serving there today and those serving up to a not-yet-determined future date.

The Korea Defense Service Medal, not to be confused with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a new medal that will be awarded to active duty, reserve, guard, veterans and retirees who were assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating or serving on all the land area of the Republic of Korea, and the continuous waters to 12 nautical miles from shore and all airspace above those areas.

Individuals will only be awarded one KDSM regardless of time spent in Korea, personnel officials said. The medal does not have any associated promotion points under the weighted airman promotion system. It is directly above the Armed Forces Service Medal in precedence.

Applying for the KDSM varies for different groups of service-members.

**Active duty, reserve and guard** — The KDSM will be issued to Air Force active duty, reserve and guardsmen by their servicing military personnel flights beginning this fall. Address questions to the contact center, DSN

665-5000 or (800) 616-3775.

**Veterans and retirees** — Veterans, retirees or their next of kin may claim entitlement by writing to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., 63132-5100. Requests should include documents clearly proving service and dates in Korea such as orders, performance reports, DD214, flight records or decorations citation. Address questions to the NPRC customer service center at (314) 801-0800.

**Reserve and guard veterans and retirees** — Air Force reserve and guard veterans, retirees and next of kin may submit their request with documentation to Head-quarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, 6760 Irvington Place

4000, Denver, Colo., 80280-4000. Reserve and guard veterans and retirees under the age of 60 should address questions to HQ ARPC at (303) 679-6134.

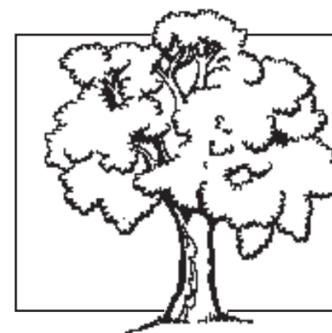
**Reserve and Guard veterans and retirees over 60 years old** — Requests from reserve and guard veterans and retirees over the age of 60 and next-of-kin of deceased reserve and guard veterans and retirees must be sent to the NPRC with documentation. Address questions to the NPRC customer service center at (314) 801-0800. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center)



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

### "It's your future — VOTE for it"

Col. John Burgess, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, reviews absentee ballot information with 2nd Lt. Aaron Mitchell, 14th Communications Squadron voting representative. For more information on understanding the absentee ballot system, contact a unit voting counselor.



Many people are unaware of the opportunity to walk, run, bike or horseback ride along Columbus AFB's Timberlane Nature Trail. Along the trail, various wetlands, trees and countless wildlife can be found. To reach the recreational area, follow Independence Ave. to the runway area. Signs found alongside the dirt road toward SAC Lake offer direction to the beginning of the trails. For more information, call Sarah Fafinski at Ext. 7958.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### 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 at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the Memorial Plaza.

### Farewell dinner

A farewell dinner for 14th Flying Training Wing commander Col. Steve Schmidt is at 5 p.m. today at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$6. To sign up, call 1st Lt. Brandy Hewins at Ext. 7024.

### Congratulations

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the following master sergeants on their selection to senior master sergeant: From the 14th Comptroller Flight: Stephen Gregory; from the 14th Security Forces Squadron: Antonio Alston; and from the 332nd Recruiting Squadron: Michael Wright.

### Drill competition

An Air Force JROTC drill competition is at 9 a.m. Saturday at the SAC Alert Facility. More than 150 cadets from five Mississippi and two Tennessee high schools will be judged on armed and unarmed regulation drill, colors, physical fitness, armed and unarmed exhibition, and individual knock-out drill. For more information, call Master Sgt. Victor Tennant at Ext. 7004 or Tech. Sgt. Jody Edwards at Ext. 2409.

### Main Gate Closure

The main gate will be temporarily closed from 7:50 to 9:30 a.m. Monday from Highway 45 to A Street. A static display is being transported and assembled at the corner of Highway 45 and Defense Access Road. People are encouraged to make arrangements to utilize the back gate during this time.

## Fire safety: A matter of attitude

Each year, home fires and accidents injure 25 million people, cost millions of dollars in damage, and cause physical and emotional suffering to families.

"Home fire safety depends on a combination of attitudes and actions," said Harold Nichols, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron assistant chief of fire prevention. "These include finding and correcting safety hazards, being safety conscious at all times and knowing what to do in an emergency."

The following offer some ideas on fire prevention:

❑ Ensure smoke detectors are in proper working condition.

❑ Put a 911 sticker, available from the fire prevention office, on all house phones.

❑ Prepare and practice family fire escape plans.

❑ Dispose of used matches, cigarettes and other smoking materials properly. Remember to keep these materials out of the reach of small children.

❑ Never leave a burning candle unattended.

❑ Keep stoves clean and free from grease. Never leave stoves unattended while cooking, and turn pot handles away from the front of the stove.

❑ In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid. If out of control, use a fire extinguisher.

❑ Never put water on a grease fire. This spreads hot liquid fire over the cooking area and beyond. Do not put flour on a grease fire; this could explode into a ball of fire.

❑ Do not use extension cords as a permanent source of wiring.

❑ Most importantly, call the fire department at 911 as soon as a fire breaks out. Try to extinguish the fire with an extinguisher only if it is safe to do so and an escape route has been determined.



Airman Jonathan Boyd, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, inspects a fire detector near the bunk rooms at the fire station to make sure it is working properly. For information about fire prevention, call Ext. 2270.

Even after smothering a fire with an extinguisher, allow fire fighters to check for "hot spots" to ensure the home is fire safe.

"Fire fighters are the professionals, so call the fire department for every fire in your home, regardless of the size or location," Mr. Nichols said. "Home fire

safety is a family matter. It's important to keep your entire family safe from accidents and the likely causes of home fires."

For more information, call the fire prevention office at Ext. 2270. (Courtesy of 14th Civil Engineer Squadron)

## School board, CAFB to quickly address issues

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
Public Affairs

During the Columbus Municipal School Board meeting March 10, the board and 14th Flying Training Wing leadership agreed to take steps to quickly deal with student issues.

"To better serve our Columbus AFB students and families, a resolution team of Columbus AFB personnel and Columbus Municipal School District personnel has been identified to solve problems in a much more timely manner," said Dr. Lester Beason, Columbus Schools superintendent.

The wing and school board hopes that in addition to the resolution team, quarterly meetings between Col. Keith Keck, 14th Mission Support Group commander, and Dr. Beason, combined with the base's education survey currently being conducted will fix some of the problems encountered by military families.

"We have initiated a more frequent working relationship between myself and Dr. Beason," said Colonel Keck.

The resolution team is being designed to give Columbus AFB parents a way to deal with educational issues in a timely manner when parent-teacher communication does not fix the issue.

Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, the 14th Mission Support Squadron commander will head the Columbus AFB portion of the resolution team and work along with the Columbus Municipal School District assistant superintendent to address issues.

The school system issues bubbled to the surface in last year's needs assessment.



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez, 9, Franklin Academy students, get off the bus at the end of the school day.

"We received data from the community needs assessments that had given us some concerns," Colonel Keck said. "We'll use the base education survey to further identify the parents' concerns about the schools, and I will take those forward to Dr. Beason to address the problems."

The educational survey is available on the web at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) and a paper version is available at the family support center.

The survey, which ends March 23, includes five questions from the Columbus Municipal School District and a place for parents to volunteer to be a part of the focus groups forming to look at the educational needs of the base children.

"I highly encourage parents to join the focus groups because, as in anything, parental involvement in their

child's education is key," Colonel Keck said. "Whether it is helping them with their home work or ensuring they have the best possible opportunities... there has to be parental involvement to help them flourish in their education."

The wing is also engaging the local private schools to resolve any issues people might have.

Lt. Col. William Sherman, 14th MSG deputy commander, is on the Heritage Academy school board. Similar initiatives have been addressed with other private schools. Colonel Keck stresses the ability of base parents to contribute to the school systems in the area.

"The Air Force is a melting pot, and we have people from all over the world who have seen things work," he said. "Many of these ideas can be cultivated in the Columbus area."

## Parents' dissatisfaction with schools expressed

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
Public Affairs

The Columbus Municipal School Board and wing leadership met March 10 to tackle the dissatisfaction of Columbus AFB parents with the Columbus school system.

The 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Col. Steve Schmidt, and the 14th Mission Support Group Commander Col. Keith Keck, presented the base's concerns to the board and Dr. Lester Beason, Columbus Schools superintendent.

During the meeting, Colonel Schmidt said that according to a recent survey, the amount of people dissatisfied with the school system was about twice the Air Force average.

While he did not go in depth about individual issues, the colonel brought up the issue of building an elementary school on Columbus AFB and having a military liaison on the school board as ways to solve some of the problems.

"The fact that two organizations, such as the Columbus Municipal School District and Columbus Air Force Base, can publicly share differing points of view is a sign of a mature relationship that has the capacity to stand in the sunshine of an open meeting and admit that there are issues that need to be addressed by both organizations," Dr. Beason said.

During the ensuing discussion, the school board agreed to look into funding for a new school at Columbus AFB and begin broader communications with the base.

"Progress is being made on several issues including the study of a school that more nearly meets the expectations of the Columbus Air Force Base population," Dr. Beason said. "The school system has requested information that will permit a careful study of this issue."

To help communication and address issues in a timely manner, Dr. Beason will hold quarterly meetings with base representative Colonel Keck, who serve as school board liaison officer, to maintain a constant communication link.

"A protocol will be established that will make it possible to contact a central person on the base who, working with school district personnel, will be able to facilitate problems in a very timely manner," Dr. Beason said.

Both base leadership and the school board said they were committed to resolving the current issues and building a brighter future for all of the children in the district.

"These actions, and others, are indicative of the willingness of both Columbus AFB and Columbus Municipal School District to undertake the hard work of training the best pilots in the world and providing a world-class education for our children," Dr. Beason concluded.

## Civilians soon to see extra money in paychecks

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** — Air Force civilian employees will soon see extra money in their paychecks after the president signed an executive order March 3, authorizing a pay adjustment retroactive to Jan. 11.

Officials began loading new pay tables into the civilian payroll system Thursday. But as in 2003, not all employees will receive the retroactive pay at the same time.

Most general schedule employees will see the increase

plus a retroactive lump-sum in their paychecks by May, said personnel officials. It may take longer for employees who have experienced personnel actions — like a promotion or step-grade increase — since Jan. 11 to see the money.

Medical Special Rate employees' records will be updated beginning today.

Federal Wage System and Non-appropriated Fund schedules are not yet published.

Those updates will be processed as soon as pay schedules are available, said personnel officials. The increase averages .9 percent in locality pay, plus a 1.2 percent increase in base pay. To view locality pay increases by location for general schedule employees, visit [www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2004/ATT2-04.asp](http://www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2004/ATT2-04.asp).

Officials said they will announce more information as it becomes available. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center)



*While the Air Force may reimburse people for some losses in government quarters, it does not provide the coverage provided by a regular insurance policy. Renter's insurance can cover losses sustained from natural disasters, property theft and more. This may prove especially important for deploying airmen leaving their household goods behind. For more information, contact a first sergeant or an insurance agency on how to protect homes and personal property.*

# Motorcycle weather is here — who will be next?

**Maj. Cameron Holt**  
14th Contracting Squadron



As the signs of Spring surround our senses, motorcycle enthusiasts across the country are finding any excuse to leave the car at home and hit the open road with the powerful agility of a motorcycle responding to their every command. I have owned two different motorcycles, including an 1100cc Honda V65 Magna that I loved to ride while in college at the University of Georgia. I distinctly remember the exhilaration and sense of freedom that have made motorcycles so popular.

I also distinctly remember a fraction of a second that slowed to a frame-by-frame nightmare just before I was hit by a young co-ed that was in too big of hurry to look

before changing lanes, hitting the right side of my motorcycle. While lifting my right leg to avoid being crushed by the impact, I remember quickly scanning the traffic in the oncoming lanes, looking for a break that was not to be found on the other side of that double yellow line speeding underneath my left side.

I rolled onto the roof of her car. When she felt the impact she slammed on her brakes. I shot forward off the front of her car and onto the payment, rolling and sliding for what seemed an eternity. I was either lucky, blessed or both. My helmet was broken, and I was bloody but alive and well.

Somehow, the spare helmet attached to the side of my motorcycle kept it sliding in the same lane instead of flipping up into the oncoming traffic. I was certainly no Evel Knievel, but I was also not an inexperienced rider. Yet I was completely powerless to avoid an accident that could have ended my life in a few fleeting seconds

I've driven motorcycles many since then, and I still love

the feeling. But now I also realize how many variables are completely beyond the control of the rider, literally meaning life or death on any given day. A dog, a deer, an unfamiliar road at night, sand or gravel in a tight turn, and other motorists conditioned over time to look only for cars can all end your life quickly.

April will mark the one-year anniversary of the day this terrible truth ended my brother-in-law's life.

Jim Smith was one year younger than I. He had a wife and three beautiful children. He once raced motorcycles and could do things on two wheels I could never do.

He was not speeding, he was wearing a helmet, and yet, on a beautiful spring day, a teenager in a sports utility vehicle took his life in an instant.

This article is dedicated to his memory.

Before you or your loved ones take the winter cover off of that motorcycle, please ponder the question carefully — Which one of us will be next?

## 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. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

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 website at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil).

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

### Construction on Simler Boulevard

**Q**uestion: How much more road damage is going to occur on Simler Boulevard until it is repaired? I know that base employees were asked to use the south gate entrance due to road construction, but some employees have to go to the flight line area, commissary, exchange, gas station and credit union — areas on base only accessible via Simler Boulevard. Some employees feel that having to enter the south gate and then drive to the flight line area is taking them a considerable way from their duty location.

It appears that the construction vehicles are also tearing up the main entrances and exits on Simler Boulevard. Those who have to use the road are also risking damage to their personal vehicles. The potholes are affecting vehicle and tire alignments.

**A**nswer: The construction on Simler Boulevard has been programmed for many years due to the deteriorating condition of the

pavement. We were fortunate at the end of FY03 to finally receive the necessary funds to award this project.

Our civil engineers are making every effort to complete this project as soon as possible, but performing work during the worst weather period of the year hampers progress. Weather permitting, we anticipate completing construction on Simler Boulevard this Spring.

The initial layer of pavement is down, which should greatly improve driving for us all. Once the other two lanes are complete, a final layer of pavement will be added to complete the project. We are still asking base employees to continue to use the south gate due to construction. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we make long term driving improvements for the entire base population.

Col. Steve Schmidt  
14th Flying Training Wing commander

## SILVER WINGS

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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.

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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

# Colonel bids Columbus AFB good-bye, God speed

Nineteen months ago, Sarah and I excitedly joined the BLAZE Team. From the start, we were impressed by the history and southern hospitality of Columbus, but we were most impressed by the hard work and dedication you showed daily in building the world's best warriors, leaders and professional military pilots.

Every day, the BLAZE Team gives 100 percent. No matter what the challenge — a massive six-month runway closure, weather attrition or conversion from the T-38A to the T-38C — we stayed on target and graduated 24 classes — 562 students for the United States and our allies.

Even in the face of disaster, when an F3 tornado struck the city of Columbus, the BLAZE Team went to work.

At the same time, we did our part to directly support the global war against terrorism. We had 171 members of the BLAZE team deployed all over the world to places like Afghanistan, Iraq and



Southwest Asia. Right now, 60 men and women from Columbus are deployed near or on the front lines defending America. We are proud of each and every one of them.

You have proven that Columbus AFB is the best pilot training wing in the world.

The Air Education and Training Command inspector general validated that fact with a high "Excellent" rating while awarding you the best overall scores of any Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training wing in 2003.

We've done a lot together to make this

wing even better. We've spent over \$34 million on facility projects and over \$10 million on equipment upgrades. We've built a new corrosion control facility, a new visitor's center, a new perimeter fence, and we've expanded and renovated the fitness center and the child development center.

Today, we will open our \$14.2 million Radar Approach Control facility — the newest and most advanced in the Air Force.

Immediately following that dedication, we will break ground on our new \$5.5 million control tower scheduled for completion next year. You've made this wing, this base, and this community better! It has been an honor and a privilege to have served with you, America's finest.

Thank you for your outstanding work. Sarah and I wish you all God speed.

Brigadier General (Select)  
Stephen D. Schmidt  
14th Flying Training Wing Commander

# Statistics show 90% of all sexual assaults linked to alcohol

**Maj. Walter Lassiter**  
14th Flying Training Wing



The dangers of irresponsible drinking are not limited to DUI citations. Sexual assault (i.e. rape, sodomy and any offensive touching of a sexual nature) is just one more of the dangers of irresponsible drinking. Here are a few facts that you should be aware of:

- Every 21 hours there is a rape on a college campus with 90 percent of all campus rapes occurring under the influence of alcohol.
- Sixteen percent of male college students admitted to giving or encouraging the use of drugs or alcohol to obtain sex.
- Men are more likely than women to assume that a woman who drinks alcohol on a date is a willing sex partner. Forty percent of men who think this way also believe it is acceptable to force sex on an intoxicated woman.
- Under the influence of alcohol, men are more likely to interpret a woman's smile, laughter, clothes or body language as evidence that she wants to have sex.
- Alcohol slows reflexes and can impair the victim's ability to recognize a potentially dangerous situation.
- In 29 percent of sexual assaults recorded by a medium-sized, middle Atlantic university, the victim could not have consented because she was incapacitated by alcohol.
- Sixty percent of women ages 18-29 who have acquired sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS) were under the influence of alcohol at the time they had intercourse.

These statistics are stunning. According to researchers, these consequences are the result of "raging pre-pubescent hormones and the freedom of being away from home, quite often for the first time." What do these numbers have to do with you?

While life in a military dormitory may not mirror life in a typical college dormitory, the age groups are similar. This is significant because the same factors that may cause attacks on a college campus make the same attacks possible on a military installation. Should such attacks ever occur on a military installation or involve military members as attackers? Absolutely not. But it is impossible to guarantee that such attacks won't happen.

Although there is no guarantee such attacks won't happen, if 90 percent of all such attacks occur under the influence of alcohol, then something should be said for not drinking or at least drinking responsibly. Apparently, this is especially true in situations involving young men and women. It is true that everyone should be able to drink and socialize without fear of becoming a victim. But clearly, irresponsible drinking raises the possibility that you may become a victim. If an attack should occur, the law directs that the attacker be prosecuted and punished. But the law cannot prevent an attacker from being an attacker. The law cannot give you back what an attacker has taken. The greatest defense is you.

If you are attacked, regardless of how or why, you should report that attack immediately. There are many avenues for you to get assistance. The quickest and easiest way to get assistance is to dial 9-1-1. You should also contact your first sergeant or commander as soon as possible. Etha Brooks, our Victim Witness Liaison, can be reached at 434-7030 during duty hours and through the command post during after-duty hours. You may also call the on-call judge advocate general at 364-7030 and/or the on-call life skills

representative at 364-2239. These agencies are available to assist you 24 hours a day, and will treat you with the utmost patience, dignity and respect.

We have only addressed half the equation. What about attackers? What about the men that think an intoxicated woman is fair game? Let's dismiss one myth immediately, if you engage in sexual activity with a woman who is too intoxicated to give consent, you can be found guilty of sexual assault. If you take nothing else from this article, please memorize this point: the fact that your potential victim is unable to say no because of intoxication is not silent consent.

The punishments that a court-martial can impose for sexual assault vary by offense. For example, the maximum punishment for indecently assaulting another is dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for five years. If you forcibly sodomize another (any unnatural sex act) the maximum punishment is dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for life without eligibility for parole.

Whether it is DUI or Sexual Assault caused by irresponsible drinking, the dangers are all too clear. If you don't drink, don't start. If you do drink, then employ the buddy system. Buddies don't let friends drive drunk, and buddies can help prevent their friends from becoming victims of sexual predators. Really good friends will help prevent their buddies from drinking to the point of becoming an attacker. The statistics indicate 90 percent of all college rapes involve alcohol. Ninety percent!

Whether attacker or victim, you are rolling the dice every time you drink irresponsibly; the odds are not in your favor.

# Women on front lines, anywhere terror strikes

**Airman 1st Class Boto Best**  
Public Affairs

When people hear the word "deployment," they immediately envision desert camouflage uniforms, heat, sand, tents and meals ready-to-eat.

For many, the nature of their jobs presents the possibility of never returning to their families alive if at all. But given the nature of war today, that threat no longer applies only to men in combat units.

That fact became obvious on Sept. 11, 2001, and even more recently March 11 in Madrid, Spain. Men and women alike, military and civilian, are in danger of attack.

What many don't know is that to deploy simply means to strategically extend a military unit, and a deployed location can be right inside the United States.

The "front line" could be anywhere — from New York to Iraq. So the roles women play at deployed locations are just as important as those of their male counterparts.

Tech Sgt. Hallie Williams was deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla., for four months in support of Operation Noble Eagle as an information manager. She provided help desk maintenance for the operation's computer systems. The mission was classified, and she was given no clear description of what she would be doing until she got there.

"I was a mother before I joined the military, and being away from my daughter was rough. But I knew there was a greater cause, and that she would be taken care of," she said.

Two weeks after she arrived at Tyndall AFB, the computer systems crashed. She had to step up to the task of getting technicians to repair the system in a timely fashion.

"In an operation like this, information is important," she said. "A simple sentence or word could affect the mission heavily."

It was a 24-hour operation.

"Not just on a deployment, but in our everyday lives, we

want to feel that we make a difference," she said. "It was very fulfilling."

Staff Sgt. Rhoda Ellis, 14th Mission Support Squadron, deployed with a four-man personnel team to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, in February 2003. Among other duties, her job was to notify the Air Force Personnel Center headquarters of any casualties of war and to provide information so that the next-of-kin of the deceased could be notified as soon as possible.

"I was proud to be serving as a woman in battle," she said. "It was empowering to know that women were actually out there, away from their families just like men were."

Sergeant Ellis said her biggest challenge was not getting emotional while reporting the information out to HQ AFPC.

"You get casualty training, and you know what to do to get the job done, but it was really difficult," she said. "It felt like an empty pit in the bottom of your stomach. I'd never felt like that before."

On top of that, there was family separation to deal with.

"You think about them daily, but in the back of your mind, you keep telling yourself, 'I'm here for my family. I will pay the ultimate sacrifice so that my son will never have to live in a world of terror.'"

For those who are on their way for the first time, it is hard to know what to expect. Staff Sgt. Jennifer Beaupre, 14th Mission Support Group, leaves in two weeks for a deployed location. This will be her first deployment and her first time away from her four-year-old daughter, Erika.

"I'm prepared to do my part in support of the mission," she said. "But the hardest part will be missing my family."

Both Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Ellis said the key is to stay focused on the mission.

"Know that you're there for a reason," Sergeant Ellis said. "You may be there to touch someone who is having



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

**Staff Sgt. Jennifer Beaupre, 14th Mission Support Group, walks her daughter, Erika Beaupre, 4, to her class at the child development center playground. Sergeant Beaupre deploys in two weeks.**

a hard time being away from their loved ones. Just know that your path has been chosen and that God will bring you home safely."

**Women's History Month Luncheon**  
**Date:** March 31, 2004  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Columbus Club  
**Cost:** \$9.50 for members, \$11.50 for nonmembers  
**Menu:** Mediterranean buffet

The guest speaker is former Chief Supreme Court Justice Lenore Prather. For more information, call Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher at Ext. 3134, Staff Sgt. Rhonda Knipmeyer at Ext. 2311, or a first sergeant.

**Thank YOUR Parents**

**Air Force Parent Pin Program**  
 Thanking the Parents of America's Airmen  
[www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com)

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

Starring: Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer.

**Saturday**  
*Free movie at 2 and 7 p.m.* (PG-13, scary scenes, rude humor and language, 87 min.)

Animated.  
**March 26**  
*"Catch That Kid"* (PG, some language, thematic elements and rude humor, 92 min.)

Starring: Kristen Stewart and Corbin Bleu.

## CHANNEL 64

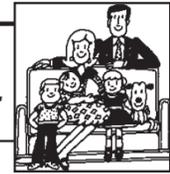
For more information about movies, visit [www.cafbgrapevine.com](http://www.cafbgrapevine.com).

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 26**  
**9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.**  
*College Level Examination Program Tapes:*  
 Mathematics

## FAMILY SUPPORT



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

**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. Monday.

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. Wednesday. It discusses types of stress, identifies stressors in the work environment, strategies to reduce workplace stress and coping techniques.

**Depression session:** An informational session on depression as a treatable illness is at 2 p.m. Wednesday. 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. Thursday. 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.

**Positive thinking videos:** A video-based program on reducing stressors is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 14.

It teaches ways to start the day off right and deal with negative situations and behaviors. It also includes positive self-talk and relaxation audios.

**Medical Transcriptionist:** Registration is open for classes in medical transcription and terminology. Each course lasts about nine weeks. Pre-requisites apply.

**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.

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

**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.

## BASE NOTES



**OSC social:** The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club holds its next social at the Columbus Club at 6:30 p.m. April 13, hosted by spouses of 14th Mission Support Group. The 2003-2004 scholarships will be awarded.

The menu includes prime rib with roasted new potatoes. Cost is \$13.50 per person. Club members receive a \$2 discount.

New members are welcome. For reservations, call Lisa Davis at 434-8723 or e-mail [airtex60@yahoo.com](mailto:airtex60@yahoo.com) by noon April 6.

**Boy Scouts:** Troop 52 has a campout at Camp Pratt Saturday and Sunday. They will earn their Fishing Merit badges and have Camporee practice. The troop meets at the main gate at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. For more information, call 343-5362.

**Earth Day event:** An Earth day event is from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 16 at Freedom Park. More than 400 Columbus 3rd graders are expected to attend.

Environmental professionals will set up learning stations to teach children how to care for the environment. Activities, games and lunch are provided. For more information, call Ext. 7406.

**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



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

## Taste of Sunshine

**Tyler Kilgore, 7, learns to roller skate on a sunny day after school. Parents are reminded to make sure children wear the proper safety gear for outdoor activities. For more information on safety, call Ext. 2158.**

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, or to volunteer as a team captain, call 1st Lt. Ariol Paz at Ext. 2666.

**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.

# 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.

**Silver Star Casino trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip today. 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.

**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.

**Techno night and St. Patrick's Day party:** The enlisted lounge features a special St. Patrick's Day party starting at 9 p.m. today. Call Ext. 2490.

**St. Patrick's Day dance:** A youth center St. Patrick's Day dance is from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday. Ages 9 to 12 must depart by 9 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

**NTN competition:** The enlisted lounge features an NTN contest Saturday. Call Ext. 2490.

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

**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 center at Ext. 2504.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Free squadron bowling parties:** The bowling center offers two free hours of bowling for an official squadron function anytime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If needed, shoe rental is 75 cents per person. There is no limit as to how many times a squadron takes advantage of this free offer, but it must be reserved in advance with the bowling center staff. Call Ext. 2426.

**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 pick up a brochure on what is offered with each package. 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.



Pam Wickham

## Watch out, Tiger!

Marie Nichols eyes her next putt at the Whispering Pines Golf Course. Ricky Magers, Professional Golf Association golf professional, offers a four-week ladies' beginner golf clinic every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. starting April 6. Cost is \$5 per week. For more information or to register, call the golf pro shop at Ext. 7932.

**Open house:** Downtown Columbus' Spring Open House is today and Saturday. For more information, email [jmiller@columbusmainstreet.com](mailto:jmiller@columbusmainstreet.com) or visit [www.columbus-mainstreet.com](http://www.columbus-mainstreet.com).

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

**Blues concert:** A Friday Blues Jam is at 9 p.m. today at the Stage Door Coffee House located on 5th Street South. Admission is \$3 per person. The concert features Mookie Wilson and is hosted by Dennis McKay & Double Shot. For more information, call 327-6789 or visit [www.princesstheatre.net](http://www.princesstheatre.net).

**Fun run:** A St. Patrick's Day 5K-1 mile fun run is at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Lake Lowndes State Park in the New Hope. The fee is \$12 the day of the race, and registration is at 8 a.m. For more information, call Judy Coleman at 328-2110.

**MUW concert:** The Mississippi University for Women's MUWsic Fest is April 3 at the MUW campus. Gates open at 1 p.m. and the show starts at 2 p.m.

Two stages will feature the music of bands such as Galactic, 12 Stones, Friday Night Gigolos, Garrison Starr and others. Tickets are \$17.50 in advance and \$19.50 the day of the event.

Tickets may be purchased at Be-Bop Record Shop in Starkville, Miss., Bryan Records in Columbus and Ticket Alley in Tupelo, Miss. For more information, call 241-6974 or visit [www.muw.edu/muwsicfest](http://www.muw.edu/muwsicfest).

**Red Cross concert:** A fundraising gala featuring the Chuck Wagon Gang and the McAdams Quartet in concert is at 7 p.m. March 26 at the Princess Theatre located at 5th Street South in downtown Columbus. Tickets are \$12.50 per person and may be purchased at the door or ordered in advance. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 328-5710.

**Weight management:** Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursdays at the Lowndes County Volunteer Fire Station next to Antioch Baptist Church. These meetings are for people interested in learning how to lose weight and keep it off permanently. The first meeting is free to anyone who attends. For more information, call Bettye Leftis at 356-6625 or Marj Bryde at 329-2825.

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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

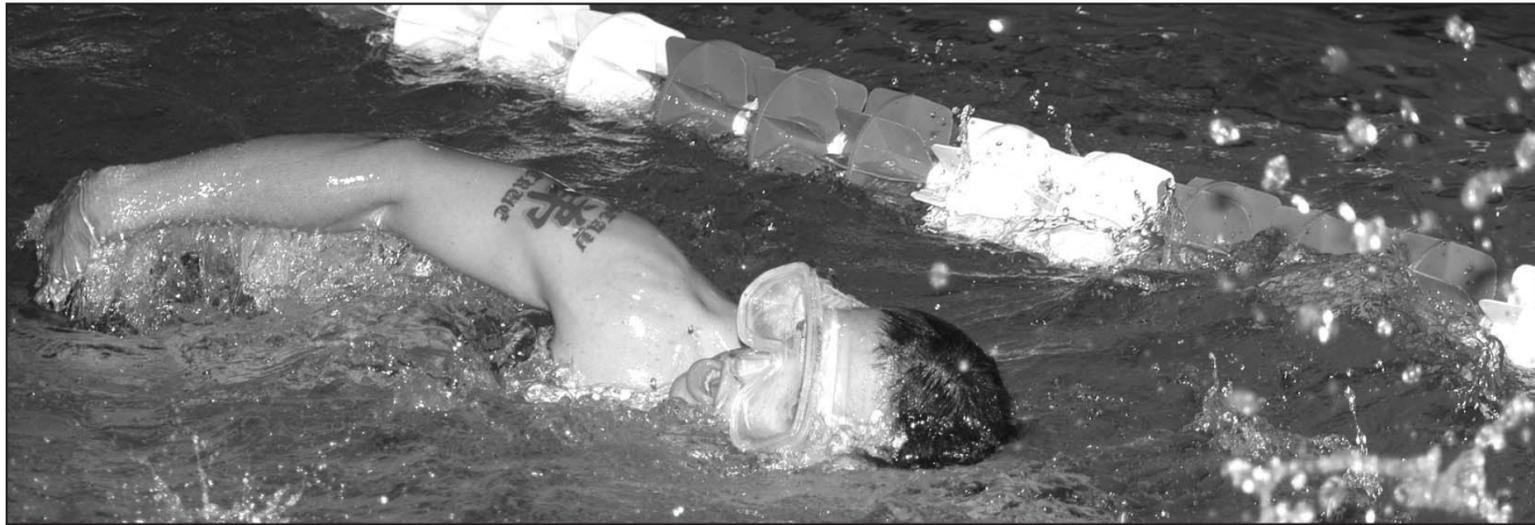
Home Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

*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](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

**Airman 1st Class Daniel Torres, 14th Operations Support Squadron, takes a swim at the YMCA in downtown Columbus. In light of the new 'Fit to Fight' program, the YMCA is offering a 50-percent discount to servicemembers and free membership to family members of deployed personnel. There are no sign-up fees. The organization is also willing to offer classes to target the four major components of the fitness test including crunches, pushups, waist line measurement and the timed 1.5 mile run. The YMCA has branches in downtown Columbus and New Hope, Miss. and one scheduled to open in Caledonia, Miss. in April. For more information, call the YMCA at 328-7696.**

## Bad nutrition advice: Experts offer 10 red flags

Many people have given up on their 2004 New Year's resolutions to lose weight because they've become victims of poor nutrition advice or fad diets.

Unfortunately, many learn the hard way that foods do not have special properties that cause weight loss or gain. A diet that relies on severe or even bizarre food restrictions can lead to failure.

Experts say people tend not to stick with them long enough anyway, but the negative toll on self-esteem is damage enough. A society of fast food, convenience and inactivity has resulted in many consuming more calories and working out less, if at all.

Before falling victim to any of the many diet schemes that bare the red flag of "nutrition junk" people should look for these signs:

1. Recommendations that promise a quick fix
2. Dire warnings of dangers and side effects from a single product or regimen
3. Claims that sound too good to be true
4. Simplistic conclusions drawn from a complex study
5. Recommendations based on a single study

6. Dramatic statements that are refuted by reputable scientific organizations

7. Lists of "good" and "bad" foods

8. Recommendations to help sell a product, often food or supplements

9. Recommendations based on studies published without peer review

10. Recommendations from studies that ignore differences among individuals or groups

"The recommended diet is rich in complex carbohydrates, fruits, vegetables, fiber and low fat dairy and protein," said Master Sgt. Gilbert Shrieves, 14th Medical Operations Squadron nutrition specialist. "Learning the importance of moderation and balance can be a great starting point to enjoying a healthier lifestyle."

Ads in popular magazines use testimonials to sell plans and products, and celebrity "experts" tout new doctrines that line their wallets in green. Without scientific backing, desperate people look for the quick fixes promised.

People should consider sources of information before jumping onto weight loss bandwagons, experts say. For

example, people shouldn't listen to someone who is obviously overweight tell them about the "diet" that worked for them. If that person is still overweight, the "diet" did not work no matter how many pounds they lost or how fast they lost it (and gained it back).

"No one particular food or food group can provide a person with all of the essential nutrients he or she needs," Sergeant Shrieves said. "That's why it is important to include a large variety of foods from all of the food groups."

People are advised to turn to experts such as doctors, dietitians, nutritionists or other reputable medical personnel for advice.

They may hear what they already know — successful weight loss (losing weight and keeping it off for at least five years) happens with positive changes to both eating habits and all around lifestyle. This includes embracing moderation, recognizing portion control and developing a more physically active lifestyle everyday.

For more information and advice on how to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, call the health and wellness center at Ext. 2477. (Courtesy of the HAWC.)

## SHORTS

### 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.

### BLAZE Sports Day

A base-wide sports day event is at 12:30 p.m. April 21 at Freedom Park. Events include a 10K bike race, 5K combat run, stretcher carry relay and fire truck pull, among others. People can sign up through their unit sports representatives. For more information, call Ext. 3134 or 2316.