

Phillips Auditorium packed for E-calls

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
Public Affairs

Two Airman's calls drew more than 150 enlisted BLAZE TEAM members in the grades of E-1 through E-4 Tuesday at Phillips Auditorium.

Hosted by Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, the calls covered topics including reasons for having an enlisted call, power of a positive attitude, enlisted club and professional organization membership such as BLAZE 6, as well as quality-of-life issues.

"It has been a while since our last call," the chief said. "But we will be having calls on a quarterly basis. They not only provide feedback, but give the enlisted corps a chance to provide valuable feedback to wing leadership."

One item on the chief's agenda was the enlisted lounge, particularly, membership and participation in its events.

"Club membership among enlisted at Columbus AFB is about 29 percent," he said. "Membership numbers are key to improving the benefits and programs the club offers. But dues don't fix everything. We need active participation in club events and feedback on them to give you what you want."

The chief also spoke candidly about the future of BLAZE 6.

The organization, made up of Columbus enlisted people in grades E-1 through E-6, has been dormant for about eight months.

"BLAZE 6 is your private organization on Columbus AFB," he said. "You can energize BLAZE 6, or it can be split into an Airman's Council and a 56 Club (E-5 and E-6 organization). Regardless of what you choose, the bottom line is it's an organization lead and supported by its members. The choice resides with you."

The Chief wrapped up the call with announcement of his replacement and a quality-of-life message.

The new 14th FTW command chief will be Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Bowes, who will arrive in early July. "There are a lot of opportunities for people to help enhance the quality of life at Columbus AFB," the Chief said. "What it all boils down to is individual dedication and devotion as members of TEAM BLAZE. You can be part of the problem ... or part of the solution."

(Editors note: The command chief is hosting NCO calls for grades E-5 and E-6 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday and a senior NCO call 3 p.m. June 4 at Phillips Auditorium. For more information, call Ext. 7007.)



Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser

All systems go

DynCorp employee Dolly Alford gives "thumbs up" to two T-37 pilots preparing for a sortie Wednesday. The 14th Flying Training Wing flies approximately 350 training sorties daily using its three parallel runways.

Vendor fair encourages local spending

2nd Lt. David Romo-Garza
14th Contracting Squadron

The 14th Contracting Squadron, the Northeast Mississippi Contract Procurement Center and the Columbus-Lowndes Development LINK are teaming up to stage a vendor fair from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Trotter Convention Center Thursday.

"We're conducting this vendor fair to help local businesses meet the right people and learn how the government purchase card and other contracting methods work," said Maj. Cameron Holt, 14th CONS commander. "This vendor fair is a critical step in the base's efforts to accomplish that goal."

There will be more than 60 booths

consisting of local area businesses, BLAZE TEAM contractors, and Columbus AFB contracting officials.

The vendor fair is an excellent opportunity for Columbus AFB GPC cardholders, resource advisors and other entities involved in generating base supply, service, or construction requirements to learn more about local business capabilities," contracting officials said.

It will also give Columbus AFB the chance to inform vendors about upcoming requirements and customer service expectations.

Columbus AFB spends more than \$5 million annually on GPC purchases and more than \$60 million annually in various contracts awarded by the 14th

CONS. This is the first vendor fair contracting will host for local businesses.

"Post-9/11 base access restrictions, our growing reliance on global electronic commerce systems and the Internet have resulted in the reduction of local area business opportunities," Major Holt said.

"This vendor fair is a critical part of our efforts to make modern purchasing methods more accessible to local businesses. It is also a great opportunity for large and small businesses to tap into millions of dollars in buying power at Columbus AFB."

For more information about the event, call the contracting office at Ext. 7754.

Investigation determines cause of T-1 accident

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Air Force officials completed their investigation of an accident where a T-1A Jayhawk ran off the runway Aug. 16 after landing at Keesler AFB, Miss.

The accident caused an estimated \$2.5 million in structural damage to the aircraft.

Accident investigation board officials

determined the accident was caused by a combination of factors during the landing sequence. The aircrew was on a cross-country training mission at the time.

First, student pilot 2nd Lt. Tiffany Ley, assigned to the 86th Flying Training Squadron at Laughlin AFB, Texas, flew faster than the computed approach and

landing speeds, and she maintained higher than idle thrust for the first few seconds after touchdown. As a result, the speed brakes and spoilers could not deploy.

Also, the runway was wet, and the aircraft went into a hydroplane skid after instructor pilot 1st Lt. Nancy Badgett, also assigned to the 86th FTS, engaged

the emergency brakes.

Investigators determined that the crew was inexperienced and did not recognize that the anti-skid brakes were operating.

The aircraft came to a stop 190 feet off the end of the runway. Neither crewmember was injured. *(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)*

Mechanic reaches 40-year mark

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez
Public Affairs

An employee from the 14th Services Division was recently recognized for contributing 40 years worth of hard work and dedication to the government.

Odie Tucker, bowling center head mechanic, was awarded a 40-year pin by Col. Steve Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, at a services director's call May 13.

At 69 years old, Mr. Tucker maintains the bowling machines at Strike Zone Lanes — a job requiring him to climb up and down from platforms and maneuver in between tight spots all day long.

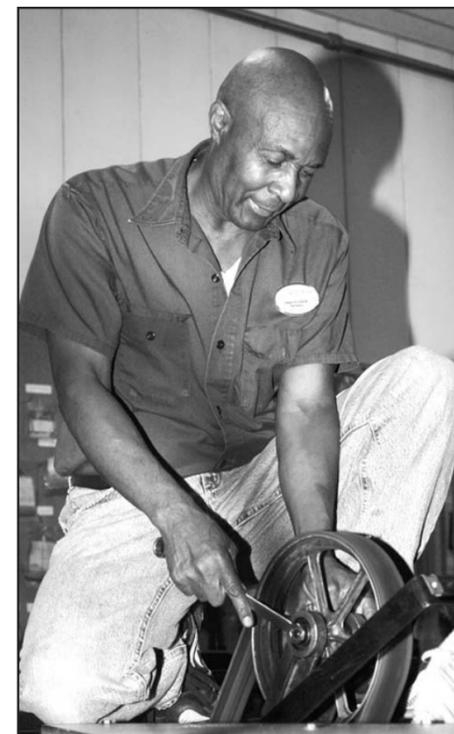
"When you climb up and down the machines all day, it'll keep you going," Mr. Tucker said.

A Columbus native, Mr. Tucker received his first job on Columbus AFB as a busboy at the bowling center in 1964. Throughout his 40-year commitment, he's served as a recreation supply clerk, repairman and used to run the wood hobby shop in "the Nixon Days."

"I've seen lots of faces come and go over the years," Mr. Tucker said. "I like the work and I like the people."

Jim Campbell, bowling center manager, has worked with Mr. Tucker for about a decade.

"For the most part, he stays behind the scenes," Mr. Campbell said. "But it's important that people recognize that without a mechanic



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Odie Tucker, 14th Services Division, tightens the boat on a bowling machine ball return.

back there, the bowling center couldn't function. He's a hard worker and a great employee."

Greetings, Father

Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, shakes hands with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Motsay, 14th Flying Training Wing. Chaplain Motsay is deployed as Catholic priest over a newly-built multi-faith chapel in Southwest Asia, the first one built in 24 years.

Courtesy photo

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Spotlight

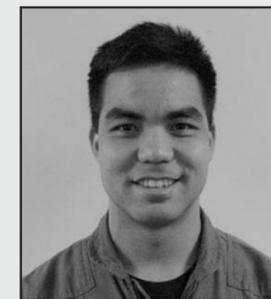
Across the Pacific Ocean, on the other side of the world — Thailand — that is where I am from. I am here at Columbus AFB for pilot training in the Aviation Leadership Program.

I grew up in a city called Nakhonsawan, about 150 miles north of Bangkok, Thailand. The land is mostly flat, which makes it suitable for growing rice, which is Thailand's staple food. Fried

rice is my favorite dish, especially when my mother cooks it for me.

Having Asian-Pacific Heritage month reminds me of those things I miss. However, it is a good time to introduce our culture so that we can learn more about each other.

This tightens our international relationships even more.



1st Lt. Pruksamas Naradej
Nakhonsawan, Thailand

NEWS BRIEFS

DEFY volunteers needed

Today is the deadline for volunteers to submit applications for the Drug Education For Youth program. The program needs 40 volunteers to help with its summer leadership day camp June 21 through June 26.

Volunteers can submit applications to the health and wellness center, life skills support center, or fax them to 434-2231. For more information, call Maj. Nina Perino at Ext. 2235.

Case lot sale

A case lot sale is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday (or as long as supplies last) at the commissary.

A list of items, including paper goods, canned goods, beverages and more, is available at the commissary and at www.commissaries.com. For more information, call store director Paula Lewis at Ext. 7109.

Food tasting event

An Asian-Pacific food taster event is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the exchange. The event also features dance demonstrations from Hawaii, Korea and the Philippines. For more information on events or to volunteer, call Capt. John Vito at Ext. 7674.

Enlisted call

An enlisted call for NCOs is at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday and for senior NCOs at 3 p.m. June 4 at the Phillips Auditorium. For more information, contact a first sergeant.

Court martial

A court martial is scheduled for Wednesday beginning with a panel selection at 8 a.m. and is expected to last two days. The court-martial concerns one charge of rape and is open to the public. For more information, call Ext. 7030.

Mandatory safety briefings

A guest speaker from the Mississippi Highway Patrol will conduct safety briefings at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday at the theater. The mandatory briefings on summer traffic dangers kick off the command-directed Operation Safe Summer campaign.

There will also be a four-hour safety stand down May 28 for more safety briefings at the squadron level. For more information, call Ext. 2518.

14th CONS closure

The 14th Contracting Squadron will close Thursday to sponsor Columbus AFB's first vendors' fair. All Government Purchase Cardholders and contractors are invited to attend. For more information, call Ext. 7802.

Blood drive

The 14th Medical Group in partnership with the American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 28 at the chapel annex. The drive falls on a three-day weekend, enabling student pilots to donate as well. For more information, call 1st Lt. Daryl White at Ext. 2123.

NCOs decide to retrain or separate

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Many Airmen have taken their careers in their own hands by volunteering to change career fields or separate under the initial phase of the Air Force's FY04 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program.

As part of the program's Phase II, Air Force officials have notified 88 Airmen selected as most vulnerable to retrain and asked them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into.

If they do not voluntarily apply for retraining by Monday, those without approved retraining or special duty assignments will have another Air Force specialty chosen for them by the Air Force Personnel Center, and their class date scheduled by June 7, said Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Diaz, chief of APFC skills management.

"This phase of the retraining pro-

gram is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting airmen where they are needed most."

Under Phase II, not everyone is guaranteed his or her first choice. Major commands continue to accept volunteer applications and personnel officials encourage all eligible NCOs to also consider special duty assignments that need to be filled such as recruiting jobs, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor, officials said. However, the member must be approved prior to the Monday deadline.

"It's up to each Airman, but if it were me, I'd think having control over my career would be a priority and help reduce the stress of not knowing whether or not I will get that notification asking me to make a selection — I'd volunteer," Chief Diaz said.

The retraining program is

designed to help balance the enlisted force by moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages, he continued.

"We will work with those who have been selected for retraining, as we would any retraining case, in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for the Airman and his or her family while still meeting the needs of the Air Force," said Tech. Sgt. Derek Hughes, non-commissioned officer in charge of Air Force retraining at Randolph AFB.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force specialty code are posted on the Web and will be updated weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

Anyone interested in more details about the program can contact the military personnel flight at Ext. 2626.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Put it on paper

Senior Airman Mareshah Moses and Staff Sgt. Paul Wright, 14th Security Forces Squadron, take Tiffany and Angel Hemphill's fingerprints at the exchange lobby Saturday. The event was part of the squadron's National Police Week celebration. The Child Identification Program is one of the services Columbus AFB security forces offer. In the event that a child goes missing, police have their fingerprints on file. For more information about the program, call Ext. 7128.

Glimpse of corporate America leads officer back to Air Force

Capt. Shannon Smith
14th Security Forces Squadron



Last Thursday, I got a call from the deployment manager at Air Education and Training Command Security Forces Headquarters, a person I've become well acquainted with during my brief tenure as a squadron commander.

He asked me if my unit could "step up to the plate" and support yet another out-of-cycle deployment tasking. Such is life in today's operational Air Force.

By mid-September, nearly half the base's security force personnel will be deployed to various garden spots around the world. Many other BLAZE TEAM units are facing similar circumstances, and for our combat aviators-in-training, the call to deploy will likely come shortly after their time here has ended.

Many airmen in my squadron have deployed four or five times, and that's just during their first term of enlistment.

These deployments take their toll on individuals, their families and home station personnel who work twice the hours just to keep things going in their absence. All these factors beg the question we all ask ourselves at one point or another: Is the grass greener on the other side?

In February 2001, I received a flier from a very reputable junior military officer recruiting firm. This company specialized in placing officers with four to 10 years of service into top-tier corporate jobs across the country. I'd gotten these fliers before and always tossed them in the trash, but this time I hung on to one. After all, I was starting to get burned out.

I'd recently returned from a remote assignment only to be rewarded with a 14-hour-a-day, six-day-a-week job — with no relief in sight.

Additionally, my wife and I were expecting our first child and were entertaining thoughts of permanently moving closer to home. With all this in mind, I called the number on the flier.

After attending the company's initial presentation, I interviewed and was accepted as a candidate for the corporate placement program. Shortly thereafter, I informed

my commander of my intention to separate from active duty.

My military background significantly enhanced my value to corporate America. I'll never forget what one potential employer said to me during an interview. He asked me, "Do you know why we like to hire military people?" In my infinite wisdom, I rattled off several impressive, detailed responses. None were what he was looking for. He simply stated, "Because they show up for work on time." Never before or since has anyone so completely encapsulated the high caliber of military people with such a brief, yet powerful comment.

Soon after that interview, I accepted a great offer to work for one of America's largest companies. The base salary was significantly higher than my military pay, the medical plan and stock options were first rate, and the location was just a couple hours from home. After a month or so, I realized I was doing a lot less work than I ever did in the military. The job was everything I dreamed of. But surprisingly enough, I dreaded going to work every day.

See GLIMPSE, Page 7

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. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Boats parked in housing

Question: My concern deals with boats in the housing areas. Many people on base own battery-operated boats that need to be charged before they can be used. Most chargers are onboard the boats and take eight to 10 hours to charge a battery. For fishing boats with multiple batteries, this could take some time to accomplish. I received a yard ticket for my boat being in front of the house. At the time the ticket was issued, the boat was plugged in, charging for the upcoming weekend. I understand that there is a storage area for these type vehicles, but there are no power outlets available to charge the batteries. Please tell us how we can charge the batteries without receiving a yard ticket. Do we need to put some

type of sign on the boat to make it more obvious that it is being charged? Or can civil engineering install some power outlets for each lot in the storage area? Thank you.

Answer: I have great news ... the 14th Mission Support Group has instituted a procedure to allow boat owners the opportunity to charge their batteries at the housing unit for short periods of time. Under this procedure, you will need to contact the Base Housing Office at Ext. 7276 to complete a short application, which in turn, will be forwarded to the 14th MSG for approval. Upon approval you will receive approved signage for exception to base housing regulations.

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing commander

SILVER WINGS

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724, Columbus AFB, Miss., phone 434-7069, or e-mailed to 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.

Silver Wings Editorial Staff

14th FTW commander

Col. Stephen Wilson

Chief, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Rick Johnson

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

Others have paid in full for our bad, good days

Perry Jenifer

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AFB, Miss. — So you're having a bad day. It stormed last night, knocking out the power, and your electric alarm clock didn't go off this morning.

In your haste to get ready, you nicked your upper lip shaving, or you left the cap off your only tube of lipstick and now it resembles a stick of colored chalk.

The dog missed the newspaper on the kitchen floor during the night and you stepped in it barefooted.

Traffic was backed up for three blocks at the gate. When you finally got to the office, the coffee pot was empty and so was the can sitting next to it.

When you have days like this, do you think, "Why me?" Me, too. Then, I catch myself.

I think instead of Staff Sgt. Patrick Griffin, who graduated from the aerospace control and warning systems course in the 334th Training Squadron here in August 2001.

On May 8, 2003, Sergeant Griffin was riding in a convoy going to Baghdad from Kuwait. The convoy was attacked, and he was killed.

I regret I never knew Sergeant Griffin or if he had a family.

I also think of Airman 1st Class Antoine Holt, a graduate of the same course in December 2001.

Airman Holt deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, in November. On April 10, a mortar round exploded in his tent. He was killed.

More regret. I didn't know Airman Holt either. The report from Balad said he was 20 and had a wife and child.

I think of the hundreds of servicemembers I never knew who've died in Afghanistan and Iraq since we sent them to those battlefields halfway around the world. I think of how they've given up all of their tomorrows so I can have my bad days. And my good days.

I regret I didn't know any of them personally. Still, I shudder at the enormity of their sacrifice. I grieve for our collective, incalculable loss. There are times I wonder if they'd think I'm worth it.

But enough about me. What was that you were saying about having a bad day?

Team effort fuels success in Iraq

Maj. Rich Doyle

AETC Inspector General Office

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Like many of my Air Force teammates, I recently returned from a four-month deployment to Iraq where we are helping to rebuild a nation ruined by a tyrant and transform it from a bastion of terror to a free democracy.

I consider my experience supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom to be one of the most worthwhile endeavors of my career, so I was very surprised by the pessimistic attitude regarding OIF among my family, friends and co-workers. After a couple of weeks of watching the news, I realized why the bleak attitude exists. The news we hear concentrates on the tragic setbacks and perceived shortfalls of our efforts, while minimizing our successes.

I realize my experiences as a safety officer in southern Iraq differ vastly from our Army and Marine counterparts in Baghdad and other cities. I don't pretend to know the dangers and hardships they have experienced to ensure our security, but I saw plenty to be encouraged about.

We are winning this phase of the war on terror. We are not fighting this war alone. Progress is being made every day, and we are doing the right thing. We are not alone in trying to give the Iraqi people a reasonable chance at a stable, peaceful and democratic future, a future that rejects tyranny and terrorism.

There are dozens of nations involved in OIF. I personally worked with or met troops from Italy, the Netherlands, Korea, Japan, Poland, United Kingdom, Romania, Ukraine, Spain, Nicaragua, Singapore, Estonia, Fiji and Portugal. I realize the United States is providing the vast majority of the manpower, but other countries are doing what they can.

When a small country like Nicaragua sends more than 700 troops, a significant portion of their entire military, you know the mission is multi-national. When Romanian and Ukrainian troops provide security in southern Iraqi cities, that demonstrates unprecedented cooperation with former Warsaw Pact adversaries and shows an effort to work as a team.

When the Dutch send three CH-47s, 25 percent of their heavy helicopter fleet, that demonstrates unity and resolve. When the Japanese air force delivers humanitarian aid, their first overseas military

deployment in almost 60 years, it's clear other countries are committed to the cause.

Our allies are doing what they can militarily, politically and economically and their contribution should not be dismissed as token or insignificant, especially when they are dying alongside our own troops.

The overall situation in Iraq continually improves because of the sacrifices of coalition military members. Every day electrical power generation and distribution improves. Every week oil production capacity improves. Every month more trained Iraqi police hit the streets to improve security. Commerce is increasing, infrastructure is being rebuilt and healthcare systems are being established.

The country has an interim constitution and is in the process of establishing a judicial system. None of this would be remotely possible without the security and assistance provided by coalition troops.

There have been recent setbacks, but those pale in comparison to the progress that has been made over the past year. We cannot allow a few hundred or even a few thousand religious extremists or regime loyalists to deter us from keeping 25 million people free and allowing a stable democracy to take hold in that turbulent part of the world.

The vast majority of Iraqis are better off today than they were a year ago. Most appreciate our efforts and want us to finish the job of helping to establish a democratic government. You can't expect a country that has been at war for a generation and led by a cruel dictator for decades to change in a matter of months. To cut and run would only embolden terrorists world-wide and cost more lives in the long term. A stable democratic Iraq enhances the entire world's security.

Together we have made significant progress in Iraq and must not let setbacks weaken our resolve. On an individual basis, every American can be a part of this battle. We can support the families of those who are deployed overseas, and we can stand alongside those who know the loss of a loved one.

We can visit the wounded now recovering or at least contribute to any of several funds that support them and their families. We can actually attend a Memorial Day event, not just see it as another day off. And we can all pray that America will be delivered from the scourge of terror, whatever its source.

contemplating the merits of life outside the Air Force.

When you do, just remember this: You'll never be associated with a finer group of people, nor will you answer a more noble calling than the one to serve your country and protect our way of life.

The intense job satisfaction that comes from such an honorable pursuit is something I didn't truly appreciate until I stepped away from the military.

Fortunately, the Air Force welcomed me back with open arms.

Just five short months after separating, I returned to active duty with a renewed passion for my profession that the bigger paycheck, the great location and the fantastic benefits could never spark during my brief stint in corporate America.

For me, the grass is definitely greener on this side of the fence, and this is where I intend to stay for a very long time.

AT THE CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday:

9:15 a.m. — Mass

5 p.m. — Confessions

5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Protestant

Sunday:

10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship

1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

Tuesday:

Noon — Lunch and Bible study

Wednesday:

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 base theater.

Today

"The Alamo" (PG-13, sustained intense battle sequences, 137 min.)

Starring: Dennis Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton.

Saturday

"Home On the Range" (PG, brief mild rude humor, 76 min.)

Starring: Roseanne Barr and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

May 28

"Hellboy" (PG-13, sci-fi action violence and frightening images, 122 min.)

Starring: Ron Perlman and John Hurt.

For more information about movies, visit the 14th Services Division Web site at www.cafb.grapevine.com.

CHANNEL 64

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

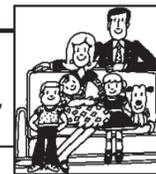
For more information, call public affairs at Ext. 7068.

Weekdays

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

Air Force Television News

FAMILY SUPPORT



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

Achieving balance workshop: A workshop about achieving balance at work and in families is from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. Topics include identifying important aspects of life and ideas for getting organized, controlling wasted time, overcoming procrastination, and learning how to say "no" and delegate responsibility.

Sponsorship training: A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday. The importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers are discussed.

Marriage and money workshop: A workshop about merging finances into marriage is at 4 p.m. Tuesday. This workshop is designed for premarital and newlywed couples.

Job skill marketing: A workshop about identification and marketing of job skills is from 10 to 11 a.m. June 2.

Medical workshop: The family support center is compiling a list of interested participants for a medical workshop about medical transcription and terminology. Prerequisites apply to attend a medical transcriptionist workshop.

BASE NOTES



Canned food drive: The Columbus Company Grade Officer Council canned food drive for the Mark Mitchell Shelter ends today. To make a donation, call 2nd Lt. Tywann Telfair at Ext. 3179.

Outdoor service: An outdoor Protestant worship service and picnic is at 11 a.m. Sunday at Freedom Park. The main entree is provided, and people are encouraged to bring side dishes to share. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

Education center announcements: The education center May testing schedule is as follows: Monday at 8 a.m. and

Wednesday at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Final registration for East Mississippi Community College summer classes is from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Summer registration for the Mississippi University for Women is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 28 and July 6 at the base education center. For more information, call the education center at Ext. 2563.

Memorial Day ceremony: All BLAZE TEAM members are invited to attend a Memorial Day ceremony at 4 p.m. May 28 at Ceremonial Plaza. The 30-minute ceremony features a T-38 missing man formation and the addition of two new names to the memorial wall. For more information, call 1st Lt. Timothy Norman at Ext. 1506.

Vacation Bible School: Lava Lava Island — Where Jesus' love flows is from 9 a.m. to noon June 7 through June 11. An Air Force Instruction exists that allows five days permissive TDY for this event if approved by a supervisor. For more information or to volunteer, call Joy Garrison at Ext. 2500.

COSC reception: The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club hosts a reception to welcome Nancy Wilson, the new honorary president, from 10 to 11 a.m. June 3 in the Happy Lounge at the Columbus Club. For more information, call 328-6020.



Elizabeth Davis

Torch run

First Lt. Darrell Peek, Senior Airman Eric Klick, Capt. Barry Burton, Master Sgt. Charles Manders and Airman 1st Class Calvin Williams begin the 14th Security Forces Squadron Torch Run Tuesday. The Torch Run lit the "Flame of Hope," starting the Mississippi Special Olympic Summer Games at Keesler AFB, Miss. Since 1996, Security Forces at Columbus AFB have hosted a leg of the Torch Run by carrying the Special Olympic Torch through its streets before it is transported to Keesler AFB.

GLIMPSE (Continued from Page 6)

Why, you ask? Well, that's the whole point of this story.

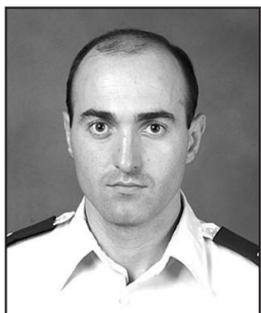
I found that I missed the camaraderie. I missed the smell of jet fuel. I missed the Air Force song. I missed putting on the uniform. I missed being around people who come together when their backs are against the wall and make extraordinary things happen.

But most important, I missed being a part of something larger than myself. I

missed being part of the world's greatest air and space force and prayed desperately for the opportunity to return.

You may ask why I chose to write an article about staying in when the Air Force is actually drawing down. The answer is simple: The Air Force will always need to retain its best and brightest people — people like you. As an improving economy enhances the job market and the war on

terror gets tougher, you might find yourself



Capt. Davit Abramishvili
Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
SU-25, Mameuli AFB, Rep. of Georgia



Capt. Dzevad Buric
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
UH-1H, Sarajevo AFB, Sarajevo



1st Lt. Botirali Berdiqulov
Andijon, Uzbekistan
SU-27, Khanabad AFB, Uzbekistan

SUPT Class 04-09 earns silver wings

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-09 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the theater.

Twenty-four officers prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be called Air Force pilots.

The graduation speaker is Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for forming and executing policy and strategy to integrate command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to enable more effective employment of air and space power in support of national objectives.

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

Second Lts. Brad Bowyer, T-1, and Jeffery Hawkins, 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. Reese Swanson, T-1, and Chesley Smith, 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.

Lieutenants Bowyer and Hawkins were also named distinguished graduates.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, sub-

sonic 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.

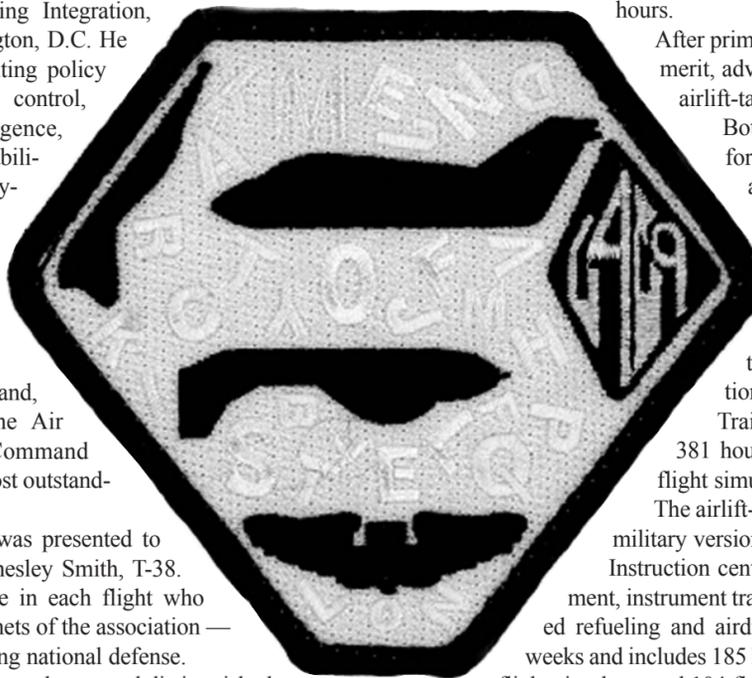
Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours.

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 Brickyard Properties and Wingate Inn.)



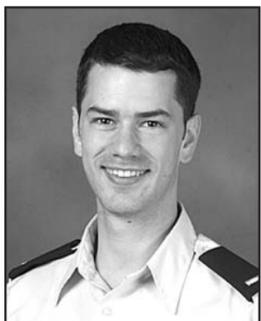
2nd Lt. Nicholas Barnes
Des Moines, Wash.
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Luke Bledsoe
Loogootee, Ind.
T-38, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Brad Bowyer
Sanford, N.C.
C-21, Ramstein AB, Germany



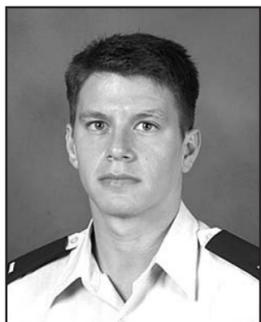
2nd Lt. Mark Carl
Lancaster, Calif.
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Ryan Dannemann
Walkkill, N.Y. (ANG)
C-5, Stewart ANGB, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Diedrich
Colorado Springs, Colo.
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Creighton Goodman
Chicago, Ill.
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



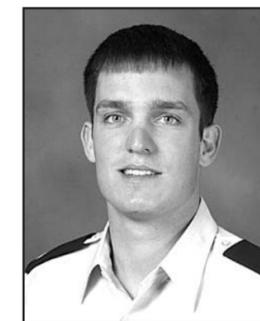
2nd Lt. Brian Grossweiler
Bohemia, N.Y.
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Jeffery Hawkins
San Francisco, Calif. (AFRC)
A-10, New Orleans, La.



2nd Lt. Peter Fahrion
Nederland, Texas
C-21, Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. Terry Gable, II
Niceville, Fla.
T-37, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Curtis Goodell
Jacksonville, Fla.
KC-135, Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Marcus Hutson
Crawfordsville, Ind.
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Josh Long
Del Rio, Texas
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



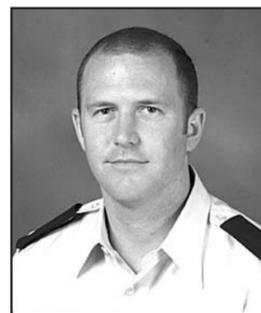
2nd Lt. Keith Napolitano
Holliston, Mass.
C-130, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



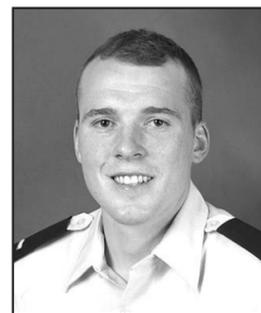
2nd Lt. Jeffrey Neuman
Cincinnati, Ohio
KC-135, Kadena AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Chesley Smith
Saraland, Ala.
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Sean Soder
Rapid City, S.D. (ANG)
KC-135, Lincoln ANG, Neb.



2nd Lt. Reese Swanson
Gilroy, Calif.
C-17, McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Andrew Tidgewell
Napa, Calif.
A-10, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Joshua Watkins
Lancaster, Pa.
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.

New Columbus Club manager ready to get rolling

Pam Warnken
14th Services Division



Courtesy photo

Brenda Freeman, new Columbus Club manager, plans to take the club's food, service and atmosphere to a new level.

areas, mostly food and atmosphere, that she'd like to tackle at the Columbus Club. She said she was happy to discover an

excellent staff already in place.

"My friends in Arizona kept asking me why I wanted to come to Mississippi, but after only a day here, I can see I made the right decision. This club has so much potential."

She is particularly excited about the base's mission, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students and close-knit population.

Many SUPT students who are new to the Air Force will form their views of military clubs here, she said. "They can come here, meet their friends, talk about flying and have a good time without worrying about getting behind the wheel."

While dining and great food will be her first priority, she is enthusiastic about catering weddings, luncheons, meetings and other special events. She said she also wants to bring regular entertainment to both the enlisted lounge and Columbus Club.

"But truthfully, I want to focus on the whole thing," she said with eyes darting to

the food line during one of her first large club luncheons.

Ms. Freeman said a relaxing atmosphere that provides a tasty, affordable lunch near work places is what the club is about. She emphasized that membership easily pays for itself when people use their club cards and take advantage of other Services amenities.

"It's like having your own country club right on base — and the setting for the Columbus Club, with the golf course and pool right next door, is ideal. It's just a very pretty place."

The mother of three grown children is already embracing the lifestyle and said she wants to try barbeque and other regional food once she gets established.

She said the new advisory Columbus Club Advisory Committee that's forming is perfectly timed to help her and her staff deliver the goods.

"I just can't wait to get rolling," she said.

S.P.E.E.C.H meeting: Supportive Parents Encouraging Every Child's Hearing invites all parents of children who have hearing loss to join them from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Emmanuel Baptist Church on 18th Street in downtown Columbus for their monthly meeting.

This month's speaker is Jackie Green of *Parent Partners*. She will discuss how to best advocate for children with hearing loss in the school setting. This will be an informal meeting, and childcare is provided. For more information, call Tina Moore at 327-0424.

First aid and CPR classes: The American Red Cross Society is offering an adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation class from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday and a first aid class from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, call 328-5710.

Blue Grass concert: The public is invited to attend a bluegrass concert starting at 10 a.m. May 29 on the banks of the Tenn-Tom Waterway in Aberdeen, Miss. Admission is free, but contributions are accepted.

The event features artists like the Tennessee Gentlemen, Southern Gentlemen, Steel Faith, Bush River Band, Ryan Holladay and Ben Hall. For more information, call the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau at 800-634-3538 or visit www.aberdeen.ms.org.

Memorial Day ceremony: All are invited to attend a Memorial Day ceremony at 6 p.m. May 31 at the Sally Kate Winters Park behind West Point City Hall in downtown West Point. The ceremony features the Table of Honor by the honor guard, patriotic music and a next-of-kin flag presentation.

People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at First Presbyterian Church EPC at East and Broad Streets. For more information, call 494-5121.

Free Memorial Day entrees: Servicemembers (including firemen, policemen, armed forces personnel and veterans) in uniform can receive one free entree at the Grill or Harveys or a free salad, sandwich or wrap at Sweet Peppers Deli, Sweet Peppers Express or the Bull Dog Deli Memorial Day.

This offer is only valid Memorial Day, and is limited to one per customer with no purchase necessary. Servicemembers must be in uniform to take advantage of this offer.

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

BARGAIN LINE

SNAPSHOTS

Beach party: The enlisted lounge is offering a beach party today, complete with limbo contest, beach drink specials and door prizes. A social hour with free food is from 5 to 7 p.m., and the party begins at 9 p.m. Call Ext. 2489.

The Driftors: The original Driftors will perform at the Columbus Club starting at 8 p.m. Saturday. A classic dinner buffet will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$8 for advance tickets for club members or \$10 at the door. Nonmember tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Call Ext. 2490.

Handcrafted greeting cards: The skills development center offers this class from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Students will learn a wide variety of rubber stamping techniques using an array of tools and supplies. They will make up to five handcrafted greeting cards with cards pre-designed and card-stock pre-cut.

Cost is \$10 and includes everything needed for five projects. Students receive a 20-percent discount upon preregistering with a friend (discount offered for both students). Students must register at least 48 hours in advance. Call Ext. 7836.

Instructors needed: The community activity center is looking for qualified instructors for all types of crafts, exercise programs, party planning, dance, music, flower arranging, etc. Call Ext. 7450.

Space Center trip: The youth center offers this free trip to Huntsville, Ala., May 28. Transportation will leave at 6:45 a.m. and will return around 6 p.m. Call Ext. 2504.

White water rafting trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip May 29 to May 31 to the Ocoee River. Cost is \$99 per person and includes river/rafting run, two meals, two nights lodging in a cabin and transportation. Call Ext. 7861.

Catfish buffet: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Customers may still order 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 night around 6:30 p.m. Cardholders must be present to win. Call Ext. 2490.

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. 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 to pick up a brochure on what is offered with each package. Call Ext. 2426.



Pam Wickham

Oil change

Jamon Smith, auto hobby shop worker, changes the oil in a customer's vehicle. The auto shop offers automobile services such as state inspections, oil changes, tire rotation, wheel balancing, car detailing and more. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Ext. 7842.

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.

Blazettes break through, burn MSS 19-15

Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Public Affairs

The Blazettes burned the 14th Mission Support Squadron in intramural softball action Tuesday.

First at the plate in Tuesday night's second game, the Blazettes drove in three runs before taking the field and held MSS to 1, making the score 3-1 at the top of the second.

The second inning was short, with the Blazettes failing to score and MSS picking up one run, making the score 3-2.

In the third inning, the ladies added another two runs, but MSS came back in the bottom half of the inning to tie the game 5-5.

At the top of the fourth inning, the ladies put their game faces on and stretched out their lead with a 10-run rally. In the field they held MSS scoreless, ending the inning with a 15-5 lead.

But MSS would not go down without a fight, and retaliated with a rally of their own in the bottom of the fifth, tying the game 15-15.

In the sixth inning, the Blazettes tacked on four runs and blanked MSS in the bottom of the inning to win the game 19-15.

"This was our first victory," said Renee McCollum, Blazettes right fielder. "And it is sweet because we worked hard for it, and we dug down deep.

"We had a big lead, then one bad inning that tied it up. But that gave us the energy to bring it back. This showed that the Blazettes team can beat a men's team," she said. "If they had any doubts before, they shouldn't have any now."

But MSS is still hopeful.

"They played a good game," said Everett Cooper, MSS team captain. "But we'll get 'em next time. As the season goes on, MSS will come out on top."

In other intramural softball action Tuesday night, the 14th Communications Squadron crushed the 14th Security Forces Squadron 25-4.

"That was payback for how bad they beat the Blazettes [May 11]," said Cephas Franklin, 14th CS team captain.



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Aim high

Nick Vaccaro, 14th Operation Support Squadron, slams a serve toward the net. The tennis courts on base are available 24 hours a day. Timed lights illuminate the courts after dark. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Softball standings

Teams	Wins	Losses
Com	3	0
CES #1	3	0
SFS	1	2
Blazettes	1	2
OSS	1	1
50th FTS	1	1
37th FTS	1	1
CES #2	1	1
LG	1	1
MSS	0	2
48th FTS	0	2



* Intramural softball standings current as of Wednesday

SHORTS

Cosmic no-tap bowling

A cosmic no-tap bowling tournament is from 7 to 10 p.m. today at the bowling center. Entry is \$10 per person. The extreme lighting system and music is provided. Participants have chances to win prizes. For more information, call Ext. 2426.

Base pool opens early

Independence Pool opens from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday for free lap swimming. The pool opens for the regular swim season May 28. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Season passes are available at outdoor recreation. For more information, call Ext. 2505.

AF Marathon

Military personnel interested in competing on an official team in the 2004 Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, September 18 need to

register at the fitness center no later than May 28.

Categories of competition include coed open relay, men's open relay and women's open relay. Each team will consist of four military members from the same installation. Each team member must complete an AF Form 303, Specialized Sports Training form. General entries for the marathon are due by September 7. For more information, call the fitness and sports center at Ext. 2772.

Golf tournament

The Daedalian Golf Tournament is at 1:30 p.m. June 4 at the Columbus Country Club. This four-person scramble is open to all Columbus AFB people and the surrounding Columbus community. Cost is \$40 per player and includes greens fees, carts, prizes, refreshments and a barbecue meal. Proceeds benefit the Daedalian Scholarship Fund. To sign up or for more information, call Andy DeSantis or Ryan Corrigan at Ext. 7188.