

SILVER WINGS

"Year of the Air Force Family"
Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

January 8, 2010

Vol. 34, Issue 2

Weather

 Today High: 56, Low: 37 Mostly cloudy	 Saturday High: 51, Low: 42 Showers
 Sunday High: 54, Low: 36 Few showers	 Monday High: 60, Low: 34 Partly cloudy

News Briefs

Annual Awards Ticket Sales

Tickets are on sale for the remainder of the day for the Wing Annual Awards Banquet. For more information, or to purchase a ticket, please contact your group POC. Senior Airman Kendra, 14th OG; Staff Sgt. Aubrey Mitera, 14th MDG; Staff Sgt. Melanie Hall, 14th MSG; Tech. Sgt. Keasha Cleveland, 14th WSA.

Dorm Dinner

The next Columbus AFB Dorm Dinner will be at 5 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Chapel Annex.

Class 10-12 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 10-12 will hold their Track Select at 5 p.m., Jan. 19 at the Columbus Club.

Inside



Feature 9

BLAZE Team member Lt. Col. Doug Lee, 14th OSS, takes command of new MC-12 Squadron.



USAF Photo/Melissa Duncan
Colonel Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander presents 14 FTW Command Chief Master Sergeant Richard Brackett the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, fifth Oak Leaf Cluster, at a farewell luncheon for Chief and Mrs. Brackett at the Columbus Club Jan 8.

BLAZE Team bids farewell to 14th FTW/CCC

Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The men and women of the 14th Flying Training Wing gathered to bid farewell to their command chief master sergeant at a luncheon and ceremony last

week.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Brackett, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, and his wife Debbie will be departing Columbus AFB for their new assignment at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The chief has served as the wing's com-

mand chief since June 2008, and will assume the command chief position at Andrews.

"I can't thank you all enough for taking us into your lives," Chief Brackett said. "(We've had) great times here and made great friends."

See FAREWELL, Page 3

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 (10-01)	3.12 days	-1.61 days	Apr. 22	48th (09-07)	-2.77 days	0.11 days	Apr. 3	49th (09-FB)	3.63 days	3.31 days	Apr. 1	T-6	1,824	1,780	13,408
41st (09-15)	2.52 days	-4.42 days	Apr. 1	50th (09-08)	7.95 days	1.75 days	Apr. 24					T-1	656	663	5,095
												T-38	544	547	3,927
												IFF	164	153	1,364

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Robert Kane, commanding general, Coalition Air Force Transition Team, Baghdad, Iraq.

Come home to...
First United Methodist Church
602 Main Street • Columbus, MS
Sunday Worship
8:45 AM: Artz Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM: Sanctuary
Sunday School
9:45 AM
Sunday Evenings
4:30 PM Vespers & Communion
6:00 PM Children, Youth & Adult Programs
662.328.5252
www.columbusfumc.org

Malco CINEMA
ONLINE TICKETING @ malco.com
240-0000 **STADIUM SEATING** ♦ No Passes
♦ **THE BOOK OF ELI** R
4:25 • 7:20 • 9:55 • Sat. Mat. 1:10
♦ **THE LOVELY BONES** PG-13
4:10 • 7:10 • 10:05 • Sat. Mat. 1:00
♦ **THE SPY NEXT DOOR** PG
4:35 • 7:00 • 9:10 • Sat. Mat. 12:15 & 2:25
♦ **DAYBREAKERS** R
4:35 • 7:30 • 9:50 • Sat. Mat. 1:20
♦ **LEAPYEAR** PG
2:35 • 4:55 • 7:20 • 9:40 • Sat. Mat. 12:15
SHERLOCK HOLMES PG-13
4:15 • 7:15 • Sat. Mat. 1:10
♦ **YOUTH IN REVOLT** R
10:00
CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKUEL PG
3:45 • 6:30 • 8:45 • Sat. Mat. 1:15
AVATAR 3-D PG-13
4:00 • 7:25 • Sat. Mat. 12:40
Hwy 45 North behind Applebee's • Columbus

Marilou's Alterations
Military Uniforms
Dress Making • Crochet Items
Wedding Items
Mon.-Fri.
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday!
4186 Hwy. 373 • Columbus, MS 39705
(662) 434-8932 Outside Columbus Air Force Base

St. David's at Mayhew Anglican Catholic Church
The Rt. Rev. D. Presley Hutchens, Bishop Ordinary
Sunday Service • 10:00 a.m. • 549 Mayhew Rd., Mayhew, MS
For information call 662-386-8481 or 662-324-0717
The Rev. Mr. Rick Jones, Deacon • Muse Davis Sr., Warden
Following the faith of the undivided Church in orthodox Anglican Form - 1928 BCP

Lemon Grass Oriental Foods
153 Priscilla Circle (off Mike Parra Road)
Columbus, MS 39705 • Phone 434-9324 or 253-5125
Open Monday-Saturday 9:30am-6pm
Here to Serve You • Come See Us First

Caledonia United Pentecostal Church
A Place Where Good Things Happen!
Sunday Worship: 10am & 6pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Rev. Grant Mitchell, Pastor
5850 Cal-Kolola Rd.
Caledonia • 662-356-0202

The Landings at Columbus
We have short-term lease available
Our community is now open to National Guard, Reserve, Unaccompanied Service Members, Retired Military, Civil Service & Retired Civil Service, Permanent Employees of DoD contractors (limited to US Citizens)
• 3, 4 & 5 Bedroom Homes
• Walk to Work
• Close to the BX
• No Security Deposit
• No Pet Deposit
• No Application Fee
• No Utility Bills
• Free Lawn Care
• Free Trash Pickup
Call for Specials!
www.columbusfamilyhousing.com
662.434.8213

Military Discount
20% Off
with photo ID
Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount.
BACKYARD BURGERS
1913 Hwy. 45 N. Columbus, MS

RENT-A-SPACE
406 Wilkins-Wise Road
Modern Climate Controlled Units
Conventional Units
Website: www.columbusrentaspace.com
Email: info@columbusrentaspace.com
3 Locations:
NORTH COLUMBUS 406 Wilkins-Wise Road 662-327-5656
EAST COLUMBUS 1530 Gardner Blvd. 662-328-5666
NEW HOPE 2193 Lake Lowndes 662-327-0659

★ **Mention This Ad For Special Offers!**
Furnish Your Whole Apartment!
Starting at only **\$325 Monthly**
Includes Queen Bedroom Suite, Living Room Suite, Washer & Dryer, TV, with DVD and Stand, and More!
We Do Allotments
PREMIER RENTAL-PURCHASE
662-328-2600
2315 Highway 45 North
Columbus, MS 39705
Across from K-Mart, next to Mike's Liquor & Wine
42" TV
Living Room Sets
Washer/Dryer Sets

T-6A accident investigation complete

Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force has completed its investigation of the July 9, 2009, T-6A Texan II accident near Mantee, Miss., which resulted in the loss of the aircraft.

The accident investigation board (AIB) determined the cause of this mishap was a result of pilot error. Student pilot 2nd Lt. Falah Al-Obaidi, an international student in the Aviation Leadership program was flying a solo mission in a T-6A assigned to the 37th Flying Training Squadron. The

mission was to practice aerobatics in the Columbus Air Force Base Area 5 Military Operating Area. About 45 minutes into the flight, the student pilot began a series of aerobatic maneuvers, beginning with three leaves of a clover-leaf pattern and ending with two consecutive loops. According to the investigation report the maneuvers were characterized by incorrect airspeed throughout.

On his final loop, Lieutenant Al-Obaidi released back pressure on the control stick, stabilizing the T-6A at 90 degrees nose up. As the aircraft lost airspeed it transitioned into a steep right bank dive. When the pilot attempted to

recover to level flight the steep nose down attitude and rapidly decreasing altitude caused him to think he'd entered a spin or spiral. Once his altitude was below 6,000 feet, the pilot elected to eject.

Lieutenant Al-Obaidi was treated for minor injuries and released from Columbus (Miss.) Baptist Hospital. The T-6A was completely destroyed and there was minor property damage at the crash site.

Col. Eric A. Kivi, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, N.M., headed the accident investigation board.

SILVER WINGS

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
555 Seventh St. Suite 203
Columbus AFB, MS 39710
Commercial: (662) 434-7068
DSN: 742-7068
Fax: (662) 434-7009
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Roger Watkins
14th Flying Training Wing
Wing Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson
Public Affairs Chief

Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
Editor

Mr. Matt Garner
Layout Designer

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.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14th Flying Training Wing.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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.

NOTICE:

Commissary Closing

The Columbus Air Force Base Commissary will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 18-19 in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Saturday Flying

Saturday, Jan. 23 will be a flying day for the 14th Flying Training Wing. In addition, Feb. 20 may also be a flying day. Whether Feb. 20 will be a flying day will be announced on Thursday, Feb. 18. These flying days are required to catch the flying schedule back up after a series of bad weather days.

Columbus AFB enlisted members are recognized for their recent promotions.



USAF Photo/Melissa Duncan
Front Row from left to right : Airmen 1st Class Maria Pagan-Moronta 14th Security Forces Squadron, Technical Sergeant Erica Solis 14th Flying Training Wing Protocol. Back Row from left to right: Staff Sergeant Kevin Callender 14th Communications Squadron, Technical Sergeant Robert Kentch, 14th Operations Support Squadron, Staff Sergeant Aaron Huddle, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron.

AROUND TOWN

Community Volunteer Opportunity of the Week

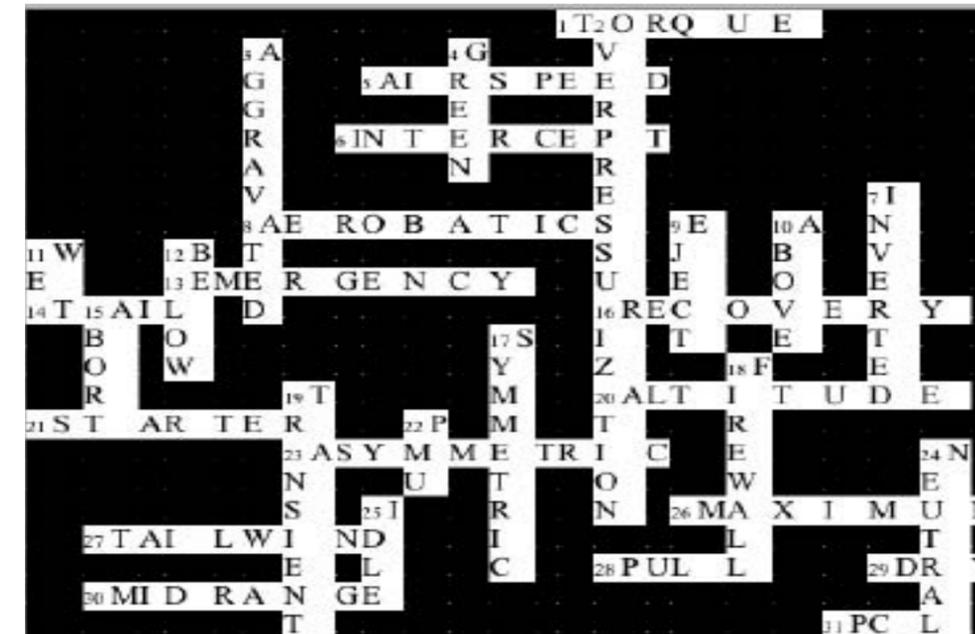
Lisa Lang's home burned to the ground on Friday, Jan. 8. Lisa is always the first one to help someone whenever someone needs it-SHE needs our help now. I know times are tough for a lot of us but think if you lost everything in a fire how tough it would be. Please try to donate something for Lisa and her family. They were not able to save any personal items or property. The two girls have no school uniforms and they also lost all their Christmas presents they had just received. We are, however, very grateful she, nor her family was hurt. Anything you can do, will be appreciated. She did not have fire insurance on her home (only flood). Here is a list of current needs for right

now. When the family gets into a new place, they will need help with household items then. Money is the primary need for this family. Gift cards to Wal-Mart, grocery stores, and clothing departments are also needed. To donate, please take your contributions to the Columbus Police Department and drop them off at the right front window for Sheila Elder. For more information, please call Sheila Elder at 244-3528.

Link National Health Care Seminar

This seminar will be on Jan. 27 at 8 a.m. at Baptist Memorial Hospital, community room in the outpatient pavilion. Reservations are necessary; please call Maureen Lipscomb at (662) 328-8369.

Answers to last week's crossword puzzle:



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Most CAFB offices closed	19 Class 10-12 Track Select 5 p.m. @ Club	20	21 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel Annex Daedalian Dinner 6 p.m. @ Columbus Club	22 Class 10-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	23/24 23: Wing Flying Day
25 CMSAF Visit Annual Awards Banquet, 6 p.m., @ Club	26	27	28 Quarterly Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., @ Club	29 BCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., The Ritz Enlisted Promotions, 3:30 p.m., @ Club	30/31

Long Range Events

Feb. 1: 11-04 PPW
Feb. 4: Columbus Annual Prayer Breakfast
Feb. 5: Class 10-05 Assignment Night

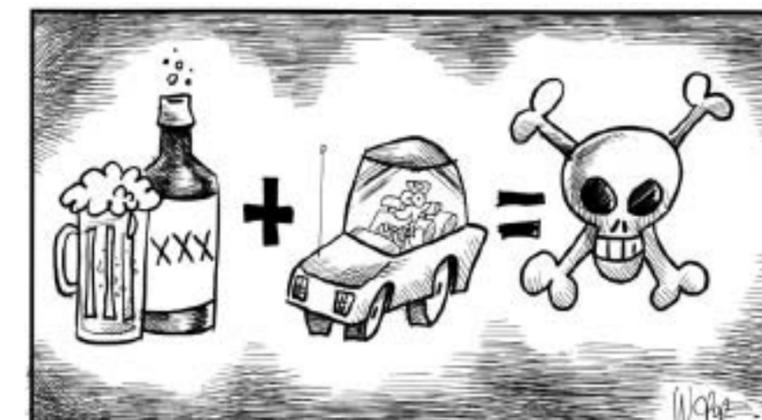
Feb. 9: OSC Wine Tasting
Feb. 11: Newcomers Briefing
Feb. 12: Fun Run
Feb. 13: Valentine Gourmet Night @ Club

Sports Shorts

National Spouses Day Bowling Special: The bowling center offers buy one game, get one free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 26. For more information, call 434-3426.

Paintball Familiarization Class: Outdoor recreation offers this class at 10 a.m. Jan. 30. Cost is \$7 per person. Register by Jan. 28 at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 434-2507.

Holiday Bowling Special: The bowling center is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18 and offers 50 cents a game and \$1 shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.



NEW SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
welcomes you
7086 Wolf Road, 3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
E-mail: newsalembaptist@cableone.net
Web-Site: newsalembaptistcaledonia.com
Bro. David R. Woods, Pastor

SUNDAY MORNINGS
(Beginning Oct. 19) 8:17 am (See Pro. 8:17 KJV)
Early Worship Service
9:30 am: Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am: Worship Service
(Children's Church for ages 4 - 2nd grade)

SUNDAY EVENINGS
(September - May) 4:00 pm: Jr. Varsity & Varsity A.W.A.N.A.
(Jr. Varsity: ages 6,7,8 grades; Varsity: High School)
(September - May) 4:15 pm: Club A.W.A.N.A.
(for Ages 3 yr. old - 5th Grade)

(June - August) 5:00 pm: Summer Blast for Children
(Ages 3 yr. old - 5th Grade)
(June - August) 5:00 pm: Youth Discipleship Training
5:00 pm: Discipleship Training for Adults
6:00 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Adult Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
@ 6:30 pm
Mission Friends: ages 3 - 5
R.A.s & G.A.s: 1st - 5th Grades
Youth Bible Study: 6th - 12th Grades
Adult Bible Study/Prayer
Nursery is provided for all services.

FALCON LAIR
Apartments
A Cut Above The Rest
Your Christmas & Vacation 9s On 9s!!
Move-In by Dec. 1, 2009
Dec. 2009 & June 2010 IS FREE!!!
or take lower monthly payments
2 BEDROOM FOR PRICE OF A 1 BEDROOM
Call for Details
329-2544
1 & 2 Bedrooms

- Washer & Dryer in Each Unit
- Icemaker, Microwave, Disposal & Dishwasher
- Pool & Jacuzzi
- Wireless internet access available
- Tennis Courts
- Fitness Center
- Business Center

625 31st Avenue North
(Behind K-Mart Off Hwy. 45 North) • Office Hours Mon-Fri 8-5
www.falconlairapts.com

First Christian Church - Columbus
"Dynamic preaching, worship in music, fellowship"
Come join us to worship our Lord

811 North McCrary Road
Columbus, MS 39702-4304
(662) 328-2657

Sunday School - Sunday 9:30am
Morning Worship - Sunday 10:30am
Evening Worship - Sunday 6:00pm
Bible Study - Wednesday 6:00pm

www.fcchurchcolumbus.com

KOLOLA SPRINGS Baptist Church

Sunday School • 9:30 AM ~ Morning Worship • 10:30 AM
Discipleship Training • 5:00 PM ~ Evening Worship • 6:00 PM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting • 7:00 PM ~ Children's Ministry ages 0-5yrs. • 7:00 PM
Focus on Christ K-5th • 7:00 PM ~ Youth Fellowship 6th - 12th • 7:00 PM

Pastor, Don Harding • Minister of Music, Chris Harding • Youth Director, Mike Gambal

965 Cal-Kolola Rd. • (662) 356-6037

HELP WANTED
Part-time Housekeepers, Secretaries and Laborers.
Must have dependable transportation.
Send resume with non-family references to:
Columbus Service Group
402 Wilkins Wise Road
Columbus, MS 39705
Background checks and drug testing will be conducted. © The Dispatch

BOB'S PAINT & AUTO BODY, INC.
BOB TAYLOR - OWNER

Toll Free 1-888-805-2627
Phone (662) 327-1221
83 E. Plymouth Rd.
(off the 82 bypass downtown exit)
Columbus, MS 39705

There's a Place for you at
Woodland Baptist Church
www.woodlandonline.org
3033 Ridge Road • Columbus, MS
327-6689

SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Adult Bible Study
Youth Worship
AWANA 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Mike Allred
Music Minister: Randy Comer
Youth Pastor: Matt Long

East End Baptist Church

SUNDAY
Bible Study (All Ages) 9:15AM
Morning Worship 10:30AM
Children's Handbells 4:30PM
Adult Bible Study 5:00PM
Youth Praise Choir
Pre-School Choir
Children's Graded Choir
Evening Worship 6:00PM

WEDNESDAY
AWANA 6:00PM
Prayer Service & Adult Bible Study.... 6:30PM
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... 7:30PM

380 Hwy. 50 West, P.O.Box 8480
662.328.5915
www.eastendbc.org

Aurora
FLIGHT SCIENCES
Job Fair

Aurora Flight Sciences is a leader in unmanned aerial systems specializing in the design, rapid prototyping, and production of air vehicles and structures made of advanced composite and metallic materials.

Date: Saturday, January 16th, 2010
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 pm.
Place: 200 Aurora Way, Columbus, MS

Hiring Managers will be onsite to speak with you. Open positions include:

- Composite Technicians
- Avionics Technicians
- Assembly Technicians
- Quality Assurance Inspectors
- Manufacturing Engineers
- Quality Assurance Engineers
- Electrical Systems Engineers
- Mechanical Systems Engineers
- Production Control Analysts

www.aurora.aero/careers
Aurora offers a comprehensive benefits package inclusive of relocation assistance.
EOE

Joint basing at Charleston moves forward with activation of 628th ABW

Staff Sgt. Daniel Bowles
628th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — Eighteenth Air Force officials activated the 628th Air Base Wing during an assumption-of-command ceremony Jan. 8 at Charleston AFB.

The activation of the 628th ABW is the latest step toward the stand up of Joint Base Charleston Jan. 31.

The joint base stand up in late January will begin the next phase in an ongoing process to merge Charleston AFB with Naval Weapons Station Charleston as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Program.

A total of 12 joint bases across the Department of Defense will have been established when the last one stands up.

The activation ceremony for the 628th ABW was accompanied by the inactivation of two groups under the 437th Airlift Wing, the prior host unit, and their immediate activation as the new 628th Mission Support and 628th Medical Groups under the 628 ABW.

The 437th Airlift Wing had served as the base's host unit since 1991.

Aside from the inactivation of the two groups previously under the 437th AW, the 437th Aerial Port Squadron was realigned under the 437th Maintenance Group. Also, many wing staff agencies previously assigned to the 437th AW will now operate under the 628th ABW.

The organizational structure of other the tenant units on Charleston AFB will remain unchanged.

The leaders of the 437th AW will continue their mission to command assigned airlift and supporting units, providing for the airlift of troops and passengers, military equipment,

cargo and aeromedical airlift; and to participate in operations involving the airdrop of troops, equipment and supplies when required.

As the general officer officiating the activation ceremony for the 628th ABW, Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice, 18th Air Force commander, formally introduced Col. Martha Meeker, the first commander of the 628th ABW, citing the depth of her intellect, warrior spirit and capacity for leadership.

"For the complexities of this great merger that we have, pulling together the best of what the Navy has to offer and the best of what the Air Force has to offer, we in the Air Force chose one of our great leaders, Col. Martha Meeker, to come down to Charleston ... so that this great day today, she could take command of the now-established 628th ABW," he said.

As the 628th ABW commander, Colonel Meeker will direct host unit duties for the tenant units of Charleston AFB, and after Jan. 31, for Naval Weapons Station Charleston tenant units as well, as they are merged into Joint Base Charleston.

With the activation of two groups under the 628th ABW, the air base wing's primary duties will be to provide base support for approximately 80,000 personnel, including active-duty and Reserve military members, civilian government employees and contractors, military family members and retirees.

Services provided by the 628th ABW will include base support provisions, such as housing and facilities maintenance, security, child-care, public works, communications, finance, logistics, medical support, personnel, public affairs, legal, food service, contracts and recreation.

The servicing agencies under the wing will

BLAZE Team defender deployed overseas



U.S. Air Force photo
Staff Sgt. Thomas Burns, 14th Security Forces Squadron, pauses for a photo during his deployment to an overseas location. Sergeant Burns is currently serving as a member of the 387th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

employ approximately 2,100 personnel.

In her first public address as 628th ABW commander, Colonel Meeker spoke about heritage, continued commitment and hard work.

"On this day in 1790, George Washington gave the nation's first State of the Union address. A fledgling institution itself, the United States had fought hard for its freedom, and President Washington began his remarks by reaffirming his belief in the common defense that made that freedom happen. For as in his words, preparing for war is the most effectual means to preserving the peace," said Colonel Meeker.

"When we look at his words today, all our Airmen, our Sailors, our Soldiers and Marines, and everyone here who makes up Joint Team Charleston, are taking their place today in our

common defense. At the center of that Joint Team Charleston, you'll find now the 628th (ABW)," she said.

General Allardice also remarked on the impact the Charleston military community has had, which dates back to the Revolutionary War, and its current role in supporting military and humanitarian operations anywhere in the world.

Joint Base Charleston, he said, will continue that impact with greater efficiency.

"Nothing happens in the world without Charleston from a military perspective," he said. "This is a national treasure here at Charleston ... I know you are focused on preserving that, on building that and on establishing more and more of this great power projection platform that you represent here at Charleston."

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 77 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



FAREWELL

(Continued from Page 1)

Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, offered words of remembrance and praise for the chief's time at Columbus AFB.

"You cannot ask someone better to be your senior enlisted advisor

and your friend, than Rich Brackett," Colonel Watkins said.

The colonel said that over the last two years, the wing has seen numerous challenges, and that Chief Brackett was there to assist with all of them.

"Every time I had to make a tough decision, Rich Brackett was there offering truth and support,"

Colonel Watkins said. "We've been through a lot over the last year."

Throughout the event, attention was brought to the relationship between the chief and his wife Debbie, who was also praised for her involvement in the wing.

"When I hired Rich to be my command chief, I hired Debbie as well," Colonel Watkins said.

Airmen transition into new fitness program

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — As Airmen begin transitioning into the new testing cycle in January, officials worked to publish the new Air Force instruction to the Air Force Publications Web site Jan. 12, with an effective date of July 1.

Air Force officials unveiled the new fitness program in August while still completing a rigorous schedule to collect feedback, coordinate the instruction and publish it by its original Jan. 1 target date.

Incorporating some of the most significant changes to the fitness program in the last five years, Air Force leaders in November delayed the effective date for the new scoring system while implementing a hybrid approach that incorporated the biannual testing cycle.

“The hybrid approach gives active-duty Airmen time to train to the new standard and understand requirements outlined in the new instruction,” said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Long, the Air Force’s chief of enlisted promotions, evaluations and fitness policy here. “It also demonstrates the Air Force leadership’s commitment to improve our standards while holding Airmen accountable for their scores throughout the transition period.”

Chief Long said the hybrid approach also allows time for commanders to establish base fitness assessment cells and hire more than 250 civilian fitness testing technicians across the Air Force.

In addition to an increase in testing frequency and establishment of fitness assessment cells to proctor tests, Airmen learned

last summer of the significant change and increased emphasis being placed on the aerobic component in scoring. The new Air Force instruction sets minimum requirements for each component in addition to requiring Airmen achieve a passing score of 75 or greater.

In an Air Force fitness interim guidance memorandum published Jan. 6, Airmen testing through June 2010 under the present scoring standards will receive two score cards. The first score card will be calculated using present score charts and will be loaded into the Air Force Fitness Management System. This score will be used to document evaluation reports as “Meets” or “Does Not Meet” standards or “Exempt.”

The second score card will be calculated using the new score charts that become

effective in July and serves as a means for Airmen and commanders to gauge performance under the new scoring system.

During the hybrid period, Air Force Reserve Airmen will fitness test 12 months after their 2009 test date, then again six months later to progress to a biannual cycle. Air National Guard Airmen on active duty and drill status will fitness test 12 months after their last 2009 test date.

The new fitness program has been reclassified from a 10-series instruction to Air Force Instruction 36-2905, Fitness Program, and the new fitness standards become effective for all Airmen July 1.

To learn more about the new fitness program and view scoring components that become effective in July, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/affitnessprogram.

Advising the Iraqi Air Force

By Maj. Tim Stevens
49th Fighter Training Squadron

I recently returned from six-month deployment to Iraq and was asked to share with the BLAZE Team at Columbus AFB bit on my experiences serving as an advisor to the Iraqi Air Force. Deploying to Baghdad as an advisor was perhaps the most interesting, challenging, and rewarding mission of my 10-year Air Force career. Our goal was to facilitate the growth of a credible and sustainable Iraqi air force. Specifically, I had the opportunity to work directly with more than 20 IAF officers in the Iraqi Air Operations Center (IAOC). The IAOC is the command and control hub for all IAF flying operations, both training and operational.

Interesting barely describes life as an advisor to a foreign country. There is no such thing as a standard day when working with a fledgling air force; limited resources, and the constant balancing act between base security and the need for increased Iraqi access and control. On any given day, an advisor could be involved in any of the following activities: flying on an MI-17 (Russian made helicopter) with an

Iraqi pilot, constructing a wall in the new Iraqi AF headquarters, running a teleconference with an international company supporting an Iraqi AF contract, advising how to effectively produce the Iraqi Master Air Tasking Order (IMATO), or acting as the sole US escort for an Iraqi prisoner transfer across base. Because the Iraqi IAOC is the IAF command and control center, many Iraqi issues were discussed or resolved within its walls. Therefore, the advisor team influenced a wide range of important matters.

Work as an Iraqi air advisor provided some of the most challenging situations I have dealt with in my career. Many projects involved coordination between the five IAF bases, eight airframes, and two distinct cultures. I found the cultural differences in how we approach complex problem solving, communication, and individualism took more effort to overcome than any disparity in religious beliefs.

Here is one example. It was the day before the first-ever IAF Hellfire missile-launch, representing their initial kinetic air-to-ground capability. A trailer-sized target was conveyed into a remote bombing range in Western Iraq, and video cameras

setup to document the significant event. Less than 30 minutes after target placement, surveillance aircraft, and the ground cameras themselves, filmed the first unexpected challenge. Bedouins found the trailer, broke into it, pushed and pulled it by truck for over half a mile in the sand, and ultimately disassembled it for scrap metal. The next day, no trace of the trailer was found. So much for the well planned target. The next six days saw a continuous escalation in effort, involving U.S. and Iraqi helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and ground security forces, all dedicated to the first Hellfire launch from an Iraqi Cessna 208. Multiple shot attempts were disrupted by the restricted range-wandering Bedouins on their motorcycles and small trucks. After range security was finally established, the aircrew performed flawlessly, and the missile scored a direct hit. The IAF took a major capabilities step forward, and as an unplanned additional benefit, took part in a large joint and multinational operation.

In the Iraqi culture, before a good working relationship could be established, a friendship founded in trust was required. Therefore, drinking chai, an Iraqi tea, discussing fami-



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Brian Grill
Major Tim Stevens in front of an Iraqi air force Mi-17 HIP helicopter after a flight on Sept. 13, 2009. HIPs, KA-350 King Airls and C-130 aircraft are the backbone of the IAF transport aircraft.

lies, or even playing soccer was vital to effectiveness as an advisor. Once this trust was established, the hard work of producing results in a fledgling air force, with sometimes very limited resources, could begin.

Despite, being outside my comfort zone and the never ending obstacles, working with the Iraqi officers was an incredibly rewarding experience that I will never forget.

It was an honor to share in the professional triumphs, the personal joys, and even some sorrows with my Iraqi friends. I have no doubt that the personal friendships built at every level will be the catalyst that leads to a significant strategic partnership in the Middle East. I am thankful I had the opportunity to be involved with the Iraqi AF at such a crucial time.

- Across
- Pitch trim/Roll trim/Rudder Trim Runaway boldface: ___ INT & A/P Disengage Switch-Push and Hold
 - Oil pressure below 40 psi is ___
 - Maximum continuous N1 RPM ___
 - Engine Fire During Ground Operations boldface: ___-Cutoff
 - Maximum Load on the ground for each generator is ___ amps
 - Minimum N2 during idle is ___ %
 - Maximum N1 RPM for takeoff is ___ rpm
 - Oil pressure below 60 psi is ___
 - Maximum landing weight ___
 - Maximum transient N1 RPM is ___ %
 - Maximum altitude for an airstart using JP-8 fuel is ___ feet
 - Aircraft is limited to ___ KIAS
 - Low Cabin Pressure boldface: ___ Masks-Don/100%
 - Maximum crosswind of ___ knots for an wet runway
 - Maximum Transient ITT ___ degrees
- Down
- Normal safe taxi speed is a ___ walk
 - Max fuel imbalance of 300 Lbs for ___
 - An operating procedure or technique which could result in damage to equipment if not carefully followed is a ___ ?
 - Maximum ___ of 10 knots for an icy runway
 - Trim INT & ___ Switch- Push and Hold
 - Maximum generator load prior to starting second engine is ___ amps
 - Minimum oil temperature for starting is - ___ degrees
 - Smoke or Fumes in Aircraft boldface: Oxygen Masks - ___
 - Oil temperature for ___ from 10 to 121 degrees
 - Engine Fire During Flight boldface: Throttle- ___
 - Maximum takeoff weight ___
 - Max fuel imbalance for takeoff/touch & go is ___ lbs
 - Max fuel imbalance of ___ Lbs for landing
 - Normal ___ pressure is 60 to 83 PSI above 60% N2
 - ITT should normally not exceed ___ degrees during ground start
- See answers to last week's crossword on page 15.

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 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: 2.1 acres on Wood Road in Caledonia. Ready to build! Call 356-6844 after 6 pm.
For sale: 135 Scarlet Dr., Sherwood Forest: 4 br, 2.5 bath w/new kitchen,

all new stainless steel appliances. Formal dining room, living room, sun room w/hot tub and bonus room (2714 sq ft). 2 car garage, with a large back yard with 6 ft privacy fence completely enclosed. 10 minute drive from CAFB. \$192,900. FMI call 662-242-0776.

Transportation

For sale: 1994 Chevy Impala SS with LT-1 Corvette Engine--one of only 6000 made in '94. Has new factory carpet, Chevy Impala embossed floor mats, new Bosch starter, new GM battery, switched to Synthetic oil. Good restoration project car; needs interior work, paint, electrical work, exhaust and steering alignment. CARFAX notes no accidents, \$3000/OBO. FMI call 662-889-8440.
For sale: 2003 Ford F-150 King Ranch Super Crew, green with beige trim, extra clean, leather, V8, auto, O/D, air, 6CD, remote entry, tow pkg,

bed liner, 74k miles. \$13,900 OBO. FMI call 662-327-1205.
For sale: 2007 BMW G650 X-Challenge, Enduro Motorcycle, warranty until June 2010. Excellent Condition. Price lowered from \$6k to \$5450 obo! 2005 Honda CBR600RR, Exhaust, K&N, Integrated Turn Signals, New tires, Lots of extras. \$5450 obo. Must sell! 808-221-2005.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Pair of factory Harley Davidson Whip antennas \$50; 300 Watt Harmon/Kardon subwoofer with two satellite speakers for Dell media home computer- \$50/OBO. Men's USAF clothing items- 48L Air Force blue cardigan \$50, 50R light weight blue jacket with removable liner embroidered US Air Force crest and MSgt stripes \$75, 8 blue shirts 16 1/2" collar/tailored fit, w/MSgt stripes \$75, 4 Pr of 37L AF Blue uniform slacks \$75. FMI Call 662-889-8440.

For sale: Baby Trend Flex Loc car seat in Galaxy for sale, purchased less than a year ago and used only for 6 months; comes with the base; \$45. FMI call 662-364-6005.
For sale: Ashley Lakota table with four leather and wood chairs; new paid \$500 will sell for \$400. Cuisinart stainless steel microwave \$75; two parsons chairs \$100 for pair; just moved lots of household décor. FMI call 549-1381.
For sale: NASCAR tickets – 4 sets of tickets to the March 19-21 race weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway. Includes 4 tickets each; Pole day, Nationwide race, Sprint Cup race. Seats are located in Earnhardt Terrace. Will sell in sets of 2 if necessary. FMI call 356-6844.
For sale: Armoire entertainment center, cherry wood, good condition, \$100; Broyhill triple dresser and large mirror with matching chest of drawers, walnut wood, good condition, \$200. FMI call 662-356-0280.
For sale: Hot Spring hot tub, perfect condition (Rated Best Buy by

Consumer Report), seats 4-5, new cost \$7100; firm selling price \$3,500. FMI call 329-1843.
For sale: Largo Furniture Bordeaux wood daybed with mattress, dresser and chest. Great shape. Brown cherry. \$350, FMI call 889-3974.
For sale: Sofa in good condition, oak trim w/green floral upholstery; 1 solid oak drop leaf dining room table w/ 4 chairs. FMI call 662-328-4256 or 662-549-1390.

Pets

To good home: Male munchkin cat, neutered and declawed, current shots. FMI call 662-425-4953 or 337-274-5479.

Wanted

Wanted: 410 Gauge shotgun, 38 caliber revolver, & 9 mm pistol, refrigerator, in good condition. Call 662-329-1843/662-329-1843.

Base News

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 Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Story Time will continue to be held each week.

Personnel Office Information

The Military Personnel Section (MPS) has gone to a single-point of entry for all customer service actions. Please sign-in at the Customer Support counter located in room 106. Additionally, for Common Access Card (CAC)/ID Card renewals, we request one make an appointment with Customer Support at 434-2624 or 434-2626

POCs and Volunteers needed for special observances

February – Black History Month (2010 Theme: The History of Black Economic Empowerment)

March – Women's History Month (Writing Women Back into History)

If you are interested, please contact the EO office at 434-2546 or email 14ftweo@columbus.af.mil

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.

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 afr@columbus.af.mil.)

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.

Introduction to American Sign Language Course

The AFRC will conduct an Introduction class at the AFRC Feb. 1, 3 and 5. Each session will be 2 hours long starting at 4 p.m. each day, and going for three days for a total of 6 Hours. If there is more interest they will schedule more advance class at a later date. Please call 434-290 to sign up.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The Wing Newcomers Orientation will be Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for newly arrived AD and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Services Complex.

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.

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.

Spouse Welcome

A special welcome for new personnel assigned to Columbus AFB is held each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Magnolia Inn Lobby. For more information, call 434-2790.

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.

RefresHer

Please join us at the Base Chapel for RefresHer at 6 p.m.:

Jan. 28 – Dinner bring a salad or soup to share and Self Defense Class (dress comfortably)

Feb. 25 – Game Night/ Bring a Finger Food to Share

March 25 – Movie Night Casablanca/Bring a side dish or dessert to share

April 29 – TBA

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

Gates will remain as secretary at least another year

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates will stay in office for at least another year, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell confirmed here Jan. 7.

Secretary Gates met with President Barack Obama before Christmas and committed to another year on the job, Mr. Morrell said.

Then-President George W. Bush nominated Secretary Gates for the job in December 2006, and President Obama asked the secretary to remain as defense secretary when his administration began in January 2009. Secretary Gates is the only Cabinet member to span both administrations.

Secretary Gates has worked to remake the way the Defense Department does business and another year in office will give him another opportunity to shape the department's budget.

In the fiscal 2010 budget, for example, the secretary recommended ending the F-22 Raptor program and concentrating on the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter. He also ended the Army's Future Combat System and pledged the money to other Army programs.

He drove the effort to buy and rapidly deploy mine-resistant, ambush-protected

vehicles to protect servicemembers in Iraq from roadside bombs and to provide all-terrain versions of the vehicles for troops in Afghanistan.

Secretary Gates took over at a tough time for the department. The troop surge in Iraq was just getting under way, and casualties in the fighting were mounting. He was also in charge when revelations about substandard conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington D.C., came out. He fired the Army secretary, the service's surgeon general and the commander at the facility. He has concentrated attention on care for wounded warriors and putting systems in place so the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs can work together.

Amid concerns over the Air Force's handling of its nuclear weapons, Secretary Gates asked for and received the resignations of the service's secretary and chief of staff in June 2008.

More recently, Secretary Gates has been instrumental in developing the new Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy.

As with any appointed official, Mr. Morrell noted, Secretary Gates serves at the pleasure of the president.

"(The president and Secretary Gates) agreed to revisit this issue again later this year,



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez

An Afghanistan National Army Air Corps flight engineer helps a U.S. Soldier unload a pallet of cargo out of an Mi-17 cargo door during a joint mission Jan. 7, 2010, at Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. Missions like this are becoming more common as 441st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron Airmen mentor Mi-17 helicopter pilots.

but for all intents and purposes, their original agreement still stands: he serves at the pleasure of the president indefinitely, and he is hon-

ored to do so, though he certainly looks forward to one day retiring to his family home in the Pacific Northwest," Mr. Morrell said.

Ali Base drawdown in full swing

Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq — Ali Base is in full drawdown mode following the presidential directive to reduce the American military presence in Iraq, and to withdraw combat forces by December 2011.

The Air Force presence here will be less than one-third what it is today by the end of August, according to Col. Dennis Hunsicker, 407th Air Expeditionary Group deputy commander, deployed from the Delaware Air National Guard's 166th Airlift Wing at Newcastle.

The phased drawdown is designed to responsibly shift the Air Force mission from a combat posture to one of advice and assistance for the Iraqi military, who will assume control of Ali Base after the departure of combat troops.

Force reduction at Ali Base is accomplished through a variety of methods, including attrition, eliminating positions, cutting tours short and reassigning Airmen to other bases throughout Southwest Asia.

Although the number of Airmen at Ali Base is being reduced, the mission will remain the same.

"Our mission is always first," Col. Hunsicker said. "Our core

competency is to maintain the airfield and the ability of the Air Force to operate in southern Iraq."

To ensure mission success and continuity, positions vacated by departing Airmen will be filled by contractors, many of whom will be Iraqi nationals.

"There will be a large mix of uniforms at Ali Base," Col. Hunsicker said. "Positions will be filled by other services and contractors. People need to get used to seeing many more local nationals working in key areas here."

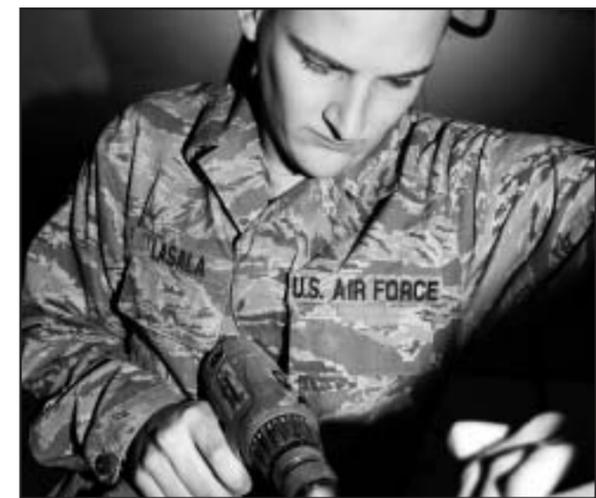
In addition to people, equipment ranging from large rolling stock such as trucks and earth-moving equipment to office computers and printers are also being shipped to bases in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, as Airmen say goodbye to Ali Base, Soldiers from all over Iraq will be saying hello, at least for the short-term.

Ali Base's role as a transit hub will increase as thousands of Soldiers migrate from other locations in Iraq. This is in accordance with the drawdown plan to have no remaining combat forces in Iraq beyond 2011.

The end of the Air Force mission at Ali Base is in sight, according to Col. Hunsicker.

"Ali Base will not cease to exist," he said. "We will remain vibrant and operational until we turn the facilities over to a freely-elected Iraqi government in 2011."



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

Airman 1st Class Cantley LaSala builds a crate Jan. 7, 2010, for material that will be shipped from Ali Base, Iraq, to bases in Afghanistan. Airmen at Ali Base are beginning the drawdown of forces following directives to reduce the coalition forces footprint in Iraq by August 2010. Airman LaSala is assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

Air Force secretary visits Lackland, addresses priorities

Master Sgt. Ben Gonzales
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — The secretary of the Air Force toured Lackland Air Force Base and presided over the latest Basic Military Training graduation here Jan. 8.

Secretary Michael Donley toured the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills and Training complex, talked to base Airmen and discussed some of his top priorities for 2010.

"This is the first-year anniversary of the extension of BMT from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks, and part of that extension was focused on adding Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills and Training to the curriculum," the secretary said. "All of that is a product of a couple of years of development to make our warrior Airmen better prepared for the current fights in Afghanistan and Iraq. I think it has succeeded in that effort, and we need to continue this kind of emphasis going forward."

The Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills and Training, or BEAST, is the centerpiece of the two-week expansion that gives Air Force trainees a more realistic forward-operating base environment to practice wartime skills. Part of the BEAST focuses on improvised

explosive device training.

"Our Airmen are being deployed into the theater of operations in a dynamic security environment and we need our basic training program to stay informed of current threats," Secretary Donley said. "The IED training has special relevance to the current war. This is exactly the type of training we need to give our Airmen from the very beginning."

With today's Airmen graduating from BMT and moving on to technical school, many of the young men and women will go on to work on aircraft that are older than they are. Knowing this, the 22nd Air Force secretary is committed to modernizing the service's fleet.

"We are focused on recapitalizing the tanker fleet and we are very close to completing the request for proposal that will go to contractors," he said. "We've had a draft out for several months and we are about to finalize that and we hope to get a tanker competition and make a selection in 2010. The F-35 (Lightning II joint strike fighter) remains a priority, and is the largest investment program in the Air Force. We have several space programs that we're continuing with."

Another priority for the Air Force is supporting combatant commanders with the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance needs demanded for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Airmen provide real-time data to commanders and intelligence specialists at all levels through the use of unmanned aircraft systems and reconnaissance aircraft.

"The (U.S. Central Command) commander has requested more (ISR) capabilities, especially in Afghanistan, and we stepped up to do those," Secretary Donley said. "As the Air Force has met the accelerated timelines for delivery of new airframes - like (MQ-9) Reapers and MC-12s, which have recently started operations in Afghanistan - Defense Department officials have set new goals for us. We will be challenged to meet these new goals over the next couple of years. That is a major priority for us, to continue producing the ISR platforms that will bring additional capability into the CENTCOM (area of responsibility) as soon as possible."

But having the best equipment is meaningless without supporting the men and women who serve in the Air Force, the secre-



U.S. Air Force photo/Lance Cheung
Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley officiates the oath of enlistment to graduates of Basic Military Training Jan. 8, 2010, at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

etary said. And Air Force officials have designated July 2009 through July 2010 as the Year of the Air Force Family to highlight the programs in place as well as identify areas to improve support to Airmen and their families.

"Supporting Airmen and their families is not just the right thing to do for Airmen, it is the smart thing to do for our Air Force," Secretary Donley said.

Air Forces in Europe commander visits Spangdahlem, discusses legacy fighter retirements

Senior Airman Kali L. Gradishar
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — The U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander emphasized the important role each Airman fulfills in supporting the mission both at home station and in the deployed environment during his visit Jan. 8, to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Gen. Roger A. Brady discussed a proposal to retire legacy fighters to fund a smaller and more capable force, as well as redistribute people for higher priority missions. The affects would impact Spangdahlem AB aircraft and personnel should the plan be approved by Congress.

"The (Combat Air Forces) restructuring plan is driven by a need for us to free up funds to develop more capability largely in the CAF itself, which has to do with new weapons, missiles and small diameter bombs," General Brady said.

"What it amounts to is basically a squadron of F-16 Fighting Falcons out of Spangdahlem. So rather than having two squadrons of 21 primary assigned aircraft units, you will have one 24-PAA squadron in addition to the A-10 Thunderbolt II squadron," General Brady said.

The plan would include a possible reduction in Spangdahlem AB manpower authorizations by approximately 450, and 18 F-16s would be removed. Under the proposed plan, the Air Force could see a cost savings of about \$355 million in



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Benjamin Wilson
Gen. Roger A. Brady speaks to approximately 1,250 Airmen about the proposed combat Air Force's restructuring, the importance of the Air Force in today's operations and how Spangdahlem Air Base fits into the U.S. Air Forces in Europe mission Jan. 8, 2010 at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. General Brady is the USAFE commander.

fiscal 2010. Air Force officials would then be able to invest most of those funds in advanced capability modifications to remaining fighters and bombers.

"(Col. Tip Wight, the 52nd Fighter Wing commander) and other leaders here are working to make the move as smooth as possible," General Brady said.

The USAFE commander also discussed the significance of Spangdahlem AB and the continuation of its mission in the

Eifel region, as well as the importance of the 52nd FW mission and its geographically-separated units.

"There is a lot going on at Spangdahlem, which includes the 52nd FW and the Air Mobility Command missions the base supports," he said. "Spangdahlem will continue to be important, both as a location for fighter aircraft as well as for mobility, but as we continue to look at where we have mission capability throughout Europe, Spangdahlem will be an important part of that plan. "We have some capability here that we don't have other places. (Base members) have repeatedly and continually demonstrated incredible combat capability down range. They are also extraordinarily important when they are home for partner building here, for assurance to the alliance, the reassurance of our allies and the U.S. commitment to NATO."

"You've got the full range of fighter activity, you've got support to an important mobility hub, you've got partnering with our allies, and Spangdahlem has taken part in the air policing mission in the Baltics," he said. "(Spangdahlem) continues to be an important part of all the major things we undertake here in USAFE."

"Every Airman has a skill that is critical to what the team does," the general said. "We have very smart Airmen who want to fix things and make things better. It's what Airmen do. We will continue to be the most respected air and space force on the planet."

It's Here CTR!

Reboot your life and your fitness routine with outdoor boot camp!

GET IN THE BEST SHAPE OF YOUR LIFE!

4 Week Camp Includes:

- Pre/post fitness and body comp measurements
- 8-12 boot camp workout sessions
- Cardio, strength and core training
- Personalized daily workout "homework" from trainer
- Basic education for weight loss
- All sessions taught by CERTIFIED Fitness Factor trainers
- DO NOT HAVE TO BE MEMBER OF GYM TO PARTICIPATE
- Most camps held outdoors *Indoor option if weather too cold
- Open to ALL fitness levels (exercise modifications available)

Camp Fee: 2x week camps \$145
3x week camps \$200

Call 327-6348
for locations, times & days

Classes begin week of Jan. 18
Sign up soon as space is limited!

All Camps Sponsored By:

© The Dispatch

THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH

CIRCULATION
Dog eat your paper? The rain got it before you did? Want to start a subscription?
Call Us!
328-2433

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Want a full page color ad? Or a half page? How about a quarter page?
Call Us!
328-2427

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Lose your cat? Having a garage sale? Selling your home? Buying a car?
Call Us!
328-8484

NEWS DEPARTMENT
Witness a crime? Want to praise an article? Know some news?
Call Us!
328-2471

SPORTS DEPARTMENT
Need a sports score? Want to call in the results of your favorite team?
Call Us!
327-1297

MAIN OFFICE
Don't know who you need to talk to?
Call Us!
328-2424

There for those who need us most.

Volunteers of America®

1.800.899.0089
 VolunteersofAmerica.org
a CFC participant
Provided as a public service.

AMERICA'S VETDOGS®
VETERAN'S X-9 CORPS®

A friend for life...

Guide dogs
Service dogs
Therapy dogs

Photo by Christopher Appoldt

866-VETDOGS
www.VetDogs.org
 371 E. Main Street
 Smithtown, NY 11787
A CFC participant.
Provided as a public service.

GuideDog Foundation
For The Blind, Inc.®

All Puppies Are Special,

But Some Are Destined For Greatness

371 E. Jericho Turnpike Smithtown, NY 11787
1-800-548-4337 www.guidedog.org
a CFC participant Provided as a public service

This is personal.

My mother died of colon cancer when she was only 56.

Terrence Howard, actor/musician

Screen for Life
National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer in the U.S., but it's largely preventable. If you're 50 or older, please get screened.

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
www.cdc.gov/screenforlife

National Colorectal Cancer RESEARCH ALLIANCE™
Entertainment Industry Foundation Program

Base families offered a variety of activities

Holiday Hours

The following activities are open Monday – the fitness center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the bowling center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and outdoor recreation from 8 a.m. to noon. All other recreational activities will be closed.

Family Fun Night

Mark your calendars for Jan. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. Soft and hard shelled tacos, chicken enchiladas, Mexican rice, ranchero beans, chips and salsa, churros, ice tea and punch are on the menu. Cost is \$10.95 for adult members, children of members, 11 and younger are free. Nonmember prices are \$12.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children, ages 5 to 11. For more information, call 434-2489.

Space A lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

New Year Family Reading Program

The Child development Center invites children and families to share books brought home each week by the child until Feb. 19. The titles of the books are annotated on book jackets and placed in the hall for everyone to enjoy. On the last day, the children will receive recognition for participation in the program and parents will be recognized for their part as well. For more information, call 434-2479.

Holiday bowling special

The bowling center is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18 and offers 50 cents a game and \$1 shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

Home Décor Child's Upholstered Chair Workshop

The arts and crafts center offers this workshop at 10 a.m. Jan. 23. Cost is \$25 plus fabric. Register and pay by Jan. 15 at the arts and crafts center. February's class will be making a child's refrigerator. For more information, call 434-7836.

National Spouses Day bowling special

The bowling center offers buy one game, get one free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 26. For more information, call 434-3426.

Paintball familiarization class

Outdoor recreation offers this class at 10 a.m. Jan. 30. Cost is \$7 per person. Register by Jan. 28 at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 434-2507.

Mardi Gras Brunch

The Columbus Club is offering this special brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 7. Reservations required by Feb. 1. Cost is \$17.95 for club members members and \$6.95 for their children, ages 5 to 11. Nonmembers are \$19.95 and \$8.95 for their children, ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and younger free. Featuring seafood station with steamed crawfish, crab legs, Cajun shrimp, lunch bar with crawfish etouffee, spicy fried chicken, dirty rice, gumbo, candied yams and some children's favorites; breakfast bar, salad bar, dessert station with King Cake, specialty drinks include hurricanes, mimosas, bloody Mary and screwdrivers. For more information, call 434-2489.

Teen Aviation Camp

Air Force Services in conjunction with the US Air Force Academy invite teens to experience the Air Force Academy firsthand during the 11th Annual Teen Aviation Camp. Camp is held in Colorado Springs, CO, from June 5 to 10. The camp is for high school students entering their sophomore or junior year in the fall of 2010. Eligible applicants include teen dependents of active duty military assigned to or living on an Air Force Base, AF retired military, AF civilian employees, or activated Air National Guard or AF Reserve. Teens who participated in the 2009 camp are not eligible to apply this year. Attendees are selected based upon information included in their application. Contact the youth center for more information. Deadline for application is March 15. For more information, call 434-2504, or visit www.afyouthprograms.com.

Valentine Gourmet Dinner

This five-course, five-star meal is prepared by Chef Carla at the Columbus Club from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 13. Cost is \$45 per person for members and \$50 per person for nomembers. Reservations required by Feb. 10. Menu includes assorted canapés, crab cakes on spring greens with sun ripened tomatoes drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette, lemon sorbet, filet mignon stuffed with sauteed spinach and provolone cheese in port wine mustard sauce, chocolate treasures in a pool of ganache. For more information, call 434-2489.



U.S. Air Force photo/Pam Wickham
Barbara Heaps hands BX cashier Britney Lowe her \$250 VISA gift card she won in the Air Force club card drawing for her purchases. Ms Heaps stated this was the most she has ever won and she didn't have to do anything but be a club member. Membership does pay. For more information about club membership, contact Lisa Pajac at 434-2489 or visit www.afclubs.net.

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.

Youth Center sponsorship program

Moving is hard, but it is also a time to meet new friends, find new hangout spots, get involved in fun and different things and go on trips to interesting places. The Youth Sponsorship Program at Columbus was created by and just for youth. To help make your transition from your old base on to your new base, contact the Youth Center and join in the fun of the youth sponsorship program. For more information, call 434-2504.

Casino trip

Register at outdoor recreation for this monthly trip the first Friday of every month

to the Silver Star and Golden Moon casinos. Cost is \$20 and includes transportation and \$25 in player money. For more information, call 434-2507.

One Page at a Time

This program is open to youth, ages 3-13. The desired outcome of this program is to offer literacy enrichment opportunities for youth and to create a passion for reading. It is a motivational program where children read books, document their literary accomplishments and earn incentives for each level of their literary successes. Participants select books from required readings lists at school, the library, selected by their family members or from a list of 15,000 suggested titles located on the www.afyouthprograms.com website. Parents of children, ages 3-5 years, who read a minimum of five books to their child's class in the child development center will earn a book at the conclusion of the program. The program concludes March 19. For more information, call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

When opportunity knocks...

Chief Master Sgt. Pamela Matthews 14th Mission Support Group Superintendent

It's 2010 and a new year. We're making resolutions, thinking about what's to come, and figuring out how to reach our goals. I have a perfect way for you to reach your goals: take advantage of opportunity. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary on-line, opportunity is a favorable juncture of circumstances or a good chance for advancement or progress.

Opportunities present themselves continuously and sometimes we don't realize it. Opportunity means a lot to me because Airmen like my father, who enlisted in the early 1950s, weren't afforded the same opportunities during the segregated Air Force as we are now. They couldn't live anywhere they wanted, do any job they wanted, or get the education they wanted. As we get ready to celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday

and take time to remember the sacrifices he made to ensure the equal rights for all, these are the things that I think about that make me proud to serve in the Air Force; if nothing else, it is an opportunity I'm afforded.

Everyone can't be a colonel, a chief master sergeant, or a pilot, but the fact that you have the opportunity just as anyone else, there are no limits. The best way to reach your goals is to take advantage of opportunities that come your way. For instance, how many times has someone been looking for a volunteer for something and you don't step up? I know, you were probably all told early on in your career, not to volunteer for anything; this is nonsense.

Volunteering is a way to take advantage of an opportunity, which you never know where or what it could lead to. Recently, I worked with a staff sergeant that was eager to go to Germany but got passed by on three assignment cycles. I suggested volunteering for Korea (a short tour assignment) and then ask-

ing for a follow-on assignment to Germany because going from overseas to overseas is easier; plus those coming from Korea get first dibs at assignments. And what do you know? She got it.

There are times when the Air Force is going to ask us to do some things we may not feel is right for us or our careers, but again if you embrace the opportunity, keep positive, and do a good job, you never know what it could lead to. Do you think when Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy was Chief Master Sgt. Roy and stationed at Columbus AFB in his first command chief position eight years ago that he thought it would catapult him to the highest enlisted position in the Air Force...probably not. He was given an opportunity to lead and look where it took him.

Another way to take advantage of opportunity is by doing something outside of your comfort zone. We all have things we need to

work on or don't feel quite comfortable doing; these fears can hold us back from reaching our goals. For example, you may want to be an Airman Leadership School or tech school instructor but you are afraid of speaking in front of people. To start, you could ask to be the emcee at our monthly promotion ceremonies or enroll in a toast masters group or a speech class. Before you know it, you will gain the confidence to apply and given the opportunity, you will fulfill a goal.

I'm no expert or feel that I have the right answers, but when I see people not taking advantage of opportunities, it concerns me. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force has told us we are "all in" to accomplish the mission. Whether you take advantage of opportunities by volunteering, doing something outside your comfort zone, or doing something the Air Force asks you to do, take pride in knowing you have the opportunity that some didn't have 50 short years ago. If you want to reach your goals, opportunity will get you there. So when opportunity knocks...be ready and answer the door!

Key principles to help you win in 2010

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Ellis 39th Air Base Wing command chief

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — Like many of you, I enjoyed the college football bowl games that occurred over the past week. Each team that competed had a winning season, and you can believe that none of them became successful by accident.

The coaches and staff of these teams did more than hope for success; as a wise man once told me, "hope is not a plan." These leaders spent hours drawing up game plans, strategies and plays to ensure victory well before their players stepped on the field.

Likewise it's imperative for each of us to draw up our game plans and strategies to ensure our success. Here are a few key principles to help ensure your success in 2010.

Write your vision and make it plain.

When you write down your goals, objectives and strategies and prominently display them, it keeps them fresh and in focus. The things that get our attention are typically the things we get done. So as you resolve to accomplish your goals this year, keep them in clear focus to ensure you don't fall off the wagon as many do who establish resolutions for the new year.

Statistics show that only 20 percent of those who make New Year's resolutions maintain their commitment beyond Valentine's Day! If you want to be successful, stay away from fad diets and unrealistic workout routines that promise to give

you a beach body in six weeks; trust me, it won't happen. Set realistic, obtainable and measurable goals.

Make fitness and nutrition a lifestyle change.

Every year in January I see hoards of people piling into the fitness center and running around the base. No matter where I'm stationed this phenomenon continues, just like Groundhog Day or a bad movie. I joke about it because for years I did the same thing; I rode the fitness-nutrition rollercoaster. Every year I resolved to improve my fitness, my eating habits and my overall health. However, every year -- some more successful than others -- I fell off the wagon after a period of time. It wasn't until I came to the realization that the primary reason I needed to be fit was for my own quality of life, not just readiness.

From that day on I stopped working out for the Air Force and focused on it for myself. I gave up the fad diets and miracle work-outs and came up with realistic, effective eating and work-out habits. We've got a great staff at the Health and Wellness Center who can help you do the same.

While you're getting fit and improving nutrition, don't neglect your spiritual fitness either. A sound spiritual diet helps you through times of stress, hardship and tragedy. Our chaplains have great programs to assist you in this area.

Passionately pursue education and professional development.

These are invaluable to our growth, development and leadership. These are not "nice to haves" and they are not things

that only "good Airmen" do. If you are an Airman today you are expected to be your absolute best and that absolute best goes well beyond just your Air Force specialty. We need multi-dimensional Airmen who are specifically and intentionally developed to assume leadership roles today and beyond.

Education and professional development provide you with the tools you need to be effective. Leaders never arrive, we are always in the learning-growing mode. If you haven't completed your professional military education or degree(s) yet, get focused, get serious and get it done in 2010.

Quality family time must be a priority.

This year we celebrate the "Year of the Air Force Family." It's a time to put priorities in order and recognize those who love, support and cover us. This year put your family on the pedestal they deserve, because they've earned it and all they ask for in return is appreciation. The mighty Air Force that we are today is a result of you, likewise you are the Airmen who are because of your family, so in 2010 let's commit to making family a priority and setting aside good quality time for them.

I believe this can be your best year ever! You can win your own personal Bowl Championship Series, but you can't just hope for it, you have to plan and then execute your plan. Thanks for all you do for our Air Force family and our nation; I wish you nothing but success in 2010 as you stay fit, focused and fighting for what's right.

14th OG hosts Operation Turkey Shoot

Capt Kevin Phillips
14th Operations Group CAG

Hold on now; don't get your feathers ruffled! This kind of turkey shoot is a flight training competition for Columbus Air Force Base flight instructors. The event is designed to take a fresh approach to instructor development.

All Columbus AFB instructor pilots are required to complete training requirements on a semiannual basis in order to maintain proficiency. Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander, implemented the competition in the spring of 2009 to allow instructors to complete these requirements while fostering a new sense of camaraderie between the various airframes.

The fall 2009 Turkey Shoot included flying a low-level navigation route to a target (while avoiding "threats" received through intelligence reports), meeting a time-over-target, a fly-by competition and a landing competition. Teams were scored using predetermined penalties for time deviations and landing "style." The competition also included a wild card...PT test scores. Both active duty and reserve instructors participated in the event.

Six awards were presented to teams across the operations group. They included the Top T-6 Flight, the Top T-1 Flight, the Top T-38 Flight, the Top Overall Flight, the Top Squadron, and the "Road Kill" Trophy.

The top T-6 Flight winners were Maj. Schmitt, Capt. Benjamin Kuster, Capt. Paul Strom, and Lt. Travis Neal from

the 37th Flying Training Squadron.

The Top T-1 Flight winners were Lt. Col. Mark Swartz, Maj. Chad Elwood, Maj. Barry Tye and Maj. Chris Schmidt from the 43rd FTS.

The Top T-38 Flight and Top Flight Overall winners were Maj. Brad Hedbloom, Maj. Will Parrott and Maj. Justen Ellis from the 43rd FTS. The 43rd FTS Firebirds won the Top Squadron honors.

The final award presented was the not-so-glorious "Road Kill" trophy, awarded to the last placed team that were "run over by the competition." In order to preserve their dignity, those names are being withheld. However, the rather unique trophy should be on display at the 41st FTS if you wish to see it. No turkeys were harmed during this event.

BLAZE Team member helps start up 4th ERS, MC-12 mission in Afghanistan

Tech. Sgt. John Jung
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

The Air Force's new MC-12 aircraft arrived Dec. 27, 2009, to Bagram Airfield. Tail number 090623 was the first of an undisclosed number of aircraft for the new 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here.

Following the MC-12's arrival, the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron was activated to carry out MC-12 operations in the Afghan theater of operations.

Col. Patrick McKenzie, the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander, presided over the brief ceremony attended by approximately one hundred Airmen and Soldiers.

"The MC-12 is much more than just a fleet of aircraft, its pilots and maintainers. It also consists of equipment and personnel that collect and broadcast full-motion video and signals intelligence, as well as crews that process, exploit and disseminate the information," Colonel McKenzie said. "In addition,

the MC-12 encompasses a host of communications experts that support and maintain the added capability that the aircraft brings to the warfighter."

Taking the reins of the 4th ERS was Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"As a boy growing up in the Air Force, I could only imagine this day and for this opportunity to come along - [serving] in combat is why we raise our right hand to begin with," he said. "Knowledge is power and that is what we provide. This knowledge will help protect Afghans, provide security and protect Coalition lives. All of these things directly contribute to the combined effort that secures the battlespace and helps the Afghan people to defeat the insurgency."

As the demand for Air Force ISR increases, the MC-12 is positioned to meet that demand.

The first of its kind for the Air Force in Afghanistan, the MC-12 provides real-time ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The aircraft bring another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and Coalition lives.

Eighteen months ago, 'Project Liberty' was on the drawing board. Today, the aircraft and its crews and maintainers supporting the 4th ERS are operational and ready to go at Bagram Airfield.

"We are not the first to provide ISR, but we hope to enhance the joint effort through synergy with our sister services," said Colonel Lee.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke
Airmen welcomed the first Air Force MC-12 to be based in Afghanistan, Dec. 27, 2009. The aircraft brings another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and Coalition lives.

Overall, the MC-12 will augment information gathered by other ISR assets already operating in Afghanistan and complement existing capability. The platform will enhance how Air Force ISR complements the total intelligence 'picture' in the respective commander's scheme of maneuver in the battlespace.

With a unique mission to execute, members of the 4th ERS are eager to "look for trouble," as their squadron motto states, but hope to see it first so U.S. and Coalition ground forces can avoid it.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke
Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, Commander of the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, receives his first salute from his squadron members Dec. 27, 2009. The first Air Force MC-12 arrived today and marked the first day for the new squadron. The MC-12's primary mission is to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, support directly to ground forces.



U.S. Air Force photo
Above: Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander, presents the Top Squadron Top Squadron award to Lt. Col. Mark DeGrange, 43rd Flying Training Squadron.



U.S. Air Force photo
Above: Col. David Reth, 14th OG commander, presents the Top Flight Overall award to Maj. Brad Hedbloom, Maj. Justen Ellis, 43rd FTS. Maj. Will Parrott is not pictured.



U.S. Air Force photo
Left: Col. David Reth, 14th OG commander, presents the Road Kill Trophy to Lt. Col. Timothy Ketterer, 41st FTS.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeremy K. Cross
Col. Douglas Lee, commander of the new 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, speaks at the activation of the 4th ERS Dec. 27, 2009.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeremy K. Cross
Col. Patrick McKenzie, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Operations Group Commander, presents the unit guidon to Lt. Col. Douglas Lee at the activation of the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Dec. 27, 2009.

