

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 34, Issue 44

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Nov. 5, 2010

A day in the life of Tops in Blue

Master Sgt. Kim Heng
14th Force Support Squadron
Superintendent

It's 95 degrees out, the sun is beating down on the runway, and I'm on a truck bed-turned stage, four feet off the tarmac. In my gloved hands I have an adjustable wrench and duct tape and on my head is a worn yellow hard hat, the sweat beading down the sides of my face. Suddenly, I hear "quiet on stage, rear truss going up!"

Thirty plus voices fall silent while the motors of the rear truss kick into gear, raising the blue sequined curtain we just finished attaching to its metal scaffolding. For safety, my team mates on stage stop their scurrying about, setting down their tools to silently watch the metal towers and risers, keeping a watchful eye out for any catches or tears of the sequined backdrop.

"Stop!" commands a voice from approximately 20 feet away. The gears of the motors stop, and all is silent. "Stage right, bring it up three inches." The right motor engages, and the right side of the rear truss rises. "Okay!" yells the voice. The motor stops. Then both motors reengage until the rear curtain is all the way up. As soon as the motors stop, the stage manager yells "all clear," and thirty plus voices commence speaking and moving in all directions while the hard hats are gathered up and placed in their bin.

"When do the performers get here?" an eager voice asks, as soon as it's clear to approach the stage. "Oh, we're all here, ma'am" is my reply to this often-asked question



Tops in Blue, the Air Force's expeditionary entertainers, will perform at 6:30 p.m. tonight at Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium at 1100 College Street. Doors open for DoD ID card holders at 5:45 p.m. and to the general public at 6:10 p.m. Come early, as seating is limited.

U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin

while pointing to the people around me.

The performers she's inquiring about are the cast members of Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment group. The people on stage and scurrying around it, setting up speakers, lighting, taping extension cords to the concrete runway, are the performers. Tops in Blue

travels on a 30-passenger bus with a 54-foot equipment truck with no room for "roadies," thus, the performers are also the crew. There is a small technical crew for things like lighting and audio, but the technical crew works alongside the performers, setting up for the night's performance.

To become a member of Tops in Blue, I had to submit a video tape of me performing as if I was performing in front of an audience. Along with that, I sent a completed eight-page application that listed my entertainment experiences, not just in my specialty, but any make-

See TOPS IN BLUE, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (11-01)	5.67 days	1.23 days	Nov. 17	48th (11-02)	4.90 days	1.36 days	Nov. 22	49th (10-BB)	5.41 days	4.31 days	Nov. 17	T-6	402	226	3,151
41st (11-11)	2.08 days	0.16 days	Dec. 13	50th (11-02)	0.08 days	1.64 days	Nov. 22					T-1	135	122	1,041
												T-38	171	73	980
												IFF	38	19	249

The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Arnold Bunch, Jr., Commander 321st Aeronautical Systems Wing.

TOPS IN BLUE

(Continued from Page 1)
up, wardrobe, technical, lighting or audio experiences. After the tape was reviewed at the HQ Services Agency, Entertainment Division in San Antonio, Texas, I was invited to the World Wide Talent Contest, along with approximately 80 other Airmen from bases all around the world.

The Tops in Blue's production center is located at Lackland AFB, Texas. That is where I and my 31 fellow tour members spent approximately our first ten weeks together, rehearsing, learning choreography and building the set, where trumpet players placed ice packs on swollen lips to help keep the swelling down from playing long hours they weren't accustomed to, where ace band-aids to support overworked muscles and hot tea to soothe worn vocal chords were purchased and consumed in mass quantities.

All of the praying to make the tour, the subsequent training, sleep-deprivation, performing through injuries and illness and a nearly one-year separation from family led them to this hot runway today. After arriving this morning after a four-hour journey, the next four hours will see them preparing the stage, instruments, audio, lighting equipment, and wardrobe followed by a complete sound check.

The evening's 90-minute uninterrupted performance is the easiest part of the day. Afterwards, the team will change, eat, tear down the entire set, pack it away and load it back into the truck before midnight if they're lucky. Then it's off to check into billeting, showers, and an early-morning wake up call to get on the bus and do it all over again the next day.

That is the essence of Tops in Blue – travel, set-up, performance, tear-down, repeat. The thirty-two cast members will learn to work together as a team, eat, play, pray, and sometimes argue while performing close to 125 shows in over 20 countries. My tour took us to such places as Croatia, Bosnia, Greenland, Niagara Falls, and a high school performing arts center in Beckley, West Virginia, where I dropped a 45-pound light board on my shin for which I still bear a scar.

In one of the most challenging yet rewarding years of my entire Air Force career, I created wonderful memories with a group of people that I call family.

The Tops in Blue family, called "priors," include those that toured before me, with me, and after me, those who are keeping up the tradition of providing quality entertainment to Airmen around the world. Local priors include our 14th FTW Command Chief Master Sgt. Zefrem Smith, Tops in Blue 1988, the 42nd Airman Leadership School Commandant, Master Sgt. Stacy



Courtesy photo
Command Chief Master Sgt. Zefram Smith, 14th Flying Training Wing, plays bass during his time in Tops in Blue in 1988. Chief Smith joined the Tops in Blue tour only eight months after enlisting in the U.S. Air Force and was the first-ever Tops in Blue alumni to become a command chief master sergeant.

Mercer, Tops in Blue 1996, and myself, Tops in Blue 1998.

I highly encourage you and your family to attend tonight's free Tops in Blue performance at the Mississippi College for Women's Rent Theater at 6:30 p.m. Military ID card holders can enter the theater at 5:45 p.m. If you are interested in serving with this elite group of expeditionary performers, please contact Chief Smith at 434-7005 or Sergeant Heng at 434-2611 and we will answer any questions you may have or assist with making your audition tape.

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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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.

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Annunciation Catholic School
Jeans & Jazz
13th Annual Auction
Friday, November 12, 2010
Trotter Convention Center - Upper Level
Bidding begins at 6:30 p.m.

- Silent & Live Auctions
- Heavy Hors d'oeuvres catered by Celestial Creations Catering
- Drinks-Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks
- Raffles:
 - Ipad - WiFi 16 MB
 - \$500 in Walmart Gift Cards
 - Solid Oak Handcrafted Wall Clock by Paul Cuicchi
- The "Little French Market"
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To purchase tickets contact
Annunciation Catholic School at
328-4479

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● car carport/ front porch on ●
● 2 acres. 10 min to CAFB/ ●
● Caledonia school district. ●
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● Available Dec. 1, 2010. ●
● Minimum 1 yr. lease. No ●
● pets. Call 423-295-5918. ●

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 93 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

14 FTW/CV flips coin at MSU vs UK game



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin
Col. George Ross, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, calls the coin toss prior to the start of the Mississippi State University vs. University of Kentucky football game while Steve Shaw, SEC referee, watches as the Team BLAZE challenge coin flips through the air at Davis-Wade Stadium, Starkville, Miss. Colonel Ross performed the pre-game coin toss moments after a formation of four T-6 Texan II's flew over the game.



Airman of the Week

Staff Sgt. Leslie Ann Rangel
14th OSS/OSAR

Job title: Air Traffic Controller Craftsman

Time at Columbus AFB: Four years, 11 months

Time in Service: Five years, four months

Hometown: Le Grand, Calif.

Career goals: I would eventually like to work for the FAA but I also want to return to art school and get a degree in photography so I can run a small business from my home.

Family members: I have been married for eight years to Artemio Rangel Jr.

Favorite musician: A Perfect Circle

Favorite movie: Interview with the Vampire and Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

Biggest pet peeve: When people are too self-absorbed to pay attention to what's going on around them so it leads to neglecting others.

Favorite book: "The Witching Hour" by Anne Rice

Inspirations: My friends and family who were determined enough to keep working towards their goals to achieve them.

Personal motto: Even if you're in a temporary situation you should have some pride in yourself and do the best job you can.

Flag Football scores for Wednesday, the 27th of October

GAME 1

48th FTS Forfeit

14th OSS #2 Winner

GAME 2

14th OSS # 1 20 Winner

37th/41st FTS 0

Congratulations to the Oct. enlisted promotees



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Congratulations to the newest enlisted promotees from the 14th Flying Training Wing: Senior Airman Markita Smith, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Andrew Dickey, 14th OSS; Staff Sgt. Matthew Marenette, 14th Communications Squadron; Staff Sgt. Tranquavious Mason, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Zachary Patton, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Brandy Mendiola, 14th Medical Support Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Terrence Stanich, 14th OSS.

Election Tips Straight From Local Election Officials

Some states allow uniformed service members and their dependents to return absentee voting forms past Election Day. To see if your state is one of them, visit www.fvap.gov.

If you are one of the many voters, who requested to receive their absentee ballot by email, make sure that your email provider does not block attachments and use an email address that supports sending attachments.

If you have not received your requested ballot, double-check that the absentee ballot is not blocked from entering your inbox by adding your LEO email to your address book, contacts or safe senders list and check your spam folder to see if it is there. Additionally, you may need to clear out some of your emails from your inbox to make room for LEO communications and possibly large sized ballot PDF attachments.

To find contact information for your local election office, go to fvap.gov and select "Where to Send Forms" under Quick Links.

Contact Us - FVAP is here 24 hours a day at 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, via online chat or at vote@fvap.gov to answer all your questions regarding absentee voting. Follow FVAP on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/FVAP>.

Self Defense Class

Columbus Police Department will be conducting a self defense class at the Lee Middle School Gym on Nov. 9. There will be two class sessions taught by Grants Taekwon-Do, one from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., another from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, and proceeds will be donated to the Columbus Police Department Toy Drive. For more information please contact Officer Rhonda Sanders at 251-7355 or 244-3544.

Jeans and Jazz

A fundraiser for the Annunciation Catholic School starting at 6:30 p.m. in the upper level of the Trotter Convention Center on Nov. 12. Jeans and Jazz will include silent auctions, live auctions, heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a raffle and a little French market. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person, \$30 at the door. Contact 323-5582 or 328-4479 for more information.

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 327-3107.

Foster and Adoption Opportunities

The Mississippi Department of Human Service is in need of foster and adoptive families in Lowndes Clay County. If you would like to open your heart and home to a child please contact Penny Peralto in Lowndes County at 329-1101. For adoption contact Karen Ward in Clay County at 494-8987.

Chapel holds annual Harvest Festival



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick

Mirabelle Bishaw throws a ring at the ring toss game while at the Chapel's Harvest Festival Oct. 27. Other games at the event included putting and basketball. The Harvest Festival is held annually as a family-friendly alternative to Halloween activities.

BARGAIN LINE

Quarterly awards highlight Team BLAZE members

Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing's top performers were showcased at a new-and-improved quarterly awards ceremony Oct. 27 at the Kay Auditorium.

The ceremony-only program is a recent change from the usual luncheon format the wing has used for past ceremonies, with a singular goal - to highlight the best and brightest of Team BLAZE.

Team BLAZE third quarter award winners are as follows:
Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Matthew

Marenette, 14th Mission Support Group

NCO of the Quarter: Staff Sgt. Christopher Washington, 14th MSG

SNCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Joseph Edgell, 14th Medical Group

Honor Guard member of the Quarter: Senior Airman Brandon Smith, 14th Operations Group

CGO of the Quarter: 2nd Lt. Richard Nova, 14th MSG

FGO of the Quarter: Maj. Shirley Brown, 14th MDG

Flight Commander of the Quarter: Capt. Joshua Kenyon, 14th OG

IP of the Quarter: 1st Lt. Daniel Trueblood, 37th Flying Training Squadron

Cat. 1 Civilian of the Quarter: Tharwin Carr, 14th MDG

Cat. 2 Civilian of the Quarter: Tonya Noble, 14th MSG

Cat. 3 Civilian of the Quarter: Beth Sherman, 14th MDG

Flight Chief of the Quarter: Jonathan Linquist, 14th MSG

Volunteer of the Quarter: Veronica Keomanila, Top 3

(Editor's note: Lieutenant Nova, Mr. Linquist and Mrs. Keomanila were not available for photos).

Congratulations to the third quarter award winners.



Marenette Washington Edgell Smith Brown Kenyon Trueblood Carr Noble Sherman

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: Great 3/2 brick home just outside of Caledonia city limits. Open floor plan with 10 ft. ceilings through-

out, 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.

Transportation

For sale: 1976 Corvette Stingray. White with red interior, 350V8, excellent condition. \$7,500 or best offer. Call 295-7633.

For sale: 2004 Ford Explorer XLT, black, 105,000 miles. \$8,000 or best offer. Call 315-1710.

For sale: 2000 BMW R1200C, cruiser, black with pinstripes. 11,700 miles. Recently serviced. Excellent condition. \$6,450 or best offer. 808-221-2005

For sale: 2005 Triumph Rocket III, Black with lots of extras! 7,400 miles.

Excellent Condition. Price lowered from \$9,500 to \$8,950 or best offer. (808)221-2005
For sale: 2008 Honda CBR1000RR, Full LEO system, Ohlins Suspension, with lots of extras. Silver/Black. \$10,500 firm. (808) 221-2005
For sale: 1998 Kawasaki 220 Bayou ATV, excellent condition. Electric start, new battery. \$1,200 or best offer. Leave a message at 574-5675.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Kincaid Cherry Mountain II entertainment center with two book cases, \$750. Pair of Bose 301 speakers, \$150. Largo Lafayette oak daybed with trundle and two mattresses, \$250. Two Falcon Expert flippin' sticks, EC-76HT, 7'6", \$250. Portable wet tile saw, 7", tile cutter, nippers, and other tile tools, \$150. Extang tonneau cover, Classic Platinum, black, fits 99-06 6.5ft Chevrolet short bed, \$100.

Herculiner brush-on bed liner, gray, \$40. Woodstreamer S-2 two-man boat with seats, \$50. Windows 7 Home premium upgrade, sealed. Call 889-3974.
For sale: Sidi Motorcycle Vertigo Riding Boots size 45 and Alpine Stars Racing gloves - great condition. \$100 for both. (808) 221-2005 .
For sale: 3x6 whirlpool tub with matching shower that has sliding door and over head light and optional steam bath only \$1,000. Will sell separate \$500 each. all attachments come with them. Window unit A/C with heat pump \$100. Old black rotary phone, still works \$20. Amplified speaker system for PC, new in box \$10. Three piece luggage \$20. Call 328-4374.
For sale: HP Desktop PC, 250GB HD, Intel 4-3Ghz, 2038MB RAM, 19" LCD monitor, Microsoft Office, Vista, like new, \$300 or best offer. Delta crib and changing table with drawers, \$250, BundleMe cold weather stroller and car seat insert, \$20. Baby stroller that converts to back carrier, \$30. Booster

seat and high chair, \$15. For more information call 497-2175.
For sale: Used front and rear deck wood and lumber, measures approximately 60 feet across by 10 feet out. 4x4 posts raised deck 10 feet high. Replacing all. Lots of good used wood. Take all or nothing. You haul. \$500 or best offer. Call 808-221-2005.
For sale: Bedroom suite with night stand, headboard and dresser with mirror \$400. Highboy chest of drawers \$500. Microwave table \$10. Childs school desk \$5. Call 328-3977.

Free Pets

Free: Six small very cute mixed puppies. One male and five females. Call (205) 273-4118.

Wanted

Wanted: Chainlink fence, call (904) 688-0188.

Base News

Veterans Day

Most base offices will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Commissary Open on Veterans Day

The Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Veterans Day.

CSC Patriotic Salute to Our Veterans

Join the Columbus Spouses Club in giving a patriotic salute to our veterans Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Club. They will be showing thanks and appreciation by sending holiday cards to the patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Columbus Junior Girl Choir will be performing a selection for entertainment. The dinner for this month is an All American Classic Buffet, \$13 for Columbus Club members, \$15 for non-members. Please RSVP by noon on Nov. 11 to cscsrsvp@yahoo.com

Landings at Columbus Holiday Hours

The Landings at Columbus Office will be closed on the following days: Nov. 25, Nov. 26, Dec. 23, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Maintenance on-call service will still be available.

Information Protection Moved

The 14th FTW Information Protection Office has moved to building 926 room 125. Anyone requiring fingerprints, security manager training, safe custodian training, e-QIP/SIF/JPAS training, classified briefing or secure room information, ISAG information or security clearance final processing, please call Master Sgt. Pender at 434-2603 or Senior Airman Rosero at 434-2413 to schedule an appointment.

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.

New CDC open for business



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin
Lori Zeppos, wife of Maj. Christopher Zeppos, 43rd Flying Training Squadron, drops off their daughter Chloe on the first day of class at the new Child Development Center, Nov. 1. The new center will have its official ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.

Adjunct Instructors Needed

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University needs instructors for their Master of Aeronautical Science and Master of Science in Management degree programs at Columbus AFB. Email resumes to the ERAU's Director of Academics at reginald.boring@erau.edu.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

The ERAU office is located in building 926, room 124 and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ERAU offers Master of Aeronautical Science and Master of Science in Management degrees on base. ERAU awards advanced standing credit towards the Master of Aeronautical Science degree for certain military training including but not limited to: Squadron Officer School (In-Residence only), Air Command and Staff

College, EURO-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Instructor Training T-38, Pilot Instructor Training T-38, Pilot Instructor Training T-6 TRIM. For more information, contact Jessica Leese at 434-8262 (dial 99 on base) or the ERAU Memphis Center at Memphis.center@erau.edu.

Dependent ID Cards

The Military Personnel Section wishes to remind its customers that a dependent's sponsor must be present for issuance of a dependent ID card. Alternatively the sponsor can sign a DD Form 1172 in advance and file it with Customer Support, allowing the dependent to come in at a later date to get the ID card without the sponsor. Without the sponsor or the DD Form 1172 the dependent can obtain a temporary ID card that will expire in 30 days. For all of the above options the dependent must bring a current or expired dependent ID card as well as a second photo ID.

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 to 10 a.m. at the

AFRC. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness.

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 be 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.

Chapel Schedule

2010-2011 Pioneer Clubs Program

Pioneer Clubs meets every Wednesday evening 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. This program is open to children ages three years through seventh grade. All are invited to attend. 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. For more information, contact Ms. Ida Hall, 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.

Special Worship Service

You are invited to attend a very special worship service on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 10:45 a.m. We are honored to have the 17-member Columbus

Girls' Choir who will be offering sacred music and anthems as part of our Traditional Protestant worship service. After the worship service, you are invited to attend lunch in the Chapel Annex.

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

Thursday 6 p.m. — Choir Practice Sunday: 3:30 p.m. — Religious Education, grades K-9 3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice 4 p.m. — Confession 5 p.m. — Mass 6 p.m. — RCIA Baptisms every 3rd Sunday of the month except Lent and Advent. Call (808) 271-4882 for more information.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Weather

Today High: 61, Low: 26 Sunny	Saturday High: 62, Low: 28 Sunny
Sunday High: 65, Low: 30 Sunny	Monday High: 68, Low: 33 Sunny

News Briefs

Veteran's Day Parade

A Veterans Day parade will be held at 9:30 a.m. in downtown Columbus on Main Street Nov. 6.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylights savings time will end on Nov. 7. Don't forget to set clocks back one hour.

SNCO Banquet

Fifth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor will be the guest speaker for the SNCO banquet on Nov. 8. The evening will start off with a social at 6 p.m. and move to the main event at 7 p.m. Dress for military attendees will be mess dress or semi-formal and business attire for civilians.



U.S. Air Force Photo
Deployed Columbus AFB Defender Staff Sgt. Stephen Wheeler, 14th Security Forces Squadron, explains the process for issuance and accountability of over 1,700 contractor and active duty temporary badges to Brig. Gen. Jimmy E. McMillian, Director of Security Forces, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force at a deployed location.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
8 SNCO Induction Banquet, 6 p.m., @ Club	9 CDC Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m., @ new CDC	10 NARFE Luncheon, 11 a.m., @ Club	11 Veteran's Day, most CAFB offices closed	12 BCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., @ Club	13/14 Nov. 13: OG Career Day/Civilian Fly-In
15	16 Native American Heritage Month Luncheon Hearts Apart Social, 4:30 p.m., @ AFRC CSC Social, 6 p.m., @ Club	17 Class 11-01 Track Select, 5 p.m., @ Club	18 Dormsgiving, 5 p.m., @ Chapel Annex	19 Class 11-02 Graduation, 10 a.m., @ Kaye	20/21

Long Range Events

Nov. 22: Holiday Safety Briefings
Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 26: Family Day
Nov. 29: Wing Enlisted Calls
Nov. 30: Enlisted Promotions
Nov. 30: Class 12-01/02 PPW
Dec. 1: AETC/CV visit
Dec. 2: Hanukah
Dec. 2: Class 11-03 Assignment Night
Dec. 3: Base Christmas Tree Lighting

Answer for last week

Dollars and Sense: How to Determine Your Lodging Per Diem

Lodging reimbursement while on TDY is not to exceed the locality per diem lodging ceiling (maximum lodging rate) for the TDY location. The actual lodging cost or the locality lodging ceiling, whichever is less, is added to the meals & incidental expense (M&IE) rate for that location to determine that day's per diem rate. The total amount is not to exceed the maximum per diem rate for the TDY locality unless an Actual Expense Allowance (AEA) has been pre-approved IAW JFTR Vol. 1/JTR Vol. 2, Ch 4, Part C.

NOTE: The locality per diem lodging ceiling (maximum lodging rate) in CONUS does not include lodging tax. Lodging tax in CONUS is a reimbursable expense.

To obtain the maximum lodging rate, go to <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/perdiem-rates.html>. If traveling in CONUS, under "State," use the drop-down menu to choose the State you will be

traveling to. Click "Execute". Next scroll down to your TDY location (City/Military Installation), and then scroll over to the "Max Lodging" column. This column shows the maximum lodging rate (locality lodging ceiling) for your TDY location. Please pay particular attention to the "Seasons (Beg-End)" column. Throughout the year, the maximum lodging rate may change at certain locations.

If authorized to lodge off-base, FedRooms.com (<https://www.fedrooms.com>) can assist you with finding lodging within the maximum lodging rate at your TDY location.

If TDY to a military installation, the member must obtain a non-availability statement from the billeting office at the TDY location in order to be reimbursed up to the maximum lodging rate.

Reference:

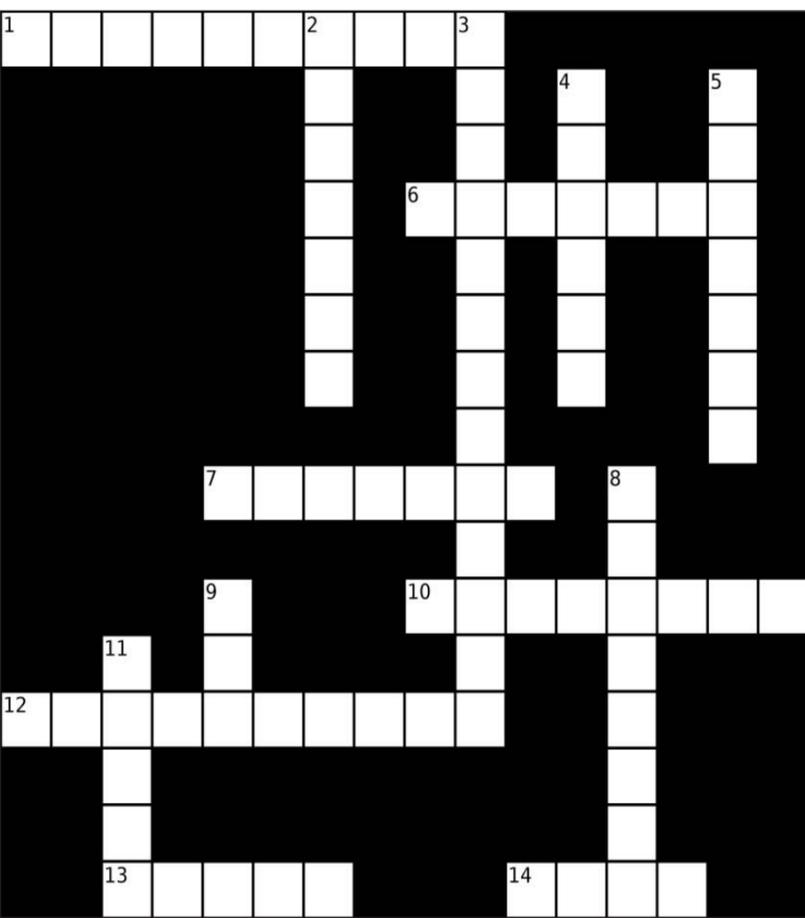
JFTR Vol. 1, Chapter 4, Part B & C
JTR Vol. 2, Chapter 4, Part B & C

14th CPTS Finance Customer Service:
Bldg 730, first floor lobby.

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

14th CPTS Finance Customer Service e-mail:
14CPTS.FCS@columbus.af.mil

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



Tops in Blue Crossword

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <p>1 While touring with Tops in Blue, members are considered to be on _____ TDY.</p> <p>6 This year's show is entitled "We _____."</p> <p>7 To date, TOPS IN BLUE has traveled over four _____ miles to military bases throughout the world</p> <p>10 Each year the Worldwide Talent Search is held at _____ AFB, Texas.</p> <p>12 Tops in Blue will perform this year at Miss. _____ for Women.</p> <p>13 This CAFB enlisted senior leader was part of Tops in Blue in 1988.</p> <p>14 This 14th FSS superintendent was part of Tops in Blue in 1998.</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>2 Each year's show is prepared during the _____ period, which is about six weeks</p> <p>3 TOPS IN BLUE serves as an _____ entertainment unit.</p> <p>4 Major Al _____ (now a retired Colonel) created the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest in 1953</p> <p>5 Tops in Blue's last stop before Columbus AFB is at this other Mississippi Air Force Base.</p> <p>8 In 1954, Tops in Blue made their TV debut on Ed _____'s "Toast of th _____ Town."</p> <p>9 A Tops in Blue tour lasts _____ year.</p> <p>11 Each Tops in Blue show uses two _____ of cable.</p> |
|---|---|

Laughlin lieutenant loses leg, returns to pilot training

Joel Langton
47th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A lieutenant here received word Oct. 29 that he will return to pilot training at the 47th Flying Training Wing here within the next month.

First Lt. Ryan McGuire lost a leg in a boating accident 13 months ago. Since the accident, Lieutenant McGuire has completed rehabilitation using his prosthetics, completed the Air Force Marathon and competed in The Warrior Games. Since July 2010, he has been back on duty at Laughlin Air Force Base, but not in pilot training.

"When I first lost my leg, I never dreamed this day would come," Lieutenant McGuire said. "But leadership here has supported me every step of the way, and honestly, they're the ones who gave me this dream to come back."

The 47th FTW wing commander said it was a no-brainer to support Lieutenant McGuire in his efforts.

"When I first met Lieutenant McGuire, it was obvious that this young man is something special," said Col. Michael Frankel, the 47th FTW commander. "He has always had a positive attitude. I've never seen him down, never see him upset, he's always been pressing forward trying to achieve his goals. I look forward to the day when he graduates from pilot training, and I can hand him a set of silver wings."

Lieutenant McGuire was injured Sept. 6, 2009 when he was yanked from a boat while jetting across a lake at 40 mph. He was lifted out of the boat by a rope tied to an inner tube when the wind caught the tube, pulling him out. As a result of the accident, his hip was dislocated, his pelvis was fractured, and his right foot was mangled.

He was rescued from the lake and then taken by ambulance

to Val Verde Regional Medical Center in Del Rio, Texas. Ten hours after the accident, he arrived by helicopter at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Initially, doctors attempted to repair the foot, but five weeks later, he lost much of his right leg below the knee.

"It was so surreal," Lieutenant McGuire said. "It probably really didn't hit home until I woke up after the surgery. I woke up after and my mom started crying. I pretty much knew then it wasn't just a bad dream."

As a child, Lieutenant McGuire wanted to be an Air Force pilot. His dream eventually led him to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"I never wanted to give up my dream," he said.

That burning passion led him through months of sometimes painful rehabilitation, as he relearned to walk and then run. In August, he went before a medical board where he was found fit for duty. Two days later, a waiver was submitted to return him to pilot training, which was approved Oct. 29.

There are a active-duty pilots with prosthetics. Lieutenant McGuire however, is the first student to be returned to training status.

Lieutenant McGuire said he's learned a lot through the whole ordeal, but really learned the meaning of Air Force family.

"I went to the Academy and such, and it was a great time and we experienced a lot of camaraderie," he said. "However, throughout this, my Air Force family, and my real family, has been by my side throughout."

"The day of the accident, I had commanders at the hospital with me, helping take care of my real family and ever since, they've been in my corner helping and pushing me as needed," he said.

Energy initiatives, space capabilities top priorities for Air Force

Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
Defense Media Activity
San Antonio

COCOA BEACH, Fla. — When the Air Force saves energy, it also saves money, the environment and possibly even lives, according to Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin C. Conaton.

Ms. Conaton discussed ongoing service energy initiatives, as well as Air Force space programs, during a visit here Oct. 27 for Air Force Week Cocoa Beach 2010.

"Every gallon of fuel that we have to take over to Afghanistan is one more gallon of fuel that has to be moved by convoy, in potentially dangerous situations," Ms. Conaton said. "So our first imperative is to reduce our use of energy so that we're not putting people at risk in

delivering it to the warfighter."

This is also a time when Air Force officials are focused on making every dollar count, she said.

"Every dollar we're not spending on fuel is a dollar we can spend on benefits for our Airmen and their families, on readiness and on new weapons systems," Ms. Conaton said. "So for both those reasons, I think it's really important to focus on energy in addition to all the environmental and greater societal benefits that go with it."

The Air Force's energy initiatives include an effort to shift the way Airmen think about both their personal energy footprint and that of the service, she said.

"We've got a strategic plan in the Air Force that talks about reducing demand,

increasing supply and changing the culture," Ms. Conaton said. "We're trying to spend as little as possible on energy and find ways to decrease that demand while finding alternative sources for that supply."

Officials are looking at solar arrays, wind-power systems and both synthetic and bio-fuels for aircraft, the undersecretary said.

"The Air Force is the largest consumer of energy in the Department of Defense, which itself is the largest consumer in the federal government," she said. "During a time when budgets are tight, we want to decrease the amount of money we're spending on fuel and increase the amount we're spending on Airmen, their families and our readiness."

VA backs 19 million home loans

WASHINGTON — With mortgage rates at historic lows, veterans and military members continue to use the Department of Veterans Affairs home loan program in record numbers to purchase a home or refinance their existing loans.

"Home ownership is one of the foundations of the American dream," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA (officials are) honored to administer a benefit that, for two-thirds of a century, has profoundly affected the lives of our veterans, our military servicemembers, and their families."

Since the VA Home Loan program began in 1944 as part of the Montgomery GI Bill, VA officials have helped veterans by guaranteeing more than 19 million home loans, valued at more than \$1 trillion. During the past four years, the number of veterans VA officials have helped purchase a home has risen by 63 percent.

The VA's foreclosure rate for the last nine quarters and serious delinquency rate for the last six quarters have been the lowest in the housing industry, even when compared to prime loans, according to a Mortgage Bankers Association's National Delinquency Survey.

In a time where other no-downpayment programs are virtually non-existent and mortgage credit can be difficult to obtain, veterans and servicemembers have an avenue to obtain financing and take advantage of historically low rates through the VA home loan program.

Most veterans, servicemembers, Reservists and National Guard members, as well as some surviving spouses, are eligible for the program, which provides an opportunity for borrowers to qualify for no-downpayment home loans as well as regular and interest-rate-reduction refinance home loans.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage lenders, with VA ensuring payment of a portion of the loan if the borrower fails to repay the balance.

A unique aspect of the VA's program is a commitment to help borrowers keep their homes if they encounter financial difficulties. During the past decade, VA loan specialists have helped more than 150,000 families hold onto their homes when threatened by foreclosure.

Mr. Shinseki attributed the "professionalism and savvy" of VA employees and the "unshakeable sense of responsibility" among veterans and military personnel as key factors for maintaining a low foreclosure rate on VA-backed home loans.

VA's loan specialists can intervene on a veteran's behalf with the loan servicer to explore home-retention options, including repayment plans, loan modifications and forbearance. When home retention is not an option, VA can help arrange a compromise sale or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, both of which are less detrimental to borrowers than foreclosure.

More information about the VA Home Loan program is available online at www.homeloans.va.gov or by calling toll-free at 1-877-827-3702.

(Courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs)

Base families offered a variety of activities

Yard Decorations

The Arts and Crafts Center offers two reindeer, sleigh and Santa made from plywood. Place your order by Nov. 5 to guarantee delivery of your ready to paint set by Nov. 30. Prices are: \$50 for set of two reindeer, \$60 for Sleigh and \$30 for Santa. Order the whole set and save \$10 – total cost is \$130. For more information, call 434-7836.

NAF Sealed Bid Auction at Outdoor Recreation

Bids open Nov. 8-19. May view items up for bid from 2-3 p.m. daily by appointment. Bids accepted until noon Nov. 21. Winning bids announced Nov. 22. All purchasers must hold a valid Military ID or CAC card. Items up for auction include a Diamond Coach 27 PAX bus with 324,972 miles, Dunk Tank & Trailer, Electronic Dartboard, Safe, CD Jukebox, Large Screen TV with Stand and other items. Call ODR at 434-2505/2507 for info. All bids should be submitted on Sealed Bid Sheet obtained from ODR or NAF Accounting Office. (14FSS reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.)

NAF Open Sale at Outdoor Recreation

There will be a NAF sale Nov. 19. View sale items Nov. 8-10 and Nov. 15-19. Sale times: 7-8 a.m.—Active Duty Members; 8:15-9 a.m.—Retirees; 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—NAF & APF Employees, DoD Contractors & other US Federal Employees. All purchasers must hold a valid Military ID or CAC card and must show card to enter sale area. Call ODR at 434-2505/2507 for info.

Parents Day Out

The Youth Center and Child Development Center offer this program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 13. Register and pay a \$5 deposit by Nov. 10 at each respective facility.

Custom Framing for Christmas

All orders for custom framing must be made by Nov. 15 to guarantee Christmas delivery Dec. 10. For more information, call Arts and Crafts at 434-7836.

Youth Basketball Registration

Register by Nov. 19. Cost is \$40 for ages 5-18 and \$35 for ages 3-4. If registering after Nov. 19, add \$10 to the prices listed. Volunteer

coaches needed for all ages. To volunteer, call the youth center at 434-2504.

Sunday bowling special

Purchase a combo meal and receive two free games and \$1 shoe rental at the bowling center. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Bench press competition

Scheduled for Nov. 8 from 5-7 p.m. All rules and weight classes will be according to AAU standards. Weigh-ins at Fitness Center from Nov. 1 until event start. Prior sign-ups encouraged but not required. Two events: one rep max and max reps. Contact the fitness center at 434-2772 for additional information.

Fitness Center fun run

There is a fun run scheduled for 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. Nov. 19. Open to all base personnel. For more information, call 434-2772.

Turkey Bowl No Tap Tournament

The bowling center is offering this fun tournament starting at 7 p.m. Nov. 19. Cost is \$15 per person which includes three games and shoe rental. Cash prizes will be awarded and turkeys will be given away. For more information, call 434-3426.

Wacky Glo Ball Tournament

In observation of Military Appreciation Day the golf course is hosting this fun event starting at 3 p.m. Nov. 20. Entry is \$30 for golf course members and \$40 for nonmembers. Entry includes greens fees, cart and chili dinner between the wacky part of the tournament and the glo ball tournament. Register no later than Nov. 12 at the golf course. For more information, call 434-7932.

Youth Programs Parents Planning meeting

The Youth Center invites all parents to this luncheon to discuss program for your youth from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 18. RSVP by Nov. 15 at the youth center. If your child is ages 9 to 18 and a member of the youth center, you are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2504.

School Age program holiday camp

The youth center's school age program offers this camp for ages 5 to 12 Nov. 22-24. Children

must be registered by Nov. 18. Fees are based on total family income. For more information, call Terry Graves at 434-2504.

Thanksgiving Buffet

The Columbus Club offers this special buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 23. Cost is free for club members and their children and \$14.95 for non-members and children, ages 5 to 11, is \$6.95. Menu features turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, jello salad, yams, gravy, green beans and apple pie. Reservations required by Nov. 19. For more information, call 434-2490.

Black Friday shopping trip

The ITT office offers a bus trip to Birmingham Malls and surrounding areas from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26. Cost is \$20 per person. Must have at least 10 people registered to offer this trip. For more information, call 434-2507.

Worry free Christmas Tree

Travel to the Swedenburg Christmas Tree Farm to pick out your family tree. We will pick you up from the base, take you to the farm and bring you back Nov. 27. At the Farm you can pick out your tree, ODR folks will cut the tree down for you and load it on their vehicles to delivery to your home. ODR will also get the tree into your home. After Christmas we will come back and pick up for no extra fee. Outdoor Rec. is also offering this service on Dec. 11. Cost is \$20 plus the cost of the tree. For more information, call 434-2507.

Breakfast with Santa

This annual event is scheduled for 8 to 10 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Youth Center. Cost is \$5 per person if registered by Dec. 1. Its \$10 if registered after that date. Cost includes breakfast, games, crafts and children's photo with Santa. For more information, call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Mommie and me crafts classes

Stop by the Arts and Crafts Center to check out the display of upcoming projects for both youth and adult. Classes are held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 434-7836.

Squadron DUI-Free Bowling Party

The bowling center is offering a free squadron bowling party from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday for those squadrons who have been without a DUI for three months.

Shoe rental, food and beverage charges still apply. For more information or to reserve the center, call the Bowling Center at 434-3426.

Join FitFamily!

Air Force Services family fitness and wellness initiative, FitFamily is an integral component of the Year of the Air Force Family. Families can register as a team at www.USAFFitFamily.com to earn points and achieve levels for participation in Family Fun activities, family sports and fitness and family nutrition. Recognition is provided at each level to encourage families to continue on the path of wellness. The FitFamily program encourages Air Force families to make healthy lifestyle choices and provides resources and tips in an effort to promote overall family fitness. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Space A lodging

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

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 \$25 and includes transportation and \$25 in player money. Bus leaves at 5:30 p.m. from the BX parking lot and returns at 1 a.m. For more information, call 434-2507.

The Art of Followership...

Lt. Col. Brian Heaps

14th Contracting Squadron commander

There are times in life when the most significant events occur in the strangest places. There I was, walking through the AF compound on one of those cool summer days at Ali Air Base, Iraq, when I was hit by one of those events.

As many of you know, the great artists of the world compose their works on the walls at many installations throughout the Middle East. One of these murals was to promote the First Four, the enlisted E-1 to E-4 group on the base. The tagline was simple, yet powerful, “before you lead, you must first learn to follow.”

While the concept seems so simple, the execution is much more complex. You can walk into any local bookstore and see hundreds, if not thousands, of books on leadership and management. Yet, I don't recall seeing anything on followership; not one book on the characteristics or the various ways to be a

great follower, not one book on how to develop a follower.

Upon return from my deployment, I set forth three priorities for 14th Contracting Squadron. One of those priorities is to talk about followership. Specifically, I've identified what I believe are some of the attributes of a great follower. I would like to share three of them with you.

The first and, I believe, most important attribute is passion. A search on Webster's dictionary online provides one applicable definition as an “intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction.” Can you say that you are executing your part of the 14th Flying Training Wing mission with an intense, driving conviction? I believe we all ask ourselves that question on occasion. If you don't have that consistent passion, then are you just going through the motions? If so, how much impact are you having on our mission, on your professional development, and on others around you? Probably not a lot and, if any, it's probably not positive.

Another essential trait is a learning attitude. Simply stated,

Seeing the signs of domestic abuse

Capt. Joel Cartier

18th Wing Family Advocacy Officer

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — Rarely do perpetrators of domestic abuse let their behavior, or the result of their abuse, be witnessed or seen by anyone else. Unless you directly witness the abuse firsthand, there is no surefire way to tell if someone is being abused.

Abusers can be of any gender, age, race, economic status and personality type.

Victims should not necessarily be stereotyped as “passive” or as having low self-esteem.

So how do you know if someone is being abused? It is critical to know some of the covert signs of domestic violence.

Injuries can be in both obvious and obscure places.

Noticeable bruises often keep victims away from the public eye, which is one way an abuser will control the victim. At other times, bruising from domestic-violence incidents is concealed with clothing.

Either way, be cautious concerning those individuals who are always giving excuses for these injuries or calling in sick and taking extended time away from work on a regular basis.

A person with obvious bruising may talk about being clumsy or come up with strange stories in order to explain what happened. Those with hidden bruises may appear to be in pain but will use the excuse that they are sore



U.S. Air Force graphic/Naoko Shimoji

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

from working out, falling down, etc.

While this is not a definite indicator of domestic violence, look for patterns between injuries and excuses, as well as some of the following signs.

Victims of domestic violence may go through some personality changes. One might notice that a co-worker who used to be very outgoing and engaged in social activities is no

longer talking with others and has become shy around people. This is because the victim often “tip-toes” around the abuser to prevent accusations of being unfaithful or disloyal. This behavior then becomes more prominent around others, as the abuser has usually “taught” the victim that it is easier to not engage with others and avoid accusations. Secondary to this is the victim's fear of con-

a good follower will have the desire (or passion) to acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities. I'm not looking for robots and I'm not talking about “outside the box” thinking. In our profession, we have to operate inside the box as a normal matter of course; your responsibility as a follower is to learn what's in the box. In our compliance-driven environment, this may also involve “unlearning” wrong processes and negative attitudes and behavior. Grasping fundamental concepts is paramount.

Finally, good followers must be loyal. Our allegiance and oath speaks to the heart of our way of life, our democracy, our flag, and our nation. I cannot think of any oaths pertaining to a specific individual. However, this American experience is in the hands of people...both leaders and followers alike. Our loyalties for these principles and beliefs are, therefore, imputed to the leaders charged with these responsibilities.

While none of these attributes are earth-shattering, all are characteristics of great leaders. This should be of no surprise, since you must first be a good follower to become a great leader. Since we are all followers, the question is to determine whether you are being that good follower. For our dedication to good followership is directly proportional to our growth as good leaders. If you are also a leader, the answer to that question may indicate where you currently stand as a leader.

flict. Since the victim has learned from experience that any kind of conflict in the home has the potential to become violent, the victim begins to withdraw from all forms of conflict, big or small.

One may notice someone who frequently focuses on the negative, particularly on the things he or she does wrong. This is referred to as “self-blame,” and may be due to an abuser continually sending the message that whatever the victim does is bad or wrong. This is a form of emotional abuse that, once internalized, can significantly limit the victim's ability to think logically.

Adults who suffer from physical abuse are frequently isolated from the outside world. This gives the abuser control over the victim and limits the possibility of being discovered.

Isolation is manifested through making limited use of the telephone, making excuses as to why he or she cannot go somewhere or cannot attend important events, not being able to make decisions about spending money, having restrictive driving privileges and not being able to get a job.

Lastly, look for stress-related problems. These can include poor sleep habits, non-specific pain or soreness that is chronic or recurring, stomach problems and frequent headaches.

While one or two of these signs may mean nothing, a combination of them could imply some form of domestic violence is going on. If there is a reasonable suspicion, please contact your first sergeant, commander, chaplain or the family advocacy clinic.

Spotlight: The 14th CONS

1. Unit Mission

Mission: Provide contract support that enables the 14th Flying Training Wing to produce pilots; ensure contingency contracting readiness to feed the fight

Vision: An organization of acquisition professionals who develop and execute responsive business strategies

2. Key Leaders

Commander: Lt. Col. Brian Heaps
Director of Business Operations: Neil Cole
Superintendent: Master Sgt. Joseph Warren



3. Personnel numbers

Military: 13 Assigned
Contracted: Zero, but lots of contracts.
Civil Service: 22 Assigned

4. Squadron Functions

The 14th CONS provides timely contract support for the acquisition of supply, equipment, construction and base maintenance services in support of the wing's flying training mission. The squadron manages service contracts exceeding \$300 million in total value accounting for 30 percent of the base work force. We are responsible for annual contract obligations which totaled over \$62 million for Fiscal Year 2010. We also provide support for wartime contingency and worldwide mobility taskings.

5. Slogan/unit name

Slogan "You Fly, We Buy"

6. Upcoming challenges

Preparing for the UCI

7. How does the unit play a part in SUPT

Our largest contribution to the SUPT mission is our administration of the aircraft maintenance contract. We have a dedicated contracting officer co-located with the wing's Maintenance Quality Assurance Evaluators to ensure dedicated support to the Wing Commander's number one priority—producing pilots!

8. Senior leader comments:

There's never a dull day in the 14th CONS. While we had a "slow" year in FY10 dollars-wise, you would have never known it. Our support to the wing is seen throughout the base. Through the aircraft maintenance contract, we ensure DynCorp provides the outstanding support required to keep our aircraft flying. Our efforts are evident in making Columbus AFB "the showplace of the South." Recent contracts include the renovation to the Shuqualak Fire Department, the burial of overhead utilities underground, the new base entry gates, and the ongoing renovation of the Wing HQ building. Our service contractors ensure our grounds and custodial requirements maintain a clean and visually appealing presence for our visitors and distinguished guests. Over 50 percent of the 14th CONS tactical warriors have less than five years experience, yet they are accomplishing great things for the wing.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Airman 1st Class Eric Gonzalez, 14th CONS contracting specialist, looks over blueprints with Kevin Malhke, construction superintendent at the new wing headquarters construction site on Nov. 1.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick

ABOVE: Robert Wilkins, general contractor confirms a labor checklist held by Glenna Thompson, 14th CONS, simplified acquisitions base engineering requirements chief at the Columbus Club renovation site on Nov. 1. Labor checklists are used to confirm contractor employees are in a safe working environment.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
ABOVE: Judy Endsley, 14th CONS administrative contracting officer, searches through the aircraft maintenance contract on Nov. 1. The aircraft maintenance contract is worth over \$296 million.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Connie Tucker, 14th Medical Support Squadron service contract manager, 2nd Lt. Amber Funderburk, 14th MDSS medical logistics flight commander, Desiree Snow, 14th CONS contracting specialist and 2nd Lt. Alicia Hainebach, 14th CONS contracting specialist, review and discuss contracts defining services from contractors on Nov. 1.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
LEFT: Kelli Hardin, Government Purchase Card program manager with the 14th CONS, looks over a labor report on Nov. 1. ()