

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 34, Issue 49

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Dec. 10, 2010

Weather



Today

High: 57, Low: 37
Partly Cloudy



Saturday

High: 63, Low: 35
Showers



Sunday

High: 41, Low: 15
Flurries/wind



Monday

High: 34, Low: 16
Sunny

News Briefs

Class 11-11 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-11 will hold their track select Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Columbus Club.

Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Base Clinic. Bring personal ID (driver's license, work ID, school ID, military ID), a list of all countries you've been to in the last 12 months and all European countries you've visited since 1980, and wear a top with loose-fitting sleeves. You may make an appointment by calling 434-2124.

CSC Dinner Social

The Columbus Spouses Club will hold a Dinner Social at the Club Dec. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Duncan
Tina Franklin, Magyn Whitaker and Marjorie O'Connor bag cookies at the Columbus Club Dec. 7 as part of the 2010 Holiday Cookie Drive. This year's drive collect 8,412 cookies for enlisted and officer dorm residents.

Inside



Feature 10

The 14th Civil Engineering Squadron highlighted in this week's feature.

Spouses club, Team BLAZE help give Airmen a taste of the holidays

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

Members of Team BLAZE recently mixed up some holiday cheer for the young men and women living in dorms

on-base here.

The 2010 Holiday Cookie Drive collected cookies baked by Team BLAZE members and wrapped up by members of the Columbus Spouses Club to help give CAFB dorm residents a taste of some-

thing sweet.

Marti Ross, Cookie Drive chairman and wife of 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander Col. George Ross, said this year's drive collected 8,412 cookies

See COOKIES, 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 (11-12)	0.02 days	-2.24 days	Jan. 19	48th (11-03)	1.83 days	1.67 days	Dec. 17	49th (10-CB)	1.29 days	1.62 days	Dec. 21	T-6	790	1,048	5,980
41st (11-11)	1.79 days	-2.48 days	Dec. 13	50th (11-03)	0.69 days	-0.95 days	Dec. 17					T-1	271	276	1,999
												T-38	308	414	1,988
												IFF	66	79	448

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Stephen Sergeant, Special Assistant to the Commander, AETC.

Flag Football Scores

Here are the scores for the flag football games December 7, 2010.

GAME 1

14th SFS 6
14th OSS #1 25 WINNER

GAME 2

14th OSS #2 30 WINNER
14th MDG 22

Don't Drink and Drive

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 78 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

COOKIES

(Continued from Page 1)

for dorm residents.

The 701 dozen cookies were dropped off at the Columbus Club or locations around base and were then mixed up and packaged to be distributed to young officers and Airmen on-base.

Mrs. Ross thanked the members of Team BLAZE for their contributions to this year's event, saying "because of your generosity of time and baking skills, the 2010 Base Cookie Drive was a wonderful success."

"There was such a variety of cookies and it was evident people spent a lot of time baking and decorating," Mrs. Ross said. "From our bakers to those who bagged, sealed and stapled, and those who delivered to dorms and offices all over the base- this never would have happened without your help. Columbus AFB is truly special because of the wonderful people who live and work here!"

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

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

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The 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
13 Class 11-11 Track Select, 5 p.m., @ Club	14 Newcomers, 8 a.m., AFRC Parent's Day Out, 9 a.m., CDC CSC Social, 6 p.m., @ Club	15 Base Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.	16 Blood drive, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., @ Clinic Heart Link, 10:45 a.m., @ AFRC	17 Class 11-03 Graduation, 10 a.m., @ Kaye	18/19
20	21	22	23 Last SUPT Fly Day	24 Christmas Day Holiday Observed, Most CAFB offices closed	25/26 Dec. 25: Christmas Day Holiday

Long Range Events

Dec. 27: AETC Family Day
Dec. 29: CT Fly Day
Dec. 31: New Years Holiday Observed
Dec. 31: Club New Years Eve Party
Jan. 3: AETC Family Day
Jan. 7: Class 11-04 Assignment Night
Jan. 10-14: Night Flying Week
Jan. 17: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day holiday
Jan. 18: CSC Social
Jan. 19: Class 11-12 Track Select
Jan. 19-22: AETC Symposium
Jan. 21: Class 11-04 Graduation

Trail BLAZE'r

Airman 1st Class Christopher Keith
14th Security Forces Squadron

Job title: Reports and Analysis

Time at Columbus AFB: 21 Months

Time in Service: Two years three months

Hometown: Atkinson, N.C.

Career goals: Become an X-Ray technician.

Family members: Father-Craig Keith, Mother-Angela Keith, Sisters-Kayla & Jasmine Keith

Favorite musician: The Foreign Exchange Instrumental

Favorite movie: Blank Man

Favorite book: "The Holy Bible"

Inspirations: My family and church

Personal motto: If life isn't tough then you are not living it right!



Preparing for deployment



Courtesy photo
Airman 1st Class Grace Faataitai, 14th Security Forces Squadron, inspects the upper receiver of an M-4 during weapons training at Creech AFB, Nev.

Serious subject presented with satire and drama

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

Two showings of the improvisational play Sex Signals were performed to educate Team BLAZE members on sexual assault on Dec. 6 at the Kaye Auditorium.

The performance, given by Kyle Terry and Amber Kelly, both actors with Catharsis Productions, used a blend of audience participation and comedy to depict situations relating to dating, gender and rape.

Small cards with stop signs were placed on each chair at the beginning of the play to be held up when the member of the audience felt the example situation had gone too far. The actors also asked attendees to shout out examples of gender stereotypes, sexual innuendo, and pickup lines to help with the performance.

The actors explained the differences between restricted and unrestricted reports of sexual assaults, listing the agencies involved and encouraging those who needed help who seek it.

The performance encouraged overcoming the awkwardness of seeking a clear answer in the often



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

Amber Kelly and Kyle Terry, actors for Catharsis Productions, depict a possible encounter between a stereotypical male and female in a Dec. 6 showing of Sex Signals at Kaye Auditorium. Several of the stereotypes the actors attempted to portray were suggested by the audience.

uncertain moments of a relationship by showing the possible pitfalls of shying from them.

Key Spouses make a difference

Sonic Johnson

14th Flying Training Wing
Chief of Public Affairs

Never heard of the Key Spouse program? Simply put, the Key Spouse Program is a communication network between unit leader-

ship and its families. Columbus AFB has nearly 20 spouses participating in the Air Force's Key Spouse program.

The Key Spouse program is a squadron/unit commander program and as such, can be tailored to meet the needs of their individual

squadrons. In general, Key Spouses are a focal point for information and support to families in their squadrons.

"Key Spouses serve as a happy medium between squadron peers and the formal command structure in the squadron by providing

the personal touch to information flow," said Shala Cook, Key Spouse for the 14th Operations Support Squadron. "We also answer those peer-level questions that many spouses just would not ask the commander or their spouse."



Crystal Branco, 14th OSS



Shala Cook, 14th OSS



Kelli Hardin, 14th CONS



Andrea Caswell, 41st FTS



Tina Franklin, 14th MDOS



Pearla Hopkins, 14th OSS

Holiday Historic Home Tours

Visit the newly restored Tennessee Williams Welcome Center & Museum beautifully placed in historic downtown Columbus at 300 Main Street. This site is the first home of legendary playwright Tennessee Williams. Take a complimentary tour through this National Literary Landmark December 1 - 31, 2010 and step into the past and enjoy the Victorian-styled Christmas décor. Contact the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center at (662) 328-0222 for more information.

Festival of Trees

For the second year, the Columbus Public Library is hosting its Festival of Trees. Come enjoy traditional and unique trees on display during normal library hours. Please contact the Columbus Library at 329-5300 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.



- Across
- The base department is part of the 14th CES.
 - Most projects on base are handled by the squadron.
 - The 14th CES Flight begins its day at 3:30 a.m. checking the airfield lights.
 - "Engineers ... the way!"
 - The resources flight manages an annual budget of \$12 _____.
 - Last name of the 14th CES commander.

- Down
- Acronym for heating and air conditioning services.
 - Acronym for the type of training the CE Readiness team provides the base on biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.
 - Craftsman that specializes in wiring and power.
 - This CES flight handles the prevention of pollution and compliance with state/federal laws.
 - Last name of the 14th CES deputy civil engineer.
 - Craftsman that specializes in working with wood.
 - The 14th CES consists of _____ flights.

BARGAIN LINE

Housing

For rent: 72 Almond Drive, four bedroom, two bath. \$1,300 per month (negotiable). Call 352-9746 for more information.
For sale: 2001 Damon Daybreak, 35 foot Class A motor home. \$33,000. Please leave a message at 356-6844.
For sale: 2.1 acres on Wood Road in Caledonia. Ready to build! Please leave message at 356-6844.
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 with ceiling fans, two-car carport and 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: 1995 Pontiac Grand AM 147,000 miles. \$1,200 or best offer. Call 356-0615.
For sale: 1998 Kawasaki 220 ATV. Good condition, runs great. \$1100 or best offer. 574-5675 leave msg.
For sale: 2008 Chevrolet LT (Blue granite metallic) 40,000 miles. 24" rims, OnStar, Leather, parking sensors, satellite radio, and power seats. Kelley Blue Book value 29,000 asking for 27,000 or best offer. Call 434-8020.
For sale: 2004 Dodge SRT4; lots of extras \$6,500. Call 549-3094.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Imperial heavy duty commercial upright freezer, Five shelves plus large bottom basket, \$295. Toddler

Little Tikes race car bed, \$75. Call 329-1525.
For sale: Bolen's 38" riding lawn mower with bagger. Used two seasons, runs great, \$600. For more information call 497-2175.
For sale: Coffee table, \$15. Wicker shelving with doors, \$15. 8x10 rug, \$15. Call 328-4374.
For sale: Whirlpool bath tub 3'x 6'. Includes all the attachments, \$450. Walk in shower with sliding doors, has seat and ceiling light, \$400. Call 328-4374.
For sale: Sylvania 19" TV, \$50. Nordic Track Elliptical, \$250. Longaberger Kakhi Floral napkins and Placemats, \$30. Longaberger Kakhi check dish cloths and towels, \$15. Call 549-1381.
For sale: Step2 Dream Castle convertible toddler bed, can be configured to accept either a crib or a twin-size mattress (mattresses and bedding not included), \$75. Blue Ridge spa/hot tub

with cover, seats four to six, PVC plumbing needs to be re-glued or replaced, \$100 and you move it. Call 570-4221.
For sale: 2009 Peg-Pergo Rider Train with figure eight track extension, charger and new battery. Great shape, \$100. Call 574-1262.
For sale: 1,000 pound capacity hydraulic motorcycle lift for use with motor home or heavy duty pickup. Please leave a message 356-6844.
For sale: 52" JVC HI-DLA HDTV, \$400. Michigan Wolverine bean bag chair with ottoman \$50. Call (660) 238-3687.
For sale: Magnavox 21 inch color TV with remote \$35. IBM Thinkpad Laptop, 1.8Ghz, P4, 40g hard drive, 512 ram, DVD-CDRW drive, USB, Internal WiFi, Laptop Bag, Windows XP, MS Office Productivity Suite, Very Nice Cond. Asking \$215. Call 386-6981.

www.columbus.af.mil

Base News

DBIDs Registration

Registration for the Defense Biometric Identification System, a new gate access system, is currently ongoing for Common Access Card card holders as well as dependents and retirees. Please visit the Military Personnel Flight, Visitors Center or the Operations Group building to complete the mandatory registration.

Commissary Holiday Hours

The Commissary will be open Dec. 20, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 24, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed December 25, 2010 for Christmas Day.

Landings at Columbus Holiday Hours

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

Landing at Columbus tenant eligibility

The Landings at Columbus has entered into the category C of the Waterfall which makes the following groups eligible to live in base housing:

1. All Active Duty Members including single and unaccompanied members
2. Federal Civil Service Employees and their families
3. Retired Uniformed Services member and their families
4. Retired Civil Service Employees and their families
5. Permanent Employees of DOD Contractors

The aforementioned tenants would qualify to live in our newly renovated Capitol Village. The homes range in size from three bedrooms to six bedrooms with 1-2 bathrooms all with a one car garage.

Air Force Academy Seeks Airmen

The United States Air Force Academy is currently taking applications from airmen who are interested in earning a commission. Maj. Cara Shuttleworth, Admissions Liaison Officer for the Academy, will give a detailed briefing about this opportunity on Monday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 am at the Education Services Center (Bldg 916). Please note only Airmen who are single with no dependents and younger than 22 years old are eligible to apply. If you have any questions contact Major Shuttleworth 795-4744.

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.)

Newcomers Orientation

Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Smooth Move

Dec. 15 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Valuable information for relocating. Learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC during your move. Advance registration required. Must register no later than 10 a.m. the day of the workshop.

Creating a Healthy Marriage

Dec. 16. From 11 a.m. to noon. Workshop for learning the myths and stages of marriage. The keys to creating and maintaining a healthy marriage. Conducted by the Military Family Life Consultant, to register call 434-2790.

Employment Workshop

Workshop on local and base employment opportunities, held every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Spouse welcome

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

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.

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.

Commander holds holiday community reception



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin
Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, speaks to Maj. Jennifer Varga, Chaplain (Maj.) Leslie Janovec and John Janovec at the wing commander's holiday community reception at his home Dec. 5. Base leaders and community members came together at the commander's home for the annual event. Major Varga is the 14th Comptroller Squadron commander, Chaplain Janovec is the 14th FTW wing chaplain and Mr. Janovec is Chaplain Janovec's husband.

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.

Chapel Holiday Schedule Catholic Services

Dec. 19: Religious Education Christmas Party, to include children's church, 3:30 p.m.,
Dec. 25: Christmas Mass and Children's Play, 10 a.m.

Protestant Services

Dec. 12: Lessons and Carols, 10:45 a.m.
Dec. 24: Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.

Pioneer Club Schedule

Dec. 15: Christmas Caroling, 6 p.m.
Pioneer Clubs will resume Jan. 5, 2011.

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 third Sunday of the month except Lent and Advent. Call (808) 271-4882 for more information.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Key Spouses provide someone to listen when people need to talk, and can also point families in the right direction for existing formalized support services. Key Spouses are directly linked to the Airman & Family Readiness Center, which provides an excellent source for information and support. Key Spouses are important resources for military families because they are peers, they "have been there, done that!"

Key Spouses provide an invaluable link to

our younger population.

"At our previous base, we were married in October and my husband deployed in December," remembers Cook. "My only link to the Air Force was my husband and he was gone...I was lost and I will never forget that feeling."

Knowing who your organization's Key Spouses are can be another source of frustration in our dynamic training environment. Starting in December, this article, including

names and photos of all the Columbus AFB Key Spouses will be posted on the official Columbus AFB webpage:www.columbus.af.mil under the Key Spouse tab. Interested unit spouses or retiree volunteer(s) that would like to be a Key Spouse should contact their unit commander or first sergeant.

Columbus AFB squadrons are always looking for energetic spouses who would like to volunteer and be a part of the Key Spouse Team. No experience is required, just a posi-

tive attitude and a compassion and commitment to help others. To learn more about your unit's Key Spouse Program, please contact the A&FRC for details.

"Air Force spouses have always helped other spouses," said Jamey Coleman, A&FRC Community Readiness Technician. "The current climate brings additional stressors, so it's important that we stay connected with each other and the unit, now more than ever."



Amy King, 48th FTS



Kim Patterson, 14th OSS



Marjorie Thompson, 14th CES



Kristie Walford, 14th OSS



Sara Wilson, 14th FSS



Christine Yester, 14th OSS

General Sergeant to speak at Class 11-03

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



The Special Assistant to the Commander of Air Education and Training Command will be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-03.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Sergeant will address the graduates and guests of the class at a ceremony in the Kaye Auditorium at 10 a.m. Dec. 17.

General Sergeant is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., and a command pilot who has flown over 3,100 hours total in the T-37, T-38, A-10 and F-16.

Prior to his current assignment, he was the Commander, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. General Sergeant reported directly to the Air Force Chief of Staff regarding the test and evaluation of more than 76 major programs valued at more than \$650 billion being assessed at 12 different locations. The general directed the activities of more than 625 civilian and military people, as well as 225 contractors. As a member of the test and evaluation community, General Sergeant coordinated directly with the offices of the Secretary of Defense and Headquarters U.S. Air Force while executing realistic, objective and impartial operational testing and evaluation of Air Force, coalition and joint warfighting capabilities.

General Sergeant was born in Defiance, Ohio. He has served as the Commandant of the USAF Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., commanded the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, Ariz. He was also the Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategy, Plans and Assessment for Multi-National Force - Iraq. General Sergeant has served in various positions in the Pentagon, including military assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense, and he was the Deputy Executive Secretary to the National Security Council in the White House.

For more information on General Sergeant, check out his bio at www.af.mil.

2011 Scholarships for Military Children Program opens Dec. 7

Tammy Reed
DeCA marketing

FORT LEE, Va. – As families and friends come together to celebrate their favorite winter holidays, it's also time for parents to remind students to apply for the 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program.

Scholarship applications will be available Dec. 7 in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.commissaries.com> – choose the “News & Info” tab and then the “Scholarship Info” tab. Applications are also available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Since the program was announced in 2000, it has awarded \$8.3 million in scholarships to more than 5,400 children of service members.

“The Scholarships for Military Children program was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force,” said the Defense Commissary Agency’s Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks. “It also celebrates our role in the military community, as the scholarships are awarded annually through each commissary operated by DeCA.”

Only dependent, unmarried children, younger than 21, or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university, of a service member on active duty, a reservist, guardsman or retiree, or survivor of a service member who died while on active duty or while receiving military retirement pay, may apply for a scholarship. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university, full time in the fall of 2011 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants must submit an essay on the following topic and answer the question: “Our nation has a goal of improving health and wellness. What are your ideas and, more importantly, how do you propose to put these ideas into action in your local community?” Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 22, 2011. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary with qualified applicants.

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the scholarship program anticipates awards of at least \$1,500. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another store.

Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship-management services organization, manages and awards these military scholarships. If you have any questions about the scholarship program application, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or e-mail them at militaryscholar@scholarship-managers.com.

Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to the program, and every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.

Hot-water heater energy saving tips

- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.

- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.

- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 120°F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.

- Insulate your electric hot-water storage tank, but be careful not to cover the thermostat. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations.

- Insulate your natural gas or oil

hot-water storage tank, but be careful not to cover the water heater’s top, bottom, thermostat, or burner compartment. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations; when in doubt, get professional help.

- Insulate the first six feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.

- If you are in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer, consider buying an efficient, water-saving ENERGY STAR model to reduce hot water use.

- Install heat traps on the hot and cold pipes at the water heater to prevent heat loss. Some new water

heaters have built-in heat traps.

- Drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater. The type of water tank you have determines the steps to take, so follow the manufacturer’s advice.

- Although most water heaters last 10–15 years, it’s best to start shopping now for a new one if yours is more than seven years old. Doing some research before your heater fails will enable you to select one that most appropriately meets your needs.

Air Force selects preferred alternative base for C-27J training aircraft

André Kok
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced Dec. 8 that it has chosen Key Field Air National Guard Base, Miss., as the preferred alternative base for the C-27J training aircraft.

The secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff of the Air Force considered the site survey results, mission-specific objective criteria, and other military judgment factors in making this preferred alternative decision.

“This base is the right location for these two C-27J training aircraft,” said Kathleen Ferguson, the deputy assistant secretary for installations. “This will provide the Air Force with the appropriate synergy to accomplish its mission.”

This announcement is not a final basing decision. Selection is subject to completion of the environmental impact analysis process. Pending completion of the analysis, Air Force officials intend to bed down two training C-27Js, with aircraft arriving in the second half of fiscal 2014.



U.S. Air Force photo
The C-27J Spartan is a twin turboprop aircraft with a short takeoff-and-landing capability that will provide access to airstrips otherwise unreachable by fixed-wing aircraft.

New approach to smoking cessation boosts quit rates for veterans with PTSD

Smoking cessation treatment that is made part of mental health care for veterans with post traumatic stress disorder improves quit rates, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs study published in the Dec. 8 Journal of the American Medical Association.

“The smoking cessation techniques used in this new approach will give veterans an important step towards a better quality of life,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, the VA undersecretary for health. “Veterans will be at a lower risk for cardiovascular or lung disease if they do not smoke.”

On measures of smoking abstinence for shorter periods of time, researchers found that quit rates were as high as 18 percent for the integrated care group, versus 11 percent for those receiving usual care.

When compared to usual care referral to a standard smoking cessation clinic, the new, integrated approach nearly doubled the rate at which study volunteers stayed smoke free for a year or longer, from 4.5 percent to almost 9 percent.

Importantly, veterans in the study who quit smoking showed no worsening of symptoms of PTSD or depression. In fact, study participants averaged a 10 percent reduction in PTSD symptoms, regardless of which treatment they received or whether they quit smoking or not. The findings help dispel concerns that combining care for PTSD and smoking cessation detracts from PTSD treatment or makes it less effective.

Study leaders Miles McFall and Andrew Saxon say the results validate a promising new VA model of care that can make safe, effective smoking cessation treatment accessible to far more veterans with PTSD. The new approach may also be effective for smokers receiving mental health care for

other psychiatric illnesses, they said.

“One of the most important things mental health providers can do to improve the quality and length of their patients’ lives is to help them stop smoking by using proven, evidence-based practices,” Mr. McFall said.

VA smoking cessation care generally involves a mix of group and individual counseling, typically in combination with nicotine replacement therapy or other medication prescribed by a VA health care provider. In the VA study, veterans in the integrated-care group worked with the same therapist on PTSD and smoking issues. Medication for smoking cessation, if used, was prescribed on an individual basis by the same medical provider managing pharmacologic treatment of the veteran’s PTSD symptoms.

The study followed 943 veterans at 10 VA medical centers nationwide. Prolonged abstinence from tobacco, as reported by participants, was confirmed using breath and urine tests to detect evidence of smoking.

Using such “bio-verification” measures in combination with self-reports is considered the “gold standard” in smoking cessation research, Mr. McFall said.

Of some 400,000 veterans being treated for PTSD in the VA health-care system, roughly 30 to 50 percent are smokers, compared to a smoking rate of about 20 percent among VA enrollees and U.S. adults in general.

Research shows, also, that those with PTSD smoke more heavily than smokers without PTSD and have an especially hard time quitting.

The study was conducted by VA’s Cooperative Studies Program. For more information on CSP, visit www.csp.research.va.gov.

DBIDS registration underway

Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training
Wing Public Affairs

Registration for the Defense Biometrics Identification System is currently underway for CAC card holders, dependents and retirees.

Full implantation of the system is not set to begin until mid-2011, but Team BLAZE members are encouraged to register their cards now to prevent issues with base access.

Members may register their ID cards with DBIDS at the Visitor’s Center, Personnel Office and for today, at the base pharmacy. Beginning Dec. 12, the station located at the pharmacy will move to the Operations Group headquarters building.

What is DBIDS?

DBIDS is a system which allows gate guards to tell who a person is and whether or not they’re allowed on the base. The most visible part of the DBIDS system is the hand-held scanner used by gate guards to read IDs.

The hand-held scanners provide gate guards with an instant, always-on connection to a Department of Defense database.

Once an ID card is registered, members will not need to take any other action unless their current card is lost/stolen.



Sparky's Safety Spot™

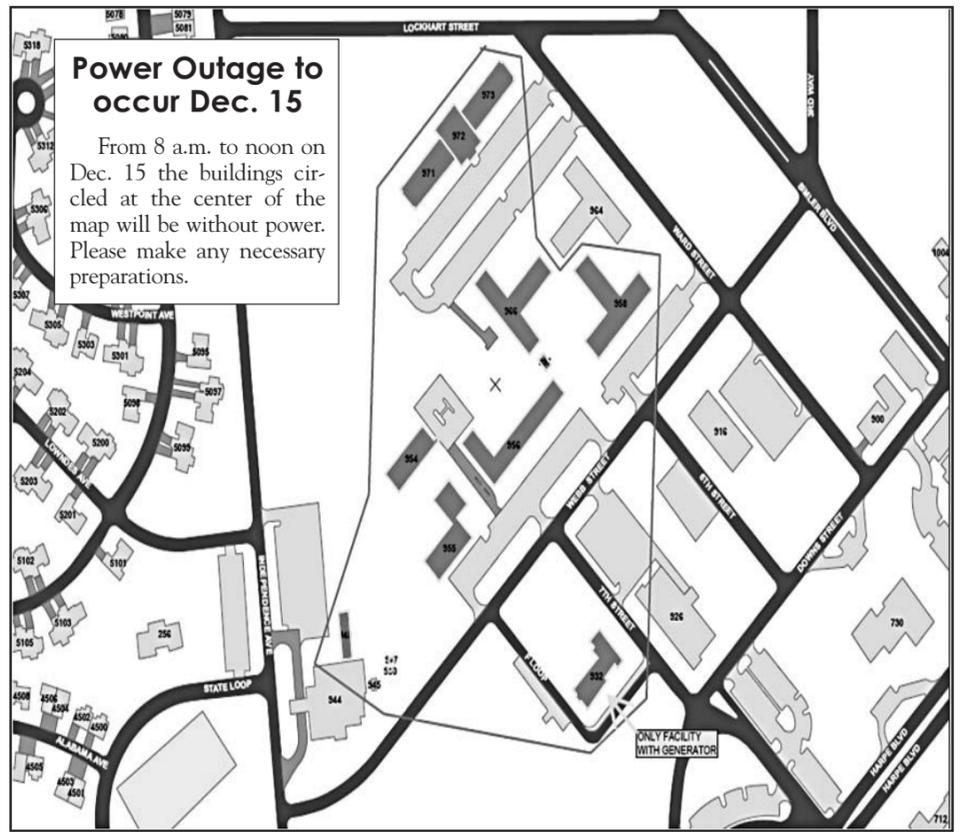
USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY

Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs. Replace any cord that is cracked or frayed. If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it and have it repaired by a professional. Use the proper size fuses in your fuse box.

National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA

For further consulting, advisement or questions please call the Fire Department 434-2262.

The cartoon character of Sparky is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.



Power Outage to occur Dec. 15

From 8 a.m. to noon on Dec. 15 the buildings circled at the center of the map will be without power. Please make any necessary preparations.

Map labels include: LOCKHART STREET, WESTPOINT AVE, STATE LOOP, ALABAMA AVE, 17TH STREET, 18TH STREET, 19TH STREET, 20TH STREET, 21ST STREET, 22ND STREET, 23RD STREET, 24TH STREET, 25TH STREET, 26TH STREET, 27TH STREET, 28TH STREET, 29TH STREET, 30TH STREET, 31ST STREET, 32ND STREET, 33RD STREET, 34TH STREET, 35TH STREET, 36TH STREET, 37TH STREET, 38TH STREET, 39TH STREET, 40TH STREET, 41ST STREET, 42ND STREET, 43RD STREET, 44TH STREET, 45TH STREET, 46TH STREET, 47TH STREET, 48TH STREET, 49TH STREET, 50TH STREET, 51ST STREET, 52ND STREET, 53RD STREET, 54TH STREET, 55TH STREET, 56TH STREET, 57TH STREET, 58TH STREET, 59TH STREET, 60TH STREET, 61ST STREET, 62ND STREET, 63RD STREET, 64TH STREET, 65TH STREET, 66TH STREET, 67TH STREET, 68TH STREET, 69TH STREET, 70TH STREET, 71ST STREET, 72ND STREET, 73RD STREET, 74TH STREET, 75TH STREET, 76TH STREET, 77TH STREET, 78TH STREET, 79TH STREET, 80TH STREET, 81ST STREET, 82ND STREET, 83RD STREET, 84TH STREET, 85TH STREET, 86TH STREET, 87TH STREET, 88TH STREET, 89TH STREET, 90TH STREET, 91ST STREET, 92ND STREET, 93RD STREET, 94TH STREET, 95TH STREET, 96TH STREET, 97TH STREET, 98TH STREET, 99TH STREET, 100TH STREET.

Severe weather awareness on CAFB

Capt. Bart Hopkins
14th Operations Support Squadron Weather

Severe weather can occur at any time of year. The best solution for safety during severe weather is two-pronged: 1) awareness through base or local weather and news sources, and 2) having a plan and supplies, for you and your family, in the event you need to respond to a severe weather threat.

To mitigate confusion, some explanation of Weather Flight versus National Weather Service roles is appropriate. One mission of the Weather Flight is to protect Columbus AFB during any hazardous weather. The "base" is defined as the area within a 5-mile radius of the center of the airfield and includes base housing. The Weather Flight is the issuing authority for Columbus AFB.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is a separate entity and does not govern CAFB. While the NWS and Weather Flight work together at times, we have different criteria for issuing weather warnings. To maximize protec-

tion of citizens, the NWS issues, for example, tornado warnings for large areas and they do not follow the same stringent verification procedures that military weather personnel do. This means they have higher "false alarm" rates (issuing a warning where there is no tornado), but it also improves their ability to successfully save lives. They do this because they are looking at entire cities, counties, and states and do not have the luxury of being able to focus on one small location, such as Columbus AFB.

The Weather Flight, however, exists to do just that: focus on Columbus AFB. We keep 1-2 personnel on call at all times to respond to any severe weather threat (high winds, tornadoes, hail, etc). We use the same radar that the NWS uses, which is located about 18 miles North of the base.

We issue a Tornado Watch when the ingredients for tornado development are present, but no tornado is imminent. Sirens do not get sounded for a watch. The watch means "potential."

We issue a Tornado Warning when a tornado is imminent at the base (within 5-mile radius). We immediately call the Command Post who then sounds the siren and notifies wing leadership.

So, you may turn on the news and see CAFB in a tornado warning area which covers all of Lowndes County, but the base sirens have not sounded. If you live on base, don't be afraid: this doesn't mean the Weather Flight "missed" the warning. It simply means our determination is that a tornado will not occur within our 5-mile area. There is nothing we are more serious about and our focus during these times is completely on protecting this base. You should, of course, still be prepared to react quickly in the event that a warning does get issued.

If you live off-base, then you should pay close attention to the National Weather Service and your local news. Columbus AFB warnings do not extend to the local community. While we are at our busiest during severe weather, we always welcome phone calls and questions (434-2992). The only caveat is that we may not have time to answer the call or question... but we will do our best!

Dollars & Sense Topic #18: Introducing the new Controlled Spend Account

Launching a new force in travel card programs- Your Controlled Spend Account is here!

The new Controlled Spend Account card is replacing the traditional government travel card. But what does it all mean? And more importantly, how will it impact you?

Over the next few months, the Air Force will be converting to the Controlled Spend Account. The CSA is uniquely different from the government travel card and provides the traveler with increased flexibility to meet their travel needs. Fueled by "mission-driven" spend limits and unprecedented worldwide merchant acceptance, the new program allows the traveler to fulfill mission requirements while also minimizing the risk delinquency! An extensive pilot program validated the tremendous benefits to the Air Force, automating processes to reap huge manpower savings without negatively impacting the traveler. And most importantly, the Controlled Spend Account delivers a higher level of card excellence, so travelers can perform their missions with confidence while making travel related purchases with ease.

New Standards in Operational Excellence

Using the card is simple and travelers no longer have to worry about using the card for

the wrong purchase. Once travel orders are approved, the CSA's spend limit automatically adjusts based on the estimated dollar amount for that particular mission. In addition, the unprecedented merchant acceptance allows the card's use for all reimbursable travel expenses (TDY, PCS and deployments). Making purchases from any location around the world has never been easier - through Citi's global network and with an expanded number of merchants allowed, the CSA cards are accepted at over 30 million merchant locations worldwide. Access to ATMS further simplifies the process for getting cash in local currencies.

Enhancing Security with Greater Flexibility

Increased access to more merchants however, does not pose more risks. "The cards only have value when the traveler has an approved travel order. Spend limits adjust automatically when orders are issued, amended, or canceled. Once the mission is complete, travelers simply submit their travel vouchers for processing and the payment updates the spend limit to reflect the actual cost of the trip. Any residual funds remaining on the CSA are available for use by the cardholder or can be transferred to another personal account." — Mike Bilbrey, Air Force Banking Officer.

Additionally, cardholders have the same protection and dispute capabilities that exist in the traditional government program.

Deliver Mission Accountability While Better Managing Cash Flows

The CSA program delivers a more efficient travel program and allows the Air Force to better manage cash flows. Keesler AFB just completed a five month pilot of the CSA program. Keesler's Financial Services Officer, 2nd Lt. Bill Kiser, stated: "I've always felt my focus should be toward evaluating and improving processes to ensure customers are paid in an accurate and efficient manner. The CSA program allowed Keesler to transform the travel process by eliminating arduous tasks associated with setting up mission assignments and streamlining the reconciliation process. Translation, I'm saving 12-20 hours per week on tasks previously spent on the program and delinquency management." This ability to accurately determine spend limits also has a powerful impact on the Air Force's ability to better manage tight budgets.

Premier Support - No Matter Where The Mission Takes You!

At the foundation of the Controlled Spend Account is Citi's 24/7/365 customer service network providing cardholders with support from anywhere in the world. Immediate service is now at the cardholder's

fingertips as they can call Citi directly when they need assistance or manage their accounts on-line. Additional coverage for insurance, travel, medical and emergency assistance combines to deliver the most comprehensive coverage in the card industry.

A Transformation is Underway

The Air Force has partnered with Citi - the leading provider of innovative card programs globally - to expand of the CSA program throughout the Air Force. Our goal is to transition all bases and users in a phased in approach by April 2011. Look for announcements and training updates to stay abreast of the latest news. For more information, please visit "virtual Finance" on the Air Force Portal (Life and Career: 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.

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.

Last week's answer

1 DAILY
2 FIN
3 DAILY
4 W
5 F
6 THREE
7 RAIN
8 DROPPING
9 YEAR
10 M
11 EQUIPMENT
12 FIREWORKS

THICKEN

Post-election Voting Surveys mailed out

The Federal Voting Assistance Program and Defense Manpower Data Center report that the post-election surveys have all been e-mailed out. Some USAF Installation Voting Assistance Officers and Unit Voting Assistance Officers should have already received them. The new demographic that the Federal Voting Assistance Program has added to this year's survey is the military spouse population. PLEASE, if you or your spouse receive a survey, take the time answer the survey. The Federal Voting Assistance Program uses this data when reporting to Congress to help make voting easier for military and their families.

Base families offered a variety of activities

School Age program holiday camp

The youth center's school age program offers a holiday camp for ages 5 to 12, during the Christmas holidays. Children must be registered by Dec. 16. Fees are based on total family income. For more information, call Terry Graves at 434-2504.

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 Dec. 11. 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. Cost is \$20 plus the cost of the tree. For more information, call 434-2507.

Weekday Parents Day Out

The Child Development Center offers this program for holiday shopping during the week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 14 and Dec. 16. Cost is \$22 per child. Register by Thursday for a Tuesday stay and by Monday for a Thursday stay. For more information, call 434-2479.

Holiday Golf Sale

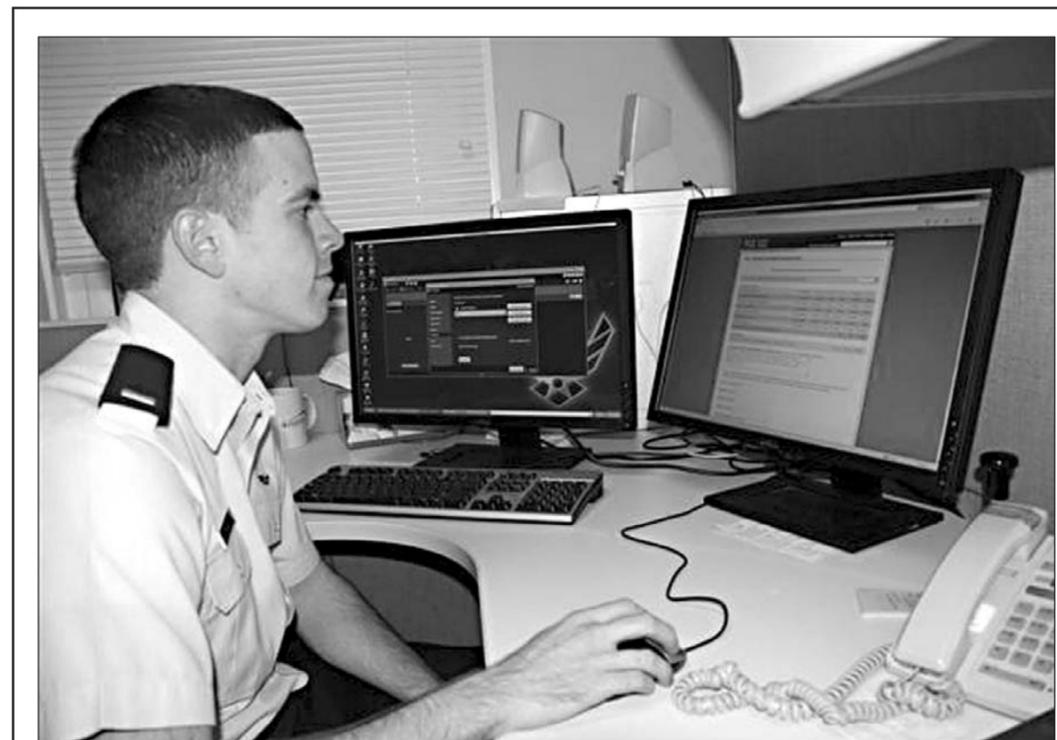
The Whispering Pines Golf Course is having a sale on all their Cobra Drivers and fairway woods. For more information, call 434-7932.

Christmas Turkey Shoot No Tap Bowling Tournament

The Bowling Center offers this fun tournament starting at 7 p.m. tonight. Entry is \$15 per person and includes three games and free shoe rental. There will be cash prizes and turkeys given away. For more information, call 434-3426.

Bowling Center New Years Eve Party

The bowling center offers this end of year party from 8 p.m. to midnight



Second Lt. Dustin Hanson, 14th Operations Support Squadron, submits customer feedback using the ICE computer. Lieutenant Hanson won an Ipod Shuffle just by providing feedback about the Bowling Center using the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program. The next drawing will be for a Kindle e-reader. The more you provide feedback via the ICE program, the better your chances to win. Go to www.cafbsservices.com and click on the ICE logo or the CAFB FSS Rocks Facebook page and click on the ICE link. For more information, call 434-2337.

Dec. 31. Cost is \$50 per couple or \$25 per person. Limited to the first 50 people registered. Advanced tickets sales only. For more information, call 434-3426.

Dance Away the Decades New Years Eve Cocktail party

This end of membership drive event starts at 7 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$80 per couple but it's free for club members. This is a semi-formal adult event that features a live band playing music from the 60's to today's hits. The menu for the evening includes a carving station with roast beef, ham, turkey, rolls and condiments. Smoked side salmon with condiments and crackers, shrimp cocktail, spinach and arti-

choke dip, hot crab dip, tired vegetable tray, brie en courte with raspberries, chocolate fountain with pound cake bites, pretzels, marshmallows, donut holes, bananas, strawberries and pineapple, champagne fountain and at midnight a breakfast buffet. There will be drawings for prizes throughout the evening. At midnight complimentary champagne will be served for the toast. For more information, call 434-2490.

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 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 partici-

pation 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.

Behind the scenes with civil engineering

Lt. Col. Michael Harner
14th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

Lights on, water flowing, heat/air conditioning working...these are the typical items most people relate to the mission of Civil Engineering.

Daily, civil engineers from the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron are behind the scenes keeping the runways, facilities and utilities operational in order to ensure the Wing mission of Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen, and Feeding the Fight, is achieved.

However, there are many other aspects within 14th CES that contribute to the BLAZE mission. The squadron consists of six flights with approximately 200 military/civilian/contractors.

On a typical day, engineers are involved in countless activities spread across the base. Initially, Operations flight start around 3:30 a.m. by checking all the airfield lights and aircraft barrier systems plus pavement sweeping (as required) prior to the three runways becoming mission ready.

Along with these airfield craftsmen, the energy management control system desk doubles as the on-call customer service desk during non-duty hours (open: 4 a.m. to midnight during the week and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends).

This team is responsible for centrally managing the facilities heating and cooling systems for each building. All other craftsmen: carpenters, plumbers, interior/exterior electricians, lock-

smith, heavy equipment operators (dirt boys), HVAC & generator production technicians, typically start at 6:30 a.m. by conducting scheduled recurring maintenance of the base's respective systems.

On call craftsmen also respond to off-duty hours emergencies (heat off, water overflowing, HVAC failures, etc...) in order to preserve our mission assets and care for our Airmen and their families. The other more visible side of operations is the grounds maintenance, custodial, refuse/recycling contracts overseen by the quality assurance team...a tremendous responsibility to keep our customers' needs met.

In addition to the daily upkeep of all facilities and utilities, the Fire Emergency Services flight is another part of the CES team. This 24 hours, seven days a week flight provides world-class fire and initial medical response for all flying and main base operations including privatized housing. All 911 calls for on-base response are routed to the emergency control center located inside the fire station. In addition to their initial response, they conduct all facility fire inspections/training/education with Team BLAZE.

Third, the Programs flight is the long-term planning, programming, design and construction of the base. With some rare exceptions, the major construction on the base is overseen by the 14th CES team.

This 17-person team handles the cradle-to-grave requirements of renovating, demolishing and/or constructing facilities and infrastructure to large to be done in-house. Also, the flight

manages all the building drawings and the "official" base map.

Probably the most diverse flight within the 14th CES is Asset Management. They handle a multitude of areas to including the base environmental program (compliance, pollution prevention, and natural resources), oversight of privatized housing, officer/enlisted dormitory management, community planning/airfield waivers, base energy program, and all real estate/space requirements. In the end, this flight has a broad focus that consists of partnering with the base and local community (including state agencies) to sustain base operations.

The scope and responsibility of the Readiness and Emergency Management flight isn't directly proportional to the six-person flight. They handle one of 24 wing program's (Emergency Management). Their primary focus is preparing the wing for Natural Disasters and CBRNE incidents, providing command and control for emergency operations and in their spare time train/prepare 14th CES military to Feed the Fight downrange.

Lastly, the Resources flight is the financial, computer support and manpower hub for all squadron activities. They manage the squadron's \$12 million annual budget (not including project and EOY funds) and are the critical linchpin to all squadron activities.

Overall, Engineers provide a critical part in the Wing's charge by preserving the mission assets and sustaining Columbus' South Place of the South. I'm honored to serve with them daily for "Engineers...Lead the Way."

Toys for Tots brings joy to children

Capt. Jason Powell
48th Flying Training Squadron

The United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign has reached Columbus Air Force Base. What does that mean to us?

For me, the holiday season means warm food and family, unwrapping presents around the Christmas tree early Christmas morning. These are still some of my happiest memories that I am trying to pass on to my own children. Of course, we are in tough times and not all parents can afford to pass these won-

derful memories on to their children. Believe it or not, some of these people work with you and me on base.

Last year, Charles Adkins, the Toys for Tots district coordinator, collected more than 1,000 toys. He distributed all of these toys to children right here in the Golden Triangle. Thirty-three families on base received toys specially wrapped by Mr. Adkins and his volunteers. This organization helped those less fortunate have a little better holiday. Those families were able to help pass on this great tradition and build those

wonderful memories. They owe thanks to not only the volunteers, but to those who donated new, unwrapped toys all over the Golden Triangle.

What can you do to help make a child's Christmas a little better? You can drop off a new, unwrapped toy at one of the drop-off points on base - Base Exchange, 14th Operations Group lobby, 14th Operations Support Squadron lobby, and the Personnel Building lobby - that are already out until Dec. 17. Or, you can stop by the 48th Flying Training Squadron Booster Club's Toys for

Tots Burger Burn. They will accept donations or toys for burgers, chips and a drink on Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There are many opportunities around base to help support the local community through-out the holidays. We hope that you help make a child's warm memory of the holidays a little better through Toys for Tots.

If you need help making your Christmas a little better, then contact your first sergeant or go to the Toys for Tots website for more information.



Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



Air Force's X-37B historical landing advances space vehicle technologies

Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — After 244 days in space since its launch April 22 from Cape Canaveral, Fla., the X-37B orbital test vehicle landing marks the Air Force's latest step in experimental test missions to improve the service's space capabilities, officials said here Dec. 6.

The 11,000-pound OTV made an autonomous landing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 3 at 1:16 a.m., allowing the Air Force to begin evaluation of its functions as a satellite communications, weather and material technology asset, said Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space Programs Richard McKinney.

"We're in a very serious and important business of providing national security space capabilities for our nation," Mr. McKinney said. "Some of those capabilities are state-of-the-art, highly complex and very technical, ... and for its first flight, we're extremely pleased with the outcome of the X-37B."

Mr. McKinney said the ability to examine such high-tech technologies as space situational awareness, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and satellite development before they're made operational is a long-sought-after capability that the X-37B provides.

"Now we can test those capabilities long in advance of putting them in operational space," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo/Michael Stonecypher
The X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle sits on the runway at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 3, 2010, during post-landing operations. Personnel in self-contained atmospheric protective ensemble suits are conducting initial checks on the vehicle and ensuring the area is safe. The X-37B launched April 22 from Cape Canaveral, Fla., allowing teams to conduct on-orbit experiments for more than 220 days during this first mission.

Final tanker leaves Grand Forks AFB

Airman 1st Class Rachel Waller
319th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — The final KC-135 Stratotanker departed from here Dec. 4, signaling the end of the KC-135 air refueling mission here.

The plane was piloted to McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., by Lt. Gen. Vern M. Findley, the Air Mobility Command vice-commander, and Col. Don Shaffer, the 319th Air Refueling Wing commander.

"I started my career here in 1978, with the 905th Air Refueling Squadron," General Findley said. "I came back 20 years later, in 1999, as the wing commander. I am honored and privileged to be a part of this ceremony."

The first KC-135 arrived at Grand Forks AFB in May 1960, as a part of the 905th ARS.

"This base and its mission were a very critical role in our national defense," General Findley said.

"With this event, I think this puts the focus on the new (RQ-4) Global Hawk mission," General Findley said. "This command has been focusing on making this a smooth transition to the new mission."

"I think when you look at what is happening in the Air Force these days, the new mission is an extremely prominent role in what we, the Air Force, provide to the joint warfighter," he said. "As Grand Forks AFB turns the page, it will continue to play a critical role."

The first RQ-4 is scheduled to arrive in the summer of 2011.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Johnny Saldivar
The final KC-135 Stratotanker formerly stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., performs a low approach, with its boom fully extended, in one last salute to the men and women of Grand Forks AFB, after taking off from the base Dec. 4, 2010, for the final time. The departure of this aircraft signaled the end of the KC-135 air refueling mission at Grand Forks AFB.

He added that the X-37B functions like other satellites with operators on Earth monitoring its travels — with one fundamental difference.

"The vehicle was commanded to re-enter, and there's a pre-determined routine to fold up the solar array and then do its re-entry burn to reorient to the right position to survive the heat during re-entry," said Lt. Col. Troy Giese, the X-37B program manager for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office.

Lt. Col. Giese explained that there is no way to "take over" the vehicle upon landing, but 30th Space Wing range controllers at Vandenberg AFB could terminate the end of the flight had the X-37B broken any of the pre-determined safety boundaries.

"The ability to bring a small vehicle that's able to launch, operate and land autonomously is really quite an achievement," Mr. McKinney said. "Hopefully we'll be able to provide a new way for us to develop experiments and technologies for our national security."

Slated to launch in spring 2011, the X-37B OTV-2 orbit will incorporate lessons learned from OTV-1, Mr. McKinney said.

"The vehicle performed everything it was asked to do this particular flight, so now we need to see how the materials operated in this long duration and examine the vehicle, since it was designed to operate for long periods of time," he added.

U.S. responds to Israeli request for help

Tech. Sgt. Markus M. Maier
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

BEN GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Israel (AFNS) — Two C-130J Super Hercules aircraft assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, delivered 20 tons of fire retardant to Israel Dec. 4.

The mission was part of a joint U.S. European Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe effort to assist the Israeli government deal with what is considered the worst wildfire since the country's founding in 1948.

The massive forest fire raging through northern Israel's Carmel Mountains, near the city of Hafia, has already claimed more than 40 lives and forced more than 17,000 people to evacuate the area.

Upon arrival here, the Ramstein AB aircraft were greeted by James Cunningham, the U.S. ambassador to Israel.

"I'm here to welcome the planes and the members of the U.S. military who are performing this very important job," Ambassador Cunningham said. "We are seeing the delivery of the first American assistance on the ground to the international effort to deal with this terrible forest fire."

The ambassador also talked about the partnership between the U.S. and Israel.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Markus M. Maier
Airmen unload fire retardant from a C-130J Super Hercules Dec. 4, 2010, at the Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel. The fire retardant is part of a joint U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. European Command effort to assist the Israeli government in fighting wildfires in their country.

"This is an important demonstration of America's support for Israel and the Israeli people, something that we are proud to be part of," he said. "We are here out of friendship and out of support for a friend who is in a difficult spot and needs some help. Our prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones and have suffered as a result of this fire. We are going to continue with this effort until the job is done."

An Israeli reporter covering the arrival of the fire retardant said that this help is desperately needed.

"We are very tired and exhausted," said Noganjr Neeman, an Israeli News Channel 10 aviation correspondent. "This is a very terrible disaster for us. We have never had this kind of fire here in Israel. A lot of people are forced to leave their homes and we are very grateful for the help (the U.S.) gives us."

The fire retardant, which was purchased by U.S. EUCOM from a German commercial company, is expected to help extinguish the flames and keep them from reigniting.

"This is a good example of nations coming together to provide a response to a crisis situation," said Army Maj. Tim McDonald, a USEUCOM Logistics Directorate representative. "The government of Israel has asked for our support, specifically for the fire retardant, and we are providing it in response to their request. It's a very important mission and I'm very proud to be part of it."

Behavioral specialist evaluates military working dogs

Mike Joseph
502nd Air Base Wing Operating
Location-A Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Military working dogs are a special breed and so is a specialist who works with them.

Dr. Walter Burghardt, the chief of Behavioral Medicine and Military Working Dog Studies at the Daniel E. Holland MWD Hospital here, jokingly calls his specialty "an Army of One." But right now, there are no others who perform his job throughout the entire Department of Defense.

"I work primarily with military working dogs, with behavioral assessment and behavioral problems," he said.

In addition to being a veterinarian, he holds bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and a doctorate in bio-psychology, a specialized area that Dr. Burghardt said was "the nuts and bolts way of evaluating animal specific behavior."

In military working dogs, the most common behavioral problem is becoming overly active

and not attentive, similar to Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder in humans.

"Some behavioral problems that are common with pet dogs we won't see in a military working dog," Dr. Burghardt said. "Military working dogs bite on command and also have a sense of smell to find explosives or illicit drugs. If the ability to perform those tasks becomes compromised, we've got a behavioral problem."

"(Behavioral problems) in a military working dog can mean loss of service and (interruption to) critical tasks that they do, like finding explosives," he said.

Dr. Burghardt makes in-person assessments here, but the majority of his consultations are done via computer. In addition to referrals from veterinarians around the world, Dr. Burghardt makes assessments for commanders who must decide the best course for a MWD when its service is completed.

The average dog enters service between ages 2 and 4, and leaves between ages 8 and 10. Out of 2,000 MWDs, about 15 percent of the inventory leaves each year, and they must be evaluated for adoptability.



U.S. Air Force photo/Robbin Cresswell
Dr. Walter Burghardt evaluates the behavior of a military working dog Sept. 11, 2010, at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Dr. Burghardt is the chief of Behavioral Medicine and Military Working Dog Studies at Lackland's Daniel E. Holland MWD Hospital.

"Most of what I do is looking at video (watching the dogs at work)," Dr. Burghardt said. "My catch phrase is, 'show me how they're broken.' I can use the video and the dog's eyes to help me identify what's going on (with the dog). Looking at the patient is really important."

The doctor said dogs often wear their behavioral problems "on their sleeves."

For more information about work being done at the MWD Hospital, visit the Department of Defense Military Working Dog Veterinary Service web site at www.dogvet.amedd.army.mil/.

14th Civil Engineer Squadron Spotlight

1. Unit Mission

Mission: Skilled professionals dedicated to providing the best possible facilities, environment, emergency response and preparedness training for the Columbus BLAZE community.

Vision: To become the most customer service oriented organization in the Air Force.

2. Key Leaders

Commander: Lt. Col. Michael Harner

Deputy: Rodney Roberts

First Sergeant: Master Sgt. Kyle Scaffidi

3. Personnel numbers

Military: 54

Contracted: 3

Civil Service: 140

Buildings:

B/385, Main CE Building, B/366, Readiness and Emergency Management Flight Building, B/998, Fire Emergency Services Flight Building

4. Squadron Functions

Asset Management Flight, Programs Flight, Fire Emergency Services Flight, Resources Flight, Operations Flight, and Readiness and Emergency Management Flight

What does the unit manage Construction Projects (Design and Construction), Fire Emergency Services Flight, Real Property Management, Resources Management, In-house maintenance and repair work, Environmental Management

5. Slogan/unit name

Engineers...Lead the Way!

6. Upcoming challenges

UCI, Energy Reduction, and Limited Resources

7. How does the unit plays a part in SUPT

As keepers of the facilities and infrastructure, CES ensures that Producing Pilots, Advancing Airman and Feeding the Fight is the number one focal area on a daily basis. Whether it be Fire Crash Rescue/medical response for an in-flight emergency, craftsmen checking airfield lights, aircraft barriers or runway pavements on building one, or other CES personnel sustaining the base's support functions, Engineers touch every aspect of the base in order to ensure the SUPT mission succeeds.

8. Unique aspects of the unit

Small Squadron composed of six different flights with most diverse functions on base

9. Senior leader comments:

- Small, proactive civil engineer squadron — continually redefining the standard of excellence in the Air Force
- Positive base wide impact on flying and readiness missions, and quality of life initiatives
- Proud team members of Columbus BLAZE



U.S. Air Force photos
ABOVE: A 14th CES firefighter, looks over the remains of a train wreck Oct. 25. 14th CES firefighters are trained for a variety of emergencies and use their skills to handle situations on base and within the local community.
LEFT: Columbus Air Force Base Airmen participate in a hazardous materials exercise. 14th CES mobility is responsible for storing and maintaining equipment to protect from chemical incidents.



U.S. Air Force photo
Fire and Emergency Services fire truck number 10 uses a high-pressure stream of water extinguish a controlled fire during an exercise. Equipment such as this can keep base personnel out of harm's way without sacrificing effectiveness.



U.S. Air Force photo
The stables at CAFB were reconstructed by the 14th CES earlier this year. The 14th CES has overseen or worked on many of the major construction projects on base.



U.S. Air Force photo
A welder with the 14th CES, welds a metal plate outside the 14th CES metal shop