

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 34, Issue 54

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Jan. 28, 2011

Weather



Today

High: 59, Low: 36
Sunny



Saturday

High: 62, Low: 36
Sunny



Sunday

High: 60, Low: 36
Partly Sunny



Monday

High: 53, Low: 27
Slight chance showers

News Briefs

BCC Luncheon

The Base Community Council will meet Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon at the Columbus Club. The speaker for this event will be 14th Flying Training Wing commander Col. Barre Seguin. The meal will be a Mediterranean lunch buffet for \$13.50. RSVP to 434-7068 by Feb. 1 for a reservation and base access.

Annual Awards

This year's Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Feb. 11 at the Columbus Club at 6 p.m. The guest speaker for the banquet will be AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. James Cody. AETC Chaplain Bobby Page will give the invocation for the nights events. Contact your first sergeant to purchase a ticket to the event.

80's party at Club canceled

The Columbus Club's 80's party has been canceled to better support the Saturday flying day on Jan. 29.



Members of the Columbus, Miss., community accept the Air Education and Training Command Community Support Award, also known as the Altus Trophy, for best community support to a military installation in AETC. This is the first year the award has been presented. U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

Columbus, Lowndes County named best community support in AETC

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

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — What the commander and Airmen of Columbus Air Force Base have known for years is now official - Columbus

AFB has the most supportive community in Air Education and Training Command.

The City of Columbus was selected as the first AETC community to receive the AETC Community Support Award (Altus Trophy), sponsored by the Altus, Okla. Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee, during a presentation

at the AETC Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 20.

“This award only restates what I have felt from the first moment I arrived in the Golden Triangle,” said Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. “That we have the best community sup-

See **SUPPORT**, Page 2



Inside

Feature **8**

Team BLAZE visits the AETC Symposium in this week's feature.

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 (11-14)	0.53 days	-2.77 days	Mar. 10	48th (11-05)	1.11 days	0.59 days	Feb. 18	49th (10-DB)	-1.68 days	1.45 days	Feb. 3	T-6	2,008	2,002	9,436
41st (11-13)	1.78 days	-4.52 days	Feb. 14	50th (11-05)	-1.68 days	-3.52 days	Feb. 18					T-1	717	640	3,086
												T-38	829	616	3,027
												IFF	193	149	721

The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Jay Silvera, Air Combat Command Inspector General, Langley AFB, Va.

Basketball scores for Jan. 25:

GAME 1

14th SFS/14th CES 40 WINNER

14th MDG 35

GAME 2

14th MSG 46

DynCorp 53 WINNER

GAME 3

48th FTS 37 WINNER

14th OSS #2 20

SUPPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

port in the Air Force.”

The City of Columbus was one of eight communities in AETC that submitted an award package for the “Altus Trophy” that recognizes the community which provides the finest support to an AETC unit.

“Colonel Seguin, there are three words I’ve heard you say I’ll never forget,” said Mayor Robert Smith, Columbus, Miss., at an event recognizing the community’s accomplishment Jan. 22. “They are Fly, Fight and Win ... and we won!”

Mayor Smith said while they have to return the trophy at next year’s AETC Symposium, they plan on bringing it home again.

Colonel Seguin said one of the best ways to bring the trophy home again is to continue maintaining the great relationship Columbus AFB and the community share, and have

shared for years.

“This trophy is an award 70 years in the making,” Colonel Seguin said. “It began when community forefathers reached out to the (Army Air Corps) and offered to lease this land for \$1 per year, and it has continued ever since.

“No one (supports the military) better than the people of Columbus, Miss., and the Golden Triangle Region,” Colonel Seguin continued. “The men and women of this area take great interest in what goes on at Columbus AFB.”

Among some of the programs the City of Columbus were best known for in supporting CAFB were: Pilot Partner program, Pilot for a Day program, financial and manpower resources the “Wings over Columbus Air Show and Open House, T-37 static display maintenance, administrative foundation for the Base Community Council, and “adoptions” of military family member for the holidays.

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
31 Enlisted Promotions, 3:30 p.m. @ Club	1	2	3 Town and Tower Annual Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m., @ Columbus Country Club IFF Grad, 4:45 p.m. @ 49th FTS	4 BCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. @ Club Class 11-05 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	5/6
7	8 Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ AFRC	9	10 Daedalian’s Sweetheart Dinner, 6 p.m. @ Club	11 Fun Runs, 6/7 a.m. @ Fitness Center Annual Awards Banquet, 6 p.m. @ Club	12/13

Long Range Events

Feb. 14: Class 11-13 Track Select

Feb. 14-18: Night Flying Week

Feb. 15: CSC Social

Feb. 16: Black History Month Luncheon

Feb. 17: Clergy Day

Feb. 18: Class 11-05 Graduation

Feb. 21: Presidents’ Day Holiday

Feb. 25: Class 11-06 Assignment Night

Feb. 27: Mardi Gras Brunch

Feb. 28: Annual Spots Banquet

Mar. 1: Enlisted Promotions

Trail BLAZE'r

Teresa Mashon Gregory
Defense Commissary Agency

Job title: Store Associate

Time at Columbus AFB: Four years three months

Hometown: Columbus, Miss.

Career goals: Obtain my B.A. in Psychology and pursue my Masters. I want to enter the Intern Program at the Defense Commissary Agency and become part of the management team.

Family members: Daughters Michalea 15, Kandace 13 and Kiersten 8

Favorite musician: Gerald Levert

Favorite movie: Madea's Big Happy Family

Biggest pet peeve: People that do not tell the truth and people that are disrespectful.

Favorite book: The Holy Bible

Inspirations: God and my family

Personal motto: "Love yourself and be yourself! Live everyday in a Godly way as if it was your last day."



New fitness requirements for deploying Airmen

Capt. Omar Villarreal
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Airmen preparing to attend Army-taught Combat Skills Training prior to deploying to a joint expeditionary tasking in direct support of combatant commander or joint task force ground component missions will soon be required to possess a current and passing fitness assessment, according to new Air Education and Training Command guidance.

The new standards, which already apply to Air Force-taught Combat Airman Skills Training, take effect Feb. 1.

"Joint expeditionary training courses can range from 21 to 70 days, and are very physically demanding," said Lt. Gen. Douglas H. Owens, the Air Education and Training Command vice commander. "Due to the physical demands of the courses, and requests from Air

Expeditionary Group commanders, Airmen will be required to have a passing fitness assessment on record before attending CST."

If a wing wishes to deploy an Airman to CST without a current or passing fitness assessment, the Airman must provide a letter signed by a medical provider and that letter must be endorsed by the wing commander or equivalent certifying the Airman can complete specific physical tasks performed during training.

Airmen who attend CST are put through an intense simulation of what they may experience while deployed and must be physically fit to complete the rigorous training, said Col. Chuck Douglass, the 602nd Training Group (provisional) commander.

"Soldiers who have recently returned from a deployment, in Iraq or Afghanistan, train Airmen on what they went through and what could be expect-

ed," Colonel Douglass said. "Airmen learn how to actively participate in convoy operations, they are put in combat scenarios, they learn how to call for medical evacuations and perform combat lifesaving techniques."

The training is very physically demanding because of the movements required and the weight of protective gear worn by Airmen, he said.

"Airmen who arrive at CST after Feb. 1, not in compliance, will be eliminated from training and returned to home station as directed by AETC leadership," Colonel Douglass said. "The 602nd TRG(P) has the mission to prepare Airmen for their deployments ... it is up to each Airman's home station to ensure they are prepared for CST."

For more information on JET, visit www.jetairmen.af.mil, www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage or www.keesler.af.mil/units/2ndairforce.asp.



U.S. Air Force photo/ Capt. John Sevens
An Airman advances toward a hill during a live-fire exercise as part of Combat Skills Training for provincial reconstruction team members. In the exercise, teams of Airmen and Soldiers make their way up a hill while firing at targets using live ammunition. Airmen preparing for joint expeditionary taskings must be prepared for physically strenuous activities during their Army-led training courses.

Contributions during the Civil War

Larmont Green
Black History Month Committee

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States."

— Frederick Douglass

The aforementioned words spoken by Frederick Douglass motivated many Blacks to enlist in the Union Army and fight. By President Lincoln's issuing the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil War became a war not only to save the union and to abolish slavery.

More than 175,000 African Americans belonging to 167 units served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and many more served in the Union Navy. Both free African-Americans and runaway slaves joined the fight. It is with the beginning of these great contributions to the Civil War we reflect and welcome another time to celebrate Black History Month.

February 2011's theme for Black History Month is "Contributions during the Civil War" with a emphasis not only on those who served in the military but also those who may not have served however had notable contributions during the war.

Weekly Black History Fact: Sarah Goode became the

first black woman to receive a patent from the US patent and Trademark Office in 1885. She received her patent for the precursor to the modern-day roll away bed. Goode was born as a slave in 1850. She later owned her own furniture store.

Question of the week: What was the first year "Martin Luther King Day" was officially observed as a federal holiday?

Events for the month

Taste Testing – Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. at Chapel- Senior Airman Derek Ramsey/Senior Airman Phillip Sneed/Staff Sgt. Charles Ball/Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Taylor

Luncheon – Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m. at Club- Staff Sgt. Charles Ball

Open Mic Night – Feb. 24, 6 p.m. at Club- Airman 1st Class Ashley Chatman/Airman 1st Class Tamekqua Smith/Airman 1st Class Lillian Martinez

Essay Writing/Poster Drawing Close Out Feb. 22 – Senior Airman Aundre Lawrence/Airman 1st Class Kimble (need drop off locations) Theme: African American Contributions Civil War to Present Ages: 6-8, 50 Words; 9-12, 150 words; 13-17, 250 words; prizes soon to be determined

Book Club – to Be Determined- Master Sgt. Renise Pritchett/Ms. Koronika Flournoy

Youth Activities Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Youth Center- Airman 1st Class Lillian Martinez/ Airman 1st Class Tamekqua Smith

2011 Air Force Community Assessment

**Airman and Family
Readiness Center**

The Integrated Delivery System Working Group is sponsoring the 2011 Community Assessment Survey of service members and spouses. This survey is the best way for community members to make their opinions and needs known. The results of the survey will be used by base leadership and the Air Force to target resources where they are most needed and enhance the well-being of the community.

Air Force community members at

Air Force bases worldwide will be randomly selected to participate in the study. Survey notification (Web site address of the survey) will be sent to the home address of each spouse chosen to participate. Participation is crucial to the success of the project, and those selected are strongly urged to take part.

Through the completion of the CA, survey responses can directly influence family services and related support activities at local bases and throughout the Air Force.

This year's survey at Columbus AFB will be particularly important.

As part of a Department of Defense sponsored initiative, this year's Community Assessment, along with some supplemental questions, will be used to direct additional resources to help service members and families base wide. Base agencies will be working with researchers to ensure that this year's survey results are used to maximum benefit.

If you have any questions regarding the 2011 Community Assessment, please contact Jamey Coleman, 434-2790, Integrated Delivery System Chair.

Thornton speaks at pilot graduation, offers advice

**Airman 1st Class
Chase Hedrick**

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The director for Air, Space and Information Operations, Air Force Material Command, spoke at the graduation for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-04, Jan. 21, at the Kaye Auditorium.

Brig. Gen. William Thornton gave the graduates pieces of wisdom he had learned and felt would put them and their new aviation careers on the right path.

"First, it's about the journey. Please don't spend 10, 15, or 20 years trying to get to a certain rank or position," General Thornton said. "Enjoy what you are doing along the way. If you are so invested in a goal to the exclusion of everything else in your life, I assure you it will be a let-down when you make that goal."

The Undergraduate Pilot Training student turned brigadier general and F-15 test pilot told Class 11-04 that the next day would bring them a clean slate, and how they would be judged as pilots would be from that point on.

"I had difficulty in UPT with air sickness, but I saw Air Force officers and wing leadership sticking by me and sticking their necks out because they felt it was the right thing to do," General Thornton said. "That that experience made me understand the Air Force is a meritocracy. It's full of good caring people and leaders who always try and do the right thing"

General Thornton called for the new pilots to show their merit by being the best pilot they can be. He said that the new systems, especially the weapons platforms, are far more complex and will require them to learn all the systems of their new aircrafts.

"Stay in the books and do it right. What you've learned here



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

Brig. Gen. William Thornton, director for Air, Space and Information Operations, Air Force Material Command, speaks to the audience at the graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-04 Jan. 21 at Kaye Auditorium.

will sustain you and can save your life, if you stay with it," he said. "Checklist discipline is important even after UPT, especially in single seat and two seat aircrafts. No one is backing you up. Nobody will know if you did your approach and instruments correctly or if you just got lucky, and no one will care until it's too late."

General Thornton offered his congratulations to Class 11-04 on their achievement and took notice of Class 12-04, scheduled to graduate in one year.

"I want to welcome Class 12-04 that was in the audience today and tell them they have an exciting year ahead of them. It will be one of their most challenging years, regardless it will be one of their most memorable years and they will walk across that stage in a year justifiably proud, and I'll be proud to welcome them into the ranks of the Air Force aviation community", General Thornton said.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 83 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Columbus AFB Top 3 Spotlight



Tech. Sgt. Jason Behrens
14th Operations Support Squadron

1. Home Town: DeFuniak Springs, Fla.
2. Time in the Air Force: 16.5 years
3. Time at Columbus AFB: 4 year, 4 months, 7 days
4. Career Short Term Goals: UCI Outstanding for my flight and make master sergeant
5. Career Long Term Goals: Retire from the Air Force knowing that I made a positive impact in the lives/careers of new Airmen. To be a motivating factor in their career.
6. Nominated by: Chief Master Sgt. Tony Young
7. Nomination reason: Tech. Sgt. Behrens was award-

ed the MSM for outstanding performance during the establishment of the \$1.8 million T-6 Aircrew Flight Equipment facility serving over 500 14th FTW pilots. He directly supervises and manages five work centers responsible for the safety equipment and survivability of over 300 sorties daily.



At the end of each month, the Columbus AFB Top 3 will select two outstanding BLAZE Team members, one NCO and one Airman, to be spotlighted in the last issue of the month. The men and women selected for this are some of the best and the brightest at Columbus AFB. Look to future issues for more of your fellow Airmen!



Senior Airman Kaitlin Beall
14th Force Support Squadron

1. Home Town: McConnelsville, Ohio
2. Time in the Air Force: 3.5 years.
3. Time at Columbus AFB: 3 years
4. Career Short Term Goals: Complete my CCAF this summer.
5. Career Long Term Goals: Retire from the USAF at least as an E-8. I would like to obtain my Bachelors degree within the next three years and continue on to my masters afterward. And making E-5 this next cycle is a must.
6. Nominated by: MSgt Millen/MSgt Heng
7. Nomination reason: number two in AETC for evaluations timeliness- key to CAFB MPS being named the number one MPS this quarter (and previous quarter). Her continuity book was used as a benchmark template for the rest of the MPS. She has completed her files staging for 2010. Airman Beall had the first approved AFRIMS file plan in MSG; she also trained the other two sections to bring their compliant. Squadron Self-Aid and Buddy Care instructor; trained four personnel this quarter, two for short-notice deployments. Re-vamped wing Duty Status Program. She volunteered 33 plus hours this past quarter to things such as Pumpkin Patrol, Tops in Blue, Veteran's Day parade, the new CDC and the Lowndes County Animal Shelter (helped raise \$1,100 for the new animal shelter.) She did all this while completing 18 semester hrs this quarter and will finish her last class for her CCAF in the spring

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The Airman's Creed

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

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

I am an American Airman,

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

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

Town and Tower Breakfast

Chaplain (Maj.) Leslie Janovec, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain, will be the guest speaker at the Annual Town and Tower Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. Feb. 3 at the Columbus Country Club. Tickets for the event include a breakfast buffet and cost \$10. To make a reservation or for more information, contact Tina Barnett at (662) 329-7148, or e-mail her at tbarnett@duv.muw.edu.

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.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Hoping to sell prior to PCS overseas. Appraised over \$170,000 a year ago. Asking \$149,900 now.
For sale: 1,807 sqft three bedroom two bath home in Caledonia. Corner lot with a fenced in back yard. Open floor plan, large living room, beautiful kitchen and dining area. Master bedroom has large closet, garden tub and stall shower in the master bath. Bonus room upstairs with built in storage units. \$155,000. Call 889-2953.

Transportation

For sale: 1997 expedition white in color runs good factory Chrome rims, all power good tires well maintained serviced regularly. Call me at 251-8363

Homes

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.

For sale: 2.1 acres on Wood Road in Caledonia. Ready to build! Call 356-6844, please leave message.

For sale: Beautiful 2002 brick home. 1,800 sqft on a 3/4 acre corner lot. 10-15 minutes from CAFB. Three bedrooms, two full baths and a large extra room. Within the Caledonia school district.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Two Michelin tires, 225x60xr17 with 6/32 inches tread depth, in excellent condition. Full set of golf clubs. McGregor Irons and Spauldin woods, with Black Naugahide Bag (Leather) with spring load suspension and seat on cart, best offer on both. Call 328-1324.

For sale: 27" RCA TV with remote \$ 45, 27" SAMSUNG TV without remote \$ 40, Microwave \$ 35, Infant Car Seat (Graco) \$35. Call 662-570-5883.

For sale: Galaxy Popper Popcorn machine with stand. 12 Oz popping kettle, \$600 or best offer. 251-7925.

For sale: Mid 90's model High Country compound bow: 31.5 draw length/55-75 lbs draw. \$50 or best offer. Call 242-0160

Dollars & Sense Topic #21: Increase in cash limit for the new Controlled Spend Account

Effective immediately, Citi has implemented a system change that changed the ATM cash limit from \$200 to \$500 cash. A \$50 buffer has been added to accommodate for any ATM fee charges, so the total ATM amount is \$550. The main reason for the change is to accommodate travelers overseas who run into issues, when they use ATM.

Also, APCs can now increase cash to \$2,000. Please keep in mind that the cash withdraw can never exceed the available spend limit. For example, if the trip is only for \$300, the cardholder cannot withdraw \$500 in cash.

Controlled Spend Account Reminders:

1. Ensure your CSA card has been updated in DTS prior to initiating a travel authorization.

2. As mission allows, get your orders in the system at least 7-10 days prior to your departure date.
3. Upon your return, file your voucher within 5 working days and ensure you are following the total trip reimbursement requirement (100 percent to Citi).

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

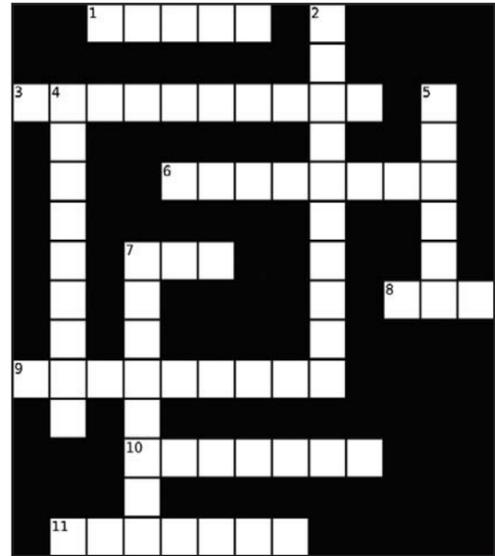
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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.

Outside the Gate

- Across**
- 1 Otherwise known as the T-37, this airplane welcomes visitors coming off of the highway in Columbus.
 - 3 This neighbor-city to Columbus and home of Miss. State University.
 - 6 Columbus is thought to be the home of the federal holiday _____ Day.
 - 7 Local college which originally catered to females-only.
 - 8 Number of dollars the city of Columbus charged the U.S. government to lease the land CAFB currently occupies.
 - 9 Columbus, Miss., is the birthplace of noted playwright _____
 - 10 County in which Columbus resides.
 - 11 Prior to it's official founding as a city, the area of Columbus was considered part of this state.



- Down**
- 2 Each year, tourists flock to Columbus to take part in this annual event and visit the cities many Antebellum homes.
 - 4 The city of Columbus is situated alongside the banks of the Tennessee-_____ Waterway.
 - 5 Columbus is one of three "points" in the _____ Triangle Region.
 - 7 This flower gives Mississippi it's state nickname.

Base News

Wednesday Night Chef

The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel is looking for a chef to provide cooked meals for the Pioneer Club's weekly fellowship. Deadline is Feb. 4. Contact Tech. Sgt. Floyd Recto at 434-2500 for more information. Background checks will be required.

Multimedia Technician

The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel is searching for a multi-media technician for the Protestant worship services, including combined services, Parish Picnic, and additional services for holidays and funerals. Deadline is Feb. 4. Contact Tech. Sgt. Floyd Recto at 434-2500 for more information. Background checks will be required.

DBIDs Registration

Registration for the Defense Biometric Identification System, a new gate access system, is currently ongoing for Common Access 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.

CSC Scholarships for High School Seniors and Spouses of CAFB Employees

The Columbus Spouses' Club is offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students. Each applicant must be a dependent of an active duty, retired, MIA, active duty reservist, deceased military member, or employee associated with Columbus AFB. Applications can be obtained at the Columbus AFB Education Center, CAFB Library, CAFB Airman & Family Readiness Center, CAFB School Liaison Office, CAFB Housing Office, high school guidance offices, or collegiate financial aid and VA offices. The application Deadline is March 1 (postmarked). For more information please contact: Perla Hopkins, Scholarship Chair, 356-4611 or Sarah Ayers, CSC 2nd Vice President, (585) 503-5925 or email us at: CSCCAFB@gmail.com.

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.

DRMO as a source of supply

Authorized personnel may retrieve property that is marked for DRMO Facilities only if they are still physically located in Base Supply. For more information, call the Inspection Section at extension 434-7231 to review the property, Stock Control at 434-7198 to check for authorization and Customer Support at 434-7178 to order the property. All other DRMO processing is done via the Web at: www.drms.dla.mil.

Do you have a supply problem?

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

Attention Supply Customer

If you are looking for that special piece of equipment or furniture for your office, your point of contact is the Inspection Section of Base Supply. Inspection maintains the Last Look Area, which has used equipment and furniture turned in from other organizations. All items in the Last Look Area are available without charge to your organization. For more information, contact 434-7233 or 434-7234.

Zero overpricing program-incentive awards

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

Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. Please visit the Thrift Shop for more information on consignments. Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. They can be dropped off anytime in the donation shed. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in Bldg 345, Imes Street (next to Youth Center). Phone: 434-2954.

IDEA Program

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness is looking for submissions of individual, group, or team ideas about how the Air Force can accomplish something more efficiently. Cash rewards for ideas are possible. Visit <https://ipds.randolph.af.mil> or call Tech. Sgt. Angela Coleman at 434-2388.

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 and Family Readiness Center held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness.

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.

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.

Budgeting Basics

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went.

MS PowerPoint 2007

Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, from 2:30 to 3:30. Workshop on MS Power Point 2007.

Resume and Cover Letters

Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Workshop on writing Resumes and Cover Letters for employment.

Newcomers Orientation

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

Free credit report/score

To celebrate January as Financial Literacy Month, active duty military members and spouses of same can get their FICO credit report and credit score free at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants must call 434-2790 to sign up.

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

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.

It's not pretty, but it's the law: records management

Master Sgt. Damien McCleskey
14th Communications Squadron

In just about anything that happens in the Air Force today, there is historical evidence or a way to document any actions or event that may have taken place. The "Records Management (RM)" program is the Air Force's method for ensuring official records, electronic and paper, are properly managed. Like the Air Force, Columbus AFB has an "RM" program.

CAFB RM program is directed by the Wing Commander and managed by the 14th Communications Squadrons record professionals in the Knowledge Operations section. Each unit has a primary and alternate record professional that serves as the liaison between the 14th CS and their unit personnel. This relationship is extremely important. Overall success of the Columbus AFB RM program depends on all of Team BLAZE.

Maintaining official records is not a difficult task; however, it may be confusing. Hopefully after reading the following information, each Team BLAZE will have a better understanding and appreciation of the "RM" program.

Who is responsible for managing official records at Columbus AFB?

According to AFI 33-332, All Air Force, DOD employees, and contract personnel are responsible for proper storage and safeguarding of official records. Following is an excerpt from AFI 33-332, 3.2.1, further explaining the requirements:

“ Must not conceal, remove, mutilate, obliterate or destroy records without proper authority. Unauthorized concealment, removal, mutilation, obliteration or destruction of records, or any attempt to do so, is a violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 2071 and may be punished by up to three years confinement and a fine. Failure to obey the prohibitions in this paragraph is also a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. Failure of civilian employees to follow the prohibitions in this paragraph may also result in administrative disciplinary action under applicable civilian personnel instructions without regard to otherwise applicable criminal or civil sanctions.”

What are Official Records?

Official records are public property assets that belong to the United States Government and must be managed in accordance with Federal law. Official records include all books, papers, maps, photographs, and machine-readable materials, and other documentary materials. Regardless of physical form or characteristics it's an official record. If records are created or received by an office in connection with the transaction of official business and preserved by that office as evidence of the organization functions, policies, decisions, procedures, opera-

tions, or other activities, then it's an official record. When in doubt treat information as an official record.

Who can access Official Records?

The public has a right to request agency records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, they must be accurate and timely and disclosed unless one of the nine FOIA exemptions apply.

What are the key positions in the CAFB RM program?

CAFB RM program is managed by various records professionals to include the **Base Records Manager, Functional Area Records Manager, Chief of the Office of Record and Records Custodians.**

The BRM responsibilities are to provide disposition instruction guidance to FARMs, provide base-wide Electronic Records Management guidance, ensure FARMs conduct Staff Assistance Visits every 24 months, manage the base staging area and to ensure FARMs and RCs receive training.

The FARM responsibilities are to identify and notify the BRM on CORs and RCs that are eligible for base level training, ensure CORs and RCs prepare file plans utilizing the AF Records Information Management System, conduct record searches and inform CORs and RCs to conduct record searches as applicable, conduct SAVs at least every 24 months on offices of record, and ensure RCs promptly retire and/or stage eligible records.

The COR responsibilities are to ensure offices create only essential records, preserves permanently valuable records, disposes of temporary records according to the Records Disposition Schedule, ensures each office develops a file plan, appoints an RC, and ensures personnel attend training. They assist the FARM or BRM in reviewing and evaluating automated information systems for their effect on creating, transferring, storing, retrieving, and disposing of records. Also CORs sign the file plan cover sheet, ensures all personnel who create, maintain and disposes of records attend records management training. Unit commanders are responsible for appointing CORs.

The RC responsibilities are to maintain the office file plan and accountability for active and inactive records, ensure eligible records are promptly and properly prepared to retire or transfer, be proficient on the equipment used for storing and retrieving the records from the files. Know and implements the records maintenance, use, and disposition policies and procedures for records being maintained. Adjust office records maintenance practices to provide accurate and effective reference service to the users of the records. Consult with the COR/FARM on problems which affect records, complete records searches as required and conduct self-inspections. RCs ensure active and inactive records are separated as they cannot be mixed together. RCs coordinate file plan changes and approval recommendations through their COR to the FARM utilizing AFRIMS.

Where can the Blaze Team find additional information about CAFB RM program?

Use this link to access the CAFB SharePoint site: <https://columbus.eis.aetc.af.mil/default.aspx>. Then select the "Wing Programs" tab and click on "Records Management". The "Record Management/Privacy Act/Freedom of Act" SharePoint site will appear. Helpful information like training slides, meeting minutes, templates (i.e. appointment letters, request to stage records, etc.), and the RM database are available.

The "Records Management Database" is "extremely" useful. It resides on the RM SharePoint site as item 2 under the "Commanders Records Management Information" section. If a unit would like to know the overall health of their RM program status, this is the one stop repository to accomplish that goal. For example, the RM database identifies each units training stats, and outlines what requirements are open or close, such as does the unit have a current appointment letter on file with the CAFB RM office.

Hopefully this information helps each Team BLAZE member. This is the first of several articles that will cover the various aspects of the changes in "Cyberforce." The first several will be dealing with records management with other topics to follow.

Now the Blaze Team is aware of who manages CAFB RM Program, why it's important and who is responsible for managing official records. More importantly each Airman knows that they play a key role in the success of the RM program. It takes everyone!



Air Force Secretary honors AETC Heroes

Capt. John Severns
AETC Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Nearly a thousand Airmen from across the command gathered here Friday to hear Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during the Air Education and Training Command Ball.

The Ball, the largest formal event hosted by the command, culminated the AETC Symposium and Exposition. More than 3,500 Airmen, civilians, civic leaders, sister servicemembers and foreign officials descended on San Antonio for the two-day event.

The Ball's theme was celebrating AETC heroes, according to the emcee, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John D. Hopper, former AETC vice commander. Six heroes, chosen by the command for their courage, quick-thinking and selflessness, were featured in a series of video vignettes that highlighted their life-saving actions.

One of the heroes, Staff Sergeant Deante Brooks, was selected for his bravery during an attack on Bagram Air Base in 2010. Sergeant Brooks, a security forces Airman from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., helped repel the initial attack, drove through enemy fire to get a wounded comrade to the base hospital, then returned to the wire to continue fighting for several hours. His story is featured in the Air Force publication, "Profiles in Courage."

Airmen like Sergeant Brooks represent the thousands of unsung heroes throughout the command, General Hopper said.

The highlight of the evening was a speech by Secretary Donley, who spoke about the vital role Airmen play in our national defense.

"To talk about our Air Force is to talk about heroes," Secretary Donley said. "Many will claim that heroes save lives. True enough. We've heard stories of that this evening, and no one would argue the point. We honor the individuals tonight who've done exactly that.

"But in our Air Force we're surrounded by everyday heroes," he added. "The word 'hero' is Greek for 'protector' or 'defender,' and each Airman in our Air Force has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, so it sounds to me like you're defenders, which is English for that Greek word 'heroes.'"

The secretary said it takes an entire Air Force to accomplish even the smallest mission, and illustrated his point by describing the chain of support necessary for a fighter pilot to provide air cover to troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

"At this very moment, Col. Scott Long is piloting an F-16 Falcon over Afghanistan, where American soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division, in Task Force Panther, may come in contact with the enemy tonight," Secretary Donley said.

Supporting Colonel Long was his wingman, flying alongside him, the secretary pointed out. And enabling both fliers were maintainers, munitions specialists, life support crew, fuels troops, crew chiefs, communications specialists, air traffic controllers, civil engineers and finance officers, to name a few. Without these Airmen, whom the secretary named one-by-one, Colonel Long would be unable to provide support to the Joint Tactical Air Controller on the ground embedded with the soldiers of the 101st Airborne.

"We are blessed as a nation, as an Air Force, to have so many heroes in our ranks," the secretary said. "Every Airman depends on every other Airman to accomplish important missions. All of whom will affect the outcome; all of whom are heroes, in that they too are part of the defense of our great nation and what America stands for."

Gen. Edward A. Rice, Jr., concluded the evening's festivities by thanking the assembled Airmen for attending the Symposium and Ball. More important than attendance, he said, was that the audience use what it saw and actively learned over the past two days to improve their Air Force.

"Take what we learned these past two days, and go out and use it to make a difference," he said.

For more on the 2011 AETC Symposium, go to www.aetcsymposium.com.

Introducing CAFB's Facility Energy Incentive Programs

Bert Ward
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Columbus AFB has two new energy incentive programs that are designed to reduce the base's use of electricity, natural gas and water. All base military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate in the programs.

CAFB's energy goals are:
Reduce energy intensity by three percent per square foot every year compared to FY 03
Reduce water use two percent per square foot every year compared to FY 07

Fame and Fortune - The Energy and Water Conservation Suggestion Program

So you have a great conservation idea, but you need to know how to get it in the hands of someone who can act on it and implement your idea. Submit your energy and water conservation ideas through the Air Force's "Innovative Development through Employee Awareness" suggestion program.

You can help achieve our conservation goals and could also put some money in your pocket! In FY 2010, for the AETC

bases alone, over \$10 million dollars of validated savings resulted in incentive amounts paid of over \$57,000 awarded. This amount includes all ideas, not just energy.

To submit your suggestions, go the IDEA website: <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.asp?Filter=AF-DP-00-06>

Your conservation suggestion will be routed to CAFBs IDEA POC, Staff Sgt. Paula Zanders, who will then send it to CES for evaluation. If your suggestion is adopted, an article in Silver Wings will highlight your suggestion and you will become famous as a contributor to the conservation effort.

A Group Effort - Facility Energy and Water Conservation Recognition Program

The daily sustained effort of every person on the base is the only way we will attain our conservation goals. You may be making the effort, but you need a tangible way to know how successful you have been. You need a "Feedback Loop."

14 CES Facility Energy Manager (Energy Manager) will provide consumption information for facilities that have gas, electric and/or water meters to the respective Facility Managers. On a quarterly basis, the Energy Manager will provide consumption information for the current quarter use and use for the same

quarter for the prior year.

The Energy Manager will then aggregate quarterly information by Group to show as total energy intensity (electric and gas converted to Mbtu per square foot) and as thousands of gallons of water per square foot. This will allow comparison between Groups to compare facilities of varying sizes within their Group, and with other Groups.

Groups that reduce consumption of energy or water below the same quarter of the prior year will be recognized by their commander. The Group with the highest reduction will receive a traveling trophy, one for reducing electricity and gas and one for reducing water each quarter presented by the Wing Commander at the Energy, Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Council.

Electric use in kilowatt hours is converted to btu using the ratio of 3,412 British Thermal Units per kilowatt hour. Gas use in cubic feet is also converted to btu using the ratio of 1,015 btu per cubic foot of gas. The resulting btu total for electric and gas is then divided by one million to convert to Mbtu, and then divided by the group's square footage to give the energy intensity in Mbtu per square foot.

Conservation questions about your facility can be referred to Dr. Carl James, Energy Manager, at 662-434-3417.

White House unveils new approach to military family support

Elaine Wilson
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — White House officials have released a report that unveils a new, governmentwide approach to military family support and details a sweeping, interagency effort under way to strengthen families and enhance their well-being and quality of life.

President Barack Obama announced the results of a nearly yearlong review of military family support Jan. 24 in a White House ceremony attended by the Defense Department's top brass, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates; Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; service chiefs and their spouses.

From child care to health care to spouse employment, the report, titled "Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment," identifies the key issues military families face and presents programs and resources government agencies plan to roll out in the coming months to address them.

"This document is the commitment to our military families not only of this government, but this nation in terms of their support, their

care and their empowerment," Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Pentagon's office of military community and family policy, said during a recent interview.

The report outlines four key areas that the governmentwide effort plans to address: enhancing military families' well-being and psychological health, developing military spouse career and education opportunities, increasing child care availability and quality, and ensuring excellence in military children's education and development.

"We're bringing together our agencies, our whole of government, with our whole of nation to focus on those four priority areas," Mr. Gordon said. "The DOD can't do this alone; it does take a whole-of-nation approach."

Mr. Gordon cited counseling services as an example of the benefits of an interagency effort. While Defense Department officials offer counseling through Military OneSource and within military support centers and communities, "we can expand those services and activities with partnership with other sorts of sectors," he said.

The report addresses plans for expanded counseling services in detail, which will greatly

benefit military families, Mr. Gordon noted. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 2 million service members have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan in an unprecedented frequency, the report said, and, along with service members, military families also are vulnerable to deployment-related stress. The report cited a 2010 study that reports an 11 percent increase in outpatient visits for behavioral health issues among a group of 3- to 8-year-old children of military parents and an increase in behavioral and stress disorders when a parent was deployed.

"We do need to pay attention to the socio-emotional support of our kids," Mr. Gordon said, noting the impact of long parental separations due to deployments. He also acknowledged the additional responsibilities the spouse back home must shoulder in the military member's absence.

"We have devised ways ahead as a government and ... in partnership with the other sectors to do something about that," he said.

The report also lays out new and improved programs to increase behavioral health care services for military families in the coming months. Officials with the Veterans Affairs and

Defense departments, for example, are slated to implement a multiyear strategy to promote early recognition of mental health conditions that includes education and coaching for family members and integration of mental health services into primary care, the report said.

DOD officials also are working to boost the number of mental health providers and to increase quality of care. In one effort, a TRI-CARE military health plan working group is undertaking a yearlong project to provide the best possible health care for the more than 9.6 million beneficiaries beyond 2015, the report said.

Additionally, the Defense and the Health and Human Services secretaries will jointly accelerate efforts that prevent and address suicide, the report said. Meanwhile, VA's national suicide call center will expand and enhance services to combat suicide among veterans.

The report also outlines efforts to protect military families from unfair financial practices, to address homelessness and improve housing security, and to ensure availability of substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services for veterans and military families.

14th CES Airmen practice convoy operations



Members of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron take part in convoy training Jan. 18. Training is held to help better prepare them for possible deployments overseas.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Marion

Base families offered a variety of activities

Super Bowl Party

Get ready for some serious fun and football at the Super Bowl Party scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 6 from 4 p.m. until it's over. There will be drawings for door prizes to include a grand prize drawing for a Kenmore gas/charcoal combo grill worth \$350, \$100 gift card EVERY quarter, a NFL themed throw blanket and more cool items. Specials include \$1 Budweiser draft products, 15 cent wings (while they last) and a \$5 Super Sub. Sponsors of this event include The Landings at Columbus and Mitchell Distributing. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Baseball and Girls Softball Teams Now Forming

Register at the Youth Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, now through Feb. 22, for baseball and girls softball. This Youth Sports program is open to ages 8 to 18. For more information, call 434-2504.

Let's Get Physical

The Fitness Center now has new instructors, more aerobics and new free or low-cost pay-as-you-go classes. Classes include circuit training, kickboxing, Zumba, spin class, yoga and Stroller Strides. For days and times, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

Half-Price Jumper Rentals

Rent a jumper at half price through the end of February! Choices include the Princess Castle, 5-in-1 Sea World Combo, Sports Arena, 3-in-1 Tropical Combo, 16-foot water slide, Sea World, Patriotic Castle and 3-in-1 Pirate Ship Combo. Contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505/7861 with more information.

Dance, Dance, Dance!

Children ages 3 to 8 can learn all styles of dance at the Youth Center for just \$30 per month. Classes for ages 3 to 5 are Mondays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., and classes for ages 6 to 8 are at the same time on Tuesdays. For registration information, call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Mommy & Me Craft Classes

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

Casino Trip

Join us on our monthly trips to the Silver Star and Golden Moon casinos the first Friday each month. Cost is \$25 and includes trans-

portation and \$25 in player credit. Bus leaves at 5:30 p.m. from the BX parking lot at returns at 1 a.m. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505/7861.

Squadron DUI-Free Bowling Party

The bowling center is offering a free squadron bowling party from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through 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 lanes at the bowling center, call 434-3426.

Join FitFamily!

All ages can benefit from the Air Force Services fitness and wellness initiative, FitFamily. Families can register as a team at www.USAFitFamily.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.

Affordable Tickets at ITT

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, Dixie Stampede, Geyser Falls and more. Call 434-2505/7861 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 travel to interesting places. The Youth Sponsorship Program at Columbus was created by and just for youth. For assistance in this sometimes difficult transition, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504 and join in the fun of the youth sponsorship program.

Preparedness

Col. Ken Bryson

14th Mission Support Group commander

Ben Franklin once said, "By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail." Another great quote about being ready is Howard Ruff's, "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

Both of these quotes underscore what we in the Air Force live and breathe every day. We train the way we fight to best prepare for our next engagement. For those of us at Columbus Air Force Base our next engagement starts on the March 6...the day our Unit Compliance Inspection team arrives.

"Producing Pilots; Advancing Airmen; and Feeding the Fight" – this is our mission statement and it's based on one core competency – 100 percent compliant with mission requirements. The UCI is the wing's chance to prove just how good we are and being prepared is the only way to meet the

AETC/CC's charge of, "no repeat write-ups."

Most of us have procrastinated at one time or another – waiting till the night before a big exam to study; spending an entire weekend writing a term paper; or not packing for the family vacation until the last minute. There are a host of excuses to act this way. My favorite, "if I wait till the last minute to do something then it will only take a minute of my time to do it!"

But with procrastination comes the downfall of not being prepared. And in our business that means customers don't get served, logistics requirements are not met, construction projects fall behind and don't meet code, or the worst of all outcomes – we lose a life to a preventable accident.

Whether you are a senior leader or a new employee just starting your career, the time is now to ask yourself if you're prepared for our next engagement. Along with our personal preparedness we need to ask those that work for us, with us, or above us if they are ready for the UCI. Simply articulating the question brings the weight of the task before the wing, and the

answers to the question are sign posts to what our results will be at the conclusion of the UCI.

We are lucky to have such a great team working our preparedness requirements and tracking thousands of checklist items that must be complete for the UCI. But they will not do the work for us or provide the tough answers to the inspection team when compliance issues are found. These tasks fall to each of us. We individually must take care of our areas of responsibility and do our part to prepare the wing and our units for success.

So let's take Ben Franklin's words to heart and prepare for success versus failure. Our path to success is clear; our compliance checklists and our expertise and experience highlight the road ahead; we simply need to commit to executing our actions today and every day until the inspection begins.

For those that have waited until the last minute to begin...well, the final minute has started. And for those who feel there's still plenty of time, the forecast is for many days of rain...starting today.

Military professionalism and ethics

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON — I had the privilege to speak last week at the National Defense University's Conference on Military Professionalism, a forum I called for in order to discuss what the military is, what it has become and what it should be.

I view this not as merely a one-day event, but the beginning of an ongoing dialogue. The time for these conversations is now, I believe, because as I reflect on my years of service, particularly those during the Vietnam era, it occurs to me that the military tends to focus on these fundamental questions only after we are pierced by events that hurt us, both as an institution and as a nation.

We never want our actions to move us away from the American people, because our underpinning, our authorities, everything we are and everything we do, comes from them. We're an institution that the American people hold in great trust and confidence, a neutral instrument of the state, but we simply can't survive without their support.

As we begin our 10th year at war, our all-volunteer force hails from less than one percent of the population, and we are based in fewer places across our country than in previous generations. I worry that we could wake up one day and that the American people will no longer know us, and we won't know them.

An ongoing and open relationship with the American public has never been more important, not just in the communities where we are based, but across the country. This is one way we stay connected to the American citizens we protect and represent.

But what I really think it comes down to is accountability. Within the military, we need to be constantly asking ourselves, "Am I holding myself and those I am responsible for to the highest standards?"

Ultimately, our quality of work and our personal conduct will say far more about who we are and what we stand for than any other thing we do. Simply put, we owe the American people nothing less than our very best every single day.

The state of our profession is strong, but let's continue to look at, and to dig deeper, into who we are and what we need to do to keep it that way.

14th CES helps make worksite safer



U.S. Air Force photo/Phil Walker

A hybrid construction team led by 14th Civil Engineer Operations Flight member Phil Walker constructs a \$52,500 stairway safety improvement to the Searay tower in the heart of Restricted Area R4404 used by the 49th Fighter Training Squadron. The tower houses the range control officer who provides clearance to expend ordnance on the target and serves as a safety observer. With respect to the 49th FTS Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals mission, the ranger provides realistic training which allows prospective IFF aircrew members develop solid habit patterns which translates to their future aircraft and the control on live ranges and in combat.

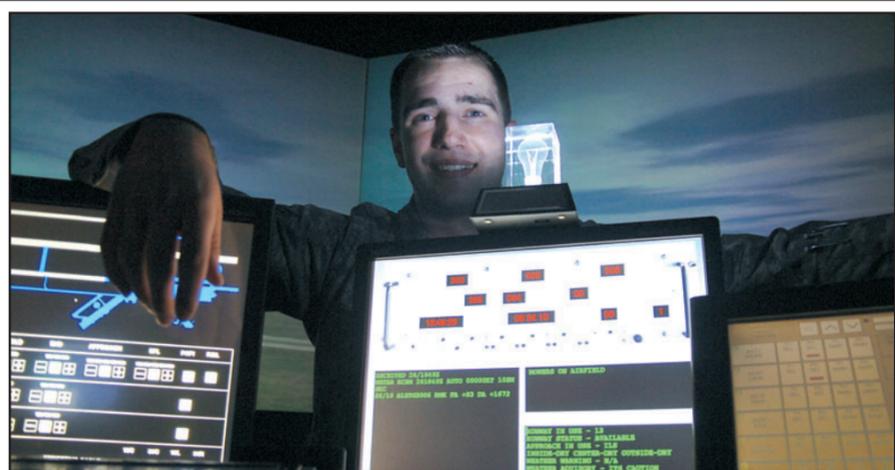
Team BLAZE members hold quarterly retreat ceremony



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

Team BLAZE members render salutes during the Jan. 25 wing retreat ceremony at Smith Plaza. The retreat ceremony marks the end of the duty day.

Team BLAZE receives awards, learns about MAJCOM at AETC Symposium



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
Senior Airman Brandon Smith stands with his and Senior Airman Chase Riddles' Learning Innovation Award given to them at the 2011 AETC Symposium by Gen. Edward A. Rice, Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, Jan. 21 in San Antonio, Texas. Airman Smith and Riddle are both members of the 14th Operations Support Squadron and Airman Riddle is currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

Airmen awarded for learning innovation

Air traffic controllers from the 14th Operations Support Squadron here, were recognized by Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, at the 2011 AETC Symposium as the recipients of the third annual Learning Innovation Award Jan. 21 in San Antonio, Texas.

Senior airmen Brandon Smith and Chase Riddle, 14th OSS Airfield Operations Flight, received the award, which is based on advances in future learning efforts, for redeveloping Columbus Tower's \$1 million simulation system to maximize tower student training and produce pilots more effectively.

"I can see an immediate and direct impact with this training system," Airman Smith said. "After only a couple of days in the air traffic control simulator I have seen Airmen's skills directly improve."

They designed 32 simulation scenarios and rebuilt simulations from the ground up, said Lt. Col. Alexander Walford, 14th OSS commander. They leveraged a see-it and re-create-it capability enabling the ability to regenerate live traffic events for use in future training scenarios.

In keeping with the mission of the 14th Flying Training Wing, "Produce Pilots,

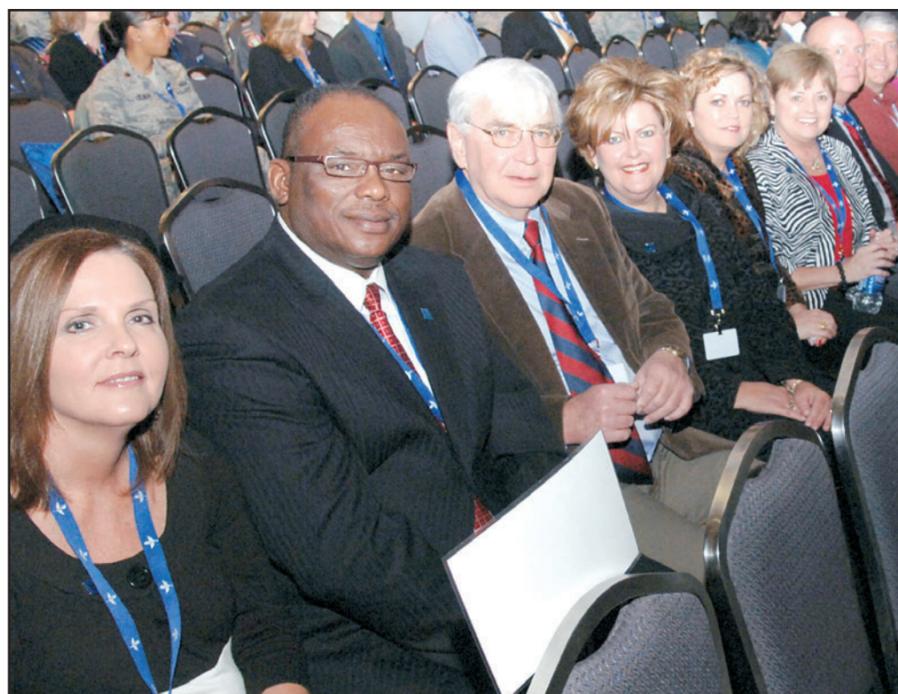
Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight," the two airmen fulfilled the second part of the mission by arming trainers with the ability to replicate exact situations within minutes of occurrence; providing immediate playback and training. Additionally, they generated 6,450 different aircraft to increase controller familiarity with various performance characteristics. Finally, they fed the fight by installing software simulation of actual AOR airfields providing familiarity of the airport environment prior to our ATC deployers departing home station.

AETC judges from several disciplines to include operations, communications, plans and programs, and information technology selected this innovative solution as the best technological advancement in furthering learning content, learning environment, and overall learning experience in accordance with concepts of the AETC White Paper, "On Learning: The Future of Air Force Education and Training."

"The herculean efforts of these Airmen directly contributed to increased student interactivity, enhanced performance, and saved valuable instructor resources...both at home and abroad," Colonel Walford said.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
Members of Team BLAZE sit together at the AETC AF ball celebrating the end of another AETC Symposium Jan. 22 in San Antonio, Texas. Ball attendees were able to here Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley speak at the event.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
LEFT: Fourteen members of the local community sit at the AETC Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 21. The community members attended as finalists and eventually winners of the Altus Trophy. **RIGHT:** The Altus Trophy for best community support in AETC, shown here, was awarded to the local community, including the City of Columbus and Lowndes County, at the AETC Symposium Jan. 20, in San Antonio, Texas.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
Gen. Edward Rice, AETC commander, presents Perla Hopkins with the Key Spouse of the Year Award for the MAJCOM. Also pictured are: Mrs. Hopkins husband, Capt. Bart Hopkins, 14th OSS Weather Flight, and Lt. Col. Alex Walford, 14th OSS commander.

14th OSS Key Spouse garners AETC award

Lt. Col Alex Walford
Commander, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Spanish to 3rd-graders every week for five months—while at the same time completing her second Masters degree in Spanish.

A Key Spouse for the 14th Operations Support Squadron was recognized last week by Air Education and Training Command Commander Gen. Edward Rice as the MAJCOM's Key Spouse of the Year for 2010.

Perla Hopkins, spouse of 14th OSS Weather Flight's Capt. Bart Hopkins, was recognized in San Antonio, Texas at the AETC Symposium as the AETC Key Spouse of the Year.

Mrs. Hopkins, a current squadron Key Spouse volunteer, was extensively involved in unit activities and was a staunch supporter for OSS families enabling the unit's ability to support the mission.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be recognized for this award," said Mrs. Hopkins. "I accept this not only for myself, but all the 14th OSS Key Spouses."

Mrs. Hopkins exemplified the pillars of the key spouse program through active engagement. She organized support efforts for a deployed Airman distraught from a death in the family, advocated base resources for a married couple experiencing difficulties and personally cared for an OSS team member experiencing life threatening medical complications. Additionally, she assisted a school-teacher spouse of a deployed member by teaching

Furthermore, Mrs. Hopkins provided unparalleled support to our deployed member spouses by delivering continuous information concerning local activities, events, marriage enhancement seminars and launched care package campaigns for 12 deployed Airmen. She also maintained a deployed Airman's home, enabling the member's spouse and new baby to reside with family members for the duration of the deployment.

"I believe in giving back to the Air Force family," Mrs. Hopkins explains "Over the past 14 years, the Air Force family has been there for us."

Aside from base involvement, Mrs. Hopkins is also a pillar to the community. She selflessly cared for families in need through children's clothes drives and Habitat for Humanity service and volunteered for base/community beautification projects and pilgrimage.

Mrs. Hopkins champions the 'one team' sentiment by advocating for family resources and soliciting base support agencies. Her sincere passion and genuine desire to care for our military families gives comfort to service members who must focus on the mission—often times many miles from home. I am proud of all of our key spouses. "Family First...Mission Always."