

AAFES drops some uniform item prices

Capt. Diane Weed
AAFES Public Affairs

Prices for most issue uniform items sold at Army & Air Force Exchange Service military clothing sales stores decreased Oct. 1.

The annual Defense Supply Center Philadelphia price changes will go into effect and the overall prices for issue items will drop by a little more than one percent.

"This year, the temperate battle dress uniform coats and the Air Force men's and women's lightweight jackets are the only items with any significant price increase — and that increase is less than \$4 per item," said Hazel Green, DSCP planner at headquarters AAFES.

AAFES never makes a profit on DSCP items since they're always sold at cost. So any price decreases, or conversely increases, are determined by the DSCP and passed along to the customers via AAFES stores.

The DSCP is the sole military supply source for issue merchandise. DSCP items sold by AAFES made up 57 percent of the total MCSS' sales in fiscal year 2003. In addition to DSCP items, AAFES offers higher-quality optional items in order to give customers more choices. On the other end of the spectrum, AAFES offers Exchange Select insignia products that sell for 30 to 60 percent less than name-brand equivalents.

"If you can't find what you are looking for, let your MCSS manager know so they can get the item you need. Our MCSS managers have a great network and cross-level merchandise everyday to take care of their customers' needs," said David Lumley, Divisional Merchandise Manager for MCSS.

The MCSS concept was established by a Congressional charter for the Air Force in the mid 70s and for the Army in 1981. Today AAFES runs 192 MCSSs: 100 for the Army, 88 for the Air Force and four for the United States Marine Corps.



Writing on the wall

An Air Force Academy cadet helps unveil the service core values during a ceremony at the Academy Sept. 29. The core values replaced the poetic reference "Bring me men ..." after Air Force leaders decided the words were out of step with the current culture, as well as offensive to many people.

Ken Wright

DOD expands vaccination programs

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense is expanding its anthrax and smallpox immunization programs following an evaluation conducted by the Military Health System. Air Force officials released service-specific guidance recently.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced that the anthrax and smallpox vaccination programs would include selected units within U.S. Pacific Command, people in U.S. Central Command and other selected groups.

"The decision to protect additional personnel with these vaccines reflects our

concern for their health and safety, as well as the continuity of essential operations," Dr. Winkenwerder said.

Vaccination offers a necessary extra layer of protection — besides antibiotics and other measures — for servicemembers, emergency-essential civilians and contractors who carry out mission-essential services, DOD officials said.

The program update will continue to include people assigned in or deployed to designated higher-threat areas for 15 or more consecutive days. Officials will offer the vaccinations to family members in the geographic areas on a voluntary basis. They will also pursue vaccination,

subject to appropriate people and contractor procedures, of emergency-essential civilian employees and comparable contractors in the specific geographic areas.

Currently, only people deemed to be at higher risk in specified units and/or geographic areas will receive the vaccines. Officials did not rule out vaccination of the total force at a future date.

Air Force immunizations under the policy update will begin as soon as units schedule vaccinations. For more information, visit www.xo.hq.af.mil/xos/xosfc/CCBRNE_resource/index.shtml. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Life skills support center educates CAFB community at annual open house event

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
Public Affairs

BLAZE TEAM members from across the base stopped in at the 14th Medical Group Life Skills Support Center Tuesday to familiarize themselves with the staff and learn about programs available at the center.

"Once a year, we invite key base personnel as well as the rest of the base to our open house to showcase our services and let people know how we can help them," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Wilson, 14th Medical Operations Squadron. "It's especially important that commanders and other wing leadership learn about the services available at life skills so they know how to help their troops."

"Key personnel receive a number of mandatory briefings and training ses-

sions throughout the year," she said. "But in an effort to break up the monotony of power point briefings and such, this open house provides a less-rigid way of relaying important information to them."

Sergeant Wilson hopes misconceptions about the center have not dissuaded people from seeking out life skills resources.

"Life skills has such a negative connotation to it," she said. "People think if you're going to life skills that either you're crazy or you're in trouble, and that's not always the case."

In fact most of the time, that's not the case."

The life skills center also conducts suicide prevention training, assists BLAZE TEAM members with stress management, aids pilots experiencing airsickness and performs psychological

testing among other things.

Capt. Colin Burchfield, the new staff psychologist, arrived from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, a few weeks ago and looks forward to contributing to the morale of Columbus AFB members.

"I believe life skills is an important part of the Air Force in general," Captain Burchfield said. "We offer a lot of services that can benefit morale."

"I've had people come into my office with issues such as anxiety problems, which can really be detrimental to the mission as it stands. I want to support the mission, and I want to support our troops in making sure that their mental health is in good condition; it's important to the military."

Those unable to attend the open house are encouraged to call the life skills support center staff for more information at Ext. 2239.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez Kristin Sandvig picks up drug prevention pamphlets at the life skills support center open house Tuesday at the 14th Medical Group Clinic.

DEET serves as first line of defense against insect bites, diseases

1st Lt. John Fage
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AFB, Ga. — Whether hiking in the woods at home or serving in the sands of the Middle East, Airmen need a repellent to shield themselves from biting insects.

The active ingredient in most skin-applied repellents is commonly referred to as DEET.

It is a must on almost every deployment checklist and for good reason. It protects servicemembers on the ground from mosquitoes, deer ticks, biting flies, chiggers, fleas and other insects.

"Insect bites are a painful nuisance and may even be a source of disease," said Maj. Martin Alexis, bioenvironmental engineer for Air Force Reserve Command headquarters here. "DEET serves as a first line of defense against biting insects and other vector-borne diseases."

Vector-borne infectious diseases continue to emerge and strengthen because of changes in public-health policy, said officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

in Atlanta. As these diseases evolve, they become less susceptible to insecticides and drugs.

While all Airmen should use DEET, not all do, officials said.

Some people are skeptical about using it, wondering how something that repels insects can be a good thing to put on their hands, arms, faces and necks, especially when deployed and showers can be limited.

Airmen risk contracting diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis if they do not protect themselves, he said.

"Deploying personnel are supplied with three containers of DEET," said John Depew, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron assistant installation deployment officer. "One comes with their A-bag, and their units supply two additional containers. They can obtain more containers once they are in theater."

Approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1957 as an active ingredient, DEET was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1946.

According to the EPA, about 38 percent of the American

public uses DEET-based products.

DEET blocks emissions of carbon dioxide from the body. Carbon dioxide is what many insects are attracted to; it acts like a homing device, guiding mosquitoes to their dinner.

According to studies in the New England Journal of Medicine, DEET-based repellents provide longer protection from insects than repellents without it.

The Consumer Specialty Products Association lists some important tips to keep in mind when using DEET:

- Always follow instructions.
- Do not soak clothing or bedding with DEET-base repellents.
- The more DEET in the product, the longer the protection lasts.
- DEET-based repellents should be applied to exposed, unbroken skin.

Additional information about protection from insects can be found at www.deetonline.org or by calling the DEET education program hotline toll free at (888) 662-4837.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (05-09)	4.5 days	-54 days	Oct. 22	48th (05-01)	4.4 days	.5 days	Oct. 29	T-37	577	637	637
41st (05-10)	4.5 days	1.92 days	Nov. 17	50th (05-01)	-8.1 days	.14 days	Oct. 29	T-38C	247	306	306
								T-1A	222	230	230

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 72 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide.

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



Air Force Recruiting Office
2321C Hwy 45N
Columbus MS 39701-1715



U.S. AIR FORCE

MICHAEL D. O'TOOLE

Master Sergeant, USAF
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AIRFORCE.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

Hispanic Heritage Month lunch

The Columbus AFB Multicultural Committee sponsors a Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Columbus Club. The menu is chicken fajitas, tacos, spanish rice and corn. The luncheon guest speaker is Lt. Col. Robert Ruiz of the 340th Flying Training Group.

Cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. To sign up or for more information, contact a first sergeant by noon today.

Dorm World kickoff

The Dorm World competition kicks off with an Oktoberfest fun run/walk at 4:30 p.m. today in front of the fitness center. Courses for a 5K run and 1.5-mile walk will be available for participants. A free barbecue at Freedom Park will follow afterward. For more information, call Ext. 2392.

Used cell phone drive

North Mississippi Medical Center is collecting used cell phones through Oct. 15 to distribute to victims of domestic abuse. The phones will be reprogrammed to speed-dial 911 or S.A.F.E., a shelter for abused women in Tupelo, Miss. Phones may be dropped off at the 14th Operations Group building. For more information, call 1st Lt. James Cantrell at Ext. 7156.

Promotion celebration

The 14th Flying Training Wing celebrates the Columbus AFB lieutenant colonel-selects at 4 p.m. today at the Columbus Club.

Join the BLAZE TEAM in congratulating Maj. Bryan Stokstad, 14th Comptroller Squadron, Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, 14th Mission Support Squadron, Maj. Kenneth Crane, 14th Communications Squadron, Maj. Mark Douglas, 14th Flying Training Wing, and Maj. Mick Gathright, 14th FTW.

Officials unveil employment initiative for wounded vets

Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Injured servicemembers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan will get individualized job training, counseling and re-employment services, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao said Oct. 4.

During a signing ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here, Ms. Chao joined Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer Jr., commanding general at the Army hospital, and Navy Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, commanding officer of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., to kick off the first phase of Recovery and Employment Assistance Lifelines.

REALifelines is a joint commitment by the Department of Labor, the military medical community and local agencies.

Labor Department officials are investing \$500,000 into the first phase of the program, which will create a team of on-site counselors at both medical facilities to help wounded veterans in their transition back into the private sector.

Ms. Chao, who visited troops in Iraq earlier this year, said the country owes a "tremendous debt of gratitude not only to wounded veterans, but to all the brave men and women who have defended our nation in the global war on terrorism with such honor and with such valor."

REALifeline counselors will help servicemembers identify barriers to employment and set up individual recovery and re-employment plans, Ms. Chao said.

"They are going to help each person discover his or her personal interest and unique talent," she said. "And they will help each veteran find the right career path to his or her special need."

She emphasized that "personalized care" will be a priority of the program.

"If you have been wounded or injured serving this nation, real people are going to meet you face to face with the personalized help that you may need to recover and to succeed in a career that you love," Ms. Chao said.

The program will also provide a national tracking system to ensure follow-up services and link servicemembers with local professionals able to support their recovery and re-employment through a range of services.

In addition, she said, a national call center will soon be available to answer questions and offer employment guidance to wounded veterans.

As part of the program, wounded veterans and their spouses also will be able to take advantage of services offered at more than 3,500 one-stop

career centers the Department of Labor has set up nationwide.

"This administration is committed to ensuring that our nation's wounded

“*If you have been wounded or injured serving this nation, real people are going to meet you face to face with the personalized help that you may need to recover and to succeed in a career that you love.*”

audience of current and former Soldiers.

The secretary spent some time at a military hospital's physical-therapy ward, where she met with wounded servicemembers and their families.

She said the time spent was "rewarding" and called the servicemembers "some of the most inspiring and outstanding young men and women that I have ever met."

"And I'm so proud of them," she said.

The Oct. 4 signing was not the first time the Department of Labor has reached out to support servicemembers.

On Sept. 27, the secretary signed a memorandum of understanding with the Justice Department ensuring the employment rights of returning servicemembers are protected under guidelines of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994.

Sergeant Wolfe said. "We encourage Airmen to continue serving the military with the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, through military civilian employment or through an interservice transfer to the Army via blue to green."

Only first-term Airmen selected for re-enlistment by their commander will be allowed to apply for a CJR.

For further information and a complete list of constrained specialties, Airmen can contact their local military personnel flight's re-enlistment office or visit the CJR Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enl_skills/Reenlistments/CJR.htm. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

AF revises career job reservation 'wait list' to meet goals

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — The Air Force has revised the career job reservation list to meet end-strength goals under force shaping.

While five new Air Force specialties have been identified as constrained, another six have been released from the list. All constrained Air Force specialties receive quotas and have a ranked wait list established. All first-term Airmen will need to apply within the appropriate CJR application windows.

"All first-term Airmen must have an approved career job reservation (before) re-enlisting in the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Dee Wolfe, noncommissioned officer in charge of Air Force re-enlistments at the Air Force

Personnel Center here. "That job reservation may now be a little bit harder to get depending on their specialty."

"The list of constrained Air Force specialties and quotas are established by Air Staff," she said.

Limiting CJRs is the latest in a series of Air Force initiatives to ensure the service keeps people only where they are needed.

First-term Airmen serving in currently constrained career fields may not be allowed to re-enlist, unless they are approved to retrain in another specialty.

"Those who are not approved for retraining or do not receive a CJR will be projected for separation,"

Afghan Ops: Major Attack on terrorism, fight not over

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Afghanistan was the "head of the snake" of global terrorist activity, a petri dish that bred extremists committed to terrorizing free people around the world - and that's why continued success there is so critical to the global war on terror.

That's the synopsis of a senior Army officer who's remained focused on Afghanistan for the past three years in a variety of roles: as a commander who fought in Afghanistan and in two top Pentagon jobs dealing with operations and policy in that country.

"Afghanistan was the safe haven of terrorists," the official told the American Forces Press Service on background today, on the eve of the third anniversary of Operational Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"Terrorists had unfettered access. They had free reign. They could communicate

and they could plan under a veil of security provided by the Taliban," he said. "They had resources available to them, and their recruits could pass through without problem into that country."

"What other country in the world could you do that in?" the official asked.

He said he got a firsthand look at the far-reaching nature of the problem in Afghanistan when he deployed there early in the war.

"When I got to Afghanistan, I saw the extent and the depth of the terrorist training camps that were there, the absolute free movement terrorists had throughout that country, and the stockpiles of arms, ammunition, explosives and other materials that were on the ground," he said. "It was truly a terrorist training ground."

Three years since U.S. and coalition forces began combat operations against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, he said much has changed. Gone, for example, are terrorist training camps like Tarnak Farms, an al Qaeda terrorist camp now

used by the coalition.

"Those no longer exists in Afghanistan," he said. "There is no free movement for terrorists in Afghanistan. There is no ability to coordinate, to plan, to finance, to train, to rehearse. That capability no longer exists in Afghanistan for terrorists."

But while encouraged by continuing progress in Afghanistan, the official was quick to point out that terrorists there still retain capabilities that threaten the country.

The officer said he expects Taliban elements remaining in Afghanistan to continue doing "everything they possibly can" to disrupt Afghanistan's Oct. 9 presidential elections, much as they worked to disrupt the voter registration process throughout the country.

Terrorists are desperate to derail the process, he said, "because it demonstrates a freedom that these people have never seen before" and a major shift away from the repressions they endured under Taliban rule.

"Is Afghanistan still a dangerous place?"

he said. "You bet. Are there elements that are still going to try to disrupt this election process? Absolutely."

And just as terrorist elements continue to operate in Afghanistan, the official said others, trained there before Operation Enduring Freedom, have taken their training to other parts of the world. "The global war on terror is going to go on," he said. "A lot of people were trained in Afghanistan before we did something there to stop it. ... They're still out there with training and leadership."

That, he said, is why it's critical that the coalition stay the course in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan is important because it was our first real offensive attack using our forces against terrorists, and terrorism there no longer exists the way it did," he said. "But just because they're now disbanded and have been depleted ... doesn't mean that they are without capabilities."

"That's why we have to keep up the momentum. We cannot allow Afghanistan to fall back."

October: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer is the most common cancer a woman may have to face in her lifetime (excluding skin cancer). It can occur at any age, but it is much more likely to occur after age 40.

The best defense is to find breast cancer as early as possible when it is easier to treat. The American Cancer Society recommends the following guidelines for early detection:

- * Women should have yearly mammograms, starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as they are in good health.

- * Clinical breast exams should be part of a periodic health exam, preferably at least every three years for women in their 20s and 30s, and every year for women 30 and older.

- * Women should report any breast change to their doctors without delay. Breast self-exam is an option for women starting in their 20s.

- * Women at increased risk (family history, genetic tendency, past breast cancer, etc.) should talk with their doctors about the benefits and limitations of starting screening earlier or having additional tests such as breast ultrasound or MRI. (Information courtesy of the American Cancer Society)



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

First class education

Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson, 14th Communications Squadron, explains radio communications equipment to Columbus Municipal School District teachers during Educator Awareness Day Wednesday. More than 200 teachers from the district visited Columbus AFB to learn about job opportunities available for their students.

‘Airman’ not just rank, but professional title to embrace

Maj. Jon Olekszyk
14th Flying Training Wing



The one constant in my 12 years of service in the U.S. Air Force has been change. New weapons systems come online, while others are retired, units’ missions grow and evolve, and even major commands are reorganized. But the change to the Air Expeditionary Force concept is probably the most profound in the Air Force’s history.

For almost 50 years, the Air Force relied on large bases, both at home and around the world, as staging grounds for aerospace operations. The Air Force was known (and perhaps notorious) for not getting “into the dirt.” Live in a tent? That’s what the Army does! Moving to the AEF has thrown all those assumptions

and ideas out the window. Today, every Airman must be ready to deploy to, build up, defend and attack from the most austere locations around the world.

This change affects not just how we operate, fight and deploy. It should affect how we think about ourselves and the Air Force. This change — how we view ourselves and how others view us — is the foundation of what it means to be an Airman.

A good way to think about this change in mindset is to compare us to the Marines. If I stopped you on the street downtown and asked you, “What do you do?” you would probably say, “I’m in the Air Force.” But if I stopped someone in the Marine Corps and asked the same question, he or she would say, “I am a Marine.” When someone says, “I’m a Marine,” most people have a very vivid image of what that implies.

We as an organization need to instill that same kind of mental picture when we say, “I am an Airman.” It’s not just a rank — it’s who we are and defines how we contribute to this nation’s defense.

What does it mean to say, “I’m an Airman”? It means more than blue uniforms, fighter jets and high technology.

First, it means that you are trained, equipped and ready to deploy as part of an AEF. AEFs are how we bring aerospace power to the fight all around the world. No matter what your career field or specialty, chances are you’ll be a part of, or directly supporting, an AEF package.

Knowing how to do your job not just at home, but also on a barebones field in Tajikistan in the middle of a dust storm, is what the expeditionary mindset is all about. Mobility training and exercises, equipment maintenance, and critical concepts like first aid and buddy care, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare protection, and base defense aren’t just hassles during an Operational Readiness Inspection — they’re vital to our war fighting capability.

See AIRMAN, Page 6

Enthusiasm — Important ingredient for success

Lt. Col. John Schaeufele
100th Logistics Readiness Squadron

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — The single most important ingredient to any successful organization or operation is pure enthusiasm that comes from within the people of winning teams. Some refer to it as passion, while others call it attitude. But it all starts with one person within a group who believes in a goal and a vision. That person’s contagious spirit sparks a reaction within the organization and soon everyone believes. Then great achievement and success are inevitable.

Passion is about beliefs. It is manifested within our minds and given action by our bodies to be carried out in our

spirits that attract others to our feelings, ideas and values. So how do we spark the passion within ourselves and those with whom we associate? We start by getting to know ourselves and those closest to us.

Supervisors should know what they are good at and what they are not good at. They also need to constantly assess their teammates to focus on the strengths and encourage a winning attitude. By doing so, they uncover the passion within the team.

Unleashing passion brings success. Also true is that excessive criticism demoralizes a team. Child physiologists teach that children become what we tell them they are. Encouragement and praise raise self esteem; focusing on individuals’ weaknesses lowers it.

The lesson here is “don’t spend time focusing on your faults or the faults of others.” Recognize strengths and encourage them.

A great team is a unit where members know the weakness of their mates but provide support and encouragement that build up every member and raise the overall level of team performance.

Our Air Force leaders, as in every successful organization, are looking for ways to gain a decisive advantage and give us the time, tools and training necessary to gain success in battle today and in our vast future. It is up to each of us to find within ourselves and our teammates the passion, that positive winning attitude. That will guarantee success.

Gift of language can benefit career, life

2nd Lt. Mary E. Miksell
319th Operations Support Squadron

GRAND FORKS AFB, N.D. — The ability to speak another language can be beneficial not only for one’s career options but also for life.

Parents who speak more than one language often pass on their bilingual capabilities to their children.

Children are better equipped to learn another language than adults, yet some parents feel reluctant or just do not realize the potential of having bilingual children. My parents, for instance, are fluent in English and Spanish. However, I was not raised in a Spanish-speaking home.

Growing up with the last name “Perez” and the features of a born and bred Hispanic has led to the assumption that I speak Spanish. I was raised in a small town 10 minutes from the U.S.-Mexican border in South Texas. Everywhere in the Rio

Grande Valley, people can be heard speaking Spanish. At first it did not seem like a big deal to be unable to speak Spanish since all our schools taught in English, with a few classes reserved solely for Spanish-speaking children.

Since my brothers, sisters and I did not go anywhere without my mother, the need to understand Spanish was nil as she was our translator. It wasn’t until I was in my teens that the effects of not being bilingual set in.

Most of my friends, like me, had bilingual parents, but their parents taught them Spanish at home. So I had translators around me, yet I could not help but feel a little left out and a little ashamed.

After high school, I felt better knowing I would be leaving the Valley and not continue to get frowns when I told people I did not speak Spanish, which had began to annoy me. Why should I have to speak

Spanish just because I look Hispanic? Yet it did not matter where I moved, people still looked at me and assumed I spoke Spanish.

Finding a job in high school seemed difficult since many of the businesses wanted bilingual employees to better handle customer service. In college the opportunity to escort and “house” student nationals usually went to those who were either taking the same language course or were already fluent in their language.

Even in the Air Force there are opportunities, like becoming an attaché or a foreign area officer, where the knowledge of another language or culture would come in handy and, in some cases, be required.

The ability to grow by expanding language capabilities and seeing beyond one’s own culture is rewarding. The true gift of language can be passed on for generations.

Hispanic Heritage Month Spotlight



**Airman 1st Class
Cecilia Rodriguez**
14th Flying Training Wing

During observances like Hispanic Heritage Month, I’m increasingly grateful for my parents and their dedication to instilling a profound appreciation for our Mexican heritage within my family.

My father introduced me to the vibrant music of performers like Vicente Fernandez and other mariachi musicians. My mother made sure I experienced making tamales from scratch with my aunts and cousins around the kitchen table. Together, they told me of our relatives who remain in Mexico — who still cook in brick ovens outside the home and have no running water.

I’m proud to celebrate the timeless traditions and character of my culture not just this month, but throughout the year.

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.

Clarification of Social Security number policy at auto hobby shop

Question: I went to the auto hobby shop the other day to get an inspection sticker. I wrote out my check, (which has my address, home phone number, Mississippi driver’s license number, and my work number at the bottom). When the mechanic looked at my check, he said he needed my Social Security number as well. I thought this was kind of strange with all the articles that have been in the newspapers and magazines about not giving out Social Security numbers because of identity theft. I’ve written many checks at the bowling alley and have never been asked to write my social security number on it. Can you check on this, please?

Answer: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The mechanic was in error for asking for your Social Security number. As it turns out, he was complying with the guidance of Air Force Manual 34-212, which requires him to verify that the check bears the member’s Social

Security number, name, grade, organization or assignment (branch of service for retirees), mailing address and duty or home phone number. There is more recent guidance from the Air Force Services Agency, which recognizes the concern for identify theft and has eliminated the requirement of imprinted or handwritten Social Security numbers on checks cashed at services activities.

However, if a person writes an over-the-purchase amount, the Air Force Manual requires services to record the patron’s club card number to ensure the Social Security number is available to facilitate the bad check collection process. This change to the check cashing policy has been disseminated to all 14th Flying Training Wing Services Division activities and entered into its continuing training program.

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 by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

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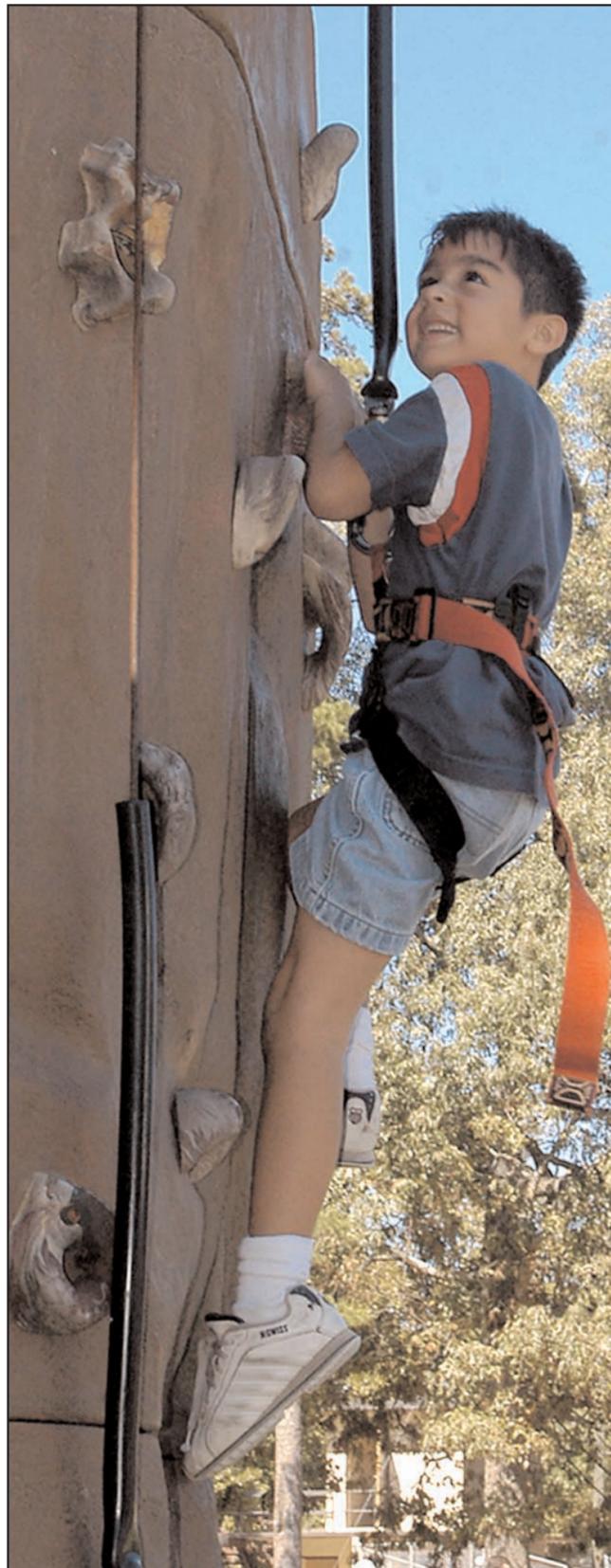
Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Key phone numbers

Base Exchange.....	434-6013
Chaplain.....	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk.....	434-2886
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

Work hard, play hard

CAFB celebrates successful year at BLAZE Appreciation Day picnic



Joshua Alverado, 6, makes his way up the rock climbing wall at the BLAZE Appreciation Day picnic Sept. 30.

Photos by Airman Alexis Lloyd



Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, tackles Mayor Jeffrey Rupp in a sumo wrestling match.



Capt. Charles Gilliam, 48th Flying Training Squadron, throws the ball to second base in a softball tournament at the picnic.



Left: Kyle McClain, 11, slams the high striker mallet to measure his strength.



First Lts. Tom Haas and Brandy Hewins, 14th Mission Support Squadron, manifest workplace aggressions on the jousting stools.



Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Dant, 14th Mission Support Squadron, tries his luck in a game of horseshoes.



Master Sgt. Curtis Chiles, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, attempts to master the art of bull riding.

Create personalized gifts by stampin' up

Pam Wickham
Marketing specialist

Base people can use decorative rubber stamps and accessories to give greeting cards, scrapbooks or craft projects a personal touch.

A "Stampin' Up" camp is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at the community center.

Using several advanced techniques, students can create five projects — four cards and a craft item. Cost is \$15 and registration is required by Oct. 18.

Participants can also create five assorted gift bags and treat items for the holidays

from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 9.

From 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 11, crafters can create a 20-page, 6-inch by 6-inch brag book or album. Cost is \$50 for the first book, \$40 for each additional book and all supplies are included. Registration is required by Dec. 1.

"The most popular use of decorative rubber stamps is creating greeting cards and gift packaging," said Heather Andrus, class instructor. "Scrapbooking is another popular use, as well as home decor."

To register for a class, call the community center at Ext. 7450 or Ms. Andrus at 434-5076.



Martha Hocutt, Kristi Duffett and Becky Hall use decorative rubber stamps to create crafts as instructor Heather Andrus looks on.

Base people offered choices in leisure time fun

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.

Holiday hours: The following services activities will be open Monday — the bowling center from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Cardinal Inn dining facility from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 5 to 7 p.m.; the fitness center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the golf course from 7 a.m. to dusk and outdoor recreation from 8 a.m. to noon. All other services activities will be closed.

Bowling center steak night: The bowling center offers this monthly special from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday. 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., Thursday for its 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 a trip to New Orleans, La., to watch the New Orleans Saints play the Minnesota Vikings Oct. 15 to 17. Cost is \$145 per person and includes a ticket to the game, transportation and two nights lodging at the Radisson on Canal Street. Call Ext. 7861.

Youth center fall festival: The youth center offers this annual program from 6 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, ghost darts, bean bag toss, tattoo booth, fortune

telling booth, pumpkin painting, bouncy castle and costume contest. Volunteers are needed. Call Ext. 2504.

Give parents a break: The youth center and child development center offer 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.

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 nine-ounce sirloin, baked potato, salad, roll and iced tea. Call Ext. 2490.

Family and teen talent contest: The youth center sponsors this program Oct. 18 to Oct. 22. Contestants must register by Wednesday. 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 16-18), teen group (ages 16-18) and family. Call Ext. 2504.

Colossal bingo: The new colossal bingo program makes its debut at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in the community center ballroom. Up to \$9,450 in cash prize payouts. Call Ext. 2490.



Pam Wickham

Toddler tales

Senior Airman Jesus Espinoza reads a story to the 3-year-olds from the child development center. The center offers a half-day toddler program from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Oct. 19. Fees are based on total family income. Call Ext. 2479.

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

Southern Cruisers: Southern Cruisers meets at 7 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Potter's Restaurant on Highway 182 East. Anyone with interest in new or old vehicles is invited to attend and join in car-related activities. Call 251-7721.

Break dance show: Break, an urban funk dance show, begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Rent Auditorium on the Mississippi University for Women campus. Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information, e-mail colarts@ebi.com.net.

AAUW: The Columbus branch of the American Association of University Women meets at noon Wednesday in the upstairs dining room of Hogarth Dining Center at the Mississippi University for Women campus. People with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university are eligible to join. Students are eligible to join as affiliate members. The featured speaker will be Mary Margaret Henry, the newly-appointed Gibbons Distinguished Professor of Journalism at MUW. AAUW's current focus is voter registration, and its long-term project is women's scholarship funding for graduate school. To make a lunch reservation, contact Tracey Ervin at 241-7483.

Literature celebration: The 16th annual Welty Weekend at the W, a three-day celebration of Southern literature, begins with an opening session at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Poindexter Auditorium at the Mississippi University for Women campus.

The symposium honors Pulitzer Prize winner Eudora Welty, who attended the Mississippi University for Women. Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 15 and Oct. 16. All events are free and open to the public except the Andrea Godwin Overby Journalism Forum and luncheon. For a schedule of events and ticket information, call 329-7295 or 329-7148.

Book sale: Friends of the Library sponsors a fall book sale from 3 to 9 p.m. Oct. 14, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 15 and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 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 Oct. 15 and Oct. 16 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 Oct. 16. For more information, call 328-6305.

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.

Open house: An open house for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at 5 p.m. Oct. 16 at 2808 Ridge Road in downtown Columbus. For more information, call 244-0125.

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.

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)

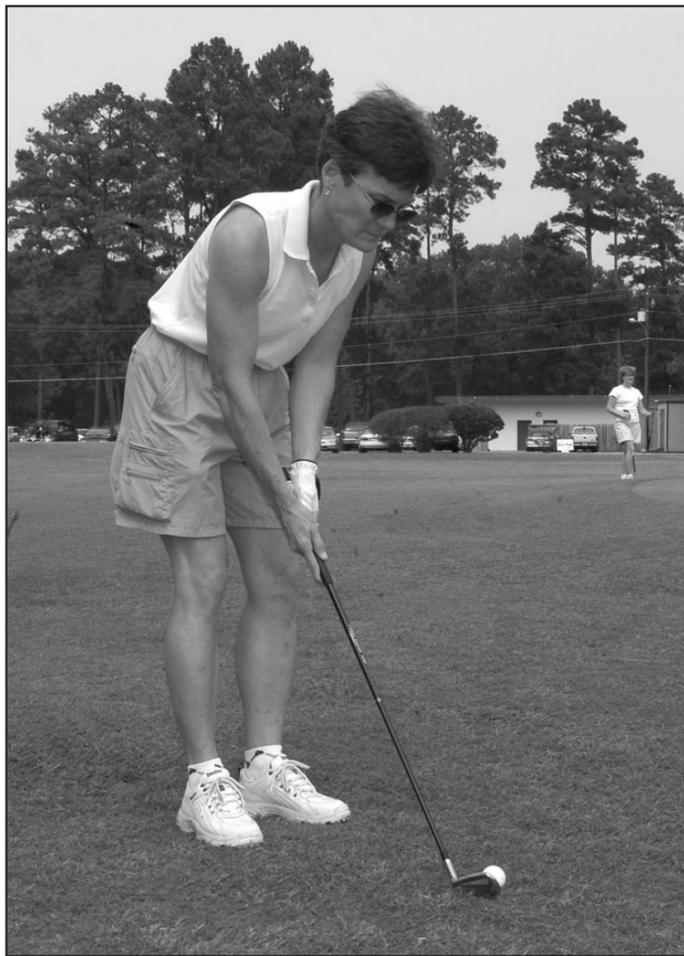
Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

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.

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will



1st. Lt. Jennifer Moore

Teed off

Julie Keck prepares to chip at the three-lady golf scramble Saturday at the Whispering Pines Golf Course. More than 20 teams participated in the event.

SHORTS

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.

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.

No-tap cosmic bowling

A no-tap cosmic bowling tournament is at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at the bowling center. Entry is \$10 per person. For more information, call Ext. 2426.

Columbus Day 5K fun run

The YMCA and the Golden Triangle Running Club sponsor a 5K run at 9 a.m. Oct. 16. The course begins at 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 MUG Gym and the base fitness and sports center. For more information, call 328-7696.

Fitness center fun run

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 Ext. 2772.

Wacky glo ball golf

A wacky glo ball golf scramble begins at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at Whispering Pines Golf Course. The registration deadline for this event is Oct. 16. Cost is \$25 for members and \$25 plus greens fees for nonmembers. Dinner is served afterward. For more information, call Ext. 7932.

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.

Fire Prevention 101

Local students learn escape tactics from BLAZE TEAM fire fighters



Photos by Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Senior Airman Tait Iverson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, uses a hands-on approach to familiarize Caledonia Elementary School students with his fire protection gear.

Columbus AFB Fitness and Sports Center Aerobics Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 a.m.	Jazzed Up Step		Jazzed Up Step		Jazzed Up Step
11 a.m.	Spin (starting Oct. 25)		Spin (starting Oct. 25)		Strength Training
Noon		Strength/Tone and Circuit Training		Strength/Tone and Circuit Training	
5 p.m.	Spin	Pilates	Spin	Pilates	
6 p.m.		Cardio Kickboxing		Cardio Kickboxing	

Top: John Gentile, 14th CES, helps Alexandria Spears, 5, as she crawls out of a window during a simulated fire alarm drill.

Right: Staff Sgt. Michael Nichols and Ron Waden, 14th CES, supervise as Caledonia Elementary School students practice crawling beneath "bad air."

