

AETC civilians test new finance system

Tech. Sgt. John Asselin
AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Civilian employees in Air Education and Training Command will soon get answers to their leave and earnings statement questions without calling or visiting the civilian personnel office.

SmartDocs, a new Defense Finance and Accounting Service program, will be tested with AETC civilian employees starting with the next civilian pay period, according to Maj. Eric Bradshaw, AETC financial services division's finance branch chief.

One or two days before pay day, civilian employees will receive an e-mail linking to the new online SmartLES. Links within the system provide more information via drop-down boxes, Major Bradshaw said.

"If you have a question about pay, leave or just about anything, you can just click on it," he said. "Some links also signify a change from the prior LES and provide a side-by-side comparison between LESSs."

The program's intent is to add convenience to the end user, the major said.

"People won't need to make as many calls to the civilian personnel or base finance office because they can get the answers for themselves," he said.

"They also no longer have to wait for their LES to come in the mail — the link to their LES will be delivered to their e-mail box before pay day."

One SmartLES with active links and the last four static non-linked LESSs will eventually be available through SmartDocs.

SmartDocs uses the myPay global address list, so users must be registered with myPay and have a correct e-mail address in the myPay system to receive the SmartLES link, Major Bradshaw said.

The AETC test will last two pay periods with a plan to launch Air Force-wide Dec. 15. SmartLES will also become available to active-duty members in the future.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Striking distance

Senior Airman Michael Godlewski, 14th Security Forces Squadron, assists Tech Sgt. Charles Spann, 14th SFS Air Reserve Component volunteer, during initial Armament Systems and Procedures training. Security forces troops employ ASP as a primary intermediate use of force weapon.

Air Force announces TSP open season

Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell
AFPC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the "open season" today through Dec. 31.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, Air Force Personnel Contact

Center superintendent. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.

"It's also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks," Sergeant Ortiz said. "People can choose safer government securities as well."

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions.

It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, according to Janet Thomas of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitle-

ments service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

"Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts," Ms. Thomas said. "And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service."

See SAVINGS, Page 2



Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

Soaring eagles

Maj. Peter Milohnic, Capt. Jonathan Gratton and Lt. Col. John Saghere fly an F-15 Eagle's final training mission in the 27th Fighter Squadron at Langley AFB, Va. After Oct. 1, the unit will officially begin the migration to become the first operational F/A-22 Raptor squadron by mid-2005.

SAVINGS (Continued from Page 1)

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Sergeant Ortiz said. "That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate."

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections/changes made between today and Dec. 11 will take effect Dec. 12 for both military and civilian personnel.

Changes made on or after Dec. 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

Military
— Military members can contribute up to 10 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment doesn't exceed \$14,000 for 2005. Airmen

also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

— Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at www.dfas.mil/emss/. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (877) 968-3778 for employees in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada; (504) 255-8777 for employees elsewhere, or on the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov/.

— For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center at (800) 616-3775. Specific TSP information is available for Air Force military personnel at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm.

Civilian
Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

— Federal Employees' Retirement

System employees may contribute up to 15 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to four percent as well as an automatic one percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government's contribution five percent.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay, but do not receive any agency contributions.

— Beginning the open season today through Dec. 31, 2005, there will no longer be percentage limits on how much FERS and CSRS employees may contribute each year, Ms. Thomas said.

Contributions will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code's annual limit, which is currently \$13,000 for 2004 and \$14,000 for 2005. In 2006, the limit will be \$15,000, and after 2006 increases will be indexed to the annual cost-of-living adjustment referred to in the tax code.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Plan Web site at www.tsp.gov/ and the BEST homepage at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm.

— All Air Force-serviced civilian employees will make their TSP contribution elections or changes electronically

AFPC Web outage

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center secure Web site (www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure) will be down for scheduled maintenance Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT.

The following Web sites will be available via the Air Force Portal (<https://my.af.mil>) only:

- Employee Benefits Information System
- Online Resume Web Application
- Personnel Automated Records Information System:
 - Electronic Official Personnel Folder
- Air Force Civilian Emergency Data System
- Civilian Career Brief
- Air Force Officer Qualification Test Scores
- Military Personnel Data System Database Status
- Reserve Management Vacancy System
- Reserve Vacancies
- Virtual Military Personnel Flight
- Virtual Out Processing
- Web based Testing
- Reporting Instance Production Password Change Utility
- Retraining Vulnerability Lists for NCO Retraining Program
- Integrated Forecast Board
- GI Bill Tracker

For more information, call the AFPC Personnel Systems Operations Control Center at (210) 565-3995 or DSN 665-3995. (Courtesy of AFPC News)

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (05-09)	4.3 days	-98 days	Oct. 22
41st (05-10)	5.25 days	1.62 days	Nov. 17

PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (05-01)	5.5 days	.8 days	Oct. 29
50th (05-01)	-6.6 days	.04 days	Oct. 29

WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-37	1,186	1,219	1,219
T-38C	507	538	538
T-1A	438	460	460

NEWS BRIEFS

Live contemporary concert

All BLAZE TEAM members are invited to a free concert featuring The Restoration Project at 7 p.m. Thursday at the chapel. The performance includes rock, Americana, jazz and folk music. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Hochhalter at Ext. 2500.

Dorm dinner

The October dorm dinner is at 5 p.m. Thursday at the chapel annex. The menu is hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by the Top 3. Side items such as chips, french fries, baked beans and macaroni & cheese, can be dropped off at the chapel by 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Door prizes will be given away, a bible study will follow the dinner for those who would like to attend. For more information contact a first sergeant or call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

Civilian tuition assistance

The education center has received the initial FY05 funds allocation for the Civilian Tuition Assistance Program. Launched to meet future civilian job requirements, this program's intent is to provide equity for all employees and to encourage employee self-development efforts by paying for mission-related courses that also benefit the Air Force. Mission-related courses are defined as those offered by academic institutions that meet current and projected performance requirements essential to the achievement of the Air Force mission.

CTAP funding is limited to permanent Air Education and Training Command Department of Defense employees. The CTAP is supported on a first come, first served basis until all funds are depleted. For a list of mission-related courses or more information, call the education center at Ext. 2562.

UFT board

The next Undergraduate Flying Training board will convene at the Air Force Personnel Center on Feb. 8. The selection board will review applications for pilot, navigator and air battle manager candidates.

Eligible officers are those with a date of birth after May 1, 1975 and a total active federal commissioned service date after May 1, 2000. Candidates must send their completed application package, postmarked by Dec. 29, to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733.

All prospective flyers should check to see if they need a physical exam and schedule one if necessary. Those trying for pilot training also need to complete the basic attributes test that measures coordination and cognitive abilities. For more information on application procedures, contact Senior Airman Tara Goswick at Ext. 7038



Jason Minto

More than 2,000 members of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing and the Memphis, Tenn., community gathered for the formal C-5 Galaxy welcoming ceremony Saturday.

C-5s find new home in Memphis

Airman 1st Class Brian Stives
436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DOVER AFB, Del. — Move over Elvis, blues and barbeque, Memphis, Tenn., is now home to the C-5 Galaxy, the largest cargo plane in the Department of Defense.

With the help of Dover AFB personnel, the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing is currently converting from C-141B Starlifters to C-5 Galaxies.

Gen. John W. Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, Lt. Gen. William Welser III, 18th Air Force commander, Col. John I. Pray Jr., 436th Airlift Wing commander, and other Dover personnel made the trip to Memphis-Shelby International Airport, home of the Tennessee Air National Guard, Oct. 1 for the formal welcome ceremony of the C-5 Galaxy, as well as a chance to meet their 164th AW counterparts and lend a hand with the transition.

Colonel Pray echoed the commitment to the 164th AW expressed by the leaders of AMC and 18th AF, promising to help the Tennessee Air National Guard with anything they needed.

"We are going to make sure we are doing everything to take care of you," said Colonel Pray. "I have told my troops up at Dover that it is not 'us' and 'them.' We're all part of the Dover Team. If they need a part, get it for them. If they need equipment, get it for them. We're all on the same team."

With two C-5s in the background, the ceremony began.

"This is a great day for Tennessee, Memphis and the 164th (AW) with the arrival of the C-5," said Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett Jr., Tennessee National Guard Adjutant General.

General Hargett's words were echoed throughout the afternoon ceremony on the flight line.

"Today is a day of celebration, because we're opening another chapter in the history of the 164th AW," said Col. Dave Burton, 164th AW commander. "We welcome the C-5 to its new home where we will fly our missions to all corners of the Earth to protect and defend the freedoms we enjoy."

While Dover AFB is providing training for the Tennessee ANG crews and maintainers, without the commitment of the 164th AW team the project would never work.

"I'm glad to see the C-5 come here," said Master Sgt. Ken Simmons, 155th Airlift Wing aircrew life support, Tennessee ANG. "With the help of the people from Dover, the crew chiefs are taking ownership of these planes. This is a great sense of pride for the 164th to have that red tail up there."

The Tennessee National Guard has a long history of participating in every major conflict the United States has been involved with for almost 200 years.

With the addition of the C-5, the Citizen Soldiers of Tennessee plan on stepping up their already-mind-boggling impact on the Global War on Terrorism.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 9,600 members of the 164th AW have been activated to help with the Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"In the great tradition of Tennessee Volunteers, we stand ready to get back into the fight," said Colonel Burton.

As the colonel turned to General Handy and General Welser up on stage with him, he said, "It is our intent to get these aircraft back into the fight as soon as we can. We have been on the bench way too long. Let us back in the game, coach."

AF secretary, chief 'wear test' Osprey

Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C. — The Air Force's top two leaders got up close and personal Oct. 8 with what may become the service's latest special operations asset.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper flew in a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey. General Jumper served as pilot of one craft, and Secretary Roche as a passenger in another. Air Force officials plan to purchase as many as 50 CV-22s, a variation of the Marine Corps MV-22.

Secretary Roche said the service already has plans for the aircraft within the special operation community. Officials are looking for applications in search and rescue opera-

tions and open to potential applications elsewhere.

"This plane can do things we never could do before, like give advantages to our Air Force special operations folks for infiltration or exfiltration," Secretary Roche said. "We are also going to take a look at this plane as a long-range combat search and rescue asset."

The secretary said the performance of the aircraft — its speed and relative quietness compared to a helicopter — opens up all kinds of possibilities for potential application in the Air Force.

"We see new concepts of operations because we can have our folks get in very close without tipping off (the enemy) with the noise — you don't have the advance sound you get from a regular helicopter," Secretary Roche said. "It leads you to think



Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez

A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey lifts off a runway at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. Air Force officials plan to purchase as many as 50 CV-22 aircraft.

of things you can do that might have been difficult in the past."

The V-22 is a "tilt-rotor" aircraft designed by Boeing with partner Bell Helicopter Textron.

When turned toward the sky the two wing-mounted rotors on the craft allow for a vertical takeoff like a helicopter. When turned

forward, the craft flies as an airplane. The aircraft is capable of switching between the modes at any time.

The CV-22 will replace the MH-53J Pave Low helicopter and augment the MC-130 fleet in special operations missions.

The purchase date of the 50 CV-22 has not been determined.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Fresh faces

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the most recent First Term Airmen's Center graduates. Pictured are (from left to right): Bottom row: Airman 1st Class Keith Dawson, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Airman Kathleen Ellison, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Hazel Butler, 14th OSS; and Airman 1st Class Remy Martin, 14th OSS; Middle row: Airman Maria Galvan, 14th SFS; Airman 1st Class Latanya Caruthers, 14th SFS; Airman 1st Class Teresa Elbert, 37th Flying Training Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kelly Lannon, 14th SFS; Airman 1st Class Eric Williams, 14th Medical Support Squadron; and FTAC instructor Tech. Sgt. Brian Bailey; Back row: Airman Patrick King, 14th OSS; Airman Emily Miller, 14th OSS; Airman Michael Skaggs, 50th Flying Training Squadron; Airman Paul Smith, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman Michael Davis, 14th SFS; Airman 1st Class Christopher Hagood, 14th OSS; Airman Alex Galvan, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Alfredo Rubio, 14th CES; and Airman Jeffrey Obermeyer, 14th CES. Airman Lannon was selected as the FTAC class leader, and Airman Rubio received the Sharp Troop Award.

Theater ticket prices increase

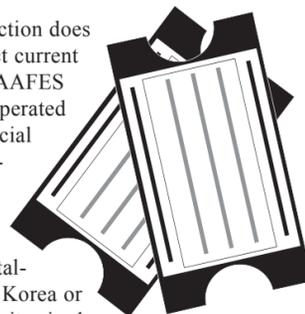
DALLAS — Army and Air Force Exchange Service ticket prices will increase for the first time in 10 years.

Admission prices for adults have increased by \$.50; ticket prices for children have increased by \$.25. The change is effective today.

"The new AAFES Reel Time theater admission prices are still more than 33 percent lower than the 2003 average commercial prices posted on the National Association of Theater Owners Web site, making AAFES theaters one of the best entertainment bargains available to troops," said Richard Sheff, food and theater division vice president.

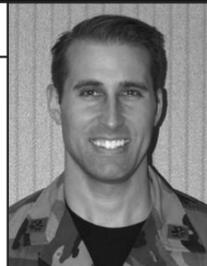
At the Columbus AFB theater, adult admission is now \$4 and child admission is now \$3.

"This action does not impact current prices at AAFES theaters operated under special memorandums of agreement, Army installations in Korea or deployed sites in the Balkans and Southwest Asia," Mr. Sheff said. (Courtesy of AAFES News Service)



IG augmenters provide unique insight to ORI

Maj. Keith Kenne
14th Contracting Squadron



Having recently rolled off the Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Inspector General team, I want to impart to the BLAZE TEAM some philosophy gleaned from my participation in conducting 14 Operational Readiness Inspections.

I know I'll never live this down, but I'll say it anyway: "They're here to help." All right, stop chuckling.

Seriously, the IG team's central philosophy is to elevate the performance of the entire major command, and it is one of the checks and balances in our Air Force mission. They function to provide the AETC commander with an independent assessment of unit operations.

Allow me to discuss three concepts that will prove

key in the wing's preparations for its ORI May 15. This week, let's talk about augmenting the IG team as an inspector.

"Know thy enemy" is great advice from Sun Tzu, The Art of War. The IG is not your enemy, but your functional area can certainly get to "know" the inspection process by augmenting the IG team. For any given ORI, about 60 percent of the AETC IG team is comprised of augmented inspectors borrowed throughout the command.

Augmenters are treated the same as permanent-party IG members, having access to the IG work center, inspection focus areas, database ratings, discussions, decision-making vehicles and much more.

Simply being an ORI "observer" limits exposure to all those items just mentioned, plus your unit must fund that individual's TDY costs.

An augments costs the unit nothing, yielding a

higher "return on investment." A side benefit from volunteering as an inspector is cross-feed of good processes and procedures developed at other places.

Simply pulling such strength areas out of the published ORI report is difficult, as those reports are generally vague and lack substantial details.

It's a feather in your squadron's cap to have a built-in IG liaison during your own inspection.

That squadron member will be able to guide the interface between your unit and the inspectors, further painting the picture of a well-organized and efficient team.

Don't needlessly chase your tail and prepare along the wrong focus areas — volunteer a sharp, hard-working troop as an augments and have him or her best guide your ORI preparation. (*Editor's note: This article is first of a consecutive three-part series about ORI preparation.*)

“ Don't needlessly chase your tail and prepare along the wrong focus areas — volunteer a sharp, hard-working troop as an augments and have him or her best guide your ORI preparation. ”

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.

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

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at www.columbus.af.mil.

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Gas after hours at shoppette

Question: Currently, the shoppette closes the fuel pumps after the store closes. The shoppette does not provide the option to purchase fuel after hours. Would it be possible to open the pumps for after hours fuel purchase with a credit, debit or Military Star card? Many Air Force installations provide 24-hour shoppette and fuel access. Currently, Kessler AFB, Miss., and Meridian Naval Air Station, Miss., provide after hours refueling with credit/debit card. Thank you for your consideration.

Answer: Thank you for the opportunity to address this expanded service issue. The bigger bases are capable of generating usage

necessary to offset the costs of 24-hour fueling operations. Unfortunately, it is just not as simple as leaving a switch on all the time. The requirement for new equipment, including gas pumps and computer systems and additional personnel costs to administer the 24-hour service make this a very expensive proposition. We estimate that the Shoppette would need to sell an extra \$750 in gas every night to cover these costs. Right now we don't have the demand to meet these costs. Providing this 24-hour service would significantly impact the AAFES contribution to the Columbus AFB morale, welfare and recreation fund.

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing commander

SILVER WINGS

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14th FTW commander

Col. Stephen Wilson

Chief, Public Affairs

Mr. Rick Johnson

Editor

Airman 1st Class 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

How to protect yourself from credit card scams

Capt. Reshawna Banks
81st Training Wing

KEESLER AFB, Miss. — It may be more convenient to use credit cards than cash or checks, but some companies that offer to help you get a credit card intend to steal your money instead.

Here's how to avoid becoming a victim of such scams:

Don't fall for promises that you can get a credit card even if you have bad credit. Fraudulent credit card offers often target people with credit problems who are unable to get cards elsewhere.

Legitimate credit card issuers generally don't do business with people

with bad credit histories.

Don't pay up front. It's against the law for telemarketers to charge any fees in advance if they guarantee or claim it's likely they can help you get a credit card.

This doesn't apply to banks; but except for secured credit cards, they don't usually ask for money up front. If there's an application or processing fee, it should be very small — not the hundreds of dollars con artists request. Annual fees usually appear on your first credit card statement.

If your credit history is bad, your best bet is to get a secured credit card. This requires you to place a deposit equal to

your credit limit in an account at the issuing bank. If you don't pay your credit card bill, the bank uses your deposit to cover it. You may not get interest on the account, but it's a good way to start rebuilding your credit.

A "gold" or "silver" card may not be what you think. Fraudulent credit card offers sometimes promise these cards from major card issuers. What you get — if anything — is a gold or silver-colored charge card that can be used only to buy overpriced goods from the company's own catalogue.

Apply for credit cards directly from the issuers. It isn't necessary to pay another company to help you get a credit

card, nor will it improve your chances of obtaining one.

If you have credit problems, get counseling. Fraudulent credit card companies may also claim they can repair your bad credit for a large up front fee. But you can correct inaccurate information in your credit files yourself for free, and no one can erase accurate negative information.

Local consumer credit counseling services can provide advice on how to build a good credit record. They may also be able to make payment plans with your creditors if you've fallen behind. These services are offered for free or at a very low cost.

Don't take for granted that all is well with your credit

Davis Hartness
14th Operations Support Squadron

Today was just another day — or I thought it was. I was ready to purchase something on my credit card. However, what I wanted was above my limit. So I requested an increase in my limit. I was surprised when I was turned down.

I couldn't understand what was going on here. I always paid before the due date and sent in double or triple the amount due. Sometimes I sent in \$100 more than what was due.

Since the credit card company would not reveal the reason over the phone, I had to wait and get the notification by mail that I was declined an increase.

Once this arrived, I immediately set in to action the process of getting my credit reports. I made copies of the declination letter, drafted a letter for the three credit

reporting agencies, also known as CRA's, assembled the packages and sent them on their merry way.

The waiting game began. It seemed like an eternity before I got my reports, but the agencies were very quick to respond. In less than a week, I had two of my reports. All I had to do was open to the first page of the report and there it was. Almost two years ago, I received a summons to appear in court for a civil judgment for a \$47 debt.

The amazing thing was that I had paid this bill. I never had to show for court because I had faxed the information to the judge showing proof that the bill had been paid. The judge dismissed the case and all was well. At least that's what I had believed.

Almost two years later, I found that I was denied a credit increase because of a civil judgment that was dismissed; however, it ended up on my credit report. A phone call to the justice court got me a copy of the

dismissal document. Another phone call to the alleged plaintiff got me nowhere. I was given another number, which lead to another number, which again lead me to another number. Finally, I was told to call back to the justice court. Upon talking to the very friendly clerk, I found how this got on my credit report.

No one ever sent this information to any of the CRAs — not the court or the plaintiff. The CRAs themselves go to court houses and pick up information on you or anyone else that is on court public records and enter it on your report. I couldn't believe this until I called Transunion and they verified that this is what happened. Now that I found the culprit, I have taken care of this inconvenience.

So if you have ever had summons to appear in court and you paid or had it dismissed, you may want to check your credit reports. Don't take for granted that all is well with your credit.

Our nation's leadership depends upon everyone's vote

Gen. Richard Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON — In this election year, you, our men and women in uniform, are stationed around the globe serving our nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote.

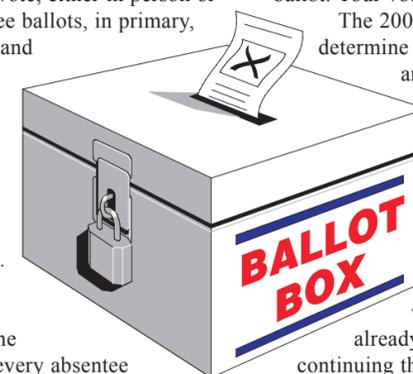
I encourage every one of you, as well as your family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballot. You will have the

opportunity to vote, either in person or through absentee ballots, in primary, special run-off and general elections, no matter where you are stationed or what operation you are participating in.

Recent elections have demonstrated the importance of every absentee

ballot. Your vote does count!

The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president, 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials. I urge each of you to participate, starting with the primaries already underway and continuing through the upcoming



general election Nov. 2.

Most of you will be using the absentee voting process, which has never been easier than it is today.

For those of us in the Armed Forces and our family members, starting the process is as easy as filling out and mailing the Federal Post Card Application.

The FPCA is available from your unit voting assistance officer, who can also assist you with your state procedures.

As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our nation's leadership.

Tanker squadron fuels war on terror

Tech Sgt. Gino Mattorano
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's tanker squadron plays an essential role in the war on terror. KC-10 Extenders are a key part of the wings' mission to provide coalition aircraft greater range and endurance for missions over Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pilots of the 908th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron at a forward-deployed location fly KC-10s and KC-135 Stratotankers, and the squadron is the only Air Force unit flying both aircraft.

"KC-10s have been here since the (1991) Gulf War," said Lt Col. Mike Winters, 908th EARS commander. "In 2003, we brought in a squadron of KC-135s, but because the two aircraft integrate so well together, we combined the two units into one squadron."

The squadron's KC-10s and KC-135s refuel aircraft flying missions for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"On a daily basis, we refuel everything from F-15E (Strike Eagles) and F-16 (Fighting Falcons) to Marine Harriers and British Tornados," said Maj. Mark Ustaszewski, director of operations for the 908th EARS KC-10s. "You name it, we refuel it."

Coalition aircraft average 40 combat sorties daily in close-air support missions for main and alternate supply routes, and for troops in contact with hostile forces. The 908th EARS provides in-flight refueling capability ensuring coalition aircraft have enough fuel to perform their mission.

"Our intelligence officers brief us on the aircraft we refueled that hit targets," Major Ustaszewski said. "That feedback helps our crews understand just how important the missions they fly are."

An average KC-10 mission lasts six to eight hours, and crews may refuel as many as 10 aircraft and deliver 80,000 to 100,000 pounds of fuel, Major Ustaszewski said.



Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Maj. Joe Burshnick, 908th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron, positions his KC-10 Extender to receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker. The squadron is the only Air Force unit that flies both aircraft.

A key feature of the KC-10 that makes it ideal for combat operations is its capability to refuel nearly any aircraft. While Air Force jets can be refueled in flight through a refueling boom, other U.S. military and NATO aircraft are refueled through a hose and drogue system.

"The KC-10 can refuel either type of aircraft on the same mission," Major Ustaszewski said. "A KC-135 has to be configured on the ground for one or the other, while the KC-10 is always configured for either system."

In addition, the KC-10 can also be refueled in flight, which gives it the ability to take on fuel from another aircraft to increase its delivery range.

Working alongside the KC-135s, KC-10s make up a crucial element of the coalition's ability to wage war on terror.

"Having both airframes in the same squadron creates a great deal of synergy," Major Ustaszewski said. "It gives us the ability to do a lot more, a lot quicker."

What is the most misunderstood aspect of the war on terror?



Senior Airman Christopher Clinton
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

"I believe the security measures implemented stateside and their affects on us are often misunderstood. It is the citizens' responsibility to support the president and support the laws in place, but it is also the citizens' responsibility to question those laws for the sake of improving them. Homeland security depends on everyone, not just the the agencies enforcing our security measures."



Maj. Craig Peltz
14th Mission Support Squadron

"The most misunderstood aspect of the war on terror is our nation's goal and understanding when we've reached our goal. Right now, it's hard to tell. The idea that we have to consistently commit troops to something that is never going to go away is hard for us to understand. And the idea that we're probably always going to lose lives is also hard to understand, but that's the price of freedom."



Chris Bowers
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

"I believe the human factor of this war on terror is misunderstood. In order to catch terrorists, we have to get inside their heads and figure out why their ideology is what it is. In understanding that, we might be able to get to the root cause of what's going on and foresee what the terrorists may do next."

AT THE CHAPEL

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

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

Tuesday:
10:30 a.m. — Ladies Bible study
Noon — Lunch and Bible study
Wednesday:
5 p.m. — Bible study potluck
6 p.m. — Bible study, Pioneer Clubs, teen ministries

For information about 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
"Vanity Fair" (PG-13, some sensuality, nudity and a violent image, 141 min.)

Starring: Reese Witherspoon and James Purefoy.

Saturday
"Anacondas: The Hunt For the Blood Orchid" (PG-13, action violence, scary images and some language, 97 min.)

Starring: Johnny Messner and Morris Chestnut.

Oct. 22
"Cellular" (PG-13, violence, terror situations, language and some sexual references, 94 min.)

Starring: Kim Basinger and Chris Evans.

For more information, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

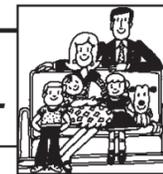
CHANNEL 64

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

For more information, call the public affairs office 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.)

Positive parenting: This workshop for parents of young children is from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday. Topics discussed include understanding parental enabling, common behaviors and how to start empowering children. Participants may also register to complete five other topics with instruction or self-study at their convenience.

Sponsorship training: A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is at 9 a.m. Oct. 26. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Hearts Apart social: A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 28. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

Air Force Aid Society: The AFAS offers 24-hour emergency assistance. Possible aid includes interest-free loans and grants for items such as rent, food, utilities, car repairs and emergency travel.

Relocation assistance: People who are making a permanent change of station can stop by the family support center for information about other bases, checklists to make moves easier and ideas for easy traveling with children.

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

Free oil change: The Air Force Aid Society's "Car Care Because We Care" program is available to Airmen enrolled in the First Term Airmen's Center and spouses of active-duty Air Force members deployed or remote for more than 30 days. Call Ext. 2855.

Free childcare: The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

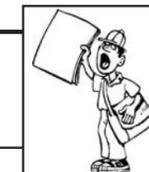
Home stretch

Enlisted dorm residents run the 5k course during the Dorm World kickoff event Oct. 8. More than 30 Airmen are participating in Dorm World 2, an Air Education and Training Command Services program designed to increase morale and dorm cohesiveness during the holiday season.

Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

8 p.m. Volunteers assisting will be given a radio, call sign, vest and street assignment. The 14th Security Forces Squadron will attempt to position parent volunteers near their own housing areas. For more information or to sign up, call Staff Sgt. David Appel at Ext. 7115.

BASE NOTES



Haunted house: The 14th Security Forces Squadron sponsors a haunted house from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 22, Oct. 23 and Oct. 29 through Oct. 31 at 102 Hamilton Avenue and 105 Aberdeen Avenue. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information, call Ext. 7132.

Trick-or-treat hours: Children are allowed to collect candy in base housing areas from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31. Parents and children are encouraged to use reflective devices and flashlights. Housing residents who would like to participate are asked to leave front porch lights turned on. For questions or more information, call the 14th Security Forces Squadron at Ext. 7111.

Pumpkin Patrol: Approximately 20 Pumpkin Patrol volunteers are needed to help keep children safe between 5 and

COSC social: The spouses of the 48th Flying Training Squadron sponsor a "Class Reunion" Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club social at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Columbus Club. The Heritage High School Jazz Band will provide musical entertainment.

The menu is roast turkey with mashed potatoes. Cost is \$10.50 per person. Club members receive a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. For reservations, call Cammy Cheater at 434-8915 by noon Nov. 4.

Math tutors wanted: The education center seeks volunteers with a strong background in mathematics to teach a math CLEP exam preparation class. The class is three days long and will be offered as needed based on demand. Teaching handouts will be provided for volunteers.

The CLEP exam can help Airmen earn three to six semester hours of college math credit, which can be used toward a Community College of the Air Force degree program. For more information, call Jose Dorta at Ext. 2565.

New club card system affects member services

The Air Force club card program is moving to a new systems platform Oct. 28.

Bank One, issuer of the Air Force club card, is now managing members' account information with a new state-of-the-art system.

The switchover will involve nearly a week of "blackout" to the club works system, which currently manages the Air Force club membership card program.

During this period, scheduled for Oct. 27 through

Nov. 1, there will be an impact on several processes affecting club members.

The most significant will be club members' inability to make payments on their accounts at base clubs, over the internet or by phone.

Members will be able to view their accounts and balances on the Bank One Web site, but the "Make a Payment" option will not be available.

Cardholders with membership accounts that are due during the blackout period are encouraged to

submit an early payment this month.

Mailing payments during this period would be a good option, said Fred Fried of Air Force Services Agency Headquarters. "[Club members] need to pay ahead of time and not wait until the blackout period to pay."

Cardholders will still be able to make charges to their accounts during this period.

For more information, call the Columbus Club at Ext. 2490. *(Courtesy of 14th Services Division)*

Services provides variety of recreational activities

Champagne Sunday brunch: The Columbus Club offers brunch for all-ranks from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$9.95 for club members and \$11.95 for non-members. Ages 12 and younger receive a free sundae. Reservations are not necessary. Call Ext. 2490.

Football Frenzy: The enlisted lounge opens at 7 p.m. Mondays for all ranks to watch the big game for the night and receive prizes. Club members can also enter a drawing for a trip to the Super Bowl. Call Ext. 2490.

Stamp camp: The community center offers this course from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. Using several advanced techniques, participants create five projects — four cards and a craft item. Cost is \$15 and deadline to register is Monday. Call Ext. 7450.

Steak night: The Columbus Club offers this dinner special from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Cost is \$10.95 for club members and includes a 9-ounce sirloin, baked potato, salad, roll and iced tea. Call Ext. 2490.

Preschool storytime: The base library offers this 30-minute program at 10 a.m. Wednesdays for ages 3 to 5. Volunteers are needed to read stories to the children. Call Ext. 2934.

Fall Harvest: The Columbus Club offers this members-only night at 7 p.m. Oct. 22. Hay rides and squadron competitions will be available for families. Call Ext. 2490.

Youth center members appreciation day: The youth center offers this special program for members from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 23. Free

food will be available. Call Ext. 2504.

Squadron pumpkin carving contest: Judging for this annual program is Oct. 28 at the base library. Pumpkins may be picked up by Oct. 26. Entries must be delivered to the base library by 1 p.m. Oct. 28. Call Ext. 2934.

Crafts classes: The skills development center offers crafts classes for adults at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. every Tuesday, and children's classes are at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Stop by the center to see a display of the upcoming classes. Call Ext. 7836.

Parents info time: The child development center offers a parents info time from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 26. This free session is designed for parents of newborn children to 5-year-olds. Discussion will include ways for parents to react so their children will react in a positive manner. Call Ext. 2479.

Youth center fall festival: The youth center offers this annual program from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 30 with a dance from 9 to 11 p.m. immediately following. Cost for the festival is \$3 per child and includes carnival games such as the spider ring toss, halloween fortune game and hopscotch, ghost darts, bean bag toss, tattoo booth, fortune telling booth, pumpkin painting, bouncy castle and a costume contest. Volunteers are need to run the game booths, pumpkin painting and clean up. Call Ext. 2504.

Shopping trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 6 for the Christmas arts and crafts show. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation. Call Ext. 7861.

Colossal Bingo is Here!

Mondays in the community center ballroom
Early Bird Games - 6:30 p.m.
Regular Games - 7 p.m.

Up to \$9,950 in prize payouts

Early Bird Games

Four \$25 Games and One \$50 Game

Regular Games

Nine \$100 Games and Six \$150 Games

Special Games

Dynamic Double Straight in 11 numbers or less for \$1,000 with \$100 consolation

Super Straight in 5 numbers or less for \$500 with \$50 consolation

Jackpot Coverall in 51 numbers or less for \$2,000 with \$100 consolation

Letter "X" in 9 numbers or less for \$1,000 with \$100 consolation

Progressive Double Coverall in 50 numbers or less for \$3,000 with \$300 consolation

Optional Games

Two \$50 Speed Ball Games

One \$200 Bonanza Bingo Game

Prices

Nonmember Entry Fee - \$10

Early Bird Packet - \$5

Early Bird Card - \$1

Computers - \$35 minimum bingo purchase

Regular Packet, 9-on-1 cards - \$7

Special Packet, 3-on-1 cards - \$6

Special Single, 3-on-1 card - \$1

Double Coverall Jackpot - \$3

Bonanza Bingo game - \$1

Bonanza, trade in 2 for 3 - \$1

Speed Ball - \$1

For more information, call the Columbus Club at Ext. 2490

Book sale: Friends of the Library sponsors a fall book sale from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Leigh Mall in downtown Columbus. All proceeds benefit the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library system. For more information or to volunteer, call 329-5300.

Roast 'N' Boast: The 22nd annual Roast 'N' Boast is today and Saturday at the Columbus Fairgrounds at Highway 69 South. This sanctioned "Memphis in May" festival includes live music all weekend long, a giant barbecue-cooking contest and more. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6 through 12. For more information, call David Darby at 328-5026.

Columbus Day celebration: Merchants in downtown Columbus celebrate Columbus Day with sales including retail specials, prizes and live entertainment from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information, call 328-6305.

Centennial celebration: The town of Caledonia celebrates its centennial anniversary from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in downtown Caledonia and at Ola J. Pickett Park. For more information, call (662) 356-4117.

Open house: An open house for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at 5 p.m. Saturday at 2808 Ridge Road in downtown Columbus. For more information, call 244-0125.

Afternoon Tunes: An evening of live entertainment is from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Trotter Convention Center Courtyard. For more information, call 328-6305.

Military Night: The Magnolia Motor Speedway Salute to Military Night is Oct. 23. Grand stand activities begin at 3 p.m., and admission is half price (\$12.50) for all active-duty military and their dependents.

The speedway is located off of Highway 82, west of Columbus. Take the Macon/Meridian exit on Highway 45 South. People are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. For more information, call 328-0376.

Hunting safety: A hunter safety brief is from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Columbus Police Club. Classes are free, but people must pre-register by calling (662) 840-5172. In Mississippi, people born on or after Jan. 1, 1972 are required to complete a 10-hour hunter education course before purchasing a hunting license. For

more information, visit www.mdwfp.com/default.asp.

Center for Creative Learning: The grand opening of the Mississippi University for Women Center for Creative Learning begins at 9 a.m. Oct. 30 at the MUW campus. Activities for families include outdoor learning, hands-on science projects, theater improvisation, paper making, a science carnival, karaoke and a chance to meet Mother Goose.

The free activities will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the MUW Education Building at the corner of Fifth Avenue South and 11 Street South. An adult must accompany children at all times. For more information, call 329-7119.

Annual antique show and sale: The Columbus Historic Foundation sponsors an annual antique show and sale Nov. 4 through Nov. 7 at various locations throughout Columbus. More than 25 top dealers from across the nation will display a wide array of antiques. Admission is required for some events. For more information or a brochure, call Nancy Carpenter at (800) 920-3533.

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

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

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

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

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

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

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

Print advertisement: _____

Name: _____

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

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

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes No

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

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

Commander sets pace for wing fitness testing

1st Lt. Jennifer Moore
Public Affairs

In an Air Force where leaders inspire by example, Columbus AFB's commander is setting the pace...literally.

Col. Stephen Wilson recently earned a perfect score on the Air Force Fitness Test maxing out every component including the run, which he completed with a time of 10:08.

"I'm not at all surprised by his score," said 2nd Lt. Byron Coward, Wing Staff Agencies physical training participant. "My first WSA workout, I figured I'd give the commander a run for his money. We took off together, but I never caught him ... the man is fast."

In his July 30 "Fit to Fight" Sight Picture, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said he expected the new fitness initiative to be led from the top. Colonel Wilson obliged by revamping the WSA's unit fitness program shortly after assuming command of the wing in March.

"One of the first questions he asked me after arriving at Columbus was, 'Who is my PT leader?'" said Maj. Nina Perino, 14th Flying Training Wing Health Promotion Manager.

An active proponent of the "Fit to Fight" mentality, Colonel Wilson participates religiously in weekly WSA workouts barring only TDYs and emergencies.

"People who complain that senior leaders don't participate in unit fitness don't have a leg to stand on here at Columbus," said Capt. Tamona Bright, 14th FTW.

"It's encouraging to have the wing commander out there running with us," said Senior Airman Evelyn Baxter, 14th Comptroller Squadron. "In the past few months alone, I've transitioned from an anti-runner to training for my first-ever half marathon."

Enthusiasm for fitness trickles down from the top, she said.

"General Jumper's 'Fit to Fight' vision is crystal clear," Colonel Wilson said. "We must change our culture and integrate fitness into our daily routine. Being Fit to Fight improves our readiness and will improve the health and fitness of our expeditionary force. Are you fit to fight?"

Intramural Flag Football Standings



Team	Wins	Losses
SFS	6	0
OSS	7	1
41 FTS	2	4
48 FTS	1	5
CES	1	6

* Standings current as of Wednesday

Intramural Flag Football Standings



Team	Wins	Losses
COM	22	2
SVS	22	2
DYNCORP	6	18
CES	4	20
SFS	0	24

* Standings current as of Wednesday

the YMCA and runs through the historic district of North Columbus. All registered participants will receive t-shirts, and awards will be distributed to the top three finishers in each age category.

Late registration will be available at 8 a.m. the day of the race. Registration forms are available at the YMCA, Fitness Factor, Sports Specialty MUW Gym and the base fitness and sports center. For more information, call 328-7696.

Soccer camp

Columbus AFB hosts the Air Force Soccer Trial Camp Jan. 6 through Jan. 23. The deadline for completing Air Force Form 303, Request for Specialized Sports Training, is Nov. 1. All military personnel interested in participating

in the camp must complete the AF Form 303 or contact the fitness center at Ext. 2772.

Karate/Judo classes

Karate classes are offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the community center. Cost is \$45 per month. The community center also offers Judo classes from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursdays. Cost is \$35 per month. For more information about the classes, call Ext. 7450.

Fitness 101

An instructional class for those new to fitness is at 9 a.m. Nov. 10 at the fitness and sports center. Participants learn how to use the center's large selection of cardiovascular and strength training equipment. Call Ext. 2772.

A fun run begins at 7 a.m. Oct. 29 in front of the fitness and sports center. Participants may complete a 5K run or a 1.5-mile walk. For more information, call the fitness center at Ext. 2772.

JOIN THE FUN RUN!



CONSTRUCTION ZONE CONSTRUCTION ZONE



Allen Woodson of Ellis Construction saws an uprooted tree near the Aerospace Physiology Unit to expand the consolidated parking lot area.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

On-going developments improve face of CAFB



Bill Gordon, James Hall, Alonzo Selbie and David Burditt, Hammer LGC, Inc. employees, install a fence for the new military working dog kennel.



Tom Costa of Hammer LGC, Inc., installs shelf trim for the wall panels of the mobility warehouse located next to the 14th Security Forces Squadron building.



Ira Landingham of Hammer LGC, Inc., digs a trench for an eight-inch water main leading to the 14th Security Forces Forces mobility warehouse.