

SILVERWINGS

"Back to the basics"

Vol. 33, Issue 31

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

August 7, 2009

Weather



Today

High: 96, Low: 72
Sunny



Saturday

High: 94, Low: 72
Partly Cloudy



Sunday

High: 94, Low: 72
Mostly Sunny



Monday

High: 93, Low: 72
Isolated T-storms

News Briefs

Bowling Alley Closure

The entire Bowling Center will be closed for renovation of the snack bar area August 9-23. The Columbus Club and Golf Course will offer lunch during the closure. See extended menu's on pages 5,6 and 7. Also, the burrito delivery service will offer an expanded schedule in the mornings

Class 10-06 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 10-06 will hold their Track Select ceremony August 11 at 5 p.m. in the Columbus Club.

Class 09-13 Graduation

SUPT Class 09-13 will graduate in a ceremony on August 14 at 10 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium.

Inside



Feature **12**

See the Back-to-School feature in this week's Silverwings.



U.S. Air Force photo

Tops in Blue performs this seasons show "To Dream." Tops in Blue is set to perform August 13 at 7 p.m. in Mississippi University for Women's Rent-Whitfield Auditorium.

Tops in Blue set to perform August 13

Jana Hall
14th Force Support Squadron

Get ready for a fantastic night of free, family-friendly entertainment as Tops in Blue, the premier entertainment

showcase of the U.S. Air Force, performs, Thursday August 13, at Mississippi University for Women's Rent-Whitfield Auditorium. The doors open at 6:45 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. Military ID card holders will be allowed early admit-

tance between 6:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Bus transportation to and from the show will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Busses will pick up from

See TOPS IN BLUE, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (10-07)	-0.43 days	-2.75 days	Sept. 2	48th (09-13)	-0.85 days	-0.19 days	Aug. 14	49th (09-JB)	1.69 days	2.32 days	Aug. 11	T-6	432	578	26,889
41st (10-06)	4.65 days	-0.13 days	Aug. 11	50th (09-14)	5.19 days	2.81 days	Sept. 4					T-1	154	173	10,153
												T-38	141	135	7,524
												IFF	43	28	2,538

Graduation speaker for Class 09-13: Maj. Gen. Harry Feucht, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General-Air, Ohio Air National Guard.

Newest FTAC class graduates



Congratulations to the newest Columbus Air Force Base graduates of the First Term Airman's center: (Back row, left to right) Airman 1st Class David Gongora, 14th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Benjamin Ross, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Foster Parker, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Ryan Swisher, 14th OSS; Airman 1st Class Chris Saunders, 14th Comptroller-Contracting Squadron; Master Sgt. Brian Bailey, 14th Flying Training Wing Career Assistance Advisor/FTAC NCOIC. (Front row, left to right) Airman 1st Class James Reeves; 14th OSS; Airman 1st Class Derek Boger, 14th OSS; Airman 1st Class Soo Shin, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Benjamin Ward, 14th SFS.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 45 BLAZE TEAM members are de-ployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



TOPS IN BLUE

(Continued from Page 1)

each of the housing area bus stops at 5:15 p.m. and from the Base Post Office and the Columbus Club parking lots at 5:30 p.m.

This year's show entitled, "To Dream", celebrates the 56-year tradition of the touring showcase – "family entertaining family." This event will feature hot Latin sounds, all-American country music, chart-topping hits and great music from favorite movies and Broadway shows professionally performed with dazzling lights, costumes and precision choreography for which the show is known worldwide.

Local corporate partners who make this free event possible are WCBI, Cable One, Mississippi University for Women, the Attorneys at Studdard Law

Firm and The Little Dokey. National sponsors of the tour are Coca-Cola and AT&T. There is no federal endorsement intended.

Each year, Air Force personnel stationed worldwide compete in a multilevel competition to be selected for this elite entertainment organization. The Tops in Blue team is an all-active duty special unit made up of talented Airmen selected for their varied entertainment abilities. In addition to vocalists, dancers, comedians and instrumentalists, crew technicians and drivers are encouraged to apply. Each eligible applicant with video submission (if required) will receive a "Mission Audition" t-shirt and backstage pass for a special tour after the show.

For more information, call 434-2337 or go online to www.topsinblue.com.

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Air Force volunteers pitch in for co-worker's 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition'

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio — A team of Air Force military members and civilians volunteered Aug. 1 to help a fellow Wright-Patterson Air Force Base employee who is getting a new home as part of ABC-TV's series, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

A team of about 25 Air Force people helped with the makover of the home of James Terpenning, a computer specialist at the Aeronautical Systems Center. The team of volunteers were led by Gen. Donald Hoffman, the Air Force Materiel Command commander, and Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson, the ASC commander.

Mr. Terpenning, who is wheelchair-bound, was nominated for the show by his co-workers at ASC at Wright-Patterson AFB. He is a computer specialist at ASC.

Until late July, Mr. Terpenning lived in a modest 1,200-square-foot house with his wife, four young children, and his brother who also is confined to a wheelchair.

That house has now been demolished. "Extreme Makeover" celebrities and local construction compa-

nies are hard at work building a new home that will be unveiled Aug. 6. This episode of "Extreme Makeover" will air this fall.

"It's an honor to be here to help a deserving member of our Air Force family and also be part of a community-wide effort," General Hudson said.

The Air Force volunteers were the first to begin the demolition process. They fanned out throughout the house to remove handicap-accessible fixtures that will be recycled and donated to deserving disabled veterans. The biggest job was removing a 20-foot long, wooden wheelchair ramp that led to the front door of the house. The Air Force workers quickly detached it and hoisted it by hand into an awaiting truck while the "Extreme Makeover" cameras rolled and a large crowd of spectators cheered.

Retired Col. Sue Busler, who kicked off the effort to nominate the family for the show, called Mr. Terpenning and his wife, Shannon, "real heroes." She said the work done by the Air Force volunteers was a way to say thanks for all the Terpennings have done for "their Air Force family."

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
10	11	12	13	14	15/16
Club/golf course open daily for lunch from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bowling Center Closed August 9-23.	IFF Graduation, 4:45 p.m. @ 49th FTS Class 10-06 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Columbus Club		Tops in Blue, 7 p.m. @ MUW	Class 09-13 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	→
17	18	19	20	21	22/23
Club/golf course open daily for lunch from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bowling Center Closed August 9-23.	Hearts Apart, 2 p.m. OSC Ice Cream Social, 6 p.m. @ Club		BCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. RSVP to x7068.	Class 09-14 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	→

Long Term Events

Aug. 24-28 - Night Flying Week
Aug. 31 - Enlisted Promotions

Sept. 2 - Class 10-07 Track Select
Sept. 4 - Class 09-14 Graduation

Back to school safety important



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jacob Corbin

With school starting, drivers should watch out for children and school buses and always remain vigilant. Col. Ken Bryson, 14th Mission Support Group commander; Lt. Col. Chris Stricklin, 14th Flying Training Wing chief of safety; and E.J. Griffis, school liaison officer, stand together for a photo near a sign urging drivers to watch out for children and school buses August 4 outside State Village. For more information on the new school year, see pages 12/13.

Sports Shorts

Bowling Center Closure: The Bowling Center will be closed August 9-23 for renovations.

Bowling League Meeting: The Tuesday Night Intramural Bowling League meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Bowling Center. Election of officers and approval of the league bylaws will take place at the meeting. League is limited to the first 10 teams that register. For more information, call the Bowling Center at 434-3426.

Seven Airmen promoted at July ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo/Mary Crump

Congratulations to the newest BLAZE Team enlisted promotees. Pictured left to right are: Senior Airman Nathan Milan, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Senior Airman Angel A. Galindo, 14th Comptroller-Contracting Squadron; Senior Airman Athena Ljungquist, 14th Flying Training Wing; Senior Airman Derek E. Anlag, 14th CES; Senior Airman Nicholas McDonough, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Robert Padar, 14th CES; and Master Sgt. Shannon Sparks, 14th Communications Squadron.

General Feucht to speak at SUPT Class 09-13 graduation

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." W. Feucht, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General for Air and as Commander, Ohio Air National Guard, will be the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 09-13.

The graduation will take place at 10 a.m. August 14 in the Kaye Auditorium.

The general is responsible to the adjutant general for directing Air National Guard operations and establishing policy to ensure mission readiness of over 5,000 personnel in four flying wings and eight support units that serve our communities, state and nation for both homeland defense and federal missions.

General Feucht enlisted in the 178th Combat Support Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard in 1968 and was commissioned in 1969. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas in 1970.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati in 1971. General Feucht has served in various operations and command positions in three Ohio Air National Guard wings and one Oklahoma Air National Guard wing and has commanded the 180th Fighter Wing and the 121st Air Refueling Wing in the Ohio Air National Guard. He is a command pilot with over 4,700 total flying hours, over 4,000 in fighters and over 700 in KC-135s.

14th SFS Airman prepares to deploy in support of global operations



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Christopher Carranza, 14th Security Forces Squadron, pauses for a photo during training at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, prior to his six-month-long deployment.

Columbus Blaze Win Rocket City Invitational

Capt. Eric Peterson
Base Soccer Team

The base soccer team remains undefeated and has brought home another trophy by winning the Rocket City Invitational. The Columbus Blaze competed in the tournament's highest competitive level, featuring a Semi-Pro reserve team as well fellow Golden Triangle competitor, Mississippi State. The team's first task was to make it out of group play having to earn one of the top two spots to advance into the Semi-Finals. The first game in group play was no test for the Columbus Blaze as they quickly gained a large lead that was too big for their opponents to overcome. Base fireman Steven Ferrell scored three of his eight goals in the first game alone.

The team's second game in group play proved to be a battle of defense. Japanese player Mihara Kentaro was able to dribble through the opposing team and around the goalie to put the initial goal into the net. Shortly after Steven Ferrell scored again giving the team the 2-0 lead that they would hold on to until the end of the game. In a hotly contested game, goal keeper Lt. Luke Freudenburg had to make many diving saves to keep the Blaze ahead. Led by the stout defense of Lt. Nick Kellenbence the team proved to be too much for its competitors. In the final game of group play, the base soccer team played for a win that would confirm the top spot going into Semi-Final play. While the other team kept it close for the first 20 minutes, the Blaze's midfield attack put too much pressure on the opposing team's defense. In the second half, the Blaze found its stride and was able to get everybody involved into the scoring attack. Lt. Simon Long was able to score two goals coming out of the backfield and team captain Lt. Chris Brown even scored a goal from his center defense position.

The Semi-Final match would prove to be the game of the tour-



U.S. Air Force photo

The base soccer team pauses for a group photo after winning the Rocket City Invitational, which maintains their undefeated record for the season.

nament and a match that many of the fans considered the best soccer game they have ever seen. The Blaze soccer team would eventually come out on top even though they continued to play from behind throughout the game. However, the team would not give up and continued to play even though the opposing team always had the edge. Throughout the game, the Blaze had to continue to rally against a one goal deficit. Every time the base soccer team evened the score, the opposing team from Huntsville Alabama would score again. Led by the brilliant play of Ryota Takemura the team was able to even the score with 10 seconds left in the first half. Once again in the second half the opposing team always found itself on top with a one goal lead. However, the Blaze soccer team never faltered and through a whole team effort they were always able to put one into the back of the net to tie it again. Their determination wore on the other team and you could tell

they were getting angry that they could not put the game away. In the final minutes of regular play the Blaze soccer team was able to tie the score once again after a diving goal by Lt. Chris Brown. Then with one minute left the team scored again getting its first lead of the day. However, with only 10 seconds left in the game the referee gave a free kick to the team from Huntsville Alabama and they were able to make a brilliant shot from half field sending the game into overtime.

Even after playing four hard fought games, the Blaze soccer team came out strong into overtime. Lt. Luke Freudenburg continued to stop every shot on goal knowing that whoever got the first goal would go into the finals. The Blaze got the break they needed in the fifth minute when the opposing team tackled a player from behind. As he has proved himself many times in other games the team called on Ryota Takemura to take the free kick. Having to shoot the ball above the wall of players in front of him and around the goalie, Takemura set himself up for the shot and rifled the ball into the exact open spot and sent the Blaze into the finals.

The Blaze soccer team won the finals in a decisive manner and took home the Rocket City Trophy. After winning all five of its games the team left tired, but elated.

The Blaze soccer team is now getting ready to represent Columbus AFB at the Defender's Cup in San Antonio, Texas. The Defender's Cup is an Air Force sanctioned tournament featuring 20 teams from different military installations around the world. The Blaze soccer team hopes to bring home the trophy and the pride of being the number one team in the Air Force. The teams is still looking for more players and if you are interested in joining, please contact Capt. Eric Peterson/48th FTS. Currently the team practices on Sunday evenings at 4:00 P.M. and on select Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone is welcome at practices.

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Homes

For sale: 82 Cedar Dr, Columbus; beautiful home located in Sherwood Forest, 3BR, 2BA, 2156 SF, new tile/carpet, vaulted ceilings, enclosed sunroom, spacious kitchen, fenced in backyard w/ shed, 2- car garage. Call 662-549-7745/662-889-4264. See pictures at Ahrn.com

For Sale or Rent: 3406 John Hancock Dr.; great home 10 minutes from base! 1400 sq ft 3 BR 2BA located in Bluecutt Estates across from the post office on Bluecutt. See Pictures at militarybyowner.com or AHRN.com, asking \$115,000; \$900/month. FMI call 215-589-2911 or 662-434-2678.

FSBO: 2002 Caledonia home for sale; beautiful home only 12 minutes from base, Caledonia School district, quite neighborhood; 1800+ sq. ft, 3 BR / 2 baths, plus huge bonus room (4th BR), 2-car garage, fenced back yard, all situated on 3/4 acre corner lot. Must sell soon: Best deal in Caledonia! Asking \$155,000. FMI please call 662-889-2958 or 2953.

For sale: 81 Azalea Trail, 3BR 2BA, just minutes to CAFB; features updated kitchen and baths, great open floor plan, large sunroom, beautiful laminate flooring, new landscaping, storm windows, FP with insert/blower; new roof and HVAC in 2007. Asking \$128,500. FMI call 405-919-2753.

FSBO: 374 Chan Mar Dr, Caledonia, 4BR, 3BA, office, bonus room, 2466 SF, 2.8 acres, shop. \$269,000. See on Yahoo Real Estate. Call 662-889-3974.

Transportation

For sale: 1974 Corvette Stingray, Vintage Air A/C, recently rebuilt 350 "hot rod" engine, very hot 700R4 over-drive trans, great gas mileage, new custom paint, custom interior, lots of new parts, \$27,500 OBO; FMI Call 229-834-9909.

For sale: Boat: 1999 Lowe's 20' pontoon; 90 h.p. Evinrude outboard, cost \$23000 new; now \$10,200. FMI call 662-329-1843.

For sale: 1995 Infinity J-30, auto/air/CD/XM, green metallic with beige leather, sunroof, custom wheels; fully equipped \$4,900 or make offer. (662) 327-1205.

For sale: 2008 Toyota RAV4, black pearl with only 27,203 miles. 30m.p.g. hwy, AM/FM/CD, auto, cold air, with factory warranty; must see; \$17,900 or make offer (662)327-1205.

For sale: 16' Aluminum Craft factory camo duck boat; Mercury 40 h.p. short shaft, steering control, used very little; \$13,500 new; asking \$6,800; trailer, trolling motor, live well, gun box, depth finder. FMI call 256-365-5524 home or 256-239-0055 cell or Mike Blythe at 205-310-2337.

For sale: (Motorcycle) 2006 Yamaha Raptor 700R with tilt trailer, \$5500 o.b.o. FMI call Kelli at 662-574-9764.

For sale: 2005 Pontiac Grand Am; V-6, all power options, good A/C, only 50K miles, runs and looks very nice; Blue Book retail over \$8K, asking \$5,500. FMI call 662-889-2958.

For Sale: 1995 Nissan Altima SE; runs very good, A/C, sunroof; paint faded on top; asking \$1800. FMI call (662) 386-6981.

For sale: (Motorcycle) 2006 Ducati Paul Smart replica, PS1000LE, 1450mi, showroom condition w/ lots of extras, full Termi exhaust. \$10,500 o.b.o. 808-221-2005.

For sale: (Motorcycle) 1979 Triumph Bonneville, 750cc, purchased from original owner, have all papers, excellent condition. \$4250 o.b.o. 808-221-2005.

For sale: (Motorcycle) 2005 Honda 600RR, 6700mi, Devil exhaust, lots of extras - \$5750 o.b.o. 808-221-2005.

For sale: (Motorcycle) 2007 Honda 230CRF, 15+ hours, very little use, excellent condition. - \$2500 o.b.o. 808-221-2005.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Top quality "Hot Spring" portable spa/hot tub; perfect condition, seats four; two years old. New \$7500; firm selling price, \$3500. FMI call 662-329-1843.

For sale: China cabinet, lighted, 54"L X54"H X 15" D. \$395.00 o.b.o. (662)327-1205.

For sale: Electric organ with bench; Troubadour has accompanying flute, trombone, clarinet, violin, mandolin and banjo, plus plays automatically; excellent condition, \$395.00 o.b.o. (662)327-1205.

For sale: RV rock shield for towed vehicle; heavy duty plastic RM4000; protects motor home towed vehicle from rocks and gravel; excellent condition; \$195.00 o.b.o. (662) 327-1205.

For sale: Step 2 LifeStyle Deluxe Play Kitchen, excellent condition, everything works, \$100; toddler race car bed /mattress (blue) \$50. FMI call 662-574-9764.

For sale: Ladies bike, MTB 18-speed MAGNA, new tires. Men's bike, 21-speed Pacific Ricochet, new tires.

American Tourist luggage, only \$10. Like new, two old rotary black phones, still work, \$20/ea. Two pair of roller blades, \$10.00/ea. Field Jacket with liner, \$30. Med. long pocket knife collection, will sell individually \$5.00 to \$20.00 price range. Seven shot .357 Mag. Taurus stainless steel revolver with holster, \$400. Black and Decker toaster oven, \$15. Large stereo cabinet, has two glass doors, \$20. Dell PC monitor 16-inch, \$30. Accent amplified speaker system for PC, still in box, \$12. FMI Call 328 4374.

For sale: Graco, 3-in-1 crib with mattress; good condition, \$90. Graco Quattro Tour Duo Double Stroller, lists for \$250, but will sell for \$140. FMI please call 660-238-3687.

For sale: Ford F-150, Set of 4, 20-inch Rims with Pirelli Scorpion tires; excellent condition. \$800 o.b.o. FMI call 808-221-2005.

For sale: Aerostich Darien two piece Gortex motorcycle riding suit, jacket (large), pants (size 34), liner (large), and all pads; cost over \$1000 new, excellent condition - \$525 obo. 808-221-2005.

For sale: Craftsman 54" riding lawn-

mower, good condition, purchased '05 for \$1,800; selling for \$700 o.b.o. FMI call 662-245-1698 or 662-425-8443.

Pets

For sale: cute Shih Tzu puppies, born June 30th, black and white, ready on August 25, \$150k. Call 434-8784.

Saturday Yard Sales

Yard sale: Multi-family yard sale 5494 Hamilton Ave CAFB, Saturday, 8 Aug 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; adult clothing; infant/toddler clothes, toys and more.

Yard sale: 5656 A Monroe Ave CAFB on Saturday, 8 Aug 7:00 a.m. to 12:00; lots of good things.

Advertise your item in the Bargain Line today! Call 434-7068

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.

Re-runs 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 Other _____

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

Bowling center closes temporarily, club, golf course to offer new menus

Pam Wickham
14th FSS Marketing

One door closes and two more open – so to speak. The bowling center is closed for renovation of their snack bar area and will reopen August 23 with a grand opening ceremony at 8 a.m. The renovation project includes a complete overhaul of the snack bar preparation area, the pro shop customer service area and new flooring in the snack bar area. Customers who visit the bowling center August 23 may register to win a \$100 VISA gift card. The drawing will be held at 5 p.m. and you do not need to be present to win but you do have to register.

The Columbus Club is opening their doors for lunch time service from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday which includes a full service menu with a dozen items available within 10-minutes of ordering.

"We are offering daily specials every day and

some signature sandwiches that we feel our customers will really enjoy," said Lisa Pajak, club manager.

Monday through Thursday daily specials are \$4.95 for club members and \$6.95 for nonmembers.

Mondays - chicken spaghetti and salad
Tuesdays -beef tips in gravy over rice, vegetables and tossed salad

Wednesday – Chef's chef salad'

Thursdays - meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables and tossed salad.

Fridays is an all you can eat pizza buffet with salad bar and beverage. Cost is \$5.95 for club members and \$7.95 for nonmembers.

Other ten-minutes or less offerings are the Club's Club sandwich, the avocado-bacon and turkey sandwich, baskets or chicken tenders or catfish, a Caesar salad or oriental chicken salad or a tuna salad or turkey broccoli salad. Other

menu items that might take a little more time are the Happy Burger, the Texas burger, the Happy chicken sandwich, the southwest chicken sandwich or the portabella mushroom Panini or Mediterranean Panini. Prices range from \$5.50 to \$6.95 for club members and \$7.50 to \$8.95 for nonmembers.

Club members receive a free iced tea, fountain soda or coffee with their meal purchase. Customers may also call in orders for pick up or they will deliver curbside by calling 434-2319.

The Whispering Pines Golf Course is expanding their lunch options during lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. to include a build your own burrito in a flour tortilla or just put atop a bed of romaine lettuce. Customers have their choice of fajita beef or chicken; add cilantro lime rice, black beans, pinto beans, jalapenos, chili corn salad or tomato salsa and a blend of pepper jack and white cheddar cheese. Cost is \$6.50 and includes your

burrito with tortilla chips, salsa and a medium drink. Add sour cream for a quarter or guacamole for \$1. Add an extra side of meat for \$2. They will also offer hoagie sandwiches for \$5.50 which includes your choice of chips and a medium drink.

"You can call in your order at 434-7932 or stop by the pro shop and enjoy your meal on our patio and watch play on the #9 green," Fred Rhye, golf course manager.

The Columbus Club and golf course have expanded their menus and would like to continue this service after the bowling center reopens but we need your feedback to let us know what you like or dislike about the new lunch offerings. Please take a few moments and talk with the Ms. Pajak or Mr. Rhye or go to the FSS website at www.cafbservices.com and click on "ICE" and give us your feedback through this interactive customer comment card.

Please see menus on the following pages.

Tricare deputy director highlights new programs

Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Tricare officials are enhancing programs and services as part of an ongoing commitment to provide quality health care for military families, the new deputy director of Tricare Management Activity said.

One of the key Tricare initiatives is to enhance the contact beneficiaries and their family members have with their primary health care provider, Navy Rear Adm. Christine S. Hunter told "DotMilDocs" listeners July 30 on Pentagon Web Radio.

"The 'medical home' concept is an exciting way of looking at an individual's relationship with their primary care provider," she said.

The medical home concept emphasizes four health care pillars: accessibility, continuity, coordination and comprehensiveness. Admiral Hunter said that it takes the doctor-patient relationship to a new level.

"It creates an enhanced relationship with that health care provider to ensure access, continuity and trust," she said. "We need to offer care that is coordinated and comprehensive.

In order to do that, we will emphasize preventive care and wellness, ensuring that people are in a partnership with their provider that allows them

to get the preventive care that they need, and manage any chronic medical conditions that they have."

Admiral Hunter also addressed Tricare programs and how beneficiaries can make the best use of their benefits by highlighting four main goals of the Tricare health plan: providing beneficiaries and their families with access to the best health care, ensuring satisfaction with their health care, managing health care costs responsibly and last, but most important, she said, maintaining military readiness.

Part of military readiness, Admiral Hunter said, is maintaining family readiness.

"We see family readiness as an important part of overall readiness," she said. "Secretary of the Navy (RRay) Mabus recently said 'they who wait also serve' and we have a strong commitment to them."

Tricare officials also are providing to beneficiaries access to a Web-based Tricare Assistance Program that will provide online counseling.

The program launched Aug. 1, Admiral Hunter said, and is for active-duty servicemembers and their families, people in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, and selected reserve members who purchase Tricare Reserve Select and their eligible family members.

"The Tricare Assistance Program provides Web-based supportive counseling; you can dial in on your home webcam to talk to a counselor and get the assistance you need in the privacy and comfort of your own home," Admiral Hunter said.

The program enables visitors to obtain an unlimited number of sessions with the same counselor.

"We think this will go a long way to making folks feel more comfortable and reducing stigma," she said.

Admiral Hunter also discussed electronic health records as a priority. One of the advantages of Tricare is the ability to keep track of the quality of health care beneficiaries receive through the use of electronic medical health records, she said.

She noted that Tricare is fully supportive of President Barack Obama's initiative to help manage health care in America through the use of electronic health records. These records provide long-term health information that can be used to predict trends.

"We think this really improves the quality of care because you don't have to waste valuable time during personal interactions repeating your past medical or family history," Admiral Hunter said.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Shoplifting, and resulting costs to military community, down in '08

DALLAS — High-tech electronic article surveillance systems, eagle-eyed closed circuit television cameras and an aggressive youth shoplifting awareness campaign helped take "a bite out of crime" at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities last year as shoplifting cases dropped 15.7 percent, from 7,635 in 2007 to 6,437.

The value of merchandise involved in these incidents also dropped, from \$985,244 to \$686,000 in 2008.

"We've been working hard to identify theft-deterrent opportunities beyond just technological solutions," said Gerald Danish, AAFES' vice president of loss prevention. "Part of this effort has been youth shoplifting awareness briefings with dependents 14 years of age or below at exchanges around the world. These outreach efforts paid off last year as incidents involving this age group dropped some 24 percent from the previous year."

AAFES officials, who have contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in the past

10 years, continue to focus their efforts on reducing theft to maximize the investment authorized shoppers make in their exchange benefit.

"This isn't just about a stolen video game or a purse leaving the premise without someone paying," said Mr. Danish. "AAFES' mission to generate earnings in support of MWR and Services activities makes loss prevention a quality-of-life issue for our entire community. People who steal from the exchange do more than harm themselves; they directly impact MWR and Services' ability to complete their respective missions."

If shoplifting is suspected, AAFES loss prevention associates turn the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES officials to enact a flat, administrative cost — Civil Recovery — of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 19)

Budgeting Basics

This event is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at Airman & Family Readiness Center. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went. For more information, call 434-2790.

AFAS...Air Force People Helping Each Other

Sudden emergency and no cash? It can happen to anyone. Your Air Force Aid Society has assisted Air Force people for 66 years and is there to help you. Call 434-2855 for more information.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant

Sunday: 9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Traditional
Worship Service (Children's Church)

All are invited to a fellowship luncheon following the 10:45 a.m. service the fourth Sunday of each month

Catholic

Thursday:
5 p.m. — Choir Practice

Sunday:
3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice
4:30 p.m. — Confession
5:00 p.m. — Mass

AROUND TOWN

United Bowlathon

Columbus Lanes challenges you to join the fun for the first annual bowlathon to benefit United Way of Lowndes County. Bowling begins at 10 a.m. and rolls through 6 p.m. on August 8-9. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$7.50 per child 10 and

Way

under. This includes three games per person and shoe rental. Columbus Lanes will donate \$500 in honor of the group that brings the most people to bowl. The largest family or business group will receive an award. All proceeds benefit United Way. Columbus Lanes is located at 122 S. McCrary Rd. in

Columbus. Call James at 327-9095 for more information

Volunteer opportunities

Looking for something to do on Saturdays? Want to get off base from time to time? Sign up as a special events volunteer. Call Meagan at 327-0807 for more information.



WHISPERING PINES GOLF COURSE BURRITO BAR

Made To Order Burritos or Salad Featuring Your Choice of

- ◆ Fajita Beef or Chicken
- ◆ Romaine Lettuce
- ◆ Cilantro Lime Rice
- ◆ Chili Corn Salsa
- ◆ Black Beans
- ◆ Tomato Salsa
- ◆ Pinto Beans
- ◆ Jalapeños
- ◆ Pepper Jack & White Cheddar Cheese Blend

\$6.50 – Includes Burrito or Salad with Tortilla Chips, Salsa & Medium Drink

- ◆ Add Sour Cream for 25¢
- ◆ Add Guacamole for \$1
- ◆ Add Extra Side of Meat for \$2

Also Offering: Hoagie Sandwiches – \$5.50

Choice of Sliced Ham or Turkey, with lettuce, tomato, peppers, sweet onions, mayonnaise and mustard and served with choice of chips & medium drink

- ◆ Make it a Chicken or Beef Fajita Hoagie for an additional \$1

**Menu Available Starting Aug. 10, 2009
Monday – Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call in Your Order at 434-7932**

Join Us at the Columbus Club for Lunch

Starting Aug. 10 Serving Monday-Friday*, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Call 434-2419 for Pick-Up or Curbside Service

Free Wi-Fri!

	Club Member	Non-Member
Our Famous Happy Burger Hand-packed 6 oz steak burger served with lettuce, tomato and pickle slices	\$4.95	\$6.95
Texas Burger Hand-packed 6 oz steak burger topped with bacon, cheddar cheese and tangy barbecue sauce. Served with lettuce, tomato and pickle slices	\$6.95	\$8.95
Happy Chicken Sandwich Succulent grilled chicken breast served with lettuce, tomato and pickle slices	\$4.95	\$6.95
Southwest Chicken Sandwich Juicy grilled chicken breast topped with crisp bacon and pepper jack cheese accented by our unique chipotle mayonnaise	\$6.95	\$8.95
<i>All of the above come with your choice of Onion Katsir, Wheat or Classic White Buns & Your Choice of Side</i>		
<i>Additional topping choices include: Cheddar, American, Swiss, Provolone or Pepper Jack Cheese - \$1; Bacon \$1.00; Mushrooms, Grilled or Raw onions or Jalapenos \$.75</i>		
The Club's Club Ham, turkey your choice of three cheeses, bacon, lettuce and tomato with mayonnaise on 9-grain whole wheat or classic white bread. Served with choice of side.	\$5.95	\$7.95
Avocado-Bacon-Turkey Sandwich This one of kind sandwich is served on 9-grain wheat bread and is stuffed with deli turkey, alfalfa sprouts, center-cut bacon, avocado and low fat mayonnaise. Served with choice of side.	\$5.95	\$7.95
<i>Sides: Corn Cobbette, Coleslaw, Seasoned Fries, Side Salad, Baked or Regular Potato Chips</i>		
Basket of Regular or Buffalo Chicken Tenders Served with fresh baked biscuit, corn cobbette and coleslaw	\$5.50	\$7.50
Basket of Catfish Our hand-battered melt-in-your-mouth catfish strips served with hush puppies, corn cobbette, coleslaw and tatar sauce.	\$5.50	\$7.50
Caesar Salad Crisp Romaine lettuce, shredded parmesan cheese, garlic herbed croutons, accompanied by tangy Caesar dressing and crackers. Add tender grilled chicken breast for \$2.00	\$3.95	\$5.95
Oriental Chicken Salad A new favorite - consists of garden fresh spring greens tossed with crisp bean sprouts, sweet mandarin oranges, crunchy chow mein noodles and grilled teriyaki chicken breast highlighted by a sesame ginger dressing	\$6.25	\$8.25
Homemade Tuna Salad or Turkey Broccoli Salad Served atop a bed of crisp iceberg lettuce with tomato wedges and a sliced boiled egg served with your choice of baked potato chips or crackers.	\$4.50	\$6.50
Vegetarian		
Portabella Mushroom Panini Sliced portabella mushrooms with smoky provolone cheese served with your choice of side	\$5.95	\$7.95
Mediterranean Panini Fresh portabella mushrooms, artichoke hearts, sauteed onion and smoky provolone cheese accented with a rich pesto spread. Served with your choice of side.	\$6.25	\$8.25

*Fridays is the Pizza Pub Buffet! See More on the Reverse!

These items can be served in under 10 minutes!

Base News

Thrift Shop Sale August 8

Due to moving, the Thrift Shop will have a big Sale on Saturday August 8 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg 345 on Imes Street, next to the Youth Center.

Additional Sports Physical's Day

An additional School/Sports Physical day will be offered August 14, call 434-CARE to schedule.

Pioneer Club

The CAFB Chapel has begun registration for the children's program Pioneer Club. The program will begin August 19 and will be held each Wednesday evening 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This program is open to children ages three years thru seventh grade. This is an ecumenical religious program geared to teach children about Christ in every aspect of life. A pot luck dinner will be served each week at 5 p.m. parents must join their children at dinner.

Pioneer Club Pool Party

There will be a kick off Pool Party August 22 at the Base Pool from 7:30 to 10 p.m. All parents and children are invited to attend. Volunteers are needed for the Pioneer Club program. Please stop by the Chapel Office Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to register your children or to volunteer. Registration will also be taken at the Pool Party. Questions can be directed to Ida Hall, the Pioneer Club Coordinator, at 434-2500.

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

Beginning 19 Aug the CAFB Chapel will be holding a variety of Adult Bible Studies from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A Pot Luck dinner will be served at 1700, please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. Please call the Chapel at 434-2500 for a list of studies.

Refresher

Time to get together with the girls for fun and fellowship at the CAFB Chapel! Join us once a month for a different kind of ladies ministry. We start at 6 p.m.

August 27 - We'll watch Joe vs. the Volcano (dress like you are going to the beach), followed by a short Bible Study relating to the movie, bring a side dish or dessert to share with our Roasted Pig.

September 24 - It's a Back to School Theme with games galore, bring your own sack lunch and favorite board game, we'll provide the drinks and dessert.

October 22 - We'll watch Hope Floats, bring

a favorite stew or soup, and for dessert we'll have Coke floats. A short Bible Study relating to the movie will end the evening.

November 12 - Time to dust off the cook books and cook up your favorite holiday recipe, don't forget to bring a few copies of the recipe to share. We'll fellowship, swap recipes and stories.

For more information, please call the Base Chapel at 434-2500.

Airman's Activity Council Meeting

The Airman's Activity Council is having a meeting on August 13 at 4 p.m. in the Services Complex Bldg. All Airmen grades E-1 through E-4 are encouraged to attend.

Columbus Officers Spouses Club 18 August Social

Please join The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club for a new season at their "Ice Cream Social and New Membership Drive" on Tuesday, August 18, 6:00 pm at Columbus Club. Get great ideas and information from multiple businesses & services from Base, Downtown and COSC Members as well as volunteer and educational opportunities in Columbus. Sign-up opportunity to participate in COSC Special Activity Clubs like Mahjong, Gourmet, Antiques & Trail, etc. The Menu is Chocolate, Vanilla and Strawberry ice cream with many toppings, Italian and cream sodas. \$6.00 for Columbus Club Members, \$8.00 for Non-Members. Bring your friends and see what the Officers' Spouses Club is all about. Please RSVP by noon on Thursday, August 13 to coscrsvp@yahoo.com.

Library Story Time

The base library will hold Story Time on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Story Time will continue to be held each week.

Airmen's Attic

The Airmen's Attic offers gently used items donated by Airmen to be given free of charge to other Airmen. It is located in the Services Complex (bldg 520) directly across the street from the post office/BITS building. Please come visit us on the following days and times:
Tuesdays 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
First and third Saturday's of each month 10 a.m. to noon

The Airmen's attic is always in need of quality used items to include: kitchenware, clothing free of stains and tears, gently used toys, baby items and linens in good condition. If you have large appliances/furniture items to donate, please contact the Airmen's Attic or your first sergeant to get the item directly to an airman in need. Please drop off all other items during

business hours or contact your first sergeant to set up a scheduled drop-off time. Donations are NOT ALLOWED to be left curb side.

Saint Leo U. Military Spouse Discount

Military spouses seeking a degree at Saint Leo U. can enroll in two classes and take a third class for FREE. Contact Dew White at 434-8844 or stop by the Saint Leo U. office in the Personnel Bldg., Room 120.

AETC Civilian Tuition Assistance is still available for FY09

To be eligible for Civ TA, the civilian employee must be an appropriated fund, permanent AETC employee or in a term position with more than one year before the "not to exceed" date. Temporary employees will be considered on a case-by-case basis. AETC civilians can use up to \$4500 per fiscal year. Civilians are restricted to ONE course per TERM, and the per semester hour tuition cap is \$250. Courses must be Air Force mission-related. Call the Education Center at 434-2562/2563 or send an email to edward.hodge@columbus.af.mil for more information.

Education Counseling Hours

Education counseling (CCAF, Bachelor's/Master's programs, Tuition Assistance, etc.) is now available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Edward Hodge at 434-2562 to schedule.

Attention All Deployers

The 14th Communications Squadron has a new system which allows you to place "free" telephone calls back home from your deployed location via DSN. You can call every day or once a week; whichever you prefer (allotted time is 3.5 hours a week). Pin numbers are required and can be picked up along with instructions from the Telephone Systems office located in Building 900, Room 9. Please call 434-2020 for additional information.

Military Personnel

CAC/PKI Restriction of AF Knowledge Now (AFKN).

Effective Sept. 1, the AF Portal will CAC/PKI restrict access to AFKN. This affects off-base access from home or while TDY and particularly regular off-base users (National Guard, Reservists, and DoD contractors). This means you will require either a CAC with reader or an External Certificate Authority (ECA)

software certificate to access AFKN via the AF Portal (.com access). There is no change to .mil access to AFKN—CAC/PKI enabled since March 2007. Please ensure widest dissemination.

The AFKN and AF Portal are committed to supporting the Warfighter and to meeting USAF and DoD PKI/PKE mandates. There are many benefits with CAC/PKI enablement.

- Members receive secure worldwide access to information and applications, greater information confidence, peace of mind with regard to the security of their account identity, and fewer usernames/passwords to maintain and remember.

- The Air Force benefits from easier user/account administration by leveraging the CAC/PKI as the method of self-registration/maintenance. More importantly, the AF enterprise achieves a greater Information Assurance posture reducing the overall risk to data, networks, and mission systems.

Airman and Family Readiness Center

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email afrc@columbus.af.mil.)

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The Wing Newcomers Orientation will be August 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Phillips Auditorium.

Resume and Cover letters Workshop

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host a Resume and Cover letters Workshop August 5 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Pre-separation counseling

Mandatory briefings for personnel separating or retiring need to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. Members may complete up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 p.m. Takes approximately 30 minutes. Please call 434-2839 or 434-2790 for more information.

Pre and post deployment tour brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at the AFRC. Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment at 1330. POC AFRC, 434-2790.

See BRIEFS, Page 20

Monday-Thursday Daily Specials

Members \$4.95 Non-Members \$6.95

 *All Daily Specials Can Be Served in Under 10 Minutes!* 

Monday

Chicken Spaghetti and Tossed Salad

Tuesdays

Beef Tips in Gravy Over Rice, Chef's Veggies, & Tossed Salad

Wednesdays

The Chef's Chef Salad

Thursdays

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Chef's Veggies & Tossed Salad

Friday Pizza Pub Buffet Special

Members \$5.95 Non-Members \$7.95

All You Can Eat Pizza with Salad Bar and Beverage

Regular Menu Not Available on Fridays!

Beverages

Bottomless sweet or regular iced tea, fountain soda or coffee free with meal for club members

Sweetened or Unsweetened Iced Tea.....	\$1.25
Coke, sprite, diet coke	\$1.50
Coffee	\$1.00
Raspberry Iced Tea.....	\$1.75
Lemonade.....	\$1.75
Strawberry Lemonade.....	\$2.25

Iced Coffees:

Raspberry-Chocolate Cappuccino	\$2.75
Café Au Lait	\$2.25
Mochalatte	\$2.75

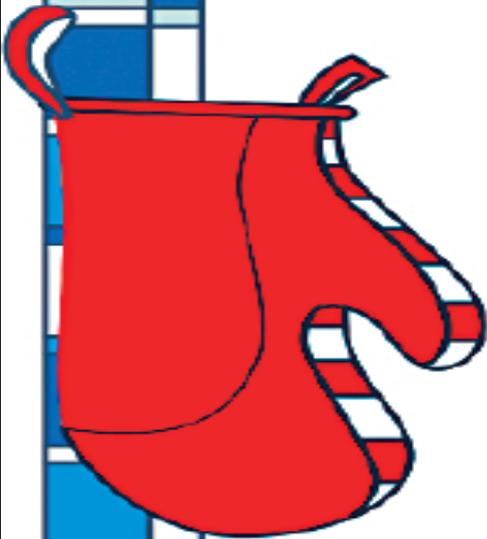
Ask about our daily dessert special!

Kid's Menu (11 & Under)

Chicken Nugget Basket & Fries - \$2.50

PB&J with Chips - \$2.00

Grilled Cheese & Fries - \$2.25



Historic first step taken to join bases in San Antonio

Ashley M. Wright
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A milestone in San Antonio's long military history happened here July 31 as Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, commander of Air Education and Training Command, officiated the activation ceremony for the 502nd Air Base Wing with Brig. Gen. Leonard A. "Len" Patrick taking command.

"Today's activation of the 502nd Air Base Wing signifies the committed start of Joint Base San Antonio and the beginning of a consolidation required by law," General Lorenz said. "Joint bases are created in other communities, but we're the blue print that others will follow."

San Antonio is one of 12 locations worldwide where Department of Defense sites are combining to form joint bases. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Joint Basing plan for San Antonio, installation support functions at Fort Sam Houston will combine with those at Randolph and Lackland AFBs to support what will be the largest customer-based organization in the Department of Defense when completed in 2011.

The 502nd ABW functions as installation management for Joint Base San Antonio. The wing will have 8,000 employees supporting 80,000 permanent employees and approximately 150,000 students working on 56,000 acres at all three installations, General Patrick said. Joint Base San Antonio will bring \$3 billion to the bases in new construction projections.

"What I pledge to the Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Marines is to bring the best of all processes, resourced properly and if it makes sense, ... I'm going to use it at Joint Base San Antonio," the general said. "We will be able to take the best of all three of the services, to include the Navy because they are the lead in some of joint bases, and bring those best practices to the men and women of Joint Base San Antonio."

In his previous assignment as commander of the 37th Training Wing at Lackland, General Patrick oversaw 70 tenant units. Now, with the combined three installations, the general will run installation management for 210 tenant units, said Dr. Cem Maxwell, San Antonio Joint Program Office deputy director. Installation management covers a broad base of activities from security guards at the gate to operating daycare centers for service members' children.

"The joining of bases is relatively new," Dr. Maxwell said. "The military has quite often joined together and certainly we do it regularly in the military with deployments. We fight together and in this case we are going to live together and work together."

The wing will be headquartered at the eldest of the three installations, Fort Sam Houston, and is assigned under AETC. Guidance for activating the wing comes from the secretary of defense and identifies the Air Force as the lead agency.

General Patrick expressed that he had "butterflies of excitement" as he takes the 502nd ABW into uncharted territory.

"I understand that it is an opportunity to lead great men and women from all the services and form one team in San Antonio," General Patrick said. "Both the Army and the



U.S. Air Force photo/Joel Martinez
Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Leonard A. "Len" Patrick, the new 502nd Air Base Wing commander, salute the flag during the ceremony to activate the wing. The 502nd ABW will function as installation management for Joint Base San Antonio, which includes Randolph and Lackland Air Force bases and Fort Sam Houston.

Air Force have gone to great strides to give us the opportunity to be successful."

General Lorenz echoed the 502nd ABW commander's sentiments for using best practices for all customers served by the wing.

"Commonly, we use the word 'joint' to signify shared processes between military branches, but the 502nd Air Base Wing will truly be a

joint effort: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, government civilians and contractors serving side by side under one leadership flag," General Lorenz said. "The great opportunity is a chance to redefine how we redo business, to forge a new way in inter-service operations. Today is less about green and blue, but more about red, white and blue."

F-16s scramble to unresponsive pilot over West Virginia

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Officials from the 601st Air and Space Operations Center here responded to a call from Federal Aviation Administration officials at approximately 8 p.m. Eastern time July 30 when radio calls to a civilian pilot went unanswered.

F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots flying under the command and control of North American Aerospace Defense Command officials and its geographical component, Continental U.S. NORAD Region, scrambled to make airborne contact with the Cirrus SR-22 aircraft that was bound for Eagle Creek, Ind., from York, Neb.

The F-16s made visual contact with the plane at approximately 8:35 p.m. and attempted to gain the pilot's attention through a series of actions, which included radio calls, expend-

ing flares and nonverbal cues. The fighters remained with the aircraft as it descended from 25,000 feet at its highest altitude until the SR-22 crashed into a residential area on the Ohio-West Virginia border near Parkersburg, W.Va.

"The FAA called us for (Department of Defense) assistance when the pilot failed to change his altitude and radio frequency after direction from ground controllers," said Lt. Col. Ron Hudspeth, the 601st AOC senior operations duty officer.

When the aircraft crashed at 9:55 p.m., the F-16s assisted first responders in locating the impact site by circling the area until Jackson County Sheriff's deputies located the wreckage. Once deputies were on scene, the fighters returned to their home base in Toledo.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the

deceased pilot at this time," said Maj. Gen. Henry C. "Hank" Morrow, the 1st Air Force commander. "We strive for a safe and positive outcome on incidents such as this, but we lost a fellow aviator yesterday and we extend our deepest sympathy to all who knew him."

When asked about the actions taken by members of his organization, the general said, "The synchronized actions and cooperation between the FAA, Department of Homeland Security, local law enforcement and the Air Force were extraordinary. It is a reflection of the close interagency relationship we share with federal, state and local organizations, and solidifies our charter mission of homeland defense."

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Base families offered a variety of activities

New Vet Clinic Hours

New Hours at Vet Clinic are Every Wednesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and every Thursday 9 a.m. to noon. Our next clinic dates will be August 5, 6, 19 and 20. We will take appointments for these clinics and call for appointments at 662-434-2281, please leave message and someone will get back to you.

Bowling Center Closure

The bowling center will close for renovation of the snack bar area until Aug. 23. The Columbus Club and Golf Course will offer lunch during the closure.

Canoe and camping trip

September 25-26 - \$30 per person - includes campfire dinner and breakfast, canoe and transportation. Depart at 9 a.m. Saturday and return at 2 p.m. Sunday. Must have at least 15 registered by Sept. 10. For more information, call 434-2507.

Swimming Pool Hours

The new hours for the swimming pool start Aug. 10 - the new hours are from 2-7 p.m. 7 days a week. The pool will close September 7. The new lap swim hours will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m. effective August 10. For more information, call 434-2507.

White Water Rafting trip

The information ticket and travel office offers this trip September 5 to 7. Cost is \$160 per person and includes transportation, chalet lodging, meals on Saturday (breakfast, lunch and dinner),

rafting the middle river on the Ocoee River. Must have at least 16 registered by August 15 to offer. A \$60 deposit is required when registering. For more information, call 434-2507.

Youth and Adult crafts classes

The Arts and Crafts Center offers classes for youth and adult every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All youth classes are \$5 each. Take Home Crafts kits are \$3 each. Displays of the upcoming projects are in the lobby of the arts and crafts center. For more information, call 434-7836.

New Orleans Saints football

The information, ticket and travel office is offering a trip August 15 to 16 for the Saints vs Bengals preseason football game. Cost is \$110 per person based on double occupancy. Game ticket is free to the first 24 paid sign-ups. For more information, call 434-2507.

Cruise in 2010

The information ticket and tour office has a great seven-day Halloween cruise special out of Mobile, Ala. Oct. 30, 2010. Visit the Grand Caymen Islands, Montego Bay and Cozumel on this cruise. Cost is \$875.70 for two people and that includes a \$100 shipboard credit. Cost for three people in a room is \$1123.54 and four people in a room is \$1371.38. These are inside-cabin rates. Outside cabin rates will be slightly higher. A \$25 deposit is required by October 1 and \$250 is due by May 1 with final payment due Aug. 1, 2010. For more information, call 434-2507.

Horseback riding lessons

Outdoor Recreation is offering riding lessons and special occasion rides. For more information, call 434-2505 or 7861.

Youth Employment Skills (YES) Program

The YES Program is an on-base volunteer program for high school students that pays \$4 per hour through the AF Aid Society. YES allows high school students to "bank" \$4 in grant funding for every hour volunteered in an on-base function. Students may accumulate as much as 250 hours over all 4 years of high school. Teens must be dependents of active duty air force to be eligible and must be at least a freshmen in high school. For more information, contact Mr. Hamilton at 434-2504.

Parents time out

The child development center offers a parents time out every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children, ages 1-3 years of age. Cost is \$20 for the day. For more information, call Martha Mann at 434-2479.

Tickets available

The information, ticket and travel office has discounted tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios, Dollywood, Sea World, Busch Gardens, Six Flags Over Georgia, the Memphis Zoo, Alabama Adventure, the Dixie Stampede, Geyser Falls, and more. Call 434-2507 for more information.

Blaze Lunch Bunch
at the Columbus Club
Every Wednesday During Lunch
All plates come with one meat, two sides, roll or cornbread, tea or water
\$6.25 for club members
\$7.25 for nonmembers

This week's menu:
Meat choices:
Fried Chicken, Grilled Pork Chop,
Chili topped with Corn Chips

Sides:
Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Sweet
Potatoes, Turnip Greens, Green Beans and
Side Salad with Ranch Dressing

For More Information, Call Ext. 2490

Lunch Bunch Special - \$6.95
Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef and Cheese in a
Flour Tortilla Wrap Served with French
Fries and a Pickle Spear

Desserts:
\$2.95 each
New York Cheesecake
with Strawberry Topping
Brownie Ala Mode
Sugar Free Coconut Cream Pie

Officials urge parents to check students' immunization records

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense Education Activity officials here are reminding parents to review their children's immunization records to ensure they're up to date by the first day of the school year.

"Updating students' immunizations is an important part of back-to-school preparations," said Mary Patton, chief of the activities' Pupil Personnel Services branch.

"We want all students to be ready to learn, and in order for them to be ready to learn, they need to be healthy," she said. "Requiring children to be immunized protects the rest of the school, and the staff and other families as well."

All the usual childhood vaccinations are required

including those used to protect against measles, mumps and rubella, polio and diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

The DODEA Immunization Requirements Form, available on the activity's Web site, includes a list of required immunizations for students enrolled in an activity school.

"The one vaccine that we don't require right now ... is the HPV [to prevent] cervical cancer," Ms. Patton said. "The reason for that is pretty simple. It's not a communicable disease in schools."

If a school nurse notifies a principal that a student is not up to date on immunizations, the principal will send a letter to the student's parents informing them. Students won't be allowed to attend school until they have received the needed immunizations or an appointment is scheduled to receive them.

Military treatment facilities provide students with needed immunizations, and parents can coordinate with their child's physician to obtain the required vaccinations prior to the start of the school year. If required vaccines are temporarily unavailable, the military treatment facility will notify the school superintendent, and students will be allowed to attend school until the vaccine becomes available.

Students may attend school without being immunized due to religious beliefs.

"Parents can write a letter," Ms. Patton said. "They don't have to give us their religious beliefs, but [just say] that they do believe it is against their religion."

The minute there's a outbreak of anything, though, children who have not been immunized have to be sent home, she added. The same is true of those children who have a medical waiver for immunizations.

Evacuation teams give British soldier fighting chance

Capt. Justin Brockhoff

618th Tanker Airlift Control Center Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Three Air Force aircraft along with multiple aircrew, aeromedical evacuation teams, and agencies from around the world gave a British soldier a fighting chance at life in late July after the soldier sustained multiple gunshot wounds and had his blood supply replaced more than 10 times at a military hospital in Afghanistan.

According to officials, the soldier sustained multiple wounds to the abdomen and chest, and was transfused with 75 units of blood and another 75 units of platelets.

Emergency surgery was conducted to repair the soldier's liver and lung. After being stabilized by the medical teams on the ground, the patient's respiratory condition worsened and doctors determined that the patient had to be moved to upgraded care in Germany.

Officials at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center at Al Udeid Air Base in Southwest Asia, and the Global Patient Movements Requirement Center and 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., immediately started working to find the aircraft, aircrews and medical crews to airlift the soldier to further care.

"We received the call on our operations floor to airlift the British soldier from Afghanistan to Germany and immediately did what we could to make it happen," said Col. John Martins, the 618th TACC director of operations who led coordination efforts for the mission. "It was a complex move. Not only did we have to find a plane and crew to fly the patient out of theater, but also we had to find another plane and aircrew to get the right medical personnel and equipment into Afghanistan because we needed specialized medical teams to care for the patient in-flight."

In less than six hours, a C-17 Globemaster III previously scheduled to fly a cargo mission was airborne with the required



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Clay Lancaster

A C-17 Globemaster III, like the one pictured here, aeromedically evacuated a British soldier in late July from Afghanistan to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Before the soldier could be evacuated, an additional C-17 and a C-130 Hercules were needed to airlift specialized medical teams and equipment into place.

medical personnel and equipment from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Afghanistan.

"We were able to quickly identify a mission that was planned to fly into Afghanistan, and after coordinating with other agencies in the 618th TACC we were able to re-task the mission as an aeromedical evacuation flight," said Maj. Kris Rowe, an aeromedical flight manager. "At the same time, we needed a pulmonologist to be part of the AE team due to the trauma to the soldier's

lungs. Working with our counterparts at the CAOC, we were able to get the pulmonologist from a different location in Afghanistan to the soldier's location on a pre-scheduled C-130 (Hercules) mission."

The pulmonologist arrived to the soldier's location and continued to care for him on the ground, while the C-17 carrying the medical teams and specialized lung equipment were still en-route on the eight-hour flight from Germany.

Enter the second C-17 and aircrew, assigned to the 385th Air Expeditionary Group, who were also previously scheduled to fly a cargo mission in Afghanistan. Officials at the 618th TACC delivered a similar notification that they'd been re-tasked to be involved in the lifesaving effort.

"The patient was loaded on the second C-17 and airborne within 22 hours of receiving the call for support at the 618th TACC," said Master Sgt. Keyser Voigt, an aeromedical evacuation mission controller at the 618th TACC. "When you look at the requirements we had, it's awe inspiring to see how many people will come together to save one life. It took two airplanes to get the medical team and equipment in place, another to fly the patient to Germany, three aircrews, four sorties, AE personnel and many more coordinating on the ground to get this done. Including the fact that we had to fly in specialized teams and equipment from eight-plus hours away and it took a minimum of six hours on the ground to prepare the patient using that specialized equipment, everyone involved did absolutely everything we could to give this soldier the care he deserves."

At approximately 1 p.m. local time Aug. 2, the British soldier landed safely at Ramstein AB and was flown to further medical care at a university hospital by helicopter.

As of press time, the soldier was still at the university hospital in Germany, where he was listed in critical condition.

This movement marked the 8,563 patient movement by U.S. Air Force aeromedical evacuation teams in 2009, and the 135,233 since April 1, 2003.

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman cites Coast Guard's 219th birthday

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton convinced Congress to authorize construction of 10 topsail schooners for the U.S. Revenue-Marine to combat widespread smuggling Aug. 4, 1790. Our nation proudly celebrates that day ago when the U.S. Coast Guard was born 219 years.

Since then, thousands of men and women have stood watch in our oldest continuous seagoing service on land, sea and in the air: ever vigilant, keeping our homeland safe, and protecting our maritime resources. Last year alone, our nation's maritime guardians saved more than four thousand lives with professionalism and courage.

Their proud service today extends far beyond our

own shores. Nearly 400 Coast Guardsmen are now serving on point in locations across the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Coast Guard patrol missions take place wherever America needs: from the waters off Kodiak Island to the Arabian Gulf, across the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Strait of Malacca.

Whether conducting drug interdiction, search and rescue operations, confronting our nation's adversaries or training partner nations in maritime security, no one is more skilled or better equipped than our Coast Guard.

The Joint Chiefs and I salute you, all of the hard working men, women and supportive families of our United States Coast Guard. America would not be safe without you.

Happy Birthday and Semper Paratus!



U.S. Air Force graphic

Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton convinced Congress to authorize construction of 10 topsail schooners for the U.S. Revenue-Marine to combat widespread smuggling Aug. 4, 1790. Our nation proudly celebrates that day ago when the U.S. Coast Guard was born 219 years.

Sheppard, AF officials retire workhorse of pilot training

John Ingle

82nd Training Wing Public Affairs

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — More than 50 years of dependable service is a lot to ask, especially from a tool used to train thousands of people in a critical and sometimes dangerous business.

But as men and women in the U.S. Air Force said farewell to the T-37 Tweet July 31, they did so knowing they got all they asked for and more from the venerable training aircraft.

Among those who came to Sheppard to usher out the end of an era and welcome in a new technological advancement in undergraduate pilot training was Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander of Air Force Materiel Command. His story, like many of those who came before and after him, includes the Tweet, a durable and rugged training platform that provided the foundation of more than 78,000 Air Force, NATO and other international pilots since it became operational in 1957.

The general, who "owns" the final destination of the Tweet -- the "Boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and home to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, or AMARG -- said his last flight in the venerable Tweet is one that holds a special place in his heart. Not only because of its heritage, but because it was the beginning of his 35-year Air Force career.

His first active assignment was as an 80th Flying Training Wing instructor pilot at Sheppard.

"Because I flew the Sheppard jets during my first assignment, and now have the Boneyard at Tucson as part of Air Force Materiel Command, I have a close sense of identity with the final retirement of this wonderful aircraft," General Hoffman said. "Nothing compares to the feeling of stepping out of the aircraft and launching your student on their first solo ... you can almost see their grin coming out from the edges of their oxygen mask."

The general is part of the group that will take four aircraft to AMARG. Another group will take a couple to the Utah Test and Training Range located at Hill AFB, Utah.

But why has the T-37 been such a dependable beginning trainer for so many pilots?

"For most students, the T-37 is the first jet, the first ejection seat, the first helmet and oxygen mask, and the first

formal Air Force flying syllabus they have been exposed to," General Hoffman said. "This can be an intimidating experience, but they get the ground training, simulator training and personalized attention of the instructor to get them through it."

Col. Kevin Schneider, commander of the 80th FTW, said when most people think of the U.S. Air Force and the air forces of NATO partners, they think of fighters and bombers going off to war to preserve freedom and democracy across the world. Those flying the warbirds didn't just get in them and begin to fly. They had to learn how first.

"Combat skill and success doesn't happen overnight and it certainly doesn't start without disciplined training," the colonel said. "The T-37 Tweet has been that starting point for pilots for more than 50 years."

The colonel witnessed a portion of that as a Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training undergraduate pilot training student at Sheppard in the late 80s. He said the Tweet was a very dependable aircraft during his training and remained so until its retirement.

"As the commander of the 80th Flying Training Wing, I have the unique opportunity to retire an incredibly durable trainer that has been the foundation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program," he said. "The departure of the last few U.S. and German-owned T-37s closes the book on a legacy of success that may never be matched."

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kendall, deputy director of intelligence, operations and nuclear integration for flying training at Air Education and Training Command and commander of the 80th FTW from January 2005 to August 2007, recalled his first experience with the Tweet when he began pilot training in the ENJJPT program at Sheppard.

He described his "dollar ride," or first student flight, during his comments at the ceremony. He said he was a nervous, yet excited student watching his instructor, Danish air force Capt. Gullach Tousgaard, go through the checklists. The general said he doesn't remember much from that first flight other than taking the flight controls for a while.

"The one thing I do remember to this day is how wide my grin was as I proudly walked back into the life support area to drop off my parachute and helmet," General Kendall said. "The Tweet had firmly planted that silly (student pilot) smile on my face. I was truly hooked."

General Hoffman, the leader in charge of providing the



U.S. Air Force photo/Harry Toneman

The last seven T-37 Tweets in the Air Force inventory, including the two pictured here, took off one final time July 31 as part of the aircraft's retirement ceremony. Four of the aircraft will make the journey to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., while the final three will go to the Utah Test and Training Range in Utah.

acquisition management services and logistics support required to develop, procure and sustain Air Force weapon systems, said there is a more-than-viable option to replace the Tweet, the T-6A Texan II.

"The T-6 is a highly capable replacement for the venerable T-37," he said. "We are still going through some growing pains, but it is much better suited to prepare student pilots for today's aircraft and those that will come in the future."

The Texan II provides a tandem cockpit configuration similar to two-seater fighter setups compared to the side-by-side T-37. It also has a "glass cockpit," or all digital instrument panel.

General Kendall said should not be concerned about moving from a jet powered aircraft to a single turbo-prop platform.

"Some might think it unusual or a step backwards to replace a jet aircraft with a prop-driven one," he said, "but let me say that this is not your granddaddy's T-6. This primary flight trainer outperforms the over 50-year-old flying 'birdwhistle' in just about every area except perhaps in noise generation."

by key Air Force and academic experts.

Distinguished guests scheduled to address the attendees include North Dakota senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad, Congressman Earl Pomeroy, Governor John Hoeven and Gen. Stephen Lorenz, the commander of Air Education and Training Command.

Information regarding registration is available at <http://www.uasresearch.org>.

Lorenz on Leadership - Building a Winning Team

Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz
Air Education and Training
Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — On July 4th, I was fortunate enough to represent our Air Force at NASCAR's Coke Zero 400. I joined more than 100,000 Americans — undeterred by the summer heat — at the Daytona International Speedway. The energy at the speedway was as thick as the humid air and the excitement contagious. Motor homes covered the infield and racing fans were everywhere. This was my first NASCAR event, and I knew it would be a treat.

My first stop at the speedway was the Air Force recruiting stand, set in the middle of energy drink booths and race team merchandise trucks. Our stand was clearly a hit - race fans swarmed over the different displays. I watched in awe as members of the 333rd Recruiting Squadron managed the crowds with ease. The recruiters' enthusiastic smiles said it all — they were there to inspire, and I couldn't have been more proud to stand with them.

The crowd asked questions. They thanked everyone in Air Force blue for the service we provide every day. The recruiters reciprocated,

engaging everyone with the Air Force story. They taught the public what we do each and every day. You see, these recruiters were the first introduction many Americans would have to our Air Force, and they weren't going to let any race fan leave with a bad impression.

The recruiters were also at the race to find new recruits to fill our ranks. Accessing more than 32,000 new Airmen each year doesn't happen by itself - and it isn't a process to be taken lightly. These new Airmen will be joining our team, enabling our mission for many years to come. We will depend on them to lead our Air Force through the next 35 years of challenges.

The recruiters looked for young, confident Americans ready for a challenge. I found out later that they found more than 700 potential Airmen that afternoon. I also learned that finding potential Airmen is just half the battle - only a handful of the 700 will eventually attend Basic Military Training (BMT) for various reasons. Before they get to BMT, it will be the recruiter's responsibility to invest significant time and effort to educate them on opportunities within the Air Force and to evaluate their potential to serve. It is the recruiter who will lead them through the upcoming months and set them up



Commentary: The Air Force culture of responsibility

Gen. Roger A. Brady
U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — As Airmen, we have taken a solemn vow to serve and protect our nation, and I commend you for your service. With that service; however, comes great responsibility and the necessity to make proper choices.

We are confronted every day with choices, both on and off duty, that can and do impact both the mission and perception by others of our Air Force and Americans in Europe. With that in mind, individuals at every level must relentlessly strive to develop and maintain an environment defined by integrity and accountability, or in other words a "culture of responsibility."

My role as U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander allows me the privilege of witnessing firsthand the amazing accomplishments of our team members throughout our area of responsibility, both military and civilian. I am constantly humbled and inspired by the great things we are accomplishing, including providing forces for global operations, assuring allies and deterring aggression, ensuring strategic access, and building partnerships throughout the region. The recent rescue by USAFE Airmen of a ship

crewmember off the Irish coast is a prime example of the fine work we do on a daily basis. This complex operation required three airframes, strict discipline and an amazing level of teamwork. Of course, this is just one example of the countless contributions we make in the support of our nation's defense.

We are performing a serious business in very challenging times. Budget cuts, high ops tempo and deployments all serve to make our task that much more difficult. Clearly, there is little room for error in the performance of our mission. Poor choices in our personal and professional lives negatively impact that mission and divert the precious little resources we do have away from where they are needed most.

The actions of a few can also serve to tarnish the otherwise outstanding record of excellence for which USAFE is known. Without fail, the stories we read about Airmen in trouble are entirely preventable and the direct result of a poor decision. Alcohol abuse and illicit drug use, fitness deficiencies and failure to follow safety and security guidelines are all examples of behavior that serve to take people off the line and out of the fight.

Simple, everyday choices may seem insignificant at the time but often have significant impact to the mission. There have

for success at both BMT and beyond. It is challenging work, but all of our recruiters volunteered for this duty and have a passion for telling America about our great Air Force.

From the recruiting stand, I transitioned to the speedway infield where NASCAR set up a mobile stage on pit row. More than 100,000 race fans gathered to witness something special: a swearing in ceremony for 65 new recruits. For the recruits, it was another step in their journey to BMT. They all raised their right hands and repeated as I recited the Oath of Enlistment. The crowd roared in response as they finished - each recruit's eyes beamed with pride. They knew they were joining a winning team.

NASCAR immediately transitioned pit row for the race, and the crowds moved toward their seats. When the race began, the crowd's attention turned from the booths and information stands to the battle on the oval giant. The recruiters didn't pause to enjoy the race. Instead, they attacked the displays, tearing them down and loading trucks that would drive to the next race.

While watching the event, I realized that the race teams competing on the speedway share many similarities with our Air Force. Our Nation loves auto racing - drawn by the rare mix of competition, danger and teamwork. It is this teamwork that ties the Air Force to NASCAR. The drivers, much like the operators in our service, stand in front as the face of the organization.

Their success, however, is completely dependent on the hundreds who support from the wings. Like our operators, the NASCAR drivers would never make it to the track if not for the combined efforts of crew chiefs, engineers, logisticians, administrators and many others both at the track and the team shops.

One big difference between us, however, is how these teams are built. NASCAR builds a team that will compete for a season. They invest time, money and manpower into training and race day execution — all with the ultimate goal of being the first to reach the checkered flag. There is nothing seasonal or static about our Air Force team. Without the ability of our recruiters to inspire the nation's finest to serve on a daily basis, our Air Force team would never be able to sustain its impressive record of excellence. There is a critical endeavor.

The race ended after a final lap crash sprung the eventual winner through the checkered flag. The crowd rose to their feet as the winning driver spun his wheels in jubilation. His pit crew stood tall, arms high in the air, congratulating each other on their team's victory. We achieve victories each and every day, but rarely get the chance to congratulate our recruiters. Take the time to thank them, for without these professionals and so many other support personnel like them, we would never even make it to the track.

Air Force officials to host Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium

WASHINGTON, — Air Force officials will host the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium Aug. 4 to 6 at the University of North Dakota, in which participants will address representatives of academic institutions and industry as well as local military leaders regarding the Air Force UAS vision.

Air Force leaders recently released a log-term roadmap called the "UAS Flight

Plan" detailing the service's way ahead for UAS implementation.

They recognize and value the cutting edge research and development that academic and industry partners undertake in furthering the nation's military capabilities for its defense. The event will spark discussions among Department of Defense and industry representatives on UAS-related topics ranging from the growth

and application of UAS-related technologies to changes in policy, doctrine, training and organization, among others, that will enable the service to realize its goals.

The event will consist of briefings by officials from key Air Force organizations related to the service's ongoing UAS efforts, as well as presentations by leading academics highlighting current research efforts. There also will be panel discussions

Suicide Prevention: Recognizing the warning signs

Tech. Sgt. Peter Long

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Equal Opportunity Office

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Those of us who serve or work for the military receive training on suicide prevention, but how many of us really apply what we learn? Are we watching for warning signs? Do we know who is at risk and how we can help them? Do we know what we can do to help?

I don't know about you, but I always thought this stuff happens to other people. I pay attention to my training and I know what to look for. I just always figured it would be someone else who would experience it. In July 2005, I became that "someone else."

I lost someone to suicide that summer. He was only 21, on break from college and working at Hollywood for Warner Brothers. I thought he was on his way. I was proud of him and so was everyone else. Less than 18 months before, he was the best man at my wedding. Over the years we spent hours talking about everything, and I was always impressed with how intelligent he was. I believed he was happy in life and on his way to greatness. I thought he was happy.

However, the truth was far different. After I found out Will took his life, I was in denial. No way! Not Will! He had everything going for him, he was just getting started, he just turned 21. How could he do this? These are just some of the questions I had. As time passed I started wondering if I missed something. I started wondering if I really knew Will as well as I thought I did.

Did I miss something?

About a month before he took his life he called me and asked if I wanted his stereo and fridge. He said he didn't need it where he was going. I drove down to Los Angeles and picked them up telling him if he moved again and wanted them back to let me know. Again he told me he wouldn't need them where he was going. I talked with him several times before his death and he sounded down and a bit "off." He sounded depressed, but I wasn't concerned. He had his whole life in front of him, and everyone has their ups and downs. I thought he was just experiencing some of life's little challenges.

He called for help, and I did not recognize warning signs.

On July 28, I received a phone call at work telling me Will was dead; an unfinished life because no one recognized the warning

signs. No one was there to answer his cry for help.

In retrospect it is clear he showed some warning signs, and my training taught me to recognize them, but because I did not pay attention to what he was saying and doing, I missed them. Now it's too late. I cannot go back and help him now because he's gone. I can only share my tragedy with you and hope you pay attention and recognize the warning signs of someone thinking about killing themselves so you do not have to live with the question, "Could I have saved him?"

Suicide is a concern for us especially when we're deployed. In 2008, 38 Airmen committed suicide as well as 140 Soldiers. 780 callers to the Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention hotline identified themselves as active-duty troops in 2008.

If we lose even one person to suicide, it's too many. We can prevent suicide, we have the knowhow. My own experience coupled with these numbers tells me to watch for the warning signs.

Maybe if I paid more attention to Will he would still be here today and I would be telling you how I saved him. I made a mistake and it cost me dearly. Suicides can be prevented. Watch for the warning signs, and maybe you can save someone's life.

The 'happy' medium between OPSEC and social networking: Can it be achieved?

Maj. Gen. Henry C. "Hank" Morrow
1st Air Force commander

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — I can recall sitting in my office at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, when I first realized that e-mail was going to revolutionize our way of doing business. I remember thinking to myself, 'Wow, I just got an e-mail from a two-star general congratulating me on my promotion to lieutenant colonel.'

In the olden days, I would have received a third-generation memo on Xeroxed letterhead with a few signatures or scribbled initials that came in a wrinkled 'holey-joe' through base distribution.

I also know we all chuckled when we first heard the term, "paperless Air Force." Did anyone really believe we could be totally paperless?

And yet here we are, in a hyperinstantaneous state of information overload; all being done electronically without a single piece of paper exchanging hands. Chuckle if you will, but I believe that social networking sites are going to be the next Air Force revolution, and for that battle, we all need to be adequately armed.

I've had many discussions with various supporters as well as naysayers when it comes to sites like Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and YouTube. Advocates for the sites feel they provide a forum where ideas, opinions and imagery can be freely shared with a worldwide audience. Antagonists feel that posting too much information can compromise operational security, or worse cost troops their lives, simply from a 140-character "tweet."

So, is there a happy medium between the

two? From a commander's perspective, I believe the answer is yes, provided users stick to three basic rules of engagement:

1. Common sense. Simple enough, right? Well, sometimes the simple things are what get people into significant trouble.

We entrust crew chiefs to maintain multimillion dollar aircraft. We issue security forces personnel weapons and ammunition to protect our installation. We empower medical technicians to draw our blood or administer vaccinations. These Airmen are extensively trained to perform these tasks. But with any job, a layer of common sense is key to being able to rapidly react to a situation that presents itself. Just because that same security forces Airman has been trained to use a weapon, doesn't mean that's all he needs. He must use his instincts in situations that involve human behavior — he must apply his common sense.

The same rules apply when it comes to blogging and social networking. Airmen must use their common sense when posting information that is accessible to not only family and friends, but also to the enemy. The bad guys are out there watching us, too, reading all the information you post to your personal site, and what's posted to your buddy's site, and to the Air Force chief of staff's site, and so on. They put all the bits of information together like a puzzle. It's known as "data mining," and our enemies are constantly monitoring what we post to the Web.

2. Judicial prudence. This is area that gets people into the most trouble when using social net-

working sites. As a servicemember, you don't forfeit your First Amendment rights the day join the military. We all take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and that includes everyone's right to free speech. But that right to speak freely must be balanced against the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Just as the old saying goes about "You can't yell 'FIRE!' in a crowded theater" under the auspices of free speech, you also can't release sensitive, classified or inappropriate information as a member of the armed forces.

Many military members' social media sites contain photos or video of themselves in uniform, which automatically leads a viewer to conclude you represent all men and women in uniform. Others blog from their deployed location about daily life and experiences in the war zone. This is all acceptable, provided the information you post adheres to UCMJ and operations security rules.

Someone once gave me a simple acronym to remember on the type of information that can and cannot be released. The acronym is SAPP, and it stands for security, accuracy, policy and privacy. The SAPP principle is an easy one to remember when you're about to blog about an upcoming deployment or a recent court-martial in your unit or the rumor you heard in the squadron break room. Is the information accurate? Can you back it up with facts? Are you compromising operational security by releasing this information? Are you violating someone's privacy by blogging about him or her?

3. When in doubt, backspace it out. I have a

personal rule that I make myself follow any time I'm about to craft an e-mail if I am angry about a situation. I step away from the computer or I put my BlackBerry in its holster. The worst thing you can do is send an e-mail when you are emotionally attached to a situation. We've all been there banging away at the keyboard, typing a tapestry of words meant to physically cut into the intended recipient for the wrong that person committed in your eyes. My advice to you: don't hit send. Those words, in some way, shape or form will come back to haunt you.

This same advice holds true for when you are typing something on your social media site. Anything you post to the Internet — including photos — will be there forever. Do you really want to post a picture of yourself that could place you, your family, or your unit in harm's way? It's imperative that you think before you post, and if you are ever in doubt about what you are about let the world see or read about: delete it. Go with your instincts. Refer back to my rule No. 1: use your common sense.

The rules ultimately come down to this: choose your words wisely. Operational security should be practiced at the source. The same tactics that are exercised when disclosing information to the public should be applied to social media usage. By educating and training our younger generation servicemembers — the digital natives — on what information should be guarded and what can be released, I believe we can find that "happy medium" and capitalize on this burgeoning technology to its fullest extent.

GI Bill transferability set to begin August 1

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With the Post-9/11 GI Bill's option to transfer unused educational benefits to eligible family members taking effect Aug. 1, it's no surprise that more than 25,000 servicemembers have pre-applied, a Pentagon official here said July 31.

The wave of applicants has far exceeded the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments' expectations, said Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy.

What's even more impressive is that the Defense Department's Web site for requesting the benefit has been live only since June 29, he added.

"We've seen, roughly, a thousand applications a day for the past week or so, and we expect that to continue," Mr. Clark said. "Transferability of these educational benefits has been one of the most requested provisions by family support groups, family advocacy groups and the troops out in the field and fleet, and we're just happy that it starts on the first of August."

The site, <https://www.dmde.osd.mil/TEB/>, is accessible using a common access card, DOD self-service user identification or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number. Spouses and family members must be enrolled under their servicemember sponsor in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, also known as DEERS, to be eligible for the transfer benefit. Military members also can link to the site through <http://www.defenselink.mil/gibill>.

With the Post-9/11 GI Bill, servicemembers are eligible for 36 months of educational benefits — the equivalent of four nine-month academic years. To qualify for the transfer benefit, servicemembers must have six years of service on active duty or in the

selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1 and commit to an additional four years of service.

Servicemembers have the option to use or transfer as much of their benefits as they want to, and they can revoke or redesignate who receives the benefit at any time, Mr. Clark said.

He added that servicemembers can add and change names only while on active duty, and not after separating or retiring from active-duty service.

The unused benefits can be transferred to a spouse, two children or any combination, he said. But children cannot start using the benefit until they're 18 or have a high school diploma or equivalent. Mr. Clark noted that children enrolled in DEERS lose their military benefits at age 21 unless they are full-time students.

Only eligible dependents' names will appear on the registration Web site, he explained. Once servicemembers register on the site and designate who the benefits will be transferred to, the application will be processed through their appropriate service branch.

After the service verifies eligibility to transfer the benefits, the application will be forwarded and processed again through VA. And finally, when the selected dependent decides to use the benefit, he or she must go to the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site and fill out an online application to request a certificate of eligibility, Mr. Clark said.

The certificate then can be taken to the school to be processed by its VA representative and used to request tuition, payment for books and the living stipend, which varies by institution and location, he continued.

Of the 25,000 who've already applied, more than 15,000 have been approved, and of those, 5,500 dependents already have requested certificates to start their education.

Flight test shows small antenna can do big things

Chuck Paone
66th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Electronic Systems Center and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory personnel demonstrated the powerful capabilities of a small antenna during a flight test conducted earlier this summer here.

The 7-inch-high-by-14-inch-wide antenna performed so well that only one flight test was needed to determine its effectiveness, said Capt. Jeff Zhu, the Air Force program manager.

This first iteration of the Advanced Multiband Communications Antenna System was designed to enable crewmembers aboard various Air Force platforms to receive satellite transmissions from the Military Strategic and Tactical Relay satellite, known as MILSTAR, in the extremely high frequency mode, or EHF.

The ability to receive and ultimately send messages in the EHF domain is important for several reasons, Captain Zhu said. Because it uses a much narrower beam than ultra high frequency, or UHF, EHF provides significantly lower probability of detection and interception. It also provides much higher data transmission rates — about 1.5 megabits per second in this case — than UHF.

"The higher data rate is especially important to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform operators who have a lot of detailed information that they need to send and receive quickly," Captain Zhu said.

The antenna's small size makes it a "low profile" and exhibits very low aerodynamic drag, Captain Zhu said. That increases an aircraft's ability to spend time on station.

While not small enough to enable fighters to receive EHF satellite transmissions — a future effort may accomplish that — this

antenna will fit multiple Air Force platforms, including the E-3 AWACS, E-8 Joint STARS, and RC-135 Rivet Joint. In addition to its compactness and EHF capabilities, the antenna can be "skin mounted" onto an aircraft, meaning it attaches easily with no need to modify the aircraft structure or remove the platform's top metal layer. This is far less intrusive, and less expensive, than large radome mounting, and it reduces the amount of time the platform spends offline.

The team conducted the flight testing aboard a special 707, known as the Paul Revere, on a prescribed route between here and the southern New Jersey shore. The flight route included both straight, level flying and "highly-banked racetrack loops" that demonstrated the antenna system's ability to function over a wide range of satellite look-angles, the captain said.

AMCAS has been under way for four

"It has been a very fast, long run-up to the first of August, which is upon us. I see this as a wonderful opportunity for our veterans, our servicemembers, in particular, the families of our career members to give them the opportunity to further their education and reach their dreams," Mr. Clark said.

Most servicemembers who have at least six years of military service as of Aug. 1 and agree to serve an additional four years qualify, he said. DOD officials have proposed measures to support servicemembers who have at least 10 years of active service but can't serve the additional four because of service or department policy. They would; however, have to serve the maximum time allowed before separating from the military, he said.

Another provision will cover servicemembers who will reach the 20-year service mark, making them retirement-eligible, between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2013.

Mr. Clark explained how servicemembers who complete 20 years of service will be able to transfer the benefits:

— Those eligible for retirement on Aug. 1, 2009, will be eligible to transfer their benefits with no additional service requirement.

— Those with an approved retirement date after Aug. 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, will qualify with no additional service.

— Those eligible for retirement after Aug. 1, 2009, but before Aug. 1, 2010, will qualify with one additional year of service after approval to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

— Those eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, will qualify with two additional years of service after approval to transfer.

— Those eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, will qualify with three additional years of service after approval to transfer.



Courtesy photo
Ken Burkett (left) and Dale Morin install the Advanced Multiband Communications Antenna System antenna on the Paul Revere in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory Flight Facility Building at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass. Mr. Burkett and Mr. Morin are aircraft mechanics.

Back to School: 2009-2010 school year begins

Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

School busses, children up and about in the early morning and school supply sales are testaments to the start of an annual event: the 2009-2010 school year is beginning.

During this time period, and throughout the school year, BLAZE Team members in their families have a liaison between themselves and their child's school, E.J. Griffis, the 14th Flying Training Wing School Liaison Officer.

In his role, Mr. Griffis is able to help resolve issues, provide information and offer advice to parents and guardians.

"During the first few weeks thing may change," Mr. Griffis said. "School bus routes may change as the bus driver's work things out. It's important for parents to be flexible, tolerant and aware."

Mr. Griffis said parents should be involved in their children's schools and attend events such as open houses and join groups like the PTA. He said parents should continue or become involved and knowledgeable in their children's education.

He also said if parents run into any issues or situations that are out of the ordinary to call him.

Both Mr. Griffis and the 14th Flying Training Wing Safety Office urge all BLAZE Team members to be cautious when driving, as students will once again be walking to and from bus stops.

Currently, there are four bus stops located in base housing, with plans in motion to install two more at a later date.

Parents should also be cautious of the current construction ongoing in base housing and aware of the routes their children use while walking.

The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Officer works with local school districts, schools, parents and students on issues related to elementary and secondary education for the children of ALL personnel (civilian, military and contractor) assigned to the installation. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. For assistance, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at slo@columbus.af.mil.

LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2009-2010 ACADEMIC CALENDAR (187 DAYS)

LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009-2010 ACADEMIC CALENDAR (187 DAYS)						
	M	T	W	Th	F	S
AUG 2009	3	4	5	6	7	
T-21	10	11	12	13	14	
9-18	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					
SEP 2009		1	2	3	4	
T-21	7	8	9	10	11	
9-21	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			
OCT 2009				1	2	
T-22	5	6	7	8	9	
9-21	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
NOV 2009		2	3	4	5	6
T-18	9	10	11	12	13	
9-18	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30					
DEC 2009		1	2	3	4	
T-14	7	8	9	10	11	
9-14	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31		
JAN 2010					1	
T-19	4	5	6	7	8	
9-19	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
FEB 2010		1	2	3	4	5
T-19	8	9	10	11	12	
9-19	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
MAR 2010		1	2	3	4	5
T-18	8	9	10	11	12	
9-18	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
APR 2010				1	2	
T-21	5	6	7	8	9	
9-21	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY 2010		3	4	5	6	7
T-18	10	11	12	13	14	
9-14	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					

Columbus Municipal School District
2009-2010 Traditional Calendar

Columbus Municipal School District 2009-2010 Traditional Calendar						
	M	T	W	Th	F	S
AUG 2009	3	4	5	6	7	
(19)	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					
SEP 2009		1	2	3	4	
(20)	7	8	9	10	11	
(20)	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			
OCT 2009				1	2	
(22)	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
NOV 2009		2	3	4	5	6
(16)	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30					
DEC 2009		1	2	3	4	
(14)	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31		
JAN 2010					1	
(18)	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
FEB 2010		1	2	3	4	5
(19)	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
MAR 2010		1	2	3	4	5
(17)	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
APR 2010				1	2	
(21)	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY 2010		3	4	5	6	7
(15)	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					



A Lowndes County School Bus enters the Magnolia area of base housing the morning of August 6. It was the first day of classes for Lowndes County Schools.

School of Choice Program

The Interlocal Agreement between the Lowndes County School District and the Columbus Municipal School District which allows for school choice for ON-BASE residents requires parents who reside in on-base housing who choose to send their children to Columbus Municipal Schools, to make a formal written request. Please contact the School Liaison at 434-2792 for details on how to complete this action.

Columbus AFB School Liaison

For assistance, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at slo@columbus.af.mil. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school.



- > Teacher Work Days
- > Regular School Day
- > Holiday - No School
- > Parent-Teacher Conference Day - teacher work day
- > Success Academy
- > School holidays
- > Parent-Teacher Conference Days-Student Holidays

Columbus Municipal School District
2009-2010 Success Calendar

Columbus Municipal School District 2009-2010 Success Calendar						
	M	T	W	Th	F	S
JUL 2009				1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	
AUG 2009		3	4	5	6	7
(19)	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					
SEP 2009			1	2	3	4
(16)	7	8	9	10	11	
(16)	14	15	16	17	18	
(+2)	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			
OCT 2009				1	2	
(15)	5	6	7	8	9	
(+7)	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
NOV 2009		2	3	4	5	6
(16)	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30					
DEC 2009		1	2	3	4	
(14)	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31		
JAN 2010					1	
(18)	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
FEB 2010		1	2	3	4	5
(19)	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
MAR 2010		1	2	3	4	5
(16)	8	9	10	11	12	
(+8)	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
APR 2010				1	2	
(20)	5	6	7	8	9	
(+1)	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY 2010		3	4	5	6	7
(20)	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31					
JUN 2010			1	2	3	4
(13)	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30			

Families, children key issue for chief of staff

Master Sgt. Paul Dean
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
And
Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Support for families — especially in the area of child education — is a pressing issue for the military.

That was the message from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and two other service chiefs and other service representatives in July for a panel discussion focusing on issues related to the unique situations faced by military children and their education.

In addition, two BLAZE Team members recently attended the Military Child Education Coalition Conference alongside U.S. military senior leaders, in an effort to continue focusing on the issues effecting military children. E.J. Griffis, 14th Flying Training Wing school liaison officer and Leslie Watkins, wife of 14th FTW commander Col. Roger Watkins, attended the event.

"The conference is focused on improving and minimizing challenges our children face," Mr. Griffis said. He said one way the Air Force is looking to do this is by placing school liaison officers at every installation, currently there are only 26 service-wide.

Mrs. Watkins said that the ideas and programs being planned/put into effect aren't just going to improve things for only military children.

"America looks toward Military for leadership," she said. "It can also show leadership by taking care of military children and teaching skills of resiliency and optimism - what's good for Military children is good for all; all children and families can benefit."

The senior leaders echoed reasons underlying their attention to the issue. It is a people issue; it is a family issue; it is an issue that affects readiness, retention and futures, they stressed.

"The very fabric of our society depends on the work that we do in the area of child education," General Schwartz said. "Considering that children between the ages of 6 and 18 comprise more than 145,000 of our Air Force family members, I see family support in general, and child education in particular, as important issues we must address urgently."

Children of servicemembers differ from most of their civilian peers because of frequent relocation.

"This requires a holistic view of how to provide consistent, better quality educational opportunities for children of servicemembers," General Schwartz said. "Otherwise, the serious challenges that face our children will put them at a disadvantage as they prepare for secondary and post-secondary education; and ultimately, to be competitive in a national and global workforce that now, more than ever, requires increasingly high levels of knowledge, creativity, motivation and understanding."

Airmen with school-age children are well aware of the many challenges related to a permanent change of station. In addition to normal house-hunting issues, families with children must consider which school district they should live in and the affordability of housing in those districts. Moving regularly can also create concerns about whether earned credits will be accepted and if standards for exceptional performance match up.

Airmen with children participating in extracurricular activities, such as sports or honors societies, or having children with handicaps or special needs, deal with yet another set of issues.

The generals put the consequences of these wrinkles into sharp focus, noting the added stress and anxiety servicemembers endure because of them. In addition to the personal impacts, the Air Force chief of staff also noted a potentially larger issue: retention.

"If our military families do not believe we will do everything we can to provide quality education for our children, then they may stop volunteering," he said.

One effort to better serve the needs of military families has been the use of school liaison officers, senior installation military officers who advocate for the needs of military children and attend local school board meetings.

Building on the success of an Army program implemented at the suggestion of the Military Child Education Coalition, Air Force officials are well on the way to providing each Air Force base with a well-trained and knowledgeable civilian school liaison staff. These information resources will help Airmen make decisions that best fit their unique situation.

On a larger scale, one of the most important goals noted during the panel discussion is a lack of national standardization, allowing students to relocate without prejudice to their academic status. It is something the MCEC and school liaison officers are working toward diligently.

"For example, if I'm living in Colorado and take Colorado history in school, then relocate to Utah, should I have to take the Utah history too, or is one state history class in my graduation requirements the idea?" said Al Holland, the community readiness consultant at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

"We start with the school principals and work up from there," Mr. Holland said.

Once a school's principal has been educated and supports the uniqueness of military children, MCEC and school liaisons move to the next step, educating school administrators and district superintendents. The idea is to build a groundswell of supportive district superintendents ahead of discussion in each state's legislative process, where new law must be enacted to ratify acceptance of standardization.