

# SILVER WINGS

"Year of the Air Force Family"

Vol. 33, Issue 46

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

November 20, 2009

## Weather



### Today

High: 67, Low: 41  
Mostly Sunny



### Saturday

High: 61, Low: 46  
Showers



### Sunday

High: 66, Low: 45  
Partly Cloudy



### Monday

High: 69, Low: 43  
Partly Cloudy

## News Briefs

Silver Wings will be available next Wednesday, Nov. 25 due to the holiday break.

### Commissary Holiday Hours

The Commissary will be open on Monday, November 23rd 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. for Thanksgiving shopping. The Commissary will be closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Friday Nov. 27. The store will resume normal operating hours on Saturday, Nov. 28 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Mandatory Holiday Safety Briefings

Mandatory Holiday Safety Briefings will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Nov. 24 at the Kaye Auditorium.

### American Indian Food Tasting

As part of American Indian Heritage Month there will be a food tasting event at 4 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Chapel Annex.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jacob Corbin  
Airmen recently returned from deployments enter the Columbus Club to applause from friends, family and coworkers at the latest Welcome Home Celebration Nov. 13. Forty-eight Airmen were recognized at the ceremony.

## Inside



### Feature 10

SUPT Class 10-02 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.

## BLAZE Team welcomes home deployers

**Senior Airman Jacob Corbin**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The BLAZE Team came out to welcome home their own at the Welcome Home Celebration at the Columbus Club Nov. 13.

Forty-eight Airmen were recognized at the ceremony, which gives friends and coworkers to officially recognize the deployers return home and service abroad.

"It will always be a big deal to welcome home our warriors," said Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing com-

mander to the assembled crowd. The colonel thanked the Airmen for their service and sacrifice while deployed, and also thanked their families for being understanding and supportive.

"It is always hard to see your loved ones leave," Colonel Watkins said. "I hope you

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## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

### PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (10-11)	-0.81 days	-5.14 days	Dec. 11
41st (10-12)	2.08 days	-0.73 days	Jan. 19

### PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (10-02)	0.00 days	-0.25 days	Nov. 20
50th (10-03)	-2.20 days	-1.83 days	Dec. 11

### IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (10-CB)	-3.94 days	1.21 days	Dec. 21

### WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	1,819	2,025	4,726
T-1	561	578	1,520
T-38	593	548	1,362
IFF	109	128	432

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Jack Catton former 14th FTW Commander.

# SUPT Class 10-02 earns silver wings



T-1A Jayhawk



T-6 Texan II



**Capt. Michael LaBarbera**  
Arlington Heights, Ill.  
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



**Capt. Adam Rockhill**  
Jeffery, N.H.  
C-5, Westover ARB, Mass.



**Second Lt. Dane Arnholt**  
Almont, Mich.  
MC-12/KC-135, McConnel AFB, Kan.



**Second Lt. Kevin Brooks**  
Clermont, Fla.  
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 10-02 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

The graduation speaker for the class will be retired Maj. Gen. Jack J. Catton Jr., former Director of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va. General Catton retired from the Air Force in January 2008, and was wing commander here at Columbus AFB from July 1997 to July 1998.

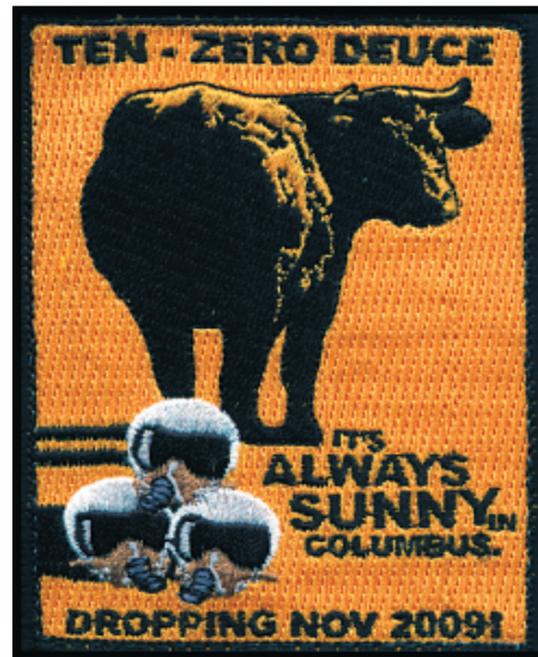
Students receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

Capt. Adam Rockhill, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. Phillip Amrine, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Captain Rockhill was named the distinguished graduate of Class 10-02.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight



characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet.

Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with two business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus Air Force Base. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. Class 10-02s pilot partners are Carl Nuzzo, Accessible Aviation, and Lynn Robinson, Air Control Engineering.



**First Lt. Kamal Kamaluzaman**  
Subang, Malaysia  
TBD, Malaysia



**Second Lt. Phillip Amrine**  
Marietta, Ohio  
MC-12/C-5, Dover AFB, Del.



**Second Lt. Will Brown**  
Santa Maria, Calif.  
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**Second Lt. Michael Cavanaugh**  
Rapid City, S.D.  
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



**Second Lt. Matthew Dietrich**  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
UAS, Creech AFB, Nev.



**Second Lt. George Farhenbruck**  
Forsyth, Mont.  
C-17, McGuire AFB, N.J.



**Second Lt. Amanda Messinger**  
Longmont, Colo.  
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



**Second Lt. Holly Nelson**  
Browns Mills, N.J.  
C-17, McGuire AFB, N.J.



**Second Lt. Aaron Royster**  
Niceville, Fla.  
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



# How to succeed in the Air Force - by really trying

**Col. David Reth**  
14th Operations Group  
commander



**Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander**

A few days before I pinned on colonel, a young lieutenant came up to me and asked me a simple question - how do you succeed and get to be an O-6? At first, this sounded like a relatively easy question as a standard list of things like leadership positions, professional military education, advanced academic degrees, etc came to mind that are needed to be promoted in the Air Force.

But as I thought about it more, this wasn't what the lieutenant really wanted to know. Many of the important and required steps to move ahead in the ranks are not directly controllable by you - supervisors, promotion boards, the personnel center, school selection boards, etc. make those decisions. These important milestones are not really the cause of your success; rather they are the result of something you did yourself that is much more central. After approaching the lieutenant's question from a little more basic direction, I came to this answer. The key to success is simple - just do your best at whatever job you have right now, today.

When I arrived at an assignment a few years ago, I had just pinned on lieutenant

assistant standardization officer, and even helped out the snack bar officer on occasion. While not what I had in mind when I went there, if that's what they needed done, I would do my best anyway. I can guarantee you the flight's safety and standardization programs, and even the snack bar, had never been better.

The new students were surprised, I think, of a lieutenant colonel grilling them on aircraft knowledge and procedures with all the enthusiasm of a captain. Not long after that, the wing commander called me in and asked me to be his wing chief of safety. During that assignment, I did get the opportunity to be a director of operations, a squadron commander, and even a deputy group commander. Not bad for an assistant snack bar officer.

Many Airmen, officer and enlisted, make the mistake of worrying and spending too much time thinking about what they will do in the future rather than just concentrating on what they are doing right now. The key to success is doing your absolute best on whatever task you have, no matter how small, seemingly unimportant, or potentially unnoticed. When you do that, all those other things like getting the right positions, being selected for PME, promotions, etc will follow naturally.

When a supervisor or commander needs to choose someone for the tough or key job, they usually will go with the known quantity.

That's the person who demonstrated they will do a great job even on the smallest and relatively unimportant tasks, and who they will put their trust in to come through in a pinch.

Too often I've heard someone grumbling that they didn't get the position when they know they would have done a great job. However, they've forgotten they didn't step up and excel on all the minor tasks given to them previously. I guess they were saving up their energy and effort for their big break that may never come. Few supervisors are going to risk failure on something critical and rely on someone that up to then has not shown drive and enthusiasm on previous tasks.

So my advice is simple - stop worrying about where you think you want or need to be five years from now. There are many paths to success, but they all start today by doing your absolute best at even the smallest and least important task or job. Don't just be good - be great at whatever you are doing right now and the rest will take care of itself.

## Don't stall on the 'all'

**Lt. Col. Curt Prichard**  
15th Medical Support Squadron commander

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — "Excellence in all we do" it's one of our Air Force core values. Along with integrity first and service before self, it is intended to guide every one of our actions whether we're in the cockpit, on the flightline, at the military personnel flight counter or in a medical clinic.

In my more than 15 years of Air Force service, I have frequently heard about the challenges of "doing more with less" and "being resource constrained." So what has that meant? It has meant that each and every day our amazing Airmen have stepped up to the plate and given it their best, despite being tasked with more missions and unfortunately not always being afforded the optimal training or tools for success.

Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, or

more commonly known as AFSO21, is designed to improve our operating environment. AFSO21 is a mindset shift with a focus of eliminating non-value added processes. When appropriately employed, it is intended to equip Airmen to identify areas where savings can be realized. But, will it alone ensure that we achieve excellence in all we do? The answer, of course, is no.

The truth is there has always been more work than there have been resources. It has been said, "Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life."

And so it is with doing more with less. There are always competing interests and priorities. Ultimately for those of us blessed with the opportunity to serve as part of the world's greatest air, space, and cyberspace force, embodying excellence in all we do requires that we respond with the right attitude and take a hard look at what all it is that we do.

That's where leadership comes in! It is the duty of each of us as Airmen, and especially those who have been placed in positions of authority, to identify what can be

*It is the duty of each of us as Airmen, and especially those who have been placed in positions of authority, to identify what can be done with excellence and what cannot. If it cannot, then it's time to take it up the chain. Indeed, to do anything less would be to undermine our core values.*

done with excellence and what cannot. If it cannot, then it's time to take it up the chain. Indeed, to do anything less would be to undermine our core values. Just as an aircraft stalls when it is nose-high and slow, if we raise our nose while the unit is dragging down, we subject ourselves to the possibility of losing our air worthiness.

Do you see or hear a warning buzzer? If so, call a time-out, clarify priorities, and make sure that we don't stall on the "all."

# Base families offered a variety of activities

## Holiday Hours

All recreational activities will be closed Thanksgiving Day. The following activities will be open Nov. 27: The bowling center from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., the fitness center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the golf course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Black Friday Shopping Trip

Cost is \$20 per person and includes transportation only. Must have 10 registered to offer. Leaving at 5 a.m. to go to the Birmingham Mall and surrounding shopping centers.

## Worry Free Christmas Tree Service

Register at Outdoor Recreation for this program scheduled for Nov. 28. Cost is \$20 and includes transportation to the Swedenberg Christmas Tree Farm, you pick out a tree (and pay for it at the farm) and outdoor recreation cuts it down and delivers to your house. After the holidays, outdoor recreation will pick up and dispose of it. If you can't make this trip, there is another trip on Dec. 12. Register at outdoor recreation.

## Mall Hopping Shopping

The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip to the Birmingham, Ala. Dec. 5. Cost is \$20 per person and includes transportation only. The bus will leave at 7 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. Minimum of ten needed for this trip. For more information, call 434-2507.

## Breakfast with Santa

The Youth Center is offering this program from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Dec. 5. Cost is \$5 per person if you register by Dec. 2 or \$10 per person after that date. Cost includes breakfast and a kid's picture with Santa. There will be demonstrations, crafts and carnival games. For more information, call 434-2504.

## Youth Christmas Shopping Trip

The youth center offers this free trip for ages 13 and older to Tupelo, MS to the Barnes Crossing Mall. Younger children must be accompanied by a parent. Register by Dec. 1 at the youth center. There is another trip Dec. 19 to the Mall of Memphis. Register for that trip by Dec. 15. For more information, call 434-2504.

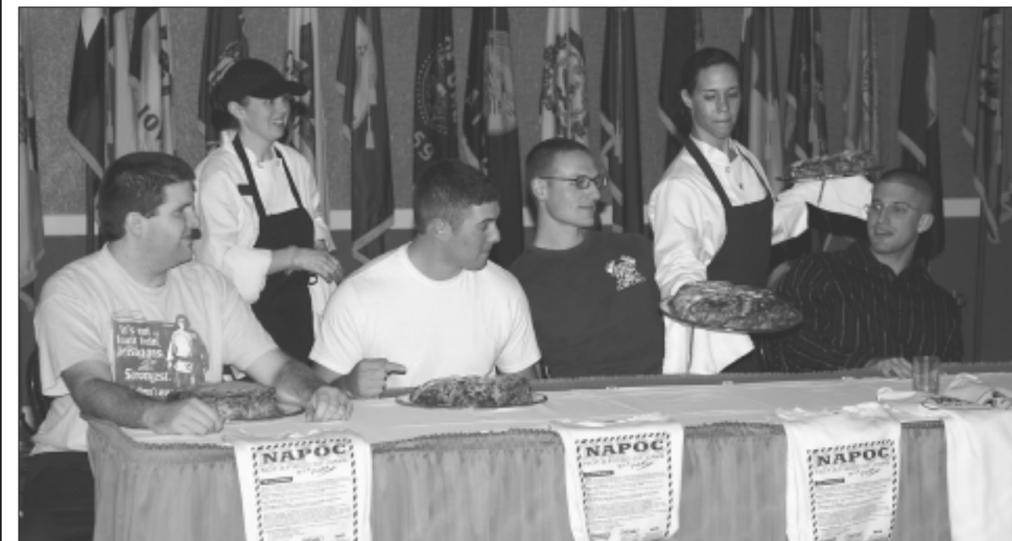
## Annual Holiday Cookie Baking Contest

The Library is offering this annual contest Dec. 15. All interested persons may sign up Dec. 1 to Dec. 14. Entries should be brought to the Library by 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15. Judging is at 2 p.m. A maximum of two entries per person with at least twelve cookies in each entry. No tarts, and no candy entries accepted. Entries must be cookies. For more information, call 434-2934.

## Family New Years Eve Party

The bowling center is offering this special program from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cost is \$50 per couple or \$25 for single. Children are free with paid adult. Price includes all night cosmic bowling, free shoe rental, heavy hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. Must register by Dec. 27 at bowling center. For more information, call 434-3577.

## BLAZE Team members attempt to eat Pizza Cake Club Challenge



U.S. Air Force photo/Becky Smith

**Participants get prepared to attempt to eat the whole pizza cake at the NAPOC challenge Friday night. If you think you can eat the whole "pizza cake", contact the club to set up a date and time. Bring your cheering squad! For more information, call 434-2790.**

## Crafts Classes

The Arts and Crafts Center offers a different craft every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All youth classes are \$5 each. Adult crafts classes costs are based on the project. Classes are Dec. 3 are the stocking door hanging for the youth and the snowman candle holder for the adult. This adult class is \$8. Register at least one day in advance. For more information, call 434-7836.

## 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.

## Christmas time child care

If squadrons are in need of child care for Christmas parties, contact the Child Development Center as soon as possible to set up dates and receive information. Contact Martha Mann at 434-2479 for more information.

## Whispering Pines Lunch time Burrito Bar

The burrito bar during lunch at the golf course is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Build your burrito or salad for just \$6.50 per person and includes your burrito or salad with chips, salsa and medium drink. For more information, call 434-7932.

## 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. A display of the upcoming projects are in the lobby of the arts and crafts center. For more information, call 434-7836.

## 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.

# IFF Class 10-BB Graduates Five

**Capt. Jeff Poplin**  
49th Fighter Training Squadron

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron hosted an IFF graduation on Nov. 17 in the squadron heritage room. Five members graduated this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the F-16 and F-15E for the Combat Air Forces.

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and International flying training in the T-38C/IFF aircraft.

The 49 FTS provides training to fighter pilots and weapon system officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the F-16, F-15C, F-15E, and A-10.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and WSOs to basic fighter maneuvers (BFM) and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios.

Students bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to surface attack and low-altitude tactical navigation phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets.

The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these students will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

**Congratulations to the following fighter candidates!**

1st Lt. Christopher Franks, F-16, Air-to-Ground Top Gun, Air-to-Air Top Gun

2nd Lt. Casey Jones, F-15E

2nd Lt. Hiroki Irino, F-2/F-15J

1st Lt. John Ferris, F-15E WSO

1st Lt. Beth Kaufhold, F-15E WSO



Jones



Franks



Kaufhold



Ferris



Irino

## DOD, Air Force rated positive in Gallup study

**Master Sgt. Stan Parker**  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force with the Department of Defense has received high ratings for its professionalism, trust, accuracy and quality, according to a recent survey.

The findings were presented during a recent panel discussion following a Gallup Organization study, analyzing how Americans perceive the federal government.

“Overall the survey asked Americans to rate the federal government on a five point scale,” said Frank Newport, editor in chief of the Gallup poll. “The military was included and was the highest.”

“We asked which branch of the military is most important to the United States and it historically continues to be the Air Force,” Mr.

Newport said. He added the military has continued to do well in spite of challenges with its nuclear enterprise and the on-going war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Following the President Barack Obama administration’s call for “a high-performance government,” Gallup officials conducted the study to examine public attitudes about the “overall customer experience” across all federal agencies. The study asked more than 40,000 American citizens to answer a series of questions about the level and quality of service they received from federal agencies, painting a clearer picture of the overall experience of individual’s interactions with the agencies.

Although the study concluded Americans have the most governmental contact through tourism by way of the National Park Service and the Transportation Security Administration, contact with the Air Force and Navy has been

fairly positive, Mr. Newport said.

The study’s data illustrated how Americans feel about their interactions with the federal government, why they interact with the federal government and with which agencies they most frequently interact.

When asked to provide a wide variety of opinions on the overall performance of different sectors of government, 78 percent of Americans expressed positive views about the performance of the U.S. military, making it the highest-rated sector. When asked to identify the one agency that is most important to the future of the country, the public cited DOD and considered it the most prestigious agency. Although DOD rated high, the Central Intelligence Agency was viewed as the federal employer of choice, which was consistent with previous studies.

“The key here is that information is absolutely viable, and you can’t manage what

you don’t measure,” said Max Stier, president and chief executive officer for Partnership for Public Service and panel member. The reason government is facing critical challenges is largely due to a lack of long term goals and useful real-time health of organizations, Mr. Stier added.

Panel members agreed the federal government has been largely misunderstood of how best to serve its customer base and believed Gallup’s initiative will foster growth in meeting the challenge.

“We have lost track of what the public wants and needs. We need to make sure we understand the American public, which serves as a very diversified customer base,” Mr. Stier said. “But the information that this study provides us is useful information to manage public expectations effectively.”

# Unmanned aircraft crews strive to support warfighters

**Donna Miles**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As Pentagon officials look for ways to increase intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support for warfighters in Afghanistan, the Air Force’s first unmanned aircraft systems wing already is on the case in its never-ending quest to provide more and better intelligence through the systems they fly.

“I don’t have to tell them to try to make it better,” Col. Peter E. Gersten said of his 432nd Wing and 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. “They are working to make it better every day, all by themselves. ... Better every day is kind of a theme here.”

The 432nd Wing flies the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper, both remotely piloted aircraft that provide 24/7 eyes in the sky over troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Our mission is to keep the joint ground fighter out of trouble, and when he gets into trouble, it’s to get him out of trouble as soon as possible,” Colonel Gersten said. “And with this new technology, we can do that now.”

Both the Predator and Reaper provide a capability that Colonel Gersten, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, said a pilot in the cockpit simply can’t: a “persistent stare” and ability to hover over a precise location for as long as necessary.

“We have the ability to oversee the joint ground warfighter 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with no weekends and holidays and without a break,” he said. “We are not going 500 miles an hour. We are going 120 knots, right on top of him, and we are orbiting around him and helping him.”

“We are dedicated to supporting him,” Colonel Gersten said, “and we don’t do anything else.”

When a convoy leaves the “wire” in Afghanistan or Iraq, the 432nd Wing Airmen oversee them every step of the way. “We are going to be there from the time they leave their forward operating base to the time they get to their desired destination,” he said. “We are going to watch that soldier on the ground as he begins to do his search mission. We are going to be there.”

Colonel Gersten said the aircraft’s ability to hover overhead for as long as necessary is a key in ensuring the information it gathers is complete, and that if strikes are required, they’re precise.

“We don’t show up on the battlespace and have 15 minutes of hold time to build our situational awareness,” he said. “We have a high capacity to make sure that we have the exact, right target in our crosshairs.”

“Time is not our enemy,” he said. “We own time.”

As his Airmen fly the aircraft, analyze the mountains of raw data gathered and sift out what matters most to troops on the ground, Colonel Gersten said, there’s really little about the systems that are “unmanned.” He considers the term “unmanned aerial vehicle” a misnomer that loses sight of the manpower every mission entails, preferring the term “remotely piloted aircraft.”

And he makes it clear that when he refers to the “system,” he means far more than the actual aircraft.

“When I talk about the system, I am talking about the air-



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Larry E. Reid Jr.  
**An MQ-1B Predator unmanned aircraft takes off for a training mission at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.**

plane, the ground station, the communication that links the ground station to the airplane, the product we produce that goes out -- the actual ISR intelligence,” he said.

He noted the big network of Airmen involved in the process, all committed to getting the information the aircraft collects into the hands of warfighters who need it. Regardless of their function within that framework, Colonel Gersten said, they recognize the value of their contribution.

“I hear stories all the time about how one of our aircraft stopped a convoy from driving over an [improvised explosive device] or kept a soldier from walking around a corner where there was an ambush, or helped get a wounded soldier out of a city by guiding him out,” he said. “Those stories are day-to-day here. It’s part of the pride of being 100 percent for the joint ground warfighter, every single day.”

When he first sat down to watch his Airmen at work after taking over his new command in June, he admitted, he was bowled over by their expertise. “The ability to talk, fly, communicate, text and execute, all very seamlessly, is a tremendous skill set,” he said. “And it is amazing to watch them do it as fast as they do.”

During his commander’s calls, Colonel Gersten challenges the wing’s Airmen to channel their creativity and know-how to making the systems even better.

“I can’t tell you what these systems are going to look like 10 years from now, but you can,” he tells them. “You are the ones who will make this system the future. ... Make it something better than it is.”

And they’re coming up with new ideas every day. Some are “completely outside the box, but executable,” Colonel Gersten said. Others are “way out there,” not necessarily applicable now, but present new approaches and new ways of thinking

that could apply down the road.

Colonel Gersten said he’s particularly impressed with his wing’s ability to take raw data collected by unmanned aircraft and translate it into “decision information” ground troops can act on.

“There was a time when we said, ‘I’m drowning in data, but I am starving for knowledge.’ But we have changed that,” he said. “Four to six years ago, it was pretty good. Two years ago, it was really good, and today it is exceptional. Tomorrow, it is going to be beyond exceptional.”

This capability has generated an almost insatiable appetite for the support unmanned aircraft systems provide.

Air Force officials have taken notice, funding more unmanned than manned aircraft in this year’s budget and training more pilots to fly unmanned aircraft than fighters and bombers combined. Yet, Colonel Gersten finds himself constantly working to allay some people’s concerns that unmanned aircraft will some day muscle out their manned counterparts.

Remotely controlled aircraft have their unique capabilities, he said, and manned vehicles have theirs.

“We do a great job of enduring over the battle space, but we can’t carry the load of a B-2 [bomber]” Colonel Gersten said. “We can go do endurance, and then they can come in and help us out. Or they can come in and do their job, and we can come in and look at it afterwards.”

“It’s not one system that is going to overtake the other,” he continued. “These systems are complementary and have a very synergistic capability. So when people ask, ‘Which way is it going?’ I say, ‘It’s going together.’ It is not a question of one or the other. It’s a question of how much of each we need to secure the nation’s interests.”

## Airmen speed delivery of vital vaccine

**Senior Airman David Dobrydney**  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Airmen in the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron at this air base in Southwest Asia handle nearly every passenger and piece of cargo that travels through the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Recently, the cargo they handled would, soon enough, find its way to every servicemember in the AOR.

The 8th EAMS Airmen shipped the first half of the U.S. CENTCOM allotment of H1N1 flu vaccine Nov. 8 to military servicemen and women forward deployed in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The vaccine was shipped out within 20 hours of its arrival here, said Master Sgt. Robert Kruger, NCOIC of special handling for 8th EAMS.

The vaccine arrived at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center located at a nearby camp. Specialists there project theater medical logistics in support of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

After receiving the vaccine from USAMMC Medical Logistics, the 8th EAMS members entered it into the global transport and executive system to be assigned to an outgoing flight. The cargo they were tasked to move on the mission necessitated special handling requirements.

“If a warfighter in the CENTCOM AOR gets the vaccine, it was possible due to the hard work of the Airmen in the 8th EAMS,” said Army Maj. Martin Russell, a USAMMC pharmacy consultant. “I can’t say enough good things about them.”

Immunization for both seasonal flu and H1N1 is mandatory for all military personnel.

## Pentagon, VA officials expand disability claims test

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

WASHINGTON — Defense and Veterans Affairs officials today announced another step in their efforts to streamline the process of determining veterans’ disability ratings.

Beginning in January, the Disability Evaluation System pilot program will expand to six medical facilities at Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Riley, Kan.; and Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Va.

Twenty-seven other military facilities already take part in the program.

“The decision to expand the pilot was based upon favorable reviews focusing on the program’s ability to meet timeliness, effectiveness, transparency and customer and stakeholder satisfaction,” said Noel Koch, the deputy undersecretary of defense for wounded warrior care and transition policy, in a statement released by the Defense Department.

The pilot program began in November 2007 within the

National Capitol Region and concerns servicemembers who separated from the military under honorable conditions for service-related injuries. It addresses redundancy and inconsistent decisions in medical evaluations in separate disability processes used in the DOD and VA.

Outside of the medical facilities using the pilot programs, evaluations for veterans are managed first by DOD physicians, then by VA. Through this program, physicians in both departments collaborate on medical findings, speeding the claims and benefit payment processes for disabled veterans.

“The pilot is a test of a new process design eliminating the duplicative, time-consuming, and often confusing elements of the two current disability processes of the departments,” the DOD statement said. “Key features of the (pilot) include one medical examination and a single-sourced disability rating.”

More than 5,400 military members have participated in the pilot program.

He wouldn’t speculate on exactly how many communities would be affected, but said

Paralympics mentors and trainers will be on hand to enhance programs for community facilities across the country.

Since 2003, Paralympics representatives have been providing services for 105 community recreation facilities, 14 wounded-warrior transition units and 15 VA health care systems.

“The healing power of sports is amazing,” Mr. Huebner said. “When people become physically disabled, they think about all the things they can’t do. That’s just human nature. But something as simple as being able to shoot a basketball or skiing or playing catch with your child ... makes people realize a whole level of opportunity. Things are going to be different, but they’re going to be OK.”

“Streamlining our disability claims system and working closely with (the DOD) to care for today’s generation of heroes are among VA’s top priorities,” said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. “We will never lose sight of the fact that veterans and military personnel have earned their benefits ... by virtue of their service to the nation.”

When rehabilitating veterans return home and they’ve left VA therapy behind, there may not be much opportunity to continue physical training

## Initiative helps disabled vets stay active

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

WASHINGTON — A recent initiative launched by officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Olympic Committee is giving disabled veterans a chance to rediscover their potential through athletics and competition.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organizations Oct. 21 to expand Paralympics sport programs to wounded warriors rehabilitating at community-level recreational facilities. Before the memorandum, Paralympics programs were offered primarily through warrior transition units at facilities such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center here; the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.; and VA rehabilitation centers.

Through the agreement, officials with the Paralympics division of the U.S. Olympic Committee and VA hope to ensure disabled veterans can be physically active when they return home, said Charlie Huebner, the Paralympic division chief.

“There’s 24-hour-a-day care when you’re at a VA medical center, and you’ve got the best care in the world there,” he said. “But what we’re most concerned about is when you leave that facility and go home. You might go home to a rural community that just doesn’t have the resources and expertise to provide a person in a wheelchair everyday physical activity.”

When rehabilitating veterans return home and they’ve left VA therapy behind, there may not be much opportunity to continue physical training

and activity, Mr. Huebner said. Making programs available and providing training at existing recreational facilities will help to alleviate that issue.

“We’ve identified a significant need for injured veterans,” he said. “When they return home, we want to ensure that there’s expert programming, support, equipment and mentors available to them to participate in everyday physical activity. It’s a significant need, and we see every day the importance of physical activity in the rehab process.”

Adaptive sports rehabilitation has proven time and again to have a positive, long-lasting effect on wounded warriors, Mr. Huebner added.

Although the Paralympics focus on physical rehabilitation, it’s difficult not to recognize the psychological impact, Mr. Huebner said. Something as simple as learning to play basketball or to ski with a disability, and to do so with friends and families, can greatly improve a disabled person’s mental strength, which is an important aspect to recovery, he said.

“We see on a daily basis the additional outcomes that aren’t necessarily our mission,” he said. “Our mission isn’t to find jobs and to get people in college, but what we see is persons with a physical disability going to college (or) pursuing careers who are active in their community because of the confidence they gained through sports.”

The partnership gives \$10 million of the VA’s annual budget to the Paralympics. About \$8 million of that will go to community-level recreation facilities that already serve veterans. Other funds from private Paralympics organizations will assist, Mr. Huebner said.

# Chief of staff: Play your positions credibly

**2nd Lt. Kidron B. Vestal**  
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs chief

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Air Force officials have invigorated their demands for excellence, and one key leader is especially moved to ensure sustainment of that improvement.

Gen. Norton Schwartz, the 19th Air Force chief of staff, visited the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at an air base in Southwest Asia — the host of more than 2,000 deployed Airmen — to share that message Nov. 13.

The service’s top uniformed officer was in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for a Middle East Air Chiefs Conference but took a day to visit with deployed Airmen. He spent the morning visiting with maintainers, operators and force support personnel and receiving mission briefings.

Addressing personnel at an afternoon Airman’s call, the general noted that performance is the means to remaining a credible force that America can rely on. He implored the audience to think of the alternative.

Speaking solemnly, the general asked, “If we don’t do our jobs, what’s the substitute? Who takes our place?”

“This is the backdrop. There is not a second United States Air Force,” he said. “And so we, collectively, are going to keep the promise. We, collectively, are going to do whatever is necessary; whatever is required, for however long it’s needed.”

In the Air Force, not every “player” is used the same, the general said. But, he emphasized, not one position is more important than any other because “as we all play our respective positions, we succeed.”

The approach is the same with respect to the Air Force’s position on the joint team.

When questioned about the perception of equal importance with the Air Force’s sister services, General Schwartz answered in the affirmative, on one condition: a premise and pattern of credible actions.

“We as an Air Force will do as I indicated; whatever we can do to ensure their success, the country’s success, and in doing so, our reputation will be just fine,” General Schwartz said.

Performance. Excellence. These are the hallmarks of a great Air Force, the general said. “Precision, reliability, compliance. This



**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz meets Airman 1st Class Jeremy Breznai during a tour Nov. 13, 2009, of an air base in Southwest Asia. Airman Breznai is a visits 380th Air Expeditionary Wing security forces member.**

is doing it the right way, the Air Force way.”

The general noted that these were the standards of Strategic Air Command, and that “their pursuits remain vital today in Air Force Global Strike Command” but also throughout the Air Force. “The leadership here has the mandate to maintain standards.”

In addition to speaking on locally relevant

subjects like the KC-X procurement schedule and the U-2 phase out, the 1973 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate closed on the topic of family.

Understanding the service is a family business, the general said, “We have to ensure we are paying attention to impacts on families even beyond deployments. What

we want to do collectively for the Air Force is make it difficult for people to want to leave, for whatever reason.”

All needs are important, he said, from a child’s transfer of academic credits following a move, or the servicing of special needs situations. “It all counts, and we are committed to taking care of business.”

U.S. Air Force photo

## Partners welcome SUPT Class 11-02



U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson

Student pilots in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-02 listen to a speaker at the classes Pilot Partner Welcome Nov. 16 at C.J.'s Pizza. The partners for Class 11-02 are Ralph Carter, BankFirst Financial Services and Wesley Pratt, Financial Works, LLC.

## VIETNAM

(Continued from Page 5)

stranger from South Texas, though, was about to do something that was never expected. It was almost too impossible to expect.

Rick Tolley, a retired U.S. Navy commander from San Antonio, came into possession of the colonel's original wedding ring and dog tag. The rat fink didn't make the voyage back. He started research on the whereabouts of Colonel Hivner and discovered he was still alive, living north of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Because it was so farfetched, Colonel Hivner said he wasn't sure if he should believe the story or not.

"I was skeptical at first," the colonel said once he was contacted by Rick Tolley.

Mr. Tolley provided some insight to the ring's mysterious journey from the Southeast Asia to North Texas. He said his former son-in-law was working in Vietnam when he was approached by a retired Vietnamese army soldier.

"He told John that he was cleaning out his desk and found these items," Mr. Tolley said of the ring and dog tag. Also on the metal loop was a small cross. "(The soldier told him) if he would take on this mission of finding (the former POW) and

return them in peace and respect, he would let him have them."

The former son-in-law agreed to return the items and contacted the former Navy commander Oct. 15 on Facebook, Mr. Tolley said. He said he took on the request to find Colonel Hivner, and, soon after, located him through the Internet.

Mr. Tolley agreed that he initially thought finding Colonel Hivner was going to be like finding the proverbial needle in the haystack ... if the needle even existed. But, that didn't stop him.

Colonel Hivner said he had no doubt who the ring's owner was after seeing a picture of the inside of the ring. Engraved inside his ring is his wife's initials and the date they were married.

The colonel said the missing ring didn't change their lives, and didn't expect its re-emergence to change it now. That, however, doesn't mean he isn't appreciative or surprised at the fact that his original wedding ring and dog tag would make their journey home, 44 years after the darkest chapter in his life began ... but just 26 years after his new life began.

"The never ending line is a circle," the colonel explained, adding that his wedding ring symbolizes his never ending love for his wife. "It's very special to me. I'm anxious to actually see the ring ... to look inside there with my tired old eyes and see the inscription."

## Holiday Guidance for DoD Personnel

### 14th Flying Training Wing Judge Advocate's Office

The holidays have always been a time for exchanging gifts. All DoD personnel, however, should remember that federal ethics regulations sometimes restrict these activities. Here is a summary of the rules regarding gift giving in the workplace:

First, DoD personnel may not accept gifts offered because of their official positions or offered by a prohibited source, such as a contractor (or anyone who wants to become a contractor). There are several exceptions to this general rule, though. The main exception is that DoD personnel may accept gifts (other than cash) not exceeding \$20, as long as the total amount of gifts that the recipient accepts from that source does not exceed \$50 for the year. This is exception is often known as the "\$20/\$50 Rule."

Second, DoD personnel may attend receptions and other events with free refreshments in a widely-attended gathering, if the employee's supervisor determines that the employee's attendance is in the agency's best interest. Also, DoD employees may accept invitations (even from contractors) to events that are open to the public, to all government employees, or all military personnel. A DoD employee can also accept invitations to open-houses, parties, and receptions and other personal hospitality at the residence of subordinates that are customarily provided on the occasion. Finally, a DoD employee may also accept an invitation from a boss or co-worker. Understanding that parties, gatherings, and receptions are often part of the holidays; please contact the legal office if you have questions about holi-

day parties!

A third important rule involves gift exchanges. When exchanging gifts between DoD personnel, the general rule is that supervisors may not accept gifts from subordinates or DoD personnel who receive less pay. However, there are important exceptions that allow a supervisor to accept gifts (other than cash) of \$10 or less from a subordinate, on an occasional basis. These occasions may include holidays and birthdays, so the rule allows a subordinate invited to a social event at a supervisor's residence to give the supervisor a hospitality gift of the type and value customarily given on such an occasion. There are no legal restrictions on gifts given to peers or subordinates; however, common sense (and good taste) should still apply. Always avoid any perceptions of favoritism.

Of note, exchanging gifts with contractors may only be done on an occasional basis. Remember the \$20 rule as stated above. If you are considering giving a gift to a contractor, you should first check with the contractor, since many contractors have codes of ethics that are similar to federal rules and therefore may preclude the acceptance of gifts.

On the subject of gifts, there are a host of other rules and instructions. The main point is to exercise common sense, moderation, and good taste in all gift giving and holiday events. This article is not substitute for good advice from an ethics counselor. If you have specific questions, please contact the legal office at (662) 434-7030. Following the Air Force and Federal rules on gift giving doesn't make you a "Scrooge". To the contrary, observing the requirements and operating within the guidelines respects the Core Values and lives up to the BLAZE standard!

## Base News



## CAFB Annual Holiday Cookie Drive

It's time once again to turn our thoughts to the upcoming holidays and the opportunity to provide all our single and unaccompanied personnel with home-baked goodies. We are asking each squadron to provide cookies. In the past, some of the larger squadrons have provided 35 dozen cookies each. Please ask to sign up to bake a variety of goodies: cookies, brownies, fudge, peanut brittle, etc. Homemade is what we would like, but if that's not possible, purchased cookies or candy are fine. The cookies should be packed in a formed, disposable container that does not need to be returned. Cookies that can be frozen may be dropped off at the home of Mrs. Angie Reth 4143 Mississippi St after Dec. 1. Cookies that cannot be frozen can be dropped off over the weekend before the 7 at 4143 Mississippi St. All other cookie donations will be accepted beginning at 6:30 a.m. the morning of Dec. 7 at the Columbus Club. Someone will be outside so donors can drive by and drop off their goodies. We would appreciate having all the cookies by 9 a.m. that morning (the earlier, the better) so packaging and delivering can be started as soon as possible.

## Volunteers needed for Cookie Drive

Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver for the Cookie drive. Over 800 dozen cookies were delivered last year, any and all help will be appreciated. Please call Mrs. Marti Ross at 434-7869 if you have any questions, need more information or have volunteers to help package and deliver.

## School Liaison Officer

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. As parents of school age children

are aware, there are many unique issues our children face as they transition to new schools. 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.

## Library Story Time

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

## COSC December Holiday Social

The COSC will have a special Holiday Social on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 pm, Columbus Club. Please come and enjoy the spirit of the season with Holiday entertainment and a special reading of the "The Night Before Christmas". The menu will be slow roasted rosemary chicken, penne pasta, seasonal sweets and panettone. Price is \$12 for Columbus Club-Members, \$14 for Non-Columbus Club Members. Festive Holiday attire. Please bring an ornament for the ornament exchange.

## Saint Leo University 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.

## 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.

## DRMO as a source of supply

Authorized personnel may retrieve property that is marked for DRMO Facilities only if they are still physically located in Base Supply. For more information, call the Inspection

Section at extension 434-7233 to review the property, Stock Control at 434-7198 to check for authorization and Customer Support at 434-7178 to order the property. All other DRMO processing is done via the Web at: www.drms.dla.mil.

## Do you have a supply problem?

Do you need status on an item you ordered? Did you receive the wrong part? The Customer Support section is the single point of contact when requiring assistance on supply related matters. For assistance, you may contact Customer Support at 434-7178.

## Zero overpricing program-incentive awards

Overpricing is an issue everyone should be working. All personnel are encouraged to participate, and will be rewarded for any tangible savings resulting from their price challenge. Monetary awards will be given in accordance with AFI 38-401, The Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program. Advice and guidance are available by calling the Customer Support section of Base Supply, located in Building 158, at 434-7178.

## Legal Hours

The legal office offers legal assistance on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment only. Notary and/or power-of-attorney are done as a walk-in during normal business days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., arriving no later than 3:45p.m. Participants must be eligible for assistance to receive service. For more information, call the base legal office at 434-7030.

## 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.)*

## Sponsorship Training

There will be sponsorship training Nov. 30 from 9 to 10 a.m. Unit Intro Monitors and Sponsors. Info on the importance of a good, effective sponsorship program and resources available for both Unit Intro Monitor and Sponsor will be available. To register call 434-2790. In addition, web-based training is offered thru the AF Portal, under Bases-Org-Functional Area TAB, select My Base and look under Training.

## MS Access 2007 course

The AFRC will hold a MS Access 2007 course starting Nov. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. Workshop meets Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for two weeks. Learn how to build and use data base to manage information and records. No cost, Limited to 11 seats. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

## Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

Mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring. Briefing should be completed at least 90 days prior to separation and may completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 a.m. and takes approximately 30 minutes.

## Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are 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 1:30 p.m., 434-2790.

## 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.

## Employment Workshop

There is an employment workshop every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Airman and Family Readiness Center. Participants will learn about local and base employment opportunities. For more information, call 434-2790.

## AFRC Calendar

Would you like to receive e-mails in your home of up-to-date information on events being held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center? Sign up for Airman and Family Readiness Center electronic calendar. To sign up, send an e-mail to AFRC@columbus.af.mil and ask to be added to the list. This calendar provides great information on things happening at your Airman & Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 434-2631.

## Vietnam POW receives ring 44 years after imprisonment

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — With the traditional "I do's" and wedding bands some 54 years ago on Oct. 1, 1955, James and Phyllis Hivner began their life's journey together which, like many young couples, began with not knowing what the future held.

That journey was rocked 10 years later - almost to the day - when then-Capt. James Hivner and his co-pilot, 1st Lt. Thomas Barrett, were shot down Oct. 5, 1965, in their F-4C Phantom fighter-bomber over North Vietnam. About 10 minutes after ejecting from the wounded aircraft, the pair was captured by North Vietnamese militia and soon handed over to the countries regular army. By the end of the night, they were residents at the infamous Hanoi Hilton, a prisoner of war facility.

But another voyage began that fateful day; one that gives hope for this thing called the "circle of life." It was an expedition that now-retired Air Force Col. James Hivner never expected - his original wedding ring was coming home.

Just as the ring symbolizes the family the Hivners began in 1955, it also signifies the Air Force family the colonel joined in 1953. Personnel from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, made the roughly two-hour trip to make this a complete family event.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our young Airmen in Training and our young student pilots to meet a fellow Airman warrior," said Brig. Gen. O.G. Mannon, 82nd Training Wing commander. "Colonel Hivner is a living example of executing the Code of Conduct, surviving a terrible situation and coming home. We are honored to be in his presence and be part of this very special ceremony."

October 5, 1965

Colonel Hivner said he and Lieutenant Barrett occupied the third aircraft in a four-ship formation that was on a bombing run near the city of Kep in North Vietnam near Hanoi. The mission was going smoothly until the aircraft made its way through a valley, setting up to offload their munitions.

The first two aircraft in the formation seemed to fly through the area without resistance, the colonel said. But the lack of resistance didn't last long as flak started to appear around Colonel Hivner's aircraft.

"Wingman No. 4 called and said, 'Three, you're hit. You're on fire,'" the colonel recalled.

He said he began to gradually climb at a smaller angle than usual to keep fuel from getting to the flames. Peering ahead at the lead aircraft, Colonel Hivner said he realized that they had missed the target - an ammunition depot. He said he adjusted his F-4C to get a correct

heading on the target, and then dropped his munitions.

"Right as I pulled off the target, I felt another thump," Colonel Hivner said. "Four told us we were burning again."

After the second hit, the colonel said warnings inside the aircraft started sounding and he was losing control of the Phantom. He instructed Lieutenant Barrett to get ready to eject. "By the time I said 'ready,' he was saying he was ready," he quipped.

Ten minutes later, the two would be prisoners of the North Vietnamese.

"It turned out to be the first bad day of many bad days," Colonel Hivner said.

## 2,687 days of Hell

There was one lesson the colonel learned soon after punching out of the F-4C Phantom: never bail out of an airplane right after you drop bombs on a target.

Immediately after assessing their situation, Colonel Hivner said he and Lieutenant Barrett began doing what the Air Force had taught them - escape and evade. After hearing the enemy yelling, the downed pilots began moving in the opposite direction. The colonel said they came upon a hill and thought they would evade the enemy successfully. That was until they crested the hill and saw more enemy troops headed toward them.

"We were hoping we'd be captured, not killed," he said. "The gunfire stopped. There was a lot of yelling and screaming."

The Airmen were taken to a nearby village and stripped of everything: maps, boots, weapons and dog tags. The enemy even took the colonel's symbol of love for his wife - his wedding ring.

The colonel admitted he wasn't then, and isn't now, a "jewelry guy." The ring was important to him because of what it symbolized, he said, but he didn't need it to feel or proclaim that he's married. In fact, he said, he didn't wear the ring for the most part because of the hazards of it getting caught on something while flying.

But, it was a little piece of home - a reminder of sorts - that was stripped of him.

"The ring is just another thing they take away from you," Colonel Hivner said. "It's part of your life they take away from you."

The colonel said he kept his ring and dog tag on a metal loop, tucked inside a pocket on his flight suit. Also on the loop was a "rat fink," a little rat-looking toy his daughter had gotten out of a gumball machine before he deployed to Southeast Asia. The colonel said his daughter, 6 years old at the time, gave it to him, he recalled. He said he had to break the news to her when

he returned eight years later that he did not return with the gift she had given him.

## End goal is to survive

Unless someone has lived in captivity, it's difficult to understand the emotions that go along with it. Still, today, Colonel Hivner dreams about his years as a POW - some good; some, obviously, bad.

"Yes I was tortured. Yes I was beaten. Yes it was Hell," the colonel said. "But, I like to focus on the brighter things."

The former POW said that that philosophy is one way he was able to survive his ordeal. He said he always had a penchant for looking at the brighter side, being a jokester and being able to laugh. He used that skill to combat falling into a mental world that was almost as dark and dank as the cells in which he stayed.

He shared one story about how the POWs communicated since they were usually in a small cell by themselves and very rarely, in the early going, allowed to knowingly communicate. The colonel said they communicated by tapping on the cell wall, similar to using Morse code or an old-style telegraph.

One evening, he said he tapped out "G.N., G.B." - good night, God bless - to a fellow POW next to him. Although there was no verbal communication, the colonel said he could tell something wasn't right.

"I got to the point to where I could sense how someone was feeling by how they tapped," Colonel Hivner said. "So I asked, 'are you OK?' He replied, 'I'm feeling mighty low,' or something to that effect."

The colonel said he tried to figure out a way to make a fellow servicemember feel better from his tiny cell, probably not measuring any bigger than 12-by-12 feet. After thinking about it for a while, the colonel tapped the first thing that came to mind: "Going out for a pizza. What do you want?"

"He replied, 'anything but anchovies,'" he recalled. "It was very special to me because I didn't know this guy."

Several years later, Colonel Hivner said he met the unknown POW. He said his last name was Waggoner and that his new friend told him how that simple gesture saved his life at that point.

"That was great," the colonel said. "That really helped."

## Free at last

Seven-and-a-half years. 2,687 days. Eight Christmases. Eight Birthdays. Eight wedding anniversaries. These were all things stolen from Colonel Hivner while he lived as a prisoner of war, primarily at the Hanoi Hilton, but at other



U.S. Air Force photo/Lou Anne Sledge  
Phyllis Hivner, right, places the original wedding band on retired Air Force Col. James Hivner's left ring finger Oct. 11 at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison, Texas. It was the first time the colonel has seen, or worn, the ring since Oct. 5, 1965, when he was shot down in North Vietnam.

camp in North Vietnam, including Skid Row.

Colonel Hivner said he knows a lot of former POWs who made the trip back to Vietnam to see where they spent days, months and years wondering when - or if - they would ever go home. The colonel said he has never had the desire to revisit the place that stripped away missed memories of seeing his 6- and 8- year-old daughters grow into 14- and 16-year-old young women.

"I didn't leave anything there that I needed to go back for," he said.

The colonel was glad to be home, glad to come back together as a family and glad to continue on the lifelong journey with his first love, Phyllis.

Although the colonel came home, his wedding ring, dog tag and the rat fink from his daughter didn't make it. But, the Hivners purchased another wedding ring to replace the one lost in Vietnam. It now sits in a jewelry box, the colonel said. After all, he's not a "jewelry man," remember?

## Circle complete

It's rare that fate deals you a bad blow, but makes amends later in life. Colonel Hivner was shot down over a hostile area and was imprisoned for more than seven years. He lost just about everything that he had and knew, including his wedding ring.

The colonel had a new ring, though. He said it almost looks like his original one.

See VIETNAM, Page 6

## 14th FTW command chief holds enlisted call



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

**Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Brackett, 14th Flying Training Wing, speaks at an NCO call Nov. 12 at the Kaye Auditorium. Chief Brackett held a call for Airmen, NCOs and SNCOs with topics covering enlisted performance reports and professional military education.**

## 14th SFS urges drivers to remember seat-belt use

**Staff Sgt. Nicole Pitman**  
14th Security Forces Squadron

What gives people more reason to buckle up - the increased threat of a traffic ticket. Most people buckle up for safety, but for some people it is the threat of a fine or ticket that spurs them to put on a safety belt.

The patrolmen of the 14th Security Forces Squadron and Wing Safety not only issue tickets to unbelted motorists, but on behalf of the wing commander suspend installation driving privileges.

Per AFI 31-204/CAFBS1/Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, any person, operator or passenger found by Security Forces or Wing Safety personnel not wearing proper safety equipment will be subject to suspension. For a first offense, motorists will lose their driving privilege for 15 days; second offenses for 45 days, and third offenses for a period of 6 months. Motorists failing to restrain themselves and their passengers will be ticketed according to the installation rules and regulations of the road.

There were 100 traffic violators cited since September, of which, 30 motorists violated local and military law by not utilizing their seat belt.

Tickets and suspensions still not a good enough reason to buckle up? How about to save your life! Did you know one out of every five drivers will be involved in a traffic accident this year? Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death among people age 44 and younger. In 2008, there were 297 vehicle accidents in Mississippi that caused death or incapacitating injuries. Of the 297 accidents, 213 people were killed and 210 of them were not wearing their seat belt.

So why do we violate military and state traffic laws? Is it comfort over safety? Does the seat belt strap bother you and you place it behind your back? While the lap belt might keep you from being thrown from your vehicle, a person that weighs 160 lbs, can strike another passenger or slam into the vehicle's interior with 4,800 lbs of force.

About 80 percent of the injuries sustained during traffic accidents are injuries to the head, causing brain damage, permanent disfigurement, epilepsy or death. Incorrectly wearing your safety belt on the base is the same violation as if you were not wearing it all-you will be ticketed. Don't be a statistic, wear your seat belt and wear it properly.

Leadership Concentration students. Students apply through the Air University portal and classes begin Jan. 4.

Colonel Lass said that the online master's program Web site at [www.au.af.mil/au/dlmasters.asp](http://www.au.af.mil/au/dlmasters.asp) is the essential link in helping students stay abreast of updates and specific guidance.

Doctor Kessler said the current program will provide a common core curriculum supported by multiple areas of concentration. The existing online program consists of 11 eight-week courses that total 33 credit hours and reflect the educational outcomes of the ACSC residential program. From this program, seven of the existing online courses (21 credit hours) form the core curriculum required of all students, with the remaining 12 credit hours forming various concentrations directed toward specific professional development.

opportunities to a limited number of mid-level captains.

"Including captains in the online master's program is an exciting expansion of an exceptionally successful program," said Brig. Gen. Anthony J. Rock, the ACSC commandant. "These officers have earned a degree that is directly related to their Air Force mission in a rigorous, interactive, Web-based environment. Many of them have done this from forward-deployed locations without any disruptive break in their education. Opening the program to captains is the next logical step as we look for innovative ways to deliver professional military education and continuing education opportunities to our warfighters."

The application window for the first term will open Dec. 2. Students will be notified by Dec. 10 if they are among the first

### A Christmas Carol

"A Christmas Carol" will be presented November 20 & 21 at Joe Cook Auditorium. The play will start at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door. The tickets are available at any YMCA location. The phone number is 328-7696.

"This play is a joy to behold. This version has music...jolly, touching, and festive music you're happy to leave the theatre humming. This play provides family entertainment of infectious joyousness!"

### Sunday at the Bluff

Jessica Tegt, doctoral candidate, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Agriculture Mississippi State University, will be at Plymouth Bluff Center, 2200 Old West Point Road, Columbus, Sunday at 2 p.m. Ms. Tegt will briefly explain the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation established at the beginning of the 20th century by conservationists and sportsmen such as Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir. She will talk about wildlife populations in the Southeast, specifically those indigenous to Mississippi, and the impact humans are having on them. Pelt and skull specimens will be available for a more hands-on discussion of Mississippi's wonderful and diverse wildlife.

There will be an optional 30-minute nature walk to look for evidence of wildlife at Plymouth Bluff. Wildlife includes some elusive creatures, so we must, like detectives, look for signs such as tracks, scat, nests, rubbings, hair, and dens.

### Thanks for giving!

Join the City of Columbus in an effort to make Thanksgiving special to area residents. Volunteer just a couple of hours on Thanksgiving Day preparing meals for elderly persons and shut-ins around town. The day starts with breakfast for all volunteers at 7 a.m. At 8 a.m., volunteers will begin preparing meals and then delivering meals to local residents at 311 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The morning will end in plenty of time to prepare for your own Thanksgiving. What a rewarding volunteer opportunity! To volunteer, call Meagan at 327-0807.

### Holiday Arts and Crafts Show 2009

The Lake Lowndes Sate Park's Annual Indoor Holiday Arts and Crafts Show will be held Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Multi-sports center. Vendor fee is \$35, and vendor set up will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Handmade items only please. For more information please call 328-2110.

## Chapel Schedule

### Pioneer Club

The CAFB Chapel has begun registration for the children's program Pioneer Club. The program 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.

### Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

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 5 p.m., 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.

### 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

Silver Wings is online! Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) for articles, digital copies of the paper and other information.



## BARGAIN LINE



**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](mailto: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 or lease:** 44 Nottingham Lane, Sherwood Forest; 2400 Sq ft, 3 BR, 3 BA, privacy fence, 2-car garage; separate dining room; eat-in kitchen; 4th bonus room/bedroom upstairs;

carpeted & hardwood throughout, new tile/countertops, fresh paint; landscaped; extra wide driveway for boat/motor home; 10 minute from CAFB; \$179,000 o.b.o \$1,200/mo. Move-in ready 334-224-3143.

**For sale:** 81 Azalea Trail, 3BR 2BA, just minutes to CAFB, features updated kitchen and baths, a great open floor plan, large sunroom, beautiful laminate flooring, new landscaping, storm windows, FP with insert/blower, new roof and HVAC in 2007. Asking \$126,500. FMI call 405-919-2753.

### Transportation

**For sale:** 2009 Pilgrim travel trailer. 27ft, large bathroom, slide out, \$17,500; FMI call 328-0355

**For sale:** 2005 Honda CBR600RR, (Motorcycle) 6,900 mi, Devil exhaust, K&N, Integrated Turn Signals, Lots of extras! \$5449 o.b.o. 2007 Honda CRF230, (Motorcycle) Great dirt bike, low miles, excellent

condition! \$2450 o.b.o. 808-221-2005.

### Miscellaneous

**For sale:** 2-adorable, playful, shih-tzu, one male-brw/wht, one female-blk/wht, 1 ? years old. CKC and AKC registered with papers. Pcsing overseas. For more info call 662-434-8784. **For sale:** Piano-\$400.00 (you haul); American Tourist luggage-only \$10, like new; 2 old rotary black phones '50's vintage (still work) \$20 each; two pair of roller blades, \$5 each; Dell PC monitor 16 inch \$20; Accent amplified speaker system for PC \$12; TEAC GF-180 nostalgia stereo, w/turtable \$95; door knobs, \$2 each; brass table lamps, matching, beautiful - \$25 ea. Must see; FMI call 328 4374.

**For sale:** Burris 6X PA rimfire/airgun scope, \$100; Weaver 4X one inch rimfire scope,\$15; aluminum climbing tree stand, \$30. FMI call 328-4610

**For sale:** Laz-boy leather recliner,

cranberry red, \$250 FMI call 662-352-9567.

**For Sale:** Men's blues uniform items, new condition - 1 long sleeve shirt, 15? x 32, \$5; 2 short sleeve shirts, 15?, \$5 each; 2 slacks, size 33, \$5 each; Black Shoes, 10?D, \$10; Blues Cap 7?, \$5; 2 blue belts w/buckle, \$3 ea; 1 pr sock straps, \$1; 1 garter set, \$1; ribbon holders, multiple sizes, \$3 for all; call 244-8390 or 251-1415.

**For sale:** IBM Thinkpad laptop, 1.7ghz/512m/60ghd/CDRW-DVD/WiFi/Win XP/Microsoft Office Word Pro Suite & carrying case, excellent condition; asking \$285. FMI call 662-386-6981.

**For sale:** Concrete mixer, vertical portable, 1/2 HP Motor, 110V/60HZ, batch output 275 lbs, batch capacity 1 bag \$369, new in box. Stack-On project center, 3 drawers, large bulk storage area, lockable & impact resistant work surface, new in box \$175. Donut Tire T125/70D15, Universal Hideaway, never used, \$50. Galvanized truck tool box 17 X 62, United Welding Service brand, dual

openings, \$200. Cadillac Deville 1997, silver, clean and well maintained. 120,400 miles, asking \$5,000. FMI call 662-574-5268.

**For Sale:** New Xbox 360 Guitar Hero Aerosmith, includes sealed game, guitar and 2 faceplates, \$35. New PSP Ultimate Travel Kit, \$10. Hamilton Beach Prep Star food processor, \$45. Baby bedding set, includes comforter, bumper, fitted sheet, bed skirt and 2 pillows, \$30. New in Box Natural Puresst high chair, \$75. New Avent 3 4 oz Natural Feeding Bottles, \$7. FMI call 337-274-5479.

**47 Betty Drive,** (off Spivey Road)

### Saturday Yard Sales

Saturday, 21 Nov, 6:00 a.m.-noon. Multi-family yard sale. Items to include: Men's, women's, toddler clothing and shoes, jewelry, home furnishings, furniture, appliances, crib, toddler bed with accessories, and other baby items. Call 662-574-3326 or 662-574-3494.

# Online master's program extended to captains

**Carl Bergquist**

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Air University officials here will offer eligible mid-level Air Force captains a unique educational opportunity to enroll in an online master's degree beginning this December.

The degree is designed to be career-relevant and is intended to accommodate the current high operations tempo environment, said Dr. Bart Kessler, the Air Command and Staff College distance learning dean.

The expansion to eligible captains builds on the success of the online master's program for majors. The new option offers tailored professional education opportunities and expands those

## BLAZE Airman receives Bronze Star



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jacob Corbin  
Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents the Bronze Star to Staff Sgt. Thomas Blandino, a military working dog handler with the 14th Security Forces Squadron Nov. 12 at the Columbus Air Force Base Kaye Auditorium. Sergeant Blandino was awarded the Bronze Star by the U.S. Army for his actions while serving with them.

## Native American Airman continues family heritage

### Airman 1st Class

**Abigail Klein**  
28th Bomb Wing  
Public Affairs

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. — As November comes to a close, Department of Defense officials encourage Airmen to take time to acknowledge the contributions of Native Americans to American and military history.

Master Sgt. Fawn Runs After, the 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of individual protective equipment, is a Native American Airman who spent her childhood at both the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation and the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, S.D.

She is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota tribe and has ties to both the Itazipa Cola (Without Bows) and Owohe Nupa (Two Kettle) Bands. While she was still in high school she decided she wanted to join the Air Force.

"I wanted to see the world and expand my horizons," Sergeant Runs After said. "I also liked the structure and discipline of military life."

While indulging in her desire to see the world, Sergeant Runs After was continuing her family's tradition of military service. Her grandfather was in the Navy during World War II, and she also has uncles in both the Army and Marines.

"A lot of people don't realize just how proud Native (Americans) are of military service and veterans," Sergeant Runs After said. "This deep respect can be seen at any pow-wow (an event where both Native American and non-Native American people meet to dance, sing, socialize and honor Native American culture) because the first members to enter a pow-wow are veterans and military members. This warrior heritage is deeply embedded

in our culture."

Though she joined the Air Force to see new places, Sergeant Runs After is grateful to be stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base and closer to her hometown, because it has allowed her to spend more time with family.

While here, she has also been dedicated in her duties with the 28th LRS, overseeing all aspects of mobility bag and weapons management for the wing.

Her hard work has earned her the 2009 28th Bomb Wing Lance P. Sijan Award, and the 2008 28th Bomb Wing Military Volunteer of the Year Award.

Her efforts were also recognized within the Lakota community when they presented her with the name Pretty Bear Woman, or Mato Waste Wi (pronounced: mah-toe wa-stay wee) during a naming ceremony honoring her accomplishments.

As for her future, Sergeant Runs After plans to receive a bachelor's degree in business.

"It's been a challenge, sometimes I take four classes at a time, but now I am just seven credits shy of graduating," Sergeant Runs After said.

As for her decision to join the military, Sergeant Runs After said it has given her many opportunities and a sense of pride within her family and community.

"My family is very proud of me and I'm very proud to represent my family and people," Sergeant Runs After said.

Native American Heritage Month is just one part of several diversity programs supported by the federal government, DOD and the Air Force.

According to the Department of Defense Web site, the month of November was designated as Native American Heritage Month in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush after approval of a joint resolution. Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

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- |                            |      |
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**Dubisher Award**  
2nd Lt. Kris E. Elmstedt

**T-6 Top Guns**

Contact: 2nd Lt. Michael A. Thornbury  
Instrument: 2nd Lt. Joshua D. Jowiski  
Formation: 2nd Lt. Joshua D. Jowiski

# 10-10

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 73 BLAZE TEAM members are de-ployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

## HOME

(Continued from Page 1)  
found that (while your loved ones were deployed) the people here took care of you and helped you.”

He also thanked the agencies and individuals who did just that for the families.

“We need to keep in mind we must always take care of families while (our Airmen) are gone,” Colonel Watkins added.

“It takes a total team effort to fill the void left when (Airmen) deployed and keep the mission going,” he said.

## 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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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.

# Football: Air Force triumphs in last 2009 home game, 45-17

**Staff Sgt. Don Branum**  
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons gained more than 550 yards of total offense as Falcons running back Asher Clark rushed for a career-high three touchdowns while the Air Force held the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Rebels to less than 300 total yards in a 45-17 rout at Falcon Stadium here Nov. 14.

The Falcons took a 7-0 lead on a 95-yard drive capped by a 24-yard touchdown run by Clark, and the Air Force never looked back.

Falcons head coach Troy Calhoun credited his seniors with the victory.

“They’re great workers and have tremendous attitudes,” Coach Calhoun said. “I just love how assertive they’ve been as leaders. That’s absolutely the way it should be at the Air Force Academy. What’s really neat is for these 15 seniors to be able to conclude the games they’ve played at Falcon Stadium this way.”

The Rebels didn’t score a touchdown until

halfway through the third quarter after the Falcons fumbled at the Air Force 20. But the Falcons’ defense held firm, forcing the Rebels to settle for a field goal.

The Falcons’ rushing offense, ranked fourth best in the nation, gained 431 yards against the Rebels. Clark had a career-high 160 yards rushing in his first 100-plus-yard game of the season, including a season-long 40-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter for the game-ending score. Jared Tew gained 61 yards on 13 carries, giving him more than 1,000 career rushing yards.

Falcons quarterback Tim Jefferson was 8-of-13 for 126 yards, his second-best passing yardage of the season and the third straight game he’s passed for 100 yards or more. His season-best 136 yards came against Army here Nov. 7. Jefferson’s 63 rushing yards on eight carries is also a season high for the sophomore from Atlanta.

The Air Force next goes to Provo, Utah, for their last game of the season against Mountain West Conference opponent Brigham Young University Nov. 21. The Falcons are 7-4 on the season and 5-2 in the MWC.



U.S. Air Force photo/Bill Evans  
U.S. Air Force Academy sophomore running back Asher Clark runs 24 yards for a touchdown against University of Nevada, Las Vegas game Nov. 14, 2009, at Falcon Stadium in Colorado Springs, Colo. Clark, a native of Lawrenceville, Ga., had a career-high 160 rushing yards and three touchdowns in Air Force’s 45-17 victory.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
23 American Indian Food Tasting 4p.m. @ Chapel Annex	24 Mandatory Holiday Safety Briefs, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon @ Kaye	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 AETC Family Day Eid al Adha	28/29
30 Enlisted Promotions, 3:30 p.m. @ Club	1 Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ AFRC	2 Wing Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:15 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	3 Key Spouse Training, 9:30 a.m. @AFRC Class 10-03 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	4 Fun Run, 7 a.m., @ Fitness Center	5/6 Basic Motorcycle Rider Safety Course Caledonia Christmas Parade

### Long Range Events

Dec 7: Base Holiday Cookie Drive  
Dec. 7: City of Columbus Christmas Parade  
Dec. 7: West Point Christmas Parade  
Dec 10: Class 10-11 Track Select

Dec 14-18: FTAC  
Dec 18: Class 10-03 Graduation  
Dec. 21: IFF 10-CB Grad  
Dec. 25: Holiday  
Dec. 28: AETC Family Day

## Sports Shorts

**Biker Night:** The bowling center offers a free cheeseburger from 5 to 9 p.m. every Monday night during the months of September and October. Bring in your helmet and receive one free burger. For more information, call 434-3577.

**Winter bowling leagues:** Sign up now – leagues available for the Thursday night intramural league, the Tuesday night mixed league and the youth league on Saturday mornings. If you would like to start a league, contact the bowling center for more information. Call 434-3577.

**Bowling Center closure:** The bowling lanes, not the snack bar, will be closed Dec. 2 to Dec. 19 for installation of new pinsetters and lanes. For more information, call 434-3426.