

## More retirees may seek compensation

Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec  
AFPC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Some military retirees have benefited from the Combat-Related Special Compensation Program that provides monthly payments for service-related health problems, but Air Force Personnel Center officials here say many additional people may still profit should they apply.

Combat-related special compensation allows some disabled military retirees, who served at least 20 years, to collect monthly, tax-free payments for their service-related disabilities.

“We highly encourage all military retirees with disabilities who served at least 20 years to apply for this compensation,” said Maj. Lorianne Hodge, CRSC board chief here. “The peace of mind these benefits offer should far out weigh any doubts of eligibility or concerns over the application process.”

Although CRSC specifically addresses “combat-related” disabilities, retirees who developed disabilities from non-combat duty may also apply.

Injuries due to training, simulated war exercises, parachuting and munitions demolition are all examples that may be compensated.

Applicants may apply at <http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860T.pdf> on the Internet where they will also find lists of supporting documentation they may want to include in their packages.

Completed applications and supporting documentation can be mailed to: United States Air Force, Disability Division (CRSC), 550 C Street West Suite 6, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4708.

Approved applicants will receive compensation backdated to June, 2003 when the program began.

More information is available by calling the Air Force Personnel Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074, commercial at (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-1600.

People may also contact the Columbus AFB military personnel flight at Ext. 3120.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez  
Senior Airman Tait Iverson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, hangs a fire prevention banner at the fire department in preparation for National Fire Prevention Week Sunday through Oct. 9.

## CE educates BLAZE TEAM during fire prevention week

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez  
Public Affairs

The Columbus AFB Fire Department invites all BLAZE TEAM members to help them celebrate National Fire Prevention Week Sunday through Oct. 9.

“National Fire Prevention Week provides a forum for us to interface with the base and local communities about fire safety,” said Linc Weinrich, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron base fire inspector. “Fire safety begins with the youngest person in the home and builds the principles and education needed for the future.”

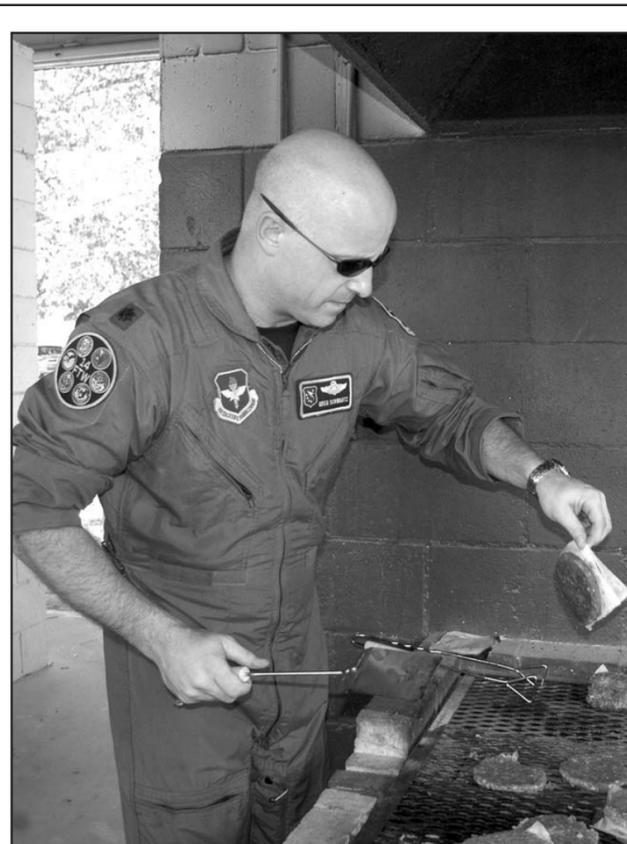
This year’s campaign kicks off with a parade at 5 p.m.

Sunday that starts in Capitol Housing and continues through each housing area.

The fire department is also conducting tours of the fire station from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Oct. 8. Sparky the Firedog, informational displays, handouts and fire hats will be available to help children remember their visit to the fire station. To schedule a tour, people must call Ext. 2269 or Ext. 2270 beforehand.

“Test Your Smoke Alarms” is the theme for this year’s National Fire Prevention Week.

See FIRE, Page 2



## Flipping to the 48th

Lt. Col. Greg Schwartz, former 14th Flying Training Wing safety chief, grills hamburgers at the wing staff agencies’ hail and farewell cookout Sept. 17. Colonel Schwartz joins the 48th Flying Training Squadron as director of operations today.

## FIRE (Continued from Page 1)

Often times, working smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death because fire can spread so quickly, said Mr. Weinrich.

However, these life-saving devices are only effective when they work properly.

Smoke alarms with dead, disconnected or missing batteries are unable to alert people to the dangers of smoke and fire.

These tips will help ensure smoke alarms are working correctly:

\* Test smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer’s instructions.

\* Replace batteries once a year, or as soon as the alarm “chirps” warn-

ing that the battery is low.

\* Never “borrow” a battery from a smoke alarm.

\* Don’t disable smoke alarms, even temporarily.

\* Regularly vacuum or dust smoke alarms, following the manufacturer’s instructions.

\* Replace alarms once every 10 years.

\* Consider installing smoke alarms with “long-life” (10-year) batteries.

For more information about National Fire Prevention Week or fire prevention, call Ext. 2770.

(Editor’s note: Information for this article courtesy of [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org))

## Airmen can help improve personnel service delivery

Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen can help make their personnel services delivery system better through survey feedback which began Sept. 20.

Air Force officials said they are transforming the way personnel services are delivered to make them more effective, efficient and timely. This PSD transformation uses technology to place the capability for conducting routine personnel and pay transactions into the hands of Airmen via a Web-based system and contact centers, while minimizing the need for face-to-face dealings in an office.

“We must provide commanders the right people they need to accomplish the mission,” said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel.

“We are transforming how we provide service to our customers,” he said. “This transformation will allow us to accomplish two major goals at the same time.

“First, we will continue our path of using technology to our advantage and push our transactional work to the Web and contact centers as soon as possible. This will allow our customers to access our services 24/7.

“Second, the remaining work will focus on supporting the operational mission — developing Airmen and ensuring we have the right people in the right place at the right time with the right skills and experiences. This realigns the personnel community from processing transactions to a more value-added, commander support role,” he said.

Examples of this transformation are the “myPay” and “LeaveWeb” applications many Airmen are already using.

An important element of the PSD transformation effort is measuring customer perspectives as a baseline for the future improvement of service delivery methods, officials said.

The first two surveys being fielded will solicit perceptions on personal customer service satisfaction from military and civilian people of all ranks, and unit leadership perspectives from commanders, first sergeants, command chiefs and senior civilians. Each survey process will continue for several weeks.

The e-mail surveys sent to participants will be anonymous and responses will not be linked to e-mail addresses.

While the participation in the survey is voluntary, a high response turnout will enhance the study, officials said.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

## See ya next year

DynCorp crew chief Anthony Latham gets debriefed by 1st Lts. Chris Duffett and Eric Cannell, 48th Flying Training Squadron, after flying the last sortie of the fiscal year for the 14th Flying Training Wing. The flight was also the last sortie the pilots flew as lieutenants. They pinned on captain Wednesday.

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (05-09)	4.23 days	.37 days	Oct. 22
41st (05-10)	2.69 days	1.61 days	Nov. 17

PHASE III			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (04-15)	0 days	1.4 days	Today
50th (04-15)	0 days	1.18 days	Today

WING SORTIE BOARD			
Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-37	2,697	2,907	34,403
T-38C	1,267	1,287	16,833
T-1A	1,085	1,073	13,980

Graduation speaker: Maj. Gen. Harold Cross

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Dialing 911 from cell phones**

All BLAZE TEAM members can reach wing emergency responders by dialing 911 from any base phone, including phones in base housing. However, 911 calls from cell phones go to off-base operators.

To access base emergency services from a cell phone, dial 434-8881. BLAZE TEAM members are encouraged to program this number into their cell phones for ready access.

**Life Skills open house**

The Life Skills Support Center invites all BLAZE TEAM members and their families to its annual open house from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, located on the second floor of the 14th Medical Group Clinic.

This is an opportunity for all base personnel to learn more about the programs and services offered, and meet new staff members. Snacks and refreshments are provided. For more information, call the center at Ext. 2239.

**AFJROTC career opportunities**

Air Force Junior ROTC has immediate employment opportunities available as AF JROTC instructors for retired Air Force active-duty members or personnel retiring within the next six months.

Officer and NCO instructors are needed in Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky and Georgia. For a complete list of vacancy locations and instructions on completing an AF JROTC instructor application, visit [www.foats.af.mil](http://www.foats.af.mil); or call AF JROTC Instructor Management at DSN 493-5300 or (866) 235-7682 at Ext. 5300.

**Dorm World**

All enlisted dormitory occupants are invited to participate in the 2004/2005 Dorm World competition. The competition consists of six events: a fun/run walk, bowling tournament, scavenger hunt, dodgeball/tug-o-war, community service and a final "Battle of the Dorms" competition. A meeting is at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the community center for all interested Airmen. Those unable to attend the meeting can still participate. For more information, call the dorm management at Ext. 2392 or Ext. 2391.

**14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED**

As of press time, 73 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide.

Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



**Airmen maintain control of their futures inspite of force shaping**

**Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**TYNDALL AFB, Fla.** — In spite of the Air Force's force shaping measures, Airmen are learning they remain in control of their futures, even in over-manned career fields.

There are choices for those whose re-enlistments are coming up soon: re-train, go Guard or Reserve, go Army with "Operation Blue to Green," or elect to separate.

"Any Airman in an over-manned career field needs to start looking at his options now, retraining being first," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor.

Airmen who think they are safe and won't be impacted by force shaping will have it hardest because they have not planned for their future, he said.

There are 29 over-manned career fields, and out of those, 1,259 first-term Airmen have not received a career job reservation, said Master Sgt. Dee Wolfe, Air Force Personnel Center non-commissioned officer-in-charge of personnel actions, at a recent career assistance advisor conference. Airmen will not be allowed to re-enlist without a CJR unless they have been selected for special duty or retraining, she said.

Therefore, members in over-manned Air Force Specialty Codes applying for special duty are only safe for the time they

serve that special duty since they still hold the same AFSC, Staff Sgt. Clinton Minor, AFPC NCOIC of retraining, said.

These choices are part of the planning process for those who know they need to retrain, said Sergeant Kahapea. But for those who choose not to plan, the Air Force will give them two choices: either retrain into what we need or get out.

When it comes to new opportunities, there are many choices for Airmen. Most retrain into security forces and aircraft maintenance, but there are many more undermanned fields such as logistics planners, linguists and air traffic controllers.

There are also many special duty options, such as enlisted aircrew — from boom operator to flight engineer, loadmaster and flight attendant. Also, there are spaces available in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, as well as recruiters and military training instructors.

However, as far as selective re-enlistment bonuses go, there are currently 62 career fields retaining SRBs, which will be cut back to 25 very soon, Sergeant Kahapea said.

Among these changes, the Air Force has also changed the way it handles its business when it comes to recruiting and training.

"This initiative has changed our job as career assistance advisors from retention specialists to force shapers," Sergeant Kahapea said. "The bottom line is Airmen have control over their career now, as long as they start planning as soon as they are notified."

**Service launches online pay enhancements**

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — The online pay account information system of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, myPay, is offering new enhancements and upgrades for all users.

All myPay users can now assign a restricted access personal identification number to a designated individual

to view pay information; however, the designee cannot make any changes to the allotments or account information. Users also can add a personal e-mail address so they are notified of pay changes and other items of interest.

Also, active-duty Airmen can view 12 months of leave and earning statements, and start, stop and change

financial allotments and savings bonds.

Currently, myPay has nearly 3 million users with customized PINs and serves all servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants, Department of Defense civilian employees and Department of Energy employees. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

**Some Airmen can carry over 'use or lose' leave**

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** — Active-duty Airmen who were unable to take leave because they supported contingency operations may be allowed to accumulate more than the normal 60 days after the fiscal year ends.

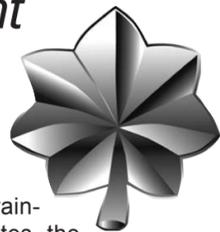
Those affected can retain up to 120 days of leave until Sept. 30, 2005, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

"This program is meant

to enable people to take leave they've earned," said Senior Master Sgt. Don Taylor, the center's customer support operations superintendent.

The carry-over leave must be taken in 2005 so Airmen do not lose leave next year, he said. For more information, Airmen can contact the military personnel flight at Ext. 3191. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

**Lieutenant colonel selects**



The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the following BLAZE TEAM members on selection to lieutenant colonel: **Kenneth Crane**, 14th Contracting Squadron; **Mark Douglas**, 37th Flying Training Squadron; **James Gathright**, 37th FTS; **Alessandra Stokstad**, 14th Mission Support Squadron; and **Bryan Stokstad**, 14th Comptroller Squadron.

**MEO: Advocating change, promoting diversity**  
*Being happy with status quo might actually hurt organizations' productivity*

**1st Lt. Chandra Peek**  
14th Flying Training Wing



Have you ever proposed what you thought was a terrific idea to improve a process only to meet resistance?

Someone once told me that the only change people like is the kind that jingles in their pockets.

Well, change can be difficult. And resistance to change is normal — even occasionally beneficial.

Sometimes ideas, while well-intended, may not be very well thought through, and the overall benefit might not be worth the effort that is required to implement them. I understand that to change and to change for the better are two entirely different things.

But when resistance stems from an attitude of "It's always been done that way," even when "that way" is

ineffective, limited or just plain wrong, it can be a bit frustrating. Opportunity Chief is to be an advocate for change in the form of promoting diversity.

Things cannot improve if you are not willing to be receptive to the knowledge, experience and creative ideas of others. Charles F. Kettering said, "The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress."

Being happy with the status quo might actually hurt the productivity of your organization. Let's face it ... although we are becoming a much smaller force as far as personnel goes, our workload is not decreasing.

That is why it is imperative that we not only continue to come up with more creative and efficient ways of accomplishing our mission, but also understand that with change comes growing pains. We all need to make the effort to give those innovations a chance to work before quickly dismissing them.

Part of my job as the Columbus AFB Military Equal

**“ That is why it is imperative that we not only continue to come up with more creative and efficient ways of accomplishing our mission, but also understand that with change comes growing pains. ”**

Part of my job as the Columbus AFB Military Equal in and out of uniform were not encouraged to their full potential, and the nation was undergoing both political and racial conflict. The Air Force has changed considerably since then.

Today, we have improved programs that allow all of us — irrespective of race, color, national origin, religion or gender — to perform our jobs to our fullest potential.

Fortunately for me, even though I'm sure some people were quite happy with the way things were, change happened.

**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](http://www.columbus.af.mil).*

*Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.*

**Crosswalk addition in front of fitness and sports center**

**Comment:** There is a lot more pedestrian traffic around the fitness and sports center these days. I have noticed that cars often don't stop for pedestrians on base; therefore, I think it would be a good idea to put a crosswalk in front of the fitness center. Thank you.

**Response:** I agree that pedestrian traffic across Simler Boulevard to get to the fitness center is a safety issue that needs to be addressed. Although there is a crosswalk at the intersection of Simler Road and Harpe

Boulevard, it is not used by most individuals parking across the street and walking to the fitness center.

Due in part to your request, we have installed a crosswalk across Similar Boulevard that connects the parking across the street to the entrance of the fitness center. Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention.

*Col. Stephen Wilson*  
14th Flying Training Wing commander

**SILVER WINGS**

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724, Columbus AFB, Miss., phone 434-7068, or e-mailed to [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil) by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

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**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

# Journey to ballot box spans 13 years, 2 countries

**Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez**  
Public Affairs

"My parents told us we were going to Disneyland. But they told me not to bring any clothes or toys because they would buy us new ones."

And that is how Senior Airman Jesus Espinoza Ogarcia, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, was persuaded to leave his home in Puebla, Mexico, at the tender age of 8.

"My parents had to lie to me because I didn't want to move. My friends were there. My school was there. That was my home," Airman Espinoza said.

Airman Espinoza's parents were respected teachers in Mexico, but underpaid. In search of a better life for his family, his father decided to relocate his wife and two children to Indio, Calif., in 1990.

When they first arrived, the Espinozas shared a small apartment with another family.

"My older sister and I liked our new home at first because everything in the community was Spanish," he said. "Everyone was Mexican or hispanic."

"But the more time we spent there, we noticed more things in English - like road signs and books - and we couldn't read English."

Airman Espinoza and his sister also attended a school where English was the primary language used by students and faculty members.

"I was so scared to be by myself in class that I would cry every day when my mom dropped me off at school," he said.

As a result of his difficulty adapting to the new environment, the school administration enabled Airman Espinoza to take a placement test, on which he scored very well.

"My scores allowed me to skip first and second grade and join my sister in her third grade class," he said. "I felt more comfortable in school after that."

But the language barrier remained for some time afterward.

"English was definitely a hurdle," Airman Espinoza said. "Making friends was hard. In school, teachers thought I was slow because I wouldn't talk. Just because I was quiet didn't mean I was stupid."

Consequently, Airman Espinoza found alternate methods of learning English.

"My first friend was a kid named Raymond Smith," he said. "MTV was huge back then, and we used to sit around watching videos and reading books. That's how I learned to speak and write in English. Spending a lot of time with his family was also a big influence."

Meanwhile, Airman Espinoza's father was having difficulty pursuing his career as a teacher in the United States.

"My dad really couldn't get a job as a teacher because he didn't have any credentials and couldn't speak English well. So he started working all the stereotype immigrant jobs; he bussed tables, cleaned pools, did yard work and construction.

"I was very young, but I could see that he hated those jobs. He was often dirty when he came home and a little



**Senior Airman Jesus Espinoza Ogarcia, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, greets a patient at the life skills support center in the 14th Medical Group Clinic.**

embarrassed by it because when he was a teacher in Mexico, we always saw him in clean clothes wearing a tie. But I was proud of him for working so hard to provide for our family regardless."

After three years in Indio, the Espinozas could no longer afford to stay in their apartment. The other family had since moved out, so they relocated to a trailer home.

Upon finishing high school at 16, the new graduate earned a full academic scholarship to the University of California at Riverside. But stipulations regarding Airman Espinoza's residence card prevented the university from awarding him all of the grants and loans he had earned. Still, he was determined to continue studying and attended a community college where he earned his Associate of Arts degree.

"After graduation, I worked for one year to save money in order to attend a university," he said.

Keeping his family situation in mind, however, the altruistic scholar decided to achieve two goals simultaneously by joining the Air Force.

First, by giving his savings to his parents to purchase a new home, he was able to repay them for their own sacrifices and was able to give his siblings a home to call their own.

Secondly, he was able to pursue his education and professional development as an Air Force member.

Not only did the Air Force help him capitalize on these goals, but it also placed another objective within reach.

Airman Espinoza became an American citizen on June 24, 2004. A bill signed by President Bush after 9/11 allowed servicemembers to expedite the citizenship process. Without his citizenship, Airman Espinoza was prohibited from certain activities, such as serving overseas, re-enlisting and voting.

"I especially wanted my citizenship so that I could vote," he said. "Even though it may not seem like it, one vote really can make a difference. And because I'm not only in the armed forces, but also a young citizen, I think voting is extremely important."

Airman Espinoza currently works as a mental health technician at the life skills support center, and continues working toward his academic career.

"I've wanted to be a teacher for some time," he said. "Right now, I'm trying to finish up my bachelor's degree, get my credentials, and someday teach in California."

But for now, the Airman is fulfilling his aspirations one step at a time, keeping in mind the family and culture from which he came.

"When I was younger, I was upset with my dad. My friends were back home in Mexico, I liked my school and my teachers. And then I came here and didn't have any friends or know any English.

"But now that I'm older, I understand that the opportunities our move to the states afforded my family are priceless. As an American citizen, I'll never forget where I'm from and how it's shaped me into the person I am today."

## 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

"Alien vs. Predator" (PG-13, violence, language, horror images, slime and gore, 100 min.)

Starring: Lance Henriksen and Sanaa Lathan.

### Saturday

"Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie" (PG, animated, scary combat and monster images, 90 min.)

### Oct. 8

"Exorcist: The Beginning" (R, strong violence and gore, disturbing images and rituals, and language including some sexual dialogue, 114 min.)

Starring: Stellan Skarsgard and James D'Arcy.

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

## BASE NOTES

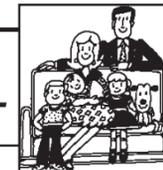


**OSC Social:** The spouses from the 50th Flying Training Squadron sponsor a Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club costume Halloween bingo social at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Columbus Club. The menu is vegetable lasagna. Cost is \$9.50 per person, and club members receive a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. To sign up, call Cammy Cheater at 434-8915 by noon Oct. 7.

**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.

**Cub Scouts:** Cub Scout Pack 52 meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the community center. For more information, call 328-7228.

## 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.)*

**Time management:** A workshop about how to efficiently manage time is from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. Participants learn how to evaluate time spent, break large projects into smaller ones and establish priorities to meet overall goals. Relaxation techniques are also discussed.

**Holiday spending:** A workshop with tips on how to avoid overspending during the holiday season is from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday.

**Money and marriage:** This financial management workshop for newlyweds and premarital couples is at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

**WIC:** Women with military identification cards who are pregnant and/or have a

child younger than five years old may qualify for food supplements under the Women, Infants and Children program. For an appointment to determine financial eligibility.

**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.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

## Brotherly love

Xavier Diaz, 5, helps his brother Adian Diaz, 3, swing across the handlebars at Freedom Park. For \$15, the park pavilion area can be reserved for half a day, or a whole day for \$25 for private parties. Reservations for official squadron functions are free. For more information, call Ext. 2505.



T-1A Jayhawk

U.S. Air Force photo

# SUPT Class 04-15 earns silver wings



T-38 Talon

U.S. Air Force photo

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-15 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the theater.

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Harold Cross, Adjutant General of Mississippi. General Cross is responsible for organizing, training and equipping more than 13,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard to perform its federal and state missions in addition to the supervision of an additional 3,000 state and federal employees.

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

Capt. Andrew Meyer, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Nicholas Lofthouse, 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 Capt. Zachary Peacock, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Jason Roth, 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.

Capt. Meyer, Michael Schwan, T-1, and Lieutenant Lofthouse were 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,

subsonic T-37 Tweet. Some complete this phase in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Moody AFB, Ga. 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 Beech Jet 400.

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 Napa Auto Parts and EBI Communication.)*



**Capt. Michael Schwan**  
Devils Lake, N. D.  
C-21, Andrews AFB, Md.



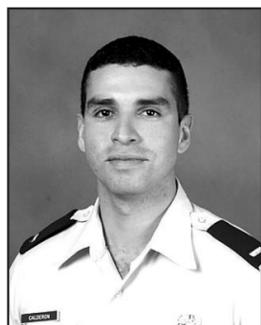
**Capt. Robert Meanley**  
St. Anthony, Idaho  
KC-135, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



**Capt. Andrew Meyer**  
Winamac, Ind.  
C-21, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Andy Allen**  
Lenoir, N.C.  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Ian Calderon**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Adam Chitwood**  
St. Louis, Mo.  
T-6, Moody AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Humphrey**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



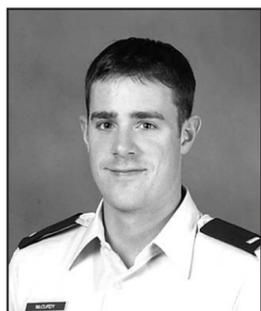
**2nd Lt. Jasen Hunter**  
Fort Worth, Texas  
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



**2nd Lt. Stefanie Lee**  
Kailua, Hawaii (ANG)  
KC-135, Hickam AFB, Hawaii



**2nd Lt. Nicholas Lofthouse**  
Rochester, N.Y.  
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Sean McCurdy**  
North Falmouth, Mass.  
KC-135, MacDill AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Roderick Morris**  
College Park, Md.  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Sean Rainey**  
San Antonio, Texas  
KC-135, Kadena AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Matthew Ritenour**  
Plymouth, Ind.  
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Kristopher Rorberg**  
Sammamish, Wash.  
B-52, Barksdale AFB, La.



**2nd Lt. James Rodgers**  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Jason Roth**  
St. Louis, Mo.  
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**Capt. Zachary Peacock**  
Driggs, Idaho  
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



**1st Lt. Kristopher Szymczak**  
Newton, N.J.  
C-21, Scott AFB, Ill.



**2nd Lt. Peter Cossette**  
Gilford, N.H.  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Brett Ellis**  
Johnson City, Tenn.  
C-21, Andrews AFB, Md.



**2nd Lt. Christopher Gruner**  
Gig Harbor, Wash.  
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Ollney Ho'opai III**  
Mililani, Hawaii (ANG)  
C-17, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

# Youth who set personal goals may earn congressional award

**Pam Wickham**  
Marketing specialist

The Congressional Award Program is about challenge.

This program, created by Congress, is open to ages 14 to 23 and offers the opportunity to set personally challenging goals and achieve them.

The program provides a unique opportunity for young people to serve their communities and learn about qualities like responsibility, citizenship, and the ability to plan and organize.

To earn a Congressional Award, participants set and achieve individual goals in four program areas: voluntary public service, physical fitness, personal development and expedition/exploration.

There are six levels of the award — bronze, silver and gold certificates, and bronze, silver and gold medals. Each level is cumulative, and time spent on one award can be counted toward the next level of award.

All young people are equally eligible to earn an award because goals are set based on

individual interest, need and ability.

“A young person is not selected to receive the Congressional Award — he or she earns it,” said Terrie Graves, youth programs director. “The youth center presently has two people registered in the program.”

Young people may register for the program at the youth center or visit the Web site at [www.congressionalaward.com](http://www.congressionalaward.com). There is a one time \$10 registration fee.

For more information, call the youth center at Ext. 2504.

Certificate Level			
Min. hrs. per program area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary public service	30	60	90
Personal development	15	30	45
Physical fitness	15	30	45
Expedition/exploration	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
Min. Total Hrs.	60	120	180
Min. time to earn award	None	None	6 months

Medal Level			
Min. hrs. per program area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary public service	100	200	400
Personal development	50	100	200
Physical fitness	50	100	200
Expedition/exploration	1 Overnight	2 consecutive overnights	4 consecutive overnights
Min. total hrs.	200	400	800
Min. time to earn award	7 months	12 months	24 months

# Recreational opportunities abound for base people

**All-you-can-eat champagne Sunday brunch:** The Columbus Club offers a variety of breakfast and lunch foods from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$9.95 for club members and \$11.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

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

**Bowling center steak night:** The bowling center offers this monthly special from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 13. Cost is \$5.75 and includes steak, fries and tossed salad. Call Ext. 2426.

**Preschool storytime:** The base library offers this 30-minute program at 10 a.m. Wednesdays for ages 3 to 5. Parents are asked to remain in the library during the program. Call Ext. 2934.

**Canton flea market:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Canton, Miss., Oct. 14 for Canton's bi-annual flea market. The town closes its shops and opens its streets exclusively to flea market vendors. Cost is \$20 per person and includes transportation. Call Ext. 7861.

**Pro football trips:** The information, ticket and travel office offers two trips to New Orleans, La., to watch the New Orleans Saints. Cost is \$145 per person and includes a ticket to the game, transportation and two nights lodging at the Radisson Hotel on Canal Street. Trips are Oct. 8 to Oct. 10 for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers game and Oct. 15 to Oct. 17 for

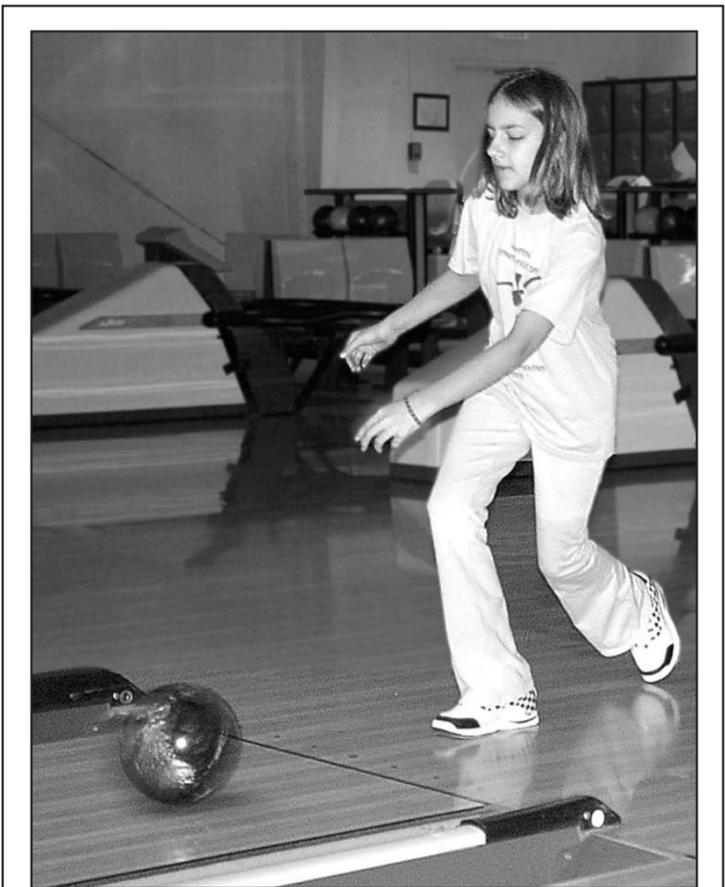
the Minnesota Vikings game. Call Ext. 7861.

**Give parents a break:** The youth center and child development center offers this program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 16. Parents must register their children by Oct. 13. Cost is \$3 per hour per child. Call the youth center at Ext. 2504 and the child development center at Ext. 2479.

**Two-for-one steak night:** The Columbus Club offers this dinner special from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 19. Cost is \$10.95 for club members and includes a 9-ounce sirloin, baked potato, salad, roll and iced tea. Call Ext. 2490.

**Family and teen talent contest:** The youth center hosts this program Oct. 18 through Oct. 22. Contestants must register by Oct. 13. Categories of competition are parent and child, husband and wife, children (ages 3 to 5), children (ages 6 to 8), preteen solo (ages 9 to 12), preteen group (ages 9 to 12), teen solo (ages 13 to 15), teen group (ages 13 to 15), teen solo (ages 16 to 18), teen group (ages 16 to 18) and family. Videos of base winners will be submitted for Air Force level contest. Call Ext. 2504.

**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 p.m. 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 and fortune telling booths, pumpkin painting, a bouncy castle and costume contest. Volunteers are needed to run the game booths, pumpkin painting and clean up. Call Ext. 2504.



Katey Miranda

## Youth bowling

**Sarah Young, 9, aims for a strike during a youth bowling league event. The league meets at 10 a.m. Saturdays and is open to ages 5 to 23. Cost is \$6 per week. People can register at the bowling center by calling Ext. 2426.**

**First Friday Nite Gospel Sing:** The McAdams Quartet sponsors the First Friday Nite Gospel Sing from 7 to 9:30 p.m. today at the Princess Theatre located on 5th Street South in downtown Columbus. The show features different local talent each month. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information, call 328-5016.

**Community yard sale:** A community yard sale begins at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at 540 Gurlie Malone Road in Caledonia, Miss. The sale will benefit R.I.D.E.S., a therapy center for disabled children and adults. For more information, call (662) 356-4458 or (662) 547-2707.

**Toys “R” Us military night:** Toys “R” Us in Tupelo, Miss., invites all military members and their families to the store from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday. Activities such as games, coloring contests, toy demonstrations, drawings and a chance to meet Geoffrey will be available. The event is open exclusively to military and their dependents. Call (662) 489-1911.

**Walk for Diabetes:** The Golden Triangle Walk for Diabetes is at 1 p.m. Sunday at Propst Park. One-hundred per-

cent of donations stay in Mississippi. Call (601) 957-7878.

**Golden Triangle Employment Expo:** The Golden Triangle Employment Expo is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Trotter Convention Center in downtown Columbus. More than 50 potential employers will be on-hand to answer questions and conduct interviews. Call 434-2790.

**MOPS:** Mothers of Preschoolers meets from 9 to 11 a.m. every second and fourth Tuesday at Hope Community Church for encouragement and socialization. Childcare is provided for children up to 6 years old. For more information, call 434-6862.

**Exchange Club:** The Exchange Club meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The community service group is dedicated to programs and projects that aid in child abuse prevention. For more information, e-mail [exchangeclubofcolumbus@yahoo.com](mailto:exchangeclubofcolumbus@yahoo.com).

**Southern Cruisers:** Southern Cruisers meets at 7 p.m.

every first Thursday of the month at Potter's Restaurant. Anyone with interest in new or old vehicles is invited to attend and join in car-related activities. Call 251-7721.

**Trash to treasures:** Beta Sigma Phi chapter Epsilon Lambda sponsors a trash to treasures event from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Columbus fair grounds. Arts, crafts, antiques and collectibles will be available. For more information, call 329-8783.

**Used cell phone drive:** The North Mississippi Medical Center sponsors a used cell phone drive through Oct. 15 to help protect victims of domestic violence in Tupelo, Eupora, Iuka, Pontotoc and West Point, Miss. For more information, call (800) 843-3375.

**Centennial celebration:** The town of Caledonia celebrates its centennial anniversary from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 16 in downtown Caledonia and at Ola J. Pickett Park. For more information, call (662) 356-4117.

*For more event listings, visit [www.columbus-ms.org](http://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 resubmit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes  No   
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News  Sports  Photos   
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).

## AF wins Armed Forces Golf Championship

SAN ANTONIO — The Air Force golf team won the 2004 Armed Forces Golf Championship at Fort Carson, Colo., Sept. 21 to 25.

The host Army team jumped to a three-stroke lead over the Air Force (731-734) after the first day of play. Team's scores are determined by adding the 18-hole stroke total of the six men and three women on the team.

Brian Billingsley, from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., kept the Air Force competitive with his 1-under-par 71, tying Mark Johnson of the Army for the best score of the day.

Tammy Garcia, from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, led all women golfers on opening day with her round of 84.

Jeff Scohy, also from Wright-Patterson AFB, shot the best round on the second day of play — a 5-under-par 67.

Matthew Peterson of Offutt AFB, Neb., a former 48th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, had a 3-under-par 69, while Billingsley and Arnell Garza, from Fairchild AFB, Wash., came in at 70.

The Air Force also had the top three women's scores of the day with Karin Tjelmeland, from Lajes Field, Azores, with 78 to lead the group.

Garcia and Amy Rongey, from Osan Air Base, South

Korea, both shot 81. The combined scores of the Air Force Team beat the Army's total by 21 strokes, giving the Air Force an 18-stroke lead over the Army after the second day of play.

Scohy's 69 once again led the Air Force team on Day 3, followed closely by 72 from Billingsley, Garza and Barry Cousler, from Offutt AFB. James Logan Gage, from Patrick AFB, Fla., was not far behind with a score of 73. Rongey's 86 led the women on Day 3. These scores contributed to the Air Force's overall 41-stroke lead going into the final day of play.

Peterson's 70 led the Air Force on the final day of competition. Scohy, Cousler and Garza all shot 72, while Billingsley ended the tournament with a 73.

Rongey led the women with an 84. The Air Force claimed the team title with a 2,793-stroke total, followed by the Army (2,842), the Navy (3,000), and the Marine Corps (3,096).

Scohy topped all competitors with his four-day total of 283, followed closely by Billingsley's 286. This earned them gold and silver medals for the championship.

Tjelmeland was the top female golfer with her four-day total of 341. Army won the women's silver medal with a 342 total, while Garcia won the bronze medal with 344. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Steve Brown

Matthew Peterson, former T-1 instructor pilot with the 48th Flying Training Squadron, chips onto the green during the 2004 Armed Forces Golf Championship at Fort Carson, Colo.

## SHORTS

### Intramural sports

The fall season of intramural sports is approaching and dependents are encouraged to participate. To be eligible, dependents must be at least 16 years and need to contact a unit or squadron sports representative. A list of representatives is located at the fitness center. Fall sports include flag football, golf, and bowling. For more information, call David Hoffecker at Ext. 7618 or the fitness center at Ext. 2772.

### 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.

### Spinning classes

A spinning class is at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the fitness and sports center. Spin is a self-paced training session of 40 to 45 minutes of sprinting, resistance climbing and jogging — all done on a stationary bike. For more information, call 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.

### Cardio kickboxing

A cardio kickboxing class is at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class includes jump roping, boxing, kickboxing and more. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

### Low-impact fitness

A low-impact fitness class is from 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the community center. Cost is \$5 a week or \$2 per class and is open to all BLAZE TEAM members. The class is sponsored by the health and wellness center. For more information, call Ext. 7450.

### Fitness 101

An instructional class for those new to fitness is available at the fitness and sports center.

During the one-hour class, participants learn how to use the center's large selection of cardiovascular and strength training equipment. Trained fitness specialists also explain how to exercise effectively to meet goals. Classes are available by appointment only. For more information, call Ext. 2772.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

### Rockin' workout

Troy Bagley, 14th Mission Support Group, attaches hand grips to pieces of the new FitRock at the fitness and sports center. The machine, which provides an intense cardio workout by enabling gym-goers to climb continuously, is scheduled for completion Monday.

# Deployed heroes honored at CAFB

## Troops receive formal welcome home from co-workers, family



Photos by Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Staff Sgt. Rhoda Ellis and 1st Lt. Thomas Haas, 14th Mission Support Squadron, fill out their deployed member name tags upon arriving at the Welcome Home Heroes celebration Monday.

Top: A variety of displays and informational pamphlets were available at the Welcome Home Heroes event to educate guests about deployments.

Right: Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith, 14th Comptroller Squadron, looks at memorabilia brought back by various service-members from their deployed locations.



Airmen 1st Class Joseph Gray, 14th Communications Squadron, and Manuel Avendano, 14th Flying Training Wing, socialize with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu, wing head chaplain, over a bite to eat at the celebration.