

SILVER WINGS

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“Year of the Air Force Family”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 34, Issue 33

August 20, 2010

Weather



Today

High: 90, Low: 73
Scattered T-storms



Saturday

High: 90, Low: 73
Scattered T-storms



Sunday

High: 96, Low: 71
Scattered T-storms



Monday

High: 96, Low: 71
Partly Cloudy

News Briefs

Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall meeting for Magnolia and State Village base housing residents tonight at 5 p.m. at the Columbus Club. Issues to be addressed is the recent soil testing results.

Base Triathlon

Columbus AFB will host a Sunrise Sprint Triathlon Aug. 28 at 7 a.m. and is only open to personnel with access to the base. Sign up is with the gym for \$10 which covers food, beverages and a T-Shirt. The winning team will receive the ability to use the vice commander's parking spots across base.

ALS Reveille/Retreat

The current Airman Leadership School class will hold a formal Reveille ceremony at 6:45 a.m. Aug. 25 at Smith Plaza, and a formal Retreat ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Aug. 26 at Smith Plaza.

Inside



Feature 8

The 49th FTS is highlighted in this week's feature.



Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander, speaks during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 10-13 Aug. 13 in the Kaye Auditorium. Class 10-13's graduation was the last Colonel Reth will attend before his Sept. 8 change of command.

U.S. Air Force photo/Mary Crump

14th OG/CC gives address at his final SUPT graduation

Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Training Class 10-13 in the Kaye Auditorium during their graduation Aug. 13.

Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander, addressed Specialized Undergraduate Pilot

The graduation address was an important occasion not only to the graduating class, but also to Colonel Reth, since this will be his last graduation

before he relinquishes his command of the 14th OG on Sept. 8.

“It's an honor to speak at such an important event in your careers, and your lives. Colonel Seguin, thank you very much for offering me this opportunity

See GRAD, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (11-08)	-0.54 days	-0.23 days	Sep. 28	48th (10-14)	0.33 days	0.40 days	Sep. 9	49th (10-KB)	3.43 days	4.17 days	Sep. 13	T-6	1,964	1,884	30,531
41st (11-07)	0.06 days	-2.45 days	Sep. 3	50th (10-14)	3.21 days	-0.56 days	Sep. 9					T-1	617	667	10,340
												T-38	664	643	10,078
												IFF	130	130	2,127

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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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.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 63 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



GRAD

(Continued from Page 1)

nity on your first graduation and my last," said Colonel Reth.

He pointed out that the class was about to become military aviators rather than pilots.

"I believe that there's a big different between a pilot and a military aviator. The first is simply a technician, the aviator is an artist in love with flight," Colonel Reth said.

He said that the symbol Class 10-13 had set as their goal, the silver wings of a military aviator, has a well founded history going back over 100 years. He recounted the origins of the Air Force wings going back to the only person to ever become a five-star general in the Air Force: Gen. of the Air Force Henry "Hap" Arnold.

Colonel Reth compared the badges worn by the original United States military aviators to the wings worn in today's Air Force. He noted changes in the wings, the shield, and the overall design.

"The next thing I want you to notice about those wings is what there's not," said Colonel Reth. "There's no class number. Today you graduate from this

small group of friends that you've grown together with this last year to the larger brotherhood and sisterhood of military aviators."

He also warned the graduates about letting the aircraft they fly or others define who they are.

Colonel Reth said "whether it's a raptor, a C-17 or a predator. Define yourself by how well you excel in your mission. Define yourself by being the best in whatever you fly."

He gave an example of the high standards of military aviators by quoting former Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger after he safely landed US Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River. Colonel Reth said that afterwards Captain Sullenberger was asked how he had accomplished the feat and he replied "that's what I was trained to do."

Colonel Reth closed by reminding the graduates to remember their classmates, their family's pride and their achievement.

"Remember today, the day you earned your wins and joined every aviator in an unbroken tradition and heritage stretching back 100 years from (General of the Air Force) Hap Arnold, to (Captain) "Sully" Sullenberger, and now to you."

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
23	24 Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ AFRC	25 ALS Reveille 6:45 a.m. @ Smith Plaza	26 ALS Retreat, 4:45 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	27 Wing CC Annual Golf Challenge, 1 p.m. @ Golf Course Class 10-14 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	28/29 Aug 28: Triathlon, 7 a.m., Base Pool
30	31 Newcomers, 8 a.m. @ AFRC Civilian Call, 2:30 p.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions, 4 p.m. @ Club	1 Commander's Leadership On- site, All day Mr Hunter "Servant Leadership" presentation	2	3 Class 11-07 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club OG/CC Fini- flight, 11 a.m.	4/5

Long Range Events
Sept 6: Labor Day Holiday
Sept 8: Newcomers
Sept 8: 14th OG CoC
Sept 9: Class 10-14 Graduation
Sept 10: Wing Dining Out
Sept 13: IFF Grad
Sept 14: CES Sports day
Sept 15: ALS Graduation
Sept 16: Dorm Dinner
Sept 17: POW/MIA Day Retreat
Sept 17: Class 10-15 Assignment Night

14th CPTS Dollars and Sense: Missing Receipts

When filing a travel voucher, it's the member's responsibility to submit all his/her receipts for lodging, commercial airline tickets, rental car and any other reimbursable expenses exceeding \$75. If a receipt is misplaced, it's the traveler's responsibility to contact the service agency (hotel, airline, rental car agency, etc) and obtain copies of the supporting travel documentation. If the traveler is unable to acquire a copy of the receipt, the traveler must file a missing receipt form along with his/her travel voucher in order to ensure proper reimbursement and expedite voucher payout.

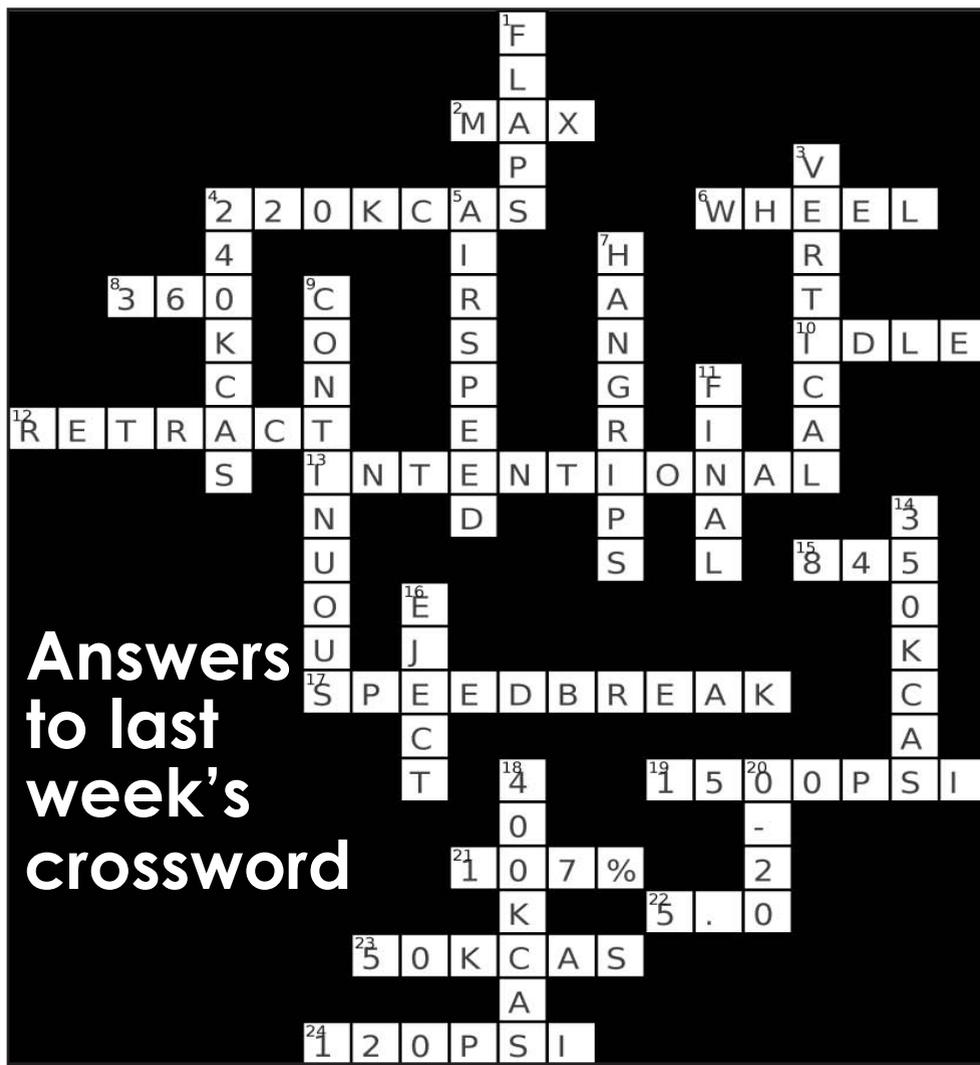
As of Aug. 1, all missing receipt forms must be typed and completed prior to submitting them to 14th Comptroller Squadron Financial Customer Service. Handwritten copies will no longer be accepted. The new form is available on the AF Portal, Life & Career Tab, Money—Welcome to virtual Finance!

14th CPTS finance customer service:

Bldg 730, first floor lobby.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**If you are unable to come during customer service hours due to mission requirements, please call 434-2705/2095 to schedule an appointment.



Answers
to last
week's
crossword

14th FTW/CC hears issues, lays out plans at enlisted call

Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing spoke to the enlisted force of Columbus Air Force Base at a commander's call Aug. 16 in Phillips Auditorium.

Col. Barre Seguin met with enlisted members of all ranks and outlined his vision for the wing, his views on leadership and his priorities as the commander here.

The commander said his vision for the wing is to "continue to be a premier training environment, embraced by community partnership and focused on families."

Families are a key item for the colonel, who recently spent 15 months away from his own family.

"We typically recruit Airmen, but we retain families," he said. "We need to take care of our families."

Colonel Seguin said that the Air Force will take as much as it can from Airmen, and that they should take time for their families. He also said that this shouldn't, and doesn't have to, take away from the mission.

One Team BLAZE member, Senior Airman Brandon Carter, liked what he had to hear from the colonel about families.

"I really felt he was genuine and sincere about how important families are," the 14th Force Support Squadron Airman said.

Colonel Seguin said his priorities for Team BLAZE members as commander are to develop Airman and their families, be a wingman and build Team BLAZE.

"I hold you personally responsible as a

wingman, just as I hold myself personally responsible as one," he said.

He said that in order for the wing to accomplish his priorities, they will need to embrace three "essential enabling tasks: empowering leaders at all levels preserve mission assets and cultivate community relations."

Colonel Seguin said the relationship Columbus AFB and its local community have is known Air Force wide as one of the best, and that he wants to continue cultivating that positive partnership.

He also said he expects all Team BLAZE members to embrace what he called "Servant Leadership."

"I ask that you focus on service to one another and service to your subordinates," Colonel Seguin said. "You determine what attitude you go to work with each day. I ask you to make it positive."

Master Sgt. Jason Baty, 14th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, said he liked the colonel's views on leadership.

"This is an excellent leadership style that allows Airmen to focus their attention to the ones they serve ... each other," Sergeant Baty said. "Our rank inherently gives us power; serving our fellow Airmen, however, gives us authority."

The colonel said he plans on holding calls such as these regularly to not only get his thoughts across to the wing, but to also hear their issues and questions.

"Your issues are not going to fall on deaf ears," Colonel Seguin said. "That is my commitment to you."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Staff Sgt. Thomas Blandino, kennel master for the 14th Security Forces Squadron, explains training techniques to Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing commander during a demonstration on Aug. 13. Colonel Seguin recently briefed all enlisted members at a commander's call Aug. 16.

Voting News

The November general election is less than 90 days away. To register, request a ballot and vote absentee by mail takes a LONG time. Go to www.FVAP.gov today, see the online registration and absentee ballot assistant, and have your forms completed, printed out and ready to send back home in less than 10 minutes.

It's simple and fast!!

Most election officials are now emailing blank ballots! Why wait 30 days, when you can get it emailed in 30 milliseconds.

The law has changed! You may not get your ballot automatically. Go to www.FVAP.gov and get started! Make sure you include your email address!

Help spread the word! Pass this on to other military or overseas voters, including spouses and voting age dependents.

For more information, visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov or contact your Unit Voting Assistance Officer or the 14FTW Installation Voting Office at:

Installation Voting Assistance Officer

Office: Personnel Center Bldg 926, Rm 245

24 Hour Hotline: (662) 434-2927 or DSN: 742-2927

E-Mail: vote@columbus.af.mil

Exercise your civic duty!

2010 Primary Elections by State



This chart lists the 2010 State primary election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); States with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and Gubernatorial races. **The General Election is Tuesday, November 2, 2010.**

State	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		
			Federal Offices		State Governor
			U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	
Alabama	June 1	July 13	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 24	-----	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	-----	-----	----	1 Delegate	No
Arizona	August 24	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Arkansas	May 18	June 8	Yes	4	Yes
California	June 8	-----	Yes	53	Yes
Colorado	August 10	-----	Yes	7	Yes
Connecticut	August 10	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Delaware	September 14	-----	Yes	1	No
District of Columbia	September 14	-----	----	1 Delegate	Mayor
Florida	August 24	-----	Yes	25	Yes
Georgia	July 20	August 10	Yes	13	Yes
Guam	September 4	-----	----	1 Delegate	Yes
Hawaii	September 18	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 25	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	February 2	-----	Yes	19	Yes
Indiana	May 4	-----	Yes	9	No
Iowa	June 8	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 3	-----	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 18	-----	Yes	6	No
Louisiana	August 28 (1st Party)*	October 2 (2nd Party)**	Yes	7	No
Maine	June 8	-----	No	2	Yes
Maryland	September 14	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 14	-----	No	10	Yes
Michigan	August 3	-----	No	15	Yes
Minnesota	August 10	-----	No	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 1	June 22	No	4	No
Missouri	August 3	-----	Yes	9	No
Montana	June 8	-----	No	1	No
Nebraska	May 11	-----	No	3	Yes
Nevada	June 8	-----	Yes	3	Yes
New Hampshire	September 14	-----	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 8	-----	No	13	No
New Mexico	June 1	-----	No	3	Yes
New York	September 14	-----	Yes	29	yes
North Carolina	May 4	June 22	Yes	13	No
North Dakota	June 8	-----	Yes	1	No
Ohio	May 4	-----	Yes	18	Yes
Oklahoma	July 27	August 24	Yes	5	Yes
Oregon	May 18	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 18	-----	Yes	19	Yes
Puerto Rico	-----	-----	----	----	----
Rhode Island	September 14	-----	No	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 8	June 22	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 8	June 29	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 5	-----	No	9	Yes
Texas	March 2	-----	No	32	Yes
Utah	June 22	-----	Yes	3	No
Vermont	August 24	-----	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 11	-----	No	1 Delegate	Yes
Virginia	June 8	-----	No	11	No
Washington	August 17	-----	Yes	9	No
West Virginia	May 11	-----	Yes	3	No
Wisconsin	September 14	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Wyoming	August 17	-----	No	1	Yes

*1st Party Congressional. **State Primary, & 2nd Party Congressional Runoff if necessary

Note: Election information is current as of April 2010. Check your State election website or www.fvap.gov for additional details and updates.

Thursday Intramural Softball Scores



Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will perform at MUW's Rent Auditorium September 18 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Call 328-2787 for more information.

Actors and Technicians Needed

Columbus Arts Council is looking for technicians for the Sept. 8 to 11 run, a production of Tennessee Williams' Sweet Bird of Youth. If interested, contact Brook Hanemann at 662-889-5746.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library opens its fall Table Talk series Sept. 1 with director Rus Blackwell. Blackwell will present a scene from the play "Sweet Bird of Youth" for the Tennessee Williams Tribute and discuss the challenges of bringing a theatrical work to life on stage. Table Talk runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, 314 Seventh Street North. Bring your lunch at 11:30 and the Friends of the Library will provide the iced tea or come later and join friends from noon to 1 p.m. for the Table Talk program.

Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society seeking volunteers

The Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society is seeking volunteers and foster homes. We are a non-profit and we depend on donations to operate. If you would like to help volunteer, foster, or donate; please call 662-327-3107.

Hitching Lot Farmer's Market

Located at 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street North.
Open Tuesday and Thursdays from 6 until 10 a.m.
Open Saturdays from 7 until 10 a.m.

Visit us online!

Web page:
www.columbus.af.mil
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB
Twitter: www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB

BARGAIN LINE

Miscellaneous

For sale: Twin bed, pillow top mattress, box spring and frame. \$90 or best offer. (662) 798-4375.

For sale: Highboy furniture. Sold new for \$2,000 will sell for \$500. Call 328-3977.

For sale: Whirlpool household refrigerator. Excellent condition. \$75. Call (210) 262-0974.

For sale: New Nature Purest High Chair, \$60. Sony DVD Camcorder with accessories, \$200. Hamilton Beach Prep Star food processor, \$20. New PSP Ultimate Travel Kit, \$8. New PSP Final Fantasy video game, \$15. New Black and Decker coffee maker \$20. New Bright Starts Dream Along Mobile, \$20. New Leap Frog Click Start Learning System, \$30. Vtech V-Smile Learning System, \$30. Baby bedding set, includes comforter, bumper, fitted sheet, bed skirt and two pillows, \$20. Box of beanie babies, \$20. Please call (337) 274-5479.

For sale: Southern Living at home Franciscan Cross \$25, Tiny Bubbles bowl \$15, Easy Arrange Vase Green \$15, Double Duty pot Rack and shelf \$50, door hanger and flower market door bucket \$40, John Deere olive oil jar \$5, decorative brown mirror \$15, brown glass candle holders set of five \$10, Longaberger Collectors Club harbor basket \$120, Sweet Heart Forever Yours basket \$140, bread basket \$40, tea basket with navy liner \$20, navy liner for tall tissue basket \$15. Call (662) 889-3974.

For sale: HP Pavilion Slimline Desktop Computer with Windows Vista Premium. 1 GB Intel Pentium Dual Core prosser, 160GB hard drive, DVD+R/RW. Loaded with additional software: Photo package, Norton security and Power Point. 22 inch LCD monitor plus all in one printer, copier, fax and scanner included in this complete internet ready package. \$695 or best offer. Please call 327-1205.

For sale: Coleman gas lantern with case. \$25 or best offer. Coleman road trip propane grill with stand. \$99 or best offer. Two RayOLite emergency roadside warning signs. \$15 each or best offer. Sharp Carousel II microwave \$30 or best offer. Used six inch clip on fan. \$10 or best offer. New six inch Galaxy clip on fan. \$15 or best offer. SportFisher fishing rod and 350 ZR reel with lures \$35 or best offer. American Camper back pack. \$20 or best offer. Small one man tent in bag. \$15 or best offer. Small fold up vinyl table. \$10 or best offer. Three Way Bissell vacuum cleaner. \$20. Prices as listed or best offer. Please call 327-1205.

For sale: Extang Tonneau Cover, classic platinum, black, fits 99-06 6-1/2ft Chevrolet short bed, \$150. Call (662) 889-3974.

Pets

For sale: Miniature German Schnauzer puppies. Three males and one female. AKC registered, first shots done, \$600 each. Call (662) 570-9560 or (850) 368-0861.

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: Beautiful home situated on 3.8 acres in New Hope. Approximately 2,800 sqft, 13 rooms to include 3 bedrooms, bonus room, living room, office, huge den/ in laws quarters, 2 and 1 half bathrooms, whirlpool tub. Approximately one acre of fenced yard with large wired shop. One year home warranty. \$289,900. Call 240-0226.

For sale: Great 3/2 brick home just outside of Caledonia city limits. Open floor plan with 10 ft. ceilings throughout, wood laminate and ceramic tile flooring, gas fireplace, wood blinds, laundry room, pantry, large covered patio w/ceiling fans, two-car carport w/attached workshop, on circle drive. Must sell due to military move. For photos and contact information, visit

www.fsbo.com, listing #138068.

For sale: Beautiful, 2050 sq ft, 3/2 brick home in Oak Dale Park. Open floor plan with 10 foot ceilings, dining room, eat in Kitchen, Large family room with fire place and gas logs. Master bedroom on main floor. Two bedroom and bath upstairs. Lots of walk in closets, ceiling fans in every room. Large fenced back yard with patio, mature shade trees and large storage shed. Two care garage, \$150,000. Call (662) 328-0707 for more information.

For sale: 374 Chan Mar Dr, Caledonia, 2,466 sqft, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, granite countertops, stainless appliances, new carpet, new paint, on 2.8 acres, \$255,000. Call (662) 889-3974.

For sale: Beautiful three bedroom, 2 bathroom. 1,480 sqft. Home located in Bluecutt Estates on John Hancock Dr. Original hardwood and brick floors throughout. Renovated bathroom and kitchen with new tile. Fully fenced-in backyard, in a great neighborhood, \$121,900. Call 937-545-6232.

For sale: One ladies mountain bike and one 24 inch girls mountain bike for sale \$25 each or best offer. Call 574-6211.

Transportation

For sale: 2000 Chrysler Town and Country LXi Minivan, loaded, leather seats, power seats and power windows. Seven passenger, regular maintenance with receipts and dates of service, extra nice condition. Gold with tan interior.

Price is \$4,500 or reasonable offer. Call 356-4292.

For sale: 2004 Lincoln Towncar Ultimate, 4.6L V8 engine. Fully loaded. 74,000 miles. Ivory with tan interior. Has two and a half years dealer's warranty. Call (662) 425-4953 or (337) 274-5479 for more information.

For sale: 2005 Toyota RAV4. Silver, manual transmission 68,000 miles. Maintenance records provided, Toyota Platinum warranty up to 100,000 included. \$11,499. Call (662) 655-4769.

For Sale: 1996 HD Sportster 1200 XLC. Tons of chrome and extras, forward controls. Only 10,000 miles. Asking \$5,200. Call (859) 200-8336.

For sale: 2008 Harley Davidson, 883 Sportster Low Rider, Under 100 miles, 2.5 Year Extended Service Plan, Midnight Pearl Blue, accessories included, \$7,000 Contact (662) 889-0113.

For sale: 2008 Honda CBR1000RR, only 850 miles, full exhaust, over 5,000 in extras! \$8,950 or best offer. Contact (808) 221-2005.

For sale: 2005 Ford, looks like baby thunderbird, 3.0 Eng. New tires. Bucket seats, sun roof, automatic transmission with shift in floor, very good on gas. Beautiful car. Call 328-4374.

For sale: 2005 Triumph Rocket III, Black w/ lots of extras! 6,800 miles. Excellent condition. \$9,250 or best offer. Call (808) 221-2005.

For sale: 2000 BMW R1200C, cruiser, black w/ pinstripes. 11,500 miles. Recently serviced. Excellent Condition. \$6,450 or best offer. Call (808) 221-2005.

Base News

District School Choice

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

Housing Asset Management Office Co-location

The Housing Asset Management Office in-processing and relocations services have co-located to 256 State Loop (Landings at Columbus). The Relocations Services telephone number is 434-8402

Chaplain Account Manager

The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel is looking for an account manager for all Chaplain Fund purchase requests. Deadline is Aug. 20. Contact Tech. Sgt. Floyd Recto at 434-2500 for more information. Background checks will be required.

Wednesday Night Chef

The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel is looking for a chef to provide cooked meals for the Pioneer Club's weekly fellowship. Deadline is Aug. 20. Contact Tech. Sgt. Floyd Recto at 434-2500 for more information. Background checks will be required.

Compulsory School Attendance: Home School

Parents who are teaching their children at home (home school) are required to complete a certificate of enrollment card each school year. You can complete this card at the Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Office, located in Building 730, Suite 174A. Mississippi law requires this card to be completed prior to Sept. 15. Please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at: slo@columbus.af.mil for an appointment to complete your registration.

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.

Attention Supply Customer

If you are looking for that special piece of equipment or furniture for your office, your point of contact is the Inspection Section of Base Supply. Inspection maintains the Last Look Area, which has used equipment and furniture turned in from other organizations that no longer have a need for the items. All items in the Last Look Area are available without charge to your organization. For more information, you can contact the Inspection Section at 434-7233 or 434-7234.

La Leche League

La Leche League of Starkville/Columbus will meet Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. in the Services Complex. LLL provides breastfeeding information and support. For more information, call Juli at 434-6866.

Adjunct Instructors Needed

Saint Leo University needs adjunct instructors to teach on-base classes in Business Administration and Criminal Justice. Please call Dew White at 434-8844 for more information.

Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University now registering for the fall term beginning on Aug. 30. SLU offers on-base classes in Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Business Administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 or go to Room 120 in Bldg. 926 (Old Personnel Bldg.).

East Mississippi Community College

East Miss Mississippi Community College fall on-base classes start Aug. 18. EMCC online classes start Aug. 23. Students can take classes during the full-term or during either of the four-week intensive fall terms. Call EMCC at 434-2564, 434-2660 or go to their office in Room 14 of the Education Services Center (Bldg. 916) for more information.

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.)

Self-paced Tutorials

Available on MS Office 2007 Suites; Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word and Windows Vista. Set your own learning pace at your AFRC.

Relocation assistance

Weekly workshop on programs, services and resources available through the Airman & Family Readiness Center held every Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the AFRC. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness.

DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack

Families of deployed members are eligible for a special DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack. Provide a copy of deployment orders, and pick up your DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack at the ARFC, then log onto the www.myairforcelife.com website to register. Once regis-

tered, you may use your tag-pass for discounts and free programs identified by the installation.

Spouse welcome

For new personnel assigned to CAFB held every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Magnolia Inn lobby. Local information is presented.

Budgeting Basics

Every Wednesday from 11:00 to 12:00. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went.

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.

Chapel Schedule

2010-2011 Pioneer Clubs Program

The CAFB Chapel has begun registration for the children's program Pioneer Club. The program will begin Aug. 18 and will be held each Wednesday evening 6 p.m. to 7:30p.m. This program is open to children ages three years try seventh grade. This is an ecumenical religious program geared to teach children about Christ in every aspect of life. A pot luck dinner will be served each week at 5 p.m. parents must join their children at dinner.

Pioneer Club Pool Party

There will be a kick off Pool Party Aug. 21 at the Base Pool from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. All parents and children are invited to attend. Volunteer are needed for the Pioneer Club program. Please stop by the Chapel Office Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to register your children or to volunteer. Registrations will also be taken at the Pool Party. Questions can be directed to Ida Hall, the Pioneer Club Coordinator, at 434-2500.

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

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 Worship Service

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 Services

Tuesday
6:30 p.m. — Choir Practice
Sunday:
3:30 p.m. — Religious Education, grades K-9
3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice
4:30 p.m. — Confession
5:00 p.m. — Mass
6:00 p.m. — RCIA

Tickets on sale for 2010 Air Force Ball

Capt. Jay Doerfler
50th Flying Training Squadron

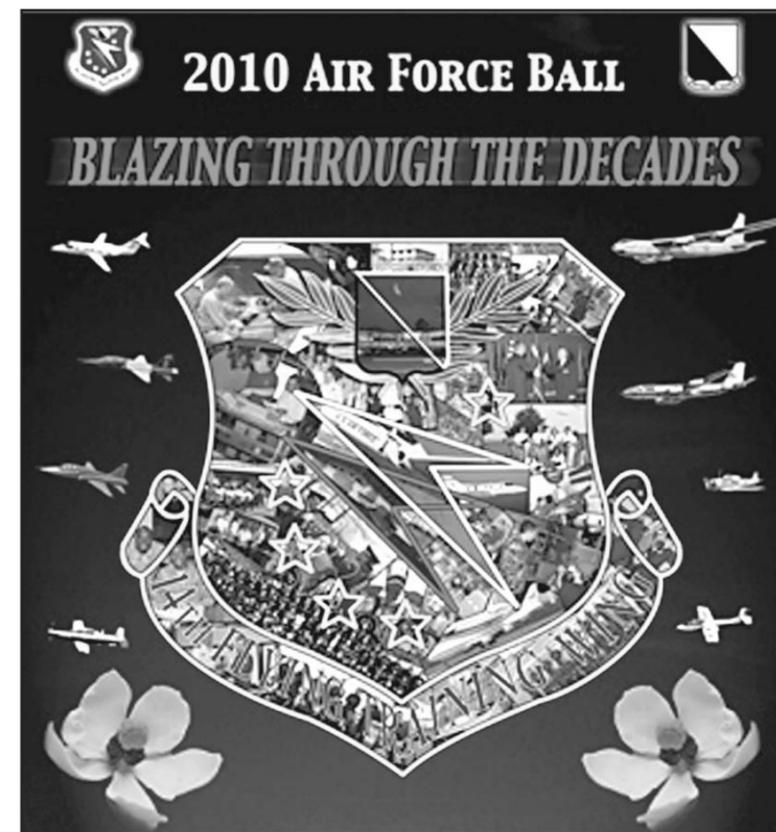
Tickets are now on sale for the 2010 Air Force Ball, "Blazing through the decades," that will be held 6 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Trotter Convention Center.

Please join the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Col. Barre Seguin, guest speaker, Air Force Material Command Commander Gen. Donald Hoffman, and the rest of the BLAZE Team for a night of delicious food and great music as we celebrate the past seven decades of heritage here at Columbus Air Force Base.

Tickets are limited so get yours soon; contact your squadron point of contact for more information.

The social will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner starts at 7 p.m. Music will be provided by the Band of the USAF Reserve.

A photographer from Sherwood Photo will be at the event to take formal pictures.



8,800 Air Force employees transition out of NSPS

April Rowden
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The first two waves of Air Force employees have successfully converted out of the National Security Personnel System, leaving less than 30,000 to make the transition.

Approximately 8,800 employees were converted out of NSPS during phases I and II on July 4 and July 18. Phases III and IV are scheduled to transition on Aug. 15 and Sept. 12.

NSPS, a human resources pay and performance management system for the civilian work force, intended to replace the long-standing General Schedule system, was repealed in last year's National Defense Authorization Act. The decision affected more than 220,000 civilian employees across the Defense Department.

To help ensure a smooth transition out of NSPS for nearly 38,000 Air Force civilian

employees affected by the repeal, Air Force officials rigorously tested the computer program that would automate the conversion process.

Staff members from the Air Force Personnel Operations Agency tested the automated system for three weeks in April, looking for incompatibilities, debugging the system and checking the program's overall functionality.

In May, a team of employees in the Air Force Personnel Center's Directorate of Personnel Data Systems field tested the new program, processing the conversion of 60 NSPS employees assigned to the DOD's Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"Using the information provided by Wright-Patterson (AFB's) classification office, our team input all the relevant GS conversion data into the employees' current

NSPS positions: the new valid grade, the new position description number, the supervisory status, the new position title, and the target grade," said Brenda Nicholson from DPD. "When we processed the mass conversion, all 60 records were successfully converted, with all pay retentions activated and all SF 50s generated."

As Air Force officials continue to gear up for the greatest number of conversions yet, approximately 4,100 in August and close to 25,000 in September, training modules are available to NSPS employees and their managers at www.my.af.mil/afknprod/nsps-gs-trng or on the official NSPS website.

These modules provide an overview of the pay structure, discuss benefits and entitlements, explain how jobs are classified, outline the more common awards and incentive programs available to GS employees, and provide detailed information about the conversion process, including information on how an

The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman.
I am a warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.
I am an American Airman.*

*My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.*

*I am an American Airman:
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.*

employee's pay will be determined.

By law, employees will not lose pay upon conversion. These general guidelines will be followed when determining an employee's pay. If the employee's current pay:

- Fits within the rate range of the appropriate grade to which the employee is assigned, the employee will be placed at a step that equals or exceeds his existing pay.

- Is below the rate range for the appropriate GS grade to which the employee is assigned, the employee will be placed on the first step of the GS grade upon conversion out.

- Is above the rate range for the appropriate GS grade to which the employee is assigned, the employee will be placed on pay retention to ensure he does not suffer any decrease in or loss of pay upon conversion.

For more information, visit AFPC's personnel services website. Air Force employees may call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

AETC Command Chief retires

Ms. Jessica Turner
Air Education and Training
Command
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Education and Training Command's senior enlisted leader retired Aug. 13 after serving 31 years, two months, and 27 days, ending a career longer than the average enlistee is permitted to serve.

"I enlisted in the Air Force for the same reason a lot of people are enlisting in the Air Force today," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Tappana. "Due to the economy, a search for independence, and leaving a small town for the first time, my intent was to serve four years, receive the experience, get out and get a 'real job,' it just didn't work out that way."

Chief Tappana began his service with the Traffic Management Office, "moving people and equipment from one place to another," and admits the choice to make the Air Force a career did not happen overnight.

The chief described his first mentor and supervisor Tech Sgt. (Ret.) Jim Steen as, "the kind of supervisor they tell us about in Airman Leadership School, (Sergeant Steen) knew what we were doing, where we lived, set high standards and didn't let us get away with just anything."

It was that leadership, and the physical and emotional support of his fellow Airmen during a difficult time of adversity, that helped solidify his career path and commitment to serve.

Early in his career the chief's family experienced a medical hardship, but it was that struggle and the support of the Air Force family that truly inspired the decision to stay in. Describing the most pivotal moment in his career, chief thanks one Master Sgt. (Ret.) Mark Davila for one simple question, "Are you okay?" The Air Force is never easy chief says, but he knew then he was never alone.

From there, adaptation to the military became easy for the Tappana family through the demonstration of compassion and encouragement by the Airmen who surrounded his family with care and support.

Through the years, the chief also learned service members must give their family the same care they give to the Air Force. He believes our core value is service before self, not service instead of self, and both compromise and balance are crucial to the Air Force family.

Chief Tappana's first advice to young air-

men is to "focus on the job you have and to blossom where you're planted," he said. "As soon as an opportunity comes up, we will pick you up and transplant you to a bigger, better garden."

"Careers begin to go south when people start worrying about the next job and the one after that. The key to success is to excel at what you are given," he added.

While serving in different positions and multiple capacities over the last 30 years, the chief has witnessed many changes to Air Force programs. Improvements he believes the Air Force benefited from include the focus on fitness, embracing education, family care, technological growth, and more non-traditional roles in combat contact.

Admitting that he smoked cigarettes for six and a half weeks during basic training and his only letter of counseling as a young Airman was from a Traffic Management Office chief for not providing an ashtray for customers, Chief Tappana agreed the Air Force is now a healthier force. Airmen must exceed what used to be only a 1.5-mile run once a year to meet physical requirement standards.

"We are giving enlisted people far more responsibility now than we did 30 years ago," he said. "When I came in, in 79' Traffic Management Officers had to be officers, enlisted were not allowed to run TMO."

The chief encourages giving more responsibility to Airmen and empowering them with education allowing people to produce a lot more for the Air Force.

Chief Tappana explained there was an assumption until about 10 years ago that "a majority of our combat would involve a pilot in an aircraft. For my first 20 years we didn't think about the fact that our vehicle operators would be running convoys through the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, or that our young PA professionals would be outside the wire serving on Provisional Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan."

It's a new world for us, and our Airmen do phenomenally," he said.

"That includes keeping up with the speed at which change is happening, the chief said.

"I've had the privilege of watching the Air Force move from a basic typewriter, to computing, to mobile phones, and blue tooth wireless devices," he said. "The blackberry I carry today is the back up to the laptop I carry that connects to the entire world without actually being connected to anything."

Additionally, the chief admits social media is important to the Air Force as long as the force can figure out how to use it as an advantage.

"We've got a lot of senior people trying to 'FaceBook' because they think that is what the junior people want, and we end up trying to put a square peg into a round hole," Chief Tappana said. "I think the Air Force hasn't figured out how to do it all yet, we try to make FaceBook fit paradigms we (the Air Force) have, and we also have people who are afraid of it because it's new."

"I don't think social media is anything to fear, it's a communication tool, an opportunity to revolutionize how we communicate with our people, the chief said. "Social media will not do anything for us, like a hammer is not going to put a nail in on its own, you have to pick it up, and aim it right," the chief said. "If nobody picks it up or touches it, we don't win, we don't lose, we don't get anything; if some-

one picks up and uses it irresponsibly, then yes, we lose."

For Chief Tappana, winning in the Air Force is "helping put together a plan and watching it unfold, or watching from afar as people you've worked with or people that have worked for you get promoted and advance in their career."

There have been many proud moments for Chief Tappana in the Air Force, like walking through the airport with his uniform on as people thank him for his service, giving 100 percent to the core values of the Air Force, being an effective public speaker, and taking care of this nation for more than 30 years.

Leaving the force is not bitter sweet or sad the chief explained, "it's a step forward into a new path and a future where I can watch my Air Force from the other side."

From here, Chief Tappana and Tresie, his wife of 24 years, will travel north to Alaska to pursue the one thing he regrets not doing, earning a college degree.

"I want to teach," he said. "I want to be more well-rounded, work on my photography, read more and most importantly, perform a role that makes a difference."



U.S. Air Force photo/Alan Boedeker
Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Tappana, AETC command chief, salute the flag during a basic military training graduation at Lackland AFB, Texas, Aug. 13. Later that day, Chief Tappana retired from the Air Force after serving more than 31 years on active duty.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

AUG 16 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR MAGNOLIA/STATE VILLAGE RESIDENTS

FROM: 14 FTW/CC and Pinnacle Hunt

SUBJECT: Update on Environmental Soil Testing in Magnolia Village

1. In June 2010, soil samples were collected from Magnolia Village housing area as part of the Air Force Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). As communicated during the town hall meeting on May 18, 2010 and in the May 28, 2010 Silver Wings news article, these samples were collected in response to recently discovered information that identified a former skeet range in the area of what is now Magnolia Village. Although this range has not been operational since the early 1950s, there is at least the potential for soil contamination as a result of the historic range activity.

2. The preliminary test results of the soil samples indicate that lead levels in the soil are below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) screening criteria for residential areas. However, these results indicate that samples collected contain hydrocarbons, specifically, benzo(a)pyrene, at levels that exceed the EPA residential screening criteria. Benzo(a)pyrene is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) that is commonly found in burned materials and used in the production of skeet targets. While there is **no immediate health threat to you, your family or pets**, we feel it is important to inform you of the preliminary test results and share with you how we, along with Pinnacle Hunt, plan to move forward to resolve this potential issue.

3. The enclosed brochure contains useful information on how to minimize potential exposures to PAHs. With support from higher headquarters, our plan is to expand soil sampling efforts. Additional sampling is expected to begin in mid-October. Weather permitting, field work will take approximately three weeks to complete. We expect to be able to provide you with our results in early December 2010.

4. We would like to invite you and your family to the Columbus Club for a meeting on August 20, 2010 at 5 p.m. We will have subject matter experts available to answer any questions you may have. If you have immediate questions or concerns, please use my Commander's Action Line 434-7058. We will personally ensure you receive a response within 24 hours.

5. Columbus AFB continues to strive to be good stewards of the environment. Be assured, our number one priority is always the health and well-being of our Airmen and their families as well as all the residents at The Landings at Columbus.

Shannon McKeon

SHANNON McKEON
Community Director, PHC

Barre R. Seguin

BARRE R. SEGUIN, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing

Attachment:
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons brochure

New Pool Hours

Monday through Friday 4-7 p.m.
Lap Swim 4-6 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 12-7 p.m.

Back-to-School Blast

Come out to the Back-to-School Blast this Friday starting at 4 pm. There are lots of treats in store for you including: free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, watermelon and lemonade - all you can eat! There will be jumpers for the kids and lots of games planned, like a watermelon eating contest, three-legged race, egg race and flag football. For contest winners there will be school supplies to give away and they'll be drawings for prizes as well.

Remember to turn off lights and computer monitors when you are done for the day!

Base families offered a variety of activities

New Orleans Saints Trip

Saints vs Browns, Oct. 23-24. Everything the same as before – depart at 7 a.m. and return between 11 p.m. – 1 a.m. Sunday night. \$50 holds your spot. Final payment due Sept. 23.

New Orleans Saints Trip

The New Orleans Saints play the Carolina Panthers Oct. 2. Join ITT in this two-day trip, Oct. 2-3. Cost is \$189 and includes transportation, lodging in the Holiday Inn Superdome and ticket to the game. Lodging is based on double occupancy. A \$50 deposit holds your spot and final payment is due Sept. 1. Bus will depart at 7 a.m. and return between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. Sunday night. Don't want to watch the game but still want to go to New Orleans? Call 434-7861 to see how.

Fall Festival

Specialty beer tasting along with an oompah band and German finger food buffet in the ballroom from 4 to 8 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Columbus Club. There will also be a wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres in the Happy Lounge. The cost is \$5 for members and \$15 for nonmembers which

includes the price of the tasting. This is an adults only event.

Home Décor Project

Register by Sept. 17 for this workshop making a twin size upholstered headboard. Cost is \$50 plus three yards of your fabric. For more information, call the arts and crafts center at 434-7836.

New Orleans Saints Tour

Watch the Saints play the Atlanta Falcons in this overnight trip Sept. 25. Cost is \$189 per person based on double occupancy and covers transportation. Lodging at the Holiday Inn Superdome and game ticket. Deadline is Aug. 25 to register. Departing at 7 a.m. Sept. 25 and arrive back at Columbus AFB at 11 p.m. Sept. 26. Sealed Bid Sale

Outdoor Recreation is conducting a sealed bid on big ticket items such as a juke box, boats, trailers, campers, jet skis, van, safe and big screen televisions. All items can be viewed at the Services Complex parking lot starting. For those items that are located inside the building, please call Outdoor Recreation at

434-2507 to gain access or for an appointment. All sealed bids are due by close of business Aug. 29. Bids will be awarded Aug. 30.

Cruise in 2011

The Information, Ticket and Travel Office has a group cruise available, register by Sept. 1 for the four-day cruise starting Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24 and going to Cozumel. Cost for two people for the November trip is as low as \$816 with a \$50 ship board credit. For more information, call 434-2507 or 7861.

Mixed Bowling Meeting

There will be a mixed bowling meeting at Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Bowling Alley.

Back to School Blast Party

The free event for members features all you can eat hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, watermelon, macaroni salad and cookies starting at 4 p.m. today. It's free for members and \$5 for nonmembers and \$3 for nonmember's children. There will be ponies, dunking tank, jumpers, races, contests, a DJ and prizes.

Trip to Tannehill State Park

Outdoor Recreation offers this trip Aug. 21. The bus will depart from Outdoor Rec at 7 a.m. and return around 5 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. Must have at least 10 registered by Aug. 13.

Family trip to Alabama Adventure

Register at the youth center for this trip Aug. 22. The bus will be leaving at 7:30 a.m. and returning around 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person. Must have 10 registered by Aug. 18 to offer this trip. For more information, call 434-2504.

Family Reading Night

The Base Library offers this program starting at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23. For more information, call 434-2934.

Back to School stay out late and bowl

The bowling center will extend their hours and close at 1 a.m. Friday, Aug. 27. For more information, call 434-3426.

“Sir, I Assume Command”

Lt. Col. Chris Stricklin
Commander, 49th Fighter Training Squadron

On June 18, four words and an exchange of salutes opened a door for myself and my family which we have dreamed of our entire career. With those four words, I assumed command of the greatest squadron in the Air Force.

A squadron of experienced instructors highly motivated to develop the next generation of fighter expertise and skill. A squadron whose students crave knowledge and experience in such a way their motivation spreads like wildfire. For this squadron, I feel a level of pride only surpassed by that for my family. It is more demanding than any task ever experienced, more challenging than ever imagined and more rewarding than ever thought feasible.

Every new commander wants to be successful, but how? There are plenty of books written on the subject but no right answer. Every situation is unique, and can change day-to-day or even hour-to-hour. So, where does a new commander begin?

Air Force Doctrine Document 1-1, Leadership and Force Development, provides key guidance to fulfilling leadership responsibilities with three simple words: “make things better.” This statement is extremely simple in text, but complex in depth. “Make things better” encompasses the ultimate goal of any leader...improvement.

First, you must focus on personal leadership. I thought after 38 years I knew myself fairly well, but quickly found there was much left to learn.

Most importantly, you must fully understand how your personal leadership style and skill impacts all aspects of the squadron around you.

The next competency of leadership is leading the people. Our airmen are this Air Force's greatest assets. They are an all-volunteer force, ensuring freedom of this great nation. We must devote the necessary time and actions to develop them in a manner that will allow the continuous improvement of this Air Force and nation. Merely the salary each receives does not motivate our people.

The cost of military service is felt through the routine moves of our entire family from base to base, by the increasing number of deployments, time away from families, and by the in-strength reduction resulting in increased workloads and responsibilities. How do we continue to inspire these vital keys to our success? The answer is in shared vision, values and accountability.

On a personal level, we all want to feel a part of something big, to feel a direct connection to the mission accomplishment. A successful commander does not lead a squadron of complacency, but a successful squadron contains members who are engaged in the mission. We are not a 9-to-5 organization of time clock punchers. Think of the jobs and work hours you have had during your career. Some of the most rewarding for me involved higher than normal levels of work and long hours, but for this cost the intrinsic satisfaction was rewarding and left me with a positive outlook. As airmen, we did not join the military to merely comply with job needs; we are a culture engaged in the drive for continuous improvement every day, in everything we do. This is what motivates and rewards all of us.

When the members of the squadron talk about the squadron, which pronoun do they use, “They,” “We,” or “I”? “They” tells you the members are disengaged from the unit, “I” tells you they feel a high level of extrinsic motivation, and “we” tells you they

feel they are part of something meaningful and the squadron is functioning as a team. This is the ultimate goal of any organization, to accomplish the mission in a way each team member feels they contribute and are vital to success, a team which is intrinsically motivated.

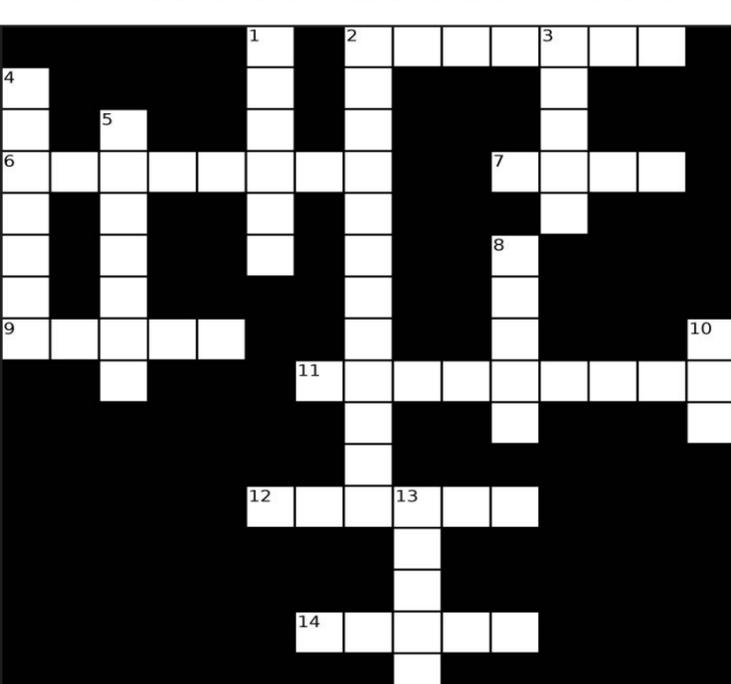
The final competency of leadership is leading the institution. In order to establish long-range success factors and goals designed to achieve mission and organizational advantage, we must embrace change and transformation. We must strive to “leave the campground better than we found it;” To continue development of an organization precise in method and manner, and void of dependence of a key leadership personality. If we develop an outstanding squadron which crumbles after the departure of one individual then we have failed. Failed to develop those around us and failed to ensure future progress.

On the other hand, we should not transform merely for the purpose of change. As a mentor taught me, change must improve one of four key areas to be valid: decrease time required, increase efficiency, improve structure or increase simplicity. Is your organization changing for the right reasons?

This article was meant to merely scratch the surface of squadron leadership, a view from a new commander with much remaining to learn. A reminder each airman not only is subject to command, but also helps exercise command. The Black Knights are not the product of individual work, but of the collective intellectual capital contained behind our patches.

The future is about us, the Black Knight Team, the Ops Group, Team BLAZE...and our quest to be the best in the Air Force. It is our tasking to make each other better, to strive for perfection in all we do. We must never forget mastery of any skill-set is an unattainable goal, an asymptote. We can approach it, work toward it, but never quite grasp mastery. Through the journey, we will make each other, and the Air Force, better. Our ultimate goal remains, mission accomplishment with continuous improvement of our processes, skills and people.

49th FTS Crossword



- 2 Across The 49th FTS stands for the 49th _____ Training Squadron.
- 6 CAFB is one of three IFF bases, the others are Randolph AFB and _____ AFB.
- 7 Number of reservists who work at the 49th FTS.
- 9 The units honorary commander is Bill _____.
- 11 Last name of the 49th FTS commander.
- 12 Last name of the 49th FTS director of operations.
- 14 The units IFF mission was previously located at _____ AFB.

- 1 Down One item students are trained in is Surface _____ Tactics.
- 2 The Black Knights train the next generation of fighter pilots in the Introduction to Fighter _____ course.
- 3 Students in IFF train on the T-38C _____.
- 4 Not only pilots but Weapon _____ Officers are trained in IFF.
- 5 The unit mission is to "_____ the World's Best Airmen."
- 8 The 49th FTS are known as the "_____ Knights."
- 10 Number of civilians employed at the 49th FTS.
- 13 The 49th FTS commander's call sign is "_____."

Into the deep blue sea ... of social media

Staff Sgt. Patrice Clarke
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo — My mother is on Facebook. Yes, I said it ... the woman who can't set the time on her DVD player without having the offended machine shoot angry DVD's at her is now able to go online and poke, prod and update at her leisure. I tell you this only to say that if you haven't heard of social media, you're probably living at the bottom of the deep blue sea.

There is resounding evidence that Air Force members are using social media with great abundance. According to the Air Force Social Media Use Survey, 69 percent of Airmen use YouTube, 48 percent use MySpace and 50 percent currently participate on Facebook. There are also numerous Airmen out there “tweeting,” blogging and photo sharing.

As a public affairs professional, I am all for this. We want more Airmen empowered to be spokespersons for the Air Force. Gone are the days when only the commander or senior enlisted members were the ones telling folks about what's going on in the Air Force.

With this empowerment comes responsibility. With the world just a Facebook friend away, Airmen need to know that what they put on these social media Web sites is looked at ... a lot. Just ask the young Air Force Academy cadet whose roommate taped him dancing after class his sophomore year. That video received more than 500,000 different views on YouTube but then it really went viral. CNN worldwide picked up the story and did a feature on the dancing cadet. This same cadet even got a shout out from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates during the cadet's Academy graduation.

The then cadet was embarrassed by the attention his dancing skills received, even though it in no way showed the Air Force in a disparaging light. Airmen must remember that they are military members at all times. The things you post on these sites can always be linked back to you ... and the fact that you're a military member.

Remember, this Air Force is pretty small and you are a representative of the Air Force 24/7. There is a good chance that even though your immediate supervisor isn't one of your Facebook friends, one of his friends probably is.

Social media isn't rocket science. If at any point you are worried about what your mom or your supervisor or your commander would say about a post, blog, picture or tweet, don't post it. Things posted to the internet are everlasting, and once posted, they're out there for

everyone, including our adversaries, to see forever. Though you may think that you're just telling 549 of your closest Facebook friends that you are flying out from your deployed location at 9 a.m. on such and such a date, and you have a layover in Germany before flying out again three hours later, you've also just given out vital operational security information to those 549 friends and all of their friends as well.

You may think you're just letting everyone know so they can have the bells and whistles ready for your return, but in reality, you just put all the other redeployers lives in jeopardy as well.

Social media isn't going anywhere. With the technological advances that occur every day, you can rest assured that Facebook, Twitter and all those other sites are just the beginning of an information evolution. With every Airman being a spokesperson these sites help the ultimate goal of telling the Air Force story. Airmen just need to remember that they should tell the story the smart, secure way.

Spotlight: 49th FTS

Unit mission:
Develop the World's Best Airmen

Unit Vision:
The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will embody pride in our mission. We will strive for continuous improvement of our skill set proficiency while demonstrating the highest level of Professionalism.

Key Leaders
Commander: Lt. Col. Chris "Elroy" Stricklin
Director of Operations: Lt. Col. Brian "Blue" Joseph
Honorary Commander: Mr. Bill Stone

Personnel numbers
Military: 23 Active Duty, four Reserve
Civil service: one
Buildings: one

What is the squadron's function/role?
As the only graduate program on Columbus AFB, the Black Knights serve the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) mission which bridges between SUPT training and the Fighter FTU. We take newly winged aviators to the next level in their development as fighter candidates. They are introduced to the employment of an aircraft as a weapon and the importance of being a good wingman. These skills will not only make them a great fighter asset, but also a great Air Force Officer.

Slogan/unit name?
The Black Knights

What are some upcoming challenges the unit will be facing?
As every unit faces, the Black Knights are challenged daily with completion of the primary mission while supporting Air Force needs through AEF rotations resulting in reduced instructor availability.

How does the unit play a part in the bases mission of SUPT?
When training aviators, we must never forget the customer is the combatant commanders. The requirements set forward by those leaders establish the training required at FTU, IFF, and SUPT. IFF routinely works with both FTU and SUPT to continually improve the product we develop in our portion of the pipeline. Being co-located with SUPT allows all Columbus Flying Training to be a group effort, ensuring we are teaching the correct skills, the most efficient way, at each level of aviator development. Solid BLAZE teamwork allows our graduates to continually be ranked Excellent on graduate surveys from follow-on training.

What has changed recently in the squadron?
Recently, the FTUs stated a need for additional training to be introduced at the IFF level. As a result, we now instruct aviators in Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM), Surface Attack Tactics (SAT) and Close Air Support (CAS).

What are some unique aspects of the unit?
All Black Knight instructors are experienced in their respective fighter platforms before assignment to our team.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Maj. Brad Hedblom, a T-38 instructor pilot with the 49th FTS attaches an Auxiliary Power Unit to add electricity to a T-38 just before a flight Aug. 6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Polish Air Force Capt. Krzysztof Jedrzejak, a T-38 student pilot studying with the 49th Fighter Training Squadron, prepares his life support gear fly a flight Aug. 6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Second Lt. Carl Scott, a transition lieutenant assigned to the 49th FTS, looks over some of the heritage materials kept on display in the 49th FTS installation Aug. 6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
First Lt. Dan Hermanski, a weapons system officer student with the 49th FTS, prepares a T-38 for takeoff Aug. 6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Capt. Steve Thomas, a T-38 instructor pilot with the 49th FTS, explains aerial maneuvers during an instructor briefing on Aug. 6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin
Four T-38s from the 49th Fighter Training Squadron fly together in formation above cloud level May 11.

