

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Mar. 11, 2011

Vol. 35, Issue 10

Weather



Today

High: 63, Low: 39
Sunny



Saturday

High: 71, Low: 47
Sunny



Sunday

High: 68, Low: 48
Partly Cloudy



Monday

High: 70, Low: 46
Few Showers

News Briefs

Team BLAZE Family Picnic

Team BLAZE members and their families are invited to join wing leadership at Freedom Park Monday, March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided. The alternate location in case of rain is Hanger 3.

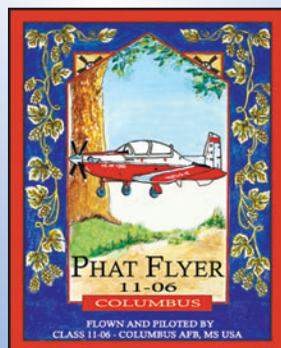
Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time begins March 13. Remember to set the clocks forward one hour.

UCI Out-Brief

Those invited to attend the UCI outbrief are reminded to come to the Kaye Auditorium on March 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 11-06 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



A student pilot is assisted by Maj. George Mounce, 14th Operations Group, during a pre-flight check. Major Mounce was deemed Exceptionally Qualified during his evaluation flight by the Air Standardization and Evaluation Visit team. U.S. Air Force photo

14th OG completes ASEV inspection

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

While most of the wing was just beginning their inspection earlier this week, Columbus Air Force Base's flying

training squadrons already had their time to shine after finishing a unique inspection March 4.

The Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation visit, known among most pilots as the ASEV, tested not only the

flying skills and general knowledge of the 14th Flying Training Wing's instructor pilots, but delved down into their training programs as well.

Ten inspectors including Lt. Col.

See INSPECTION, 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 (11-14)	1.00 days	-1.49 days	Mar. 10	48th (11-06)	0.00 days	2.52 days	Mar. 11	49th (10-EB)	-2.20 days	-0.13 days	Mar. 11	T-6	869	978	13,520
41st (11-15)	0.85 days	-2.08 days	Apr. 1	50th (11-06)	0.71 days	-3.84 days	Mar. 11					T-1	329	304	4,338
												T-38	360	299	4,391
												IFF	93	69	1,002

The graduation speaker is Gen. Robert Foglesong, USAF retired.

Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, Academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website with exception of Air Force publications through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

Visit us online!

Web page:
www.columbus.af.mil

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB

INSPECTION

(Continued from Page 1)

John Papachriston, 19th Air Force chief of undergraduate flying training, traveled to the base to check the standardization across the 14th Operations Group's flying training program.

"The inspectors evaluated the standards across the group staff and seven flying squadrons made sure we were keeping with the regulations and that programs were properly documented," said Col. Steven Stater, 14th OG commander.

Thirty-nine instructor pilots were administered flight evaluations throughout the week. These tests are given by an evaluator who flies with the instructor pilot and checks their skills against a list of 60 different items that range from their ability to teach while

in the air, to how well they land when they hit the ground said Lt. Col. Timothy Lawrence, 14th OG chief of standards and evaluation.

According to the draft report, the check rides received a 100 percent pass rate, with 26 instructor pilots with one or more commendable items and one instructor graded as Exceptionally Qualified.

Away from the cockpit, squadrons were tested on their emergency procedures known as boldface, their aircrew's performance, individual publications and training trackers.

Seventeen instructor pilots representing the 14th OG were identified as superior performers during the inspection.

Colonel Lawrence said although the final results for the inspection have not yet been released, he's feeling... EXCELLENT.

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.

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

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

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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
14 UCI Outbrief, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Team BLAZE Family Picnic, 11:30 a.m. @ Freedom Park	15 Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ AFRC	16 ALS Reveille, 7 a.m. @ Smith Plaza	17 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel	18 ALS Retreat, 5 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	19/20
21 CSC Dinner Social, 6 p.m. @ Club	22	23 March 23-25: JASDF Visit	24	25 11-07 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	26/27

Long Range Events

- March 28:** Columbus Pilgrimage begins
- March 29:** Women's History Month Breakfast
- March 29:** Newcomers Orientation
- March 31:** Enlisted Promotions
- March 31:** Airman Leadership School Graduation
- April 1:** 11-15 Track Select
- April 5:** Annual Prayer Breakfast
- April 8:** 11-07 Graduation
- April 9:** Daedalians Golf Tournament

Capt. Paul R. Stinson	T-1
Capt. Josh M. Arens	T-38
Capt. Eric J. Bliss	T-38
Capt. Derek R. Rankin	T-1
Capt. Brian P. Shea	T-44
1st Lt. Hasanain Al Hachami	T-6
1st Lt. Adam M. Spring	T-38
2nd Lt. Ibrahim Al Megren	T-38
2nd Lt. Abdullah Al Oraini	T-38
2nd Lt. Matthew P. Anger	T-1
2nd Lt. Braden J. Bawcom	T-38
2nd Lt. Evan J. Bergstrom	T-1
2nd Lt. David G. Beszeditz	T-1
2nd Lt. William E. Duck	T-1
2nd Lt. Matthew J. Duerst	T-1
2nd Lt. Halden J. Grossman	T-38
2nd Lt. Xavier C. Heim	T-44
2nd Lt. Maria E. Juliano	T-1
2nd Lt. Anthony J. Kenna	T-1
2nd Lt. Justin W. Lebon	T-1
2nd Lt. Christian J. Litscher IV	T-1
2nd Lt. Willard F. Martin	T-1
2nd Lt. Ryan D. Mendenhall	T-38
2nd Lt. Nicholas A. Roth	T-1
2nd Lt. Matt A. Savage	T-1
2nd Lt. Justin J. Smith	HELO
2nd Lt. Tory A. Wilson	T-1

Track Select

Leverette Award

2nd Lt. Halden J. Grossman

Top Guns

Contact: 1st Lt. Adam M. Spring

Instrument: 2nd Lt. Halden J. Grossman

Formation: 2nd Lt. Willard F. Martin

11-14

Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.



Col. Barre Seguin

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-7068. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the MSG building, Bldg. 730, suite 186. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

Stay TRICARE eligible: Keep DEERS up-to-date

Sharon Foster

TRICARE Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Beneficiaries who have recently experienced a life changing event, such as the birth or adoption of a child, or recent divorce or marriage should immediately record these changes in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. If they wait, their TRICARE benefit coverage could be affected.

DEERS is the worldwide, computerized database designed to maintain timely and accurate information on service members and dependents who are eligible for military benefits and entitlements, including TRICARE. Events that change a beneficiary's TRICARE status include: relocation, retirement, change of address, change in marital status, birth, death, adoption or Medicare entitlement.

A beneficiary can register eligible new family members in DEERS at the nearest military personnel office or uniformed

services identification card issuing office. To find an office near them, they can go to the Rapids Site Locator website, www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. Beneficiaries can call to update contact information only at 1-800-538-9552.

To register a child in DEERS, bring the following forms:

- An original or certified-copy of the birth certificate or certificate of live birth (signed by the attending physician or other responsible person from a U.S. hospital or military treatment facility) or consular report of birth (FS-240) for children overseas;

- A record of adoption or a letter of placement of the child into the home by a recognized placement/adoption agency or the court before the final adoption; and

- A DD form 1172 signed by the sponsor and verifying official from a uniformed services ID card-issuing facility.

Get more information on DEERS eligibility at www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

Women's History Month celebrates Molly Pitcher

Staff Sgt. Aubrey Durkin

14th Medical Support Squadron

The story of Molly Pitcher is truly a hallmark in women's history. Like many army wives of the time, she accompanied her husband to battle, bringing water to the hot and thirsty soldiers in a pitcher and gaining the nick name "Molly Pitcher."

What made her remarkable was the other role she played in battle. During the intense Battle of Monmouth in 1778, her husband was wounded. Without hesitation, she took his place at the cannon and fought until victory. Due to her heroism, then Gen. George Washington granted her the rank of sergeant.

To hear more fascinating tales of historical heroines, please join us at the Chapel annex on March 18 at 11 a.m. for our Women's History Lunch and Learn. Bring a lunch and sit down while we regale you with more stories like this.

For more information on the 2011 Women's History Month activities, or to get involved, please contact Tech. Sgt. Erica Solis at 434- 2212, Staff Sgt. Nathalie Moreano at 434-2137, or Staff Sgt. Aubrey Durkin at 434-2108.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 72 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Base News

Dorm Dinner

The next enlisted dorm dinner will be March 17th beginning at 5 p.m. in the chapel annex. This month's meal is hosted by the BLAZE 56. The dinner will be Mardi Gras themed with Louisiana style catfish, red beans and rice, and Jambalaya.

RefresHer

Join us Thursday, March 31 in the Chapel Annex at 6 p.m. for Tea and Book Review of "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult. Bring your favorite teacup and dessert. If you would like to be involved in planning the next RefresHer, please contact Senior Airman Melissa Vallia at 434-2500.

Airman's Attic

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman's Attic has moved locations. They can now be found in building 530 and are open Tuesdays from noon to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Donations may be dropped off during business hours. To donate furniture items please call 434-8824 or (719) 369-6791.

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.

Teen Aviation Camp

The Teen Aviation Camp at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. from June 4 to June 9 is designed for teens entering their sophomore or junior year in the fall of 2011. Applications may be picked up at the Youth Center, complete, and return by March 15. This year's Aviation Camp is open to dependents of active duty, retirees, DOD civilians and activated National Guard or AF reservist. Lodging, meals and program cost are paid by the AF. Transportation to the aviation camp will be the individual's responsibility. For more information contact Kayline Hamilton at 434-2503.

Teen Space Camp

The Teen Space Camp U.S. Rocket and Space Center, Huntsville Ala. from July 25 to July 30 is designed for teens ages 12 to 18. Applications may be picked up at the Youth Center and should be complete and returned by March 22. This year's Space Camp is open

to dependents of active duty, AF Retired Military, AF Civilians Employees, and activated Air National Guard or AF Reserve. The camp will be divided into two age divisions: ages 12-14 and age 15-18. Interested youth must have a 2.8 GPA. Lodging, meals and activity fees are paid by the AF. Transportation to Space Center will be the individual responsibility. For more information contact Kayline Hamilton at 434-2503

AF Teen Leadership Camp

The Air Force Teen Leadership Camp is a five day residential beginning July 11 at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Applications must be completed and returned to the Youth Center by March 22. The program which provides youth a glimpse of what university life is like while developing their leadership skills. Activities include team building, High-low ropes course, conflict resolution, public speaking, and more. Lodging, meals, and activity fees are centrally funded beginning with dinner on July 11. Travel costs are the responsibility of the attendee or installation. A dependent of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an Air Force or Joint Base installation, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, Air National Guard or AF Reserve who have been activated within the last 12 months. High school students who've completed their freshmen year by the fall of 2011 who are interested in developing leadership skills. For more information contact Mr. Hamilton at 434-2503.

Hunting Season

The Mississippi hunting season officially closed Jan. 31. However the 2011 to 2012 hunting season will open on Oct. 1. Not all hunting is over; turkey season will remain open until May 2.

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. Lisa Pender at 434-2603 or Senior Airman Edgardo 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.

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.

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

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

Columbus AFB Youth Wins State Youth of the Year

Jana Hall

14th Force Support Squadron

One of Columbus AFB Youth Programs own brought home top honors from the 2011 Mississippi Youth of the Year competition held from March 3 to 5 in Jackson, Miss. The ambitious two-time base level winner competed against 12 others representing Boys and Girls Clubs of America throughout the state.

La Chardonnay Johnsons' first place finish garnered her \$6,500 in scholarships and made her the first military entrant to win at the state level in Mississippi, as well as one of only a handful to win in their states nationwide.

Ms. Johnson, a Caledonia High School senior, will go on to represent Mississippi in the Southeast regional competition with nine other states' representatives in July. A win there will add another \$10,000 in scholarships to her purse and send her to the National BGCA competition in September. Regardless the outcome of the next two hurdles to a national title, she will be competing in the conjoined Air Force Services and BGCA program in Washington, D.C. lasting from July 31 to Aug. 5.

"This state win is my proudest accomplishment so far," said Ms. Johnson, who also has received a \$17,000 scholarship from the Mississippi University for Women where she plans to attend in the fall.

The judges based their decision on her extracurricular activities, over 900 hours of community service on and off base during the last year and a three-minute speech on her military life, Ms. Johnson said.

"We're so proud of LaChardonnay. Kudos have come down from the Pentagon, Air Force Services and AETC levels," said Jeri Peterson, chief of Airman and family services. "She has a great story that well represents what our military youth deal with, and the speech she gave at the state competition is inspiring."

Ms. Johnson is the daughter of La Chunda Sparks, 14th Medical Group, and Senior Master Sgt. Charles Johnson, USAF retired, who is currently working as a civilian air traffic controller at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Ms. Johnson, who is in the top ten percent of her class, attributes her success thus far to her mother's strength and dedication to her family despite life's struggles. Her mother and stepfather, William Sparks of Columbus, have six children between them including two foster daughters. Three of the six will be attending college in the fall.

"She has a very strong family life," said Kayline Hamilton, director of the youth center. "Her mother instills in her the importance of education and other essential life lessons to be the best she can be."

Besides being an active volunteer on and off base and an 11 year member of CAFB Youth Programs, Ms. Johnson's current extracurricular activities include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Career Community Leaders of America, National Honor Society and BETA Club. Upon graduation in May, she will receive the Mississippi Scholars Medal.



U.S. Air Force photo

The southeast regional competition is next for La Chardonnay Johnson, where she will be representing Mississippi.



U.S. Air Force photo

La Chardonnay Johnson, an 11-year member of CAFB youth programs competed at the base level in February for Youth of the Year and went on her to the state level where she claimed first place.

Airmen deliver aid to Libyan evacuees

Master Sgt. Jim Fisher
17th Air Force Public Affairs

DJERBA, Tunisia — Airmen from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, delivered humanitarian aid March 4 to Libyan evacuees and foreign nationals, who have fled here due to recent political uprising in Libya.

The Airmen, assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron, piloted two C-130J Super Hercules and received 2,000 wool blankets, 40 units of tarps and 9,600 water containers from officials with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Pisa, Italy, to be delivered to Tunisia.

Lt. Col. Charles Schlegel, the 435th Air Mobility Squadron commander, is leading a contingency response team working with aircrews from the 37th ALS on the humanitarian missions. He said his team is excited to partner with 17th Air Force members to support State Department officials.

“We know that there are a lot of folks (who) are currently displaced, (who) will hopefully soon be able to return to their home countries and, hopefully, we can expedite that and bring humanitarian assistance to people who need it,” Colonel Schlegel said. “The 17th Air Force did a great job coordinating with the agencies here, making sure the (aid) was ready and could be quickly delivered to people who are in need. This is being driven by the State Department, and we are ready to support any requests they have.”

Army Col. Alberto Chidini, the coordinator of the Army's Camp Darby humanitarian assistance program near Pisa, was on the flightline for the pickup in Italy, making sure



U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens
Airmen load blankets, tarps and water containers onto a C-130J Super Hercules March 4, 2011, in Pisa, Italy. The aircraft flew the supplies to Tunisia as part of the U.S. government's efforts with the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of the Libyan people and others in the country who fled during political uprisings. The Airmen are assigned to the 435th Air Mobility Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

the humanitarian cargo was ready to load. It's important for people to be willing to help in situations like the one in Libya and its border regions, he said.

“I've seen the reports. Everything is lacking,” Colonel Chidini said. “The situation is very bad, and our people are ready to react. It's important because this could happen to

anyone and hopefully someone is ready to help. In this case, (it's) us.

“It makes you feel good; it makes you feel proud,” he said.

Some prior service officers eligible to retire early

Lt. Col. Ann Stefanek
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced plans recently to allow some prior service officers the opportunity to retire earlier than expected.

As a result of the Fiscal 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, eligible officers with prior enlisted service who have completed 20 years of total active federal military service may apply to retire by Sept. 1 with less total active federal commissioned service.

“This new legislation gives the Air Force the ability to allow most prior service officers the option to retire with

eight rather than 10 years of active commissioned service,” explained Brig. Gen. Sharon K. G. Dunbar, the director of Air Force Force Management Policy.

More Airmen are choosing to stay in the Air Force, and retention is at the highest level in 16 years. For that reason, the Air Force introduced voluntary and involuntary force-management programs to better size and shape the current force. A two-year waiver of active commissioned service is one of many voluntary programs available to eligible officers this year as part of the Air Force's initiative to reduce end strength.

“We want to leverage voluntary separation and retirement programs to the maximum extent possible, and so

we're pleased this early retirement option is now available,” General Dunbar said.

Most officers in the line of the Air Force, judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical services corps and medical service corps competitive categories are eligible. Additional program eligibility and information will be sent out from the Air Force Personnel Center.

For more information, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

NOTE — Due to the migration of content on the Air Force Personnel Center personnel services website, Airmen may direct their questions concerning the two-year waiver of commissioned service for prior-enlisted officers to the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

DOD improves troops' access to quality education

Elaine Wilson
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are taking extensive measures — from education reviews to agency partnerships — to ensure service members have access to quality education and learning opportunities in their off-duty hours, a Defense Department official said.

Robert L. Gordon III, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, outlined these efforts for members of a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee March 2.

Each year, one-third of the nation's service members enroll in post-secondary education courses leading to associate's, bachelor's and advanced degrees, Mr. Gordon said. This past year alone, officials tallied more than 857,000 course enrollments and more than 45,000 service members who earned a degree or certification.

Service members are nontraditional students, attending school part time during off-duty hours, Mr. Gordon said, noting that oftentimes “military missions, deployments, transfers and family obligations impinge on their ability to continue their education.”

This can result in an interruption of studies, or breaks of months and even years between courses or in completing degree requirements, he said.

To better accommodate their work schedules and demands, military officials are turning to technology to create more

opportunities than ever before, Mr. Gordon said. Colleges and universities deliver classroom instruction via the Internet and on military installations around the world.

“There are no geographical confines,” he said. “Courses are offered on-board ships, submarines and at deployed locations.”

From spring 2009 to 2010, for example, 432 service members in Iraq and Afghanistan graduated from post-secondary schools, Mr. Gordon said.

With such a widespread educational offering, officials are working to ensure that tuition assistance dollars, intended for off-duty education, are well spent. All institutions participating in tuition assistance programs must be accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the Education Department, Mr. Gordon said. And colleges and universities on installations must adhere to additional criteria.

The DOD, Gordon said, also contracted with the American Council on Education to conduct the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review, which provided a third-party independent review of the DOD's on-installation programs.

Officials are pursuing another contract, to be awarded by Oct. 1, that will have an “enhanced quality criteria,” Mr. Gordon explained, and include all modes of course delivery as well as all institutions on and off military installations participating in the tuition assistance program. Officials will track third-party recommendations for this new review, he added, and monitor corrective actions to ensure ongoing improvement.

To further bolster educational services, officials are on track

to implement a new policy, effective Jan. 1, 2012, that would require every institution participating in the tuition assistance program to have a memorandum of understanding with the DOD. This MOU would include an agreement that institutions must participate in the new review process, he said.

The DOD officials are also working with the Education Department on a “sharing agreement,” Gordon noted, which if enacted, will enable officials to receive reports from accrediting agencies, school-monitoring reviews and requirements for state authorizations of schools. The department will apply this information within the DOD's voluntary education programs and prior to issuing tuition assistance funds, he explained.

To garner feedback, officials have developed an online, automated tracking system to document issues and concerns, Mr. Gordon said. Students, DOD personnel and schools can submit their comments on a Web-based system, which will track submissions and record resolutions, he said.

“The information gleaned will be used to address improper behavior or questionable practices by an institution participating in the TA program,” Gordon said.

Government Accountability Office officials recently conducted a detailed examination of the tuition assistance program, Mr. Gordon said. “I'm pleased to say that I believe their report on our management of this large and complex program was favorable,” he said.

The accountability office made five administrative recommendations, Mr. Gordon said. “We concurred with all of them and are implementing them now,” he said.

U.S. military aircraft bring displaced Egyptians home

Master Sgt. Jim Fisher
17th Air Force Public Affairs

CAIRO, Egypt — Air Force C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, joined Marine Corps KC-130 aircraft March 5 in airlifting displaced Egyptian citizens here from Djerba, Tunisia.

More than 300 passengers traveled on four flights.

The aircraft and teams conducted the humanitarian shuttles in support of President Barack Obama's call to assist the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development in assisting those fleeing the ongoing conflict in neighboring Libya. The Egyptian government officials asked the U.S. for help in returning evacuees from Tunisia.

Lt. Col. Charles Schlegel, the commander of the Air Force team, said the crews were glad to begin moving passengers.

His team began their contribution by delivering humanitarian supplies for USAID March 4.

“This is why we are here, so we are all glad

to be able to help people get home,” Colonel Schlegel said. Normally the commander of Ramstein AB's 435th Air Mobility Squadron, Colonel Schlegel is commanding a group of aircrews and contingency response personnel who are serving under U.S. Africa Command. AFRICOM is directing the Department of Defense contribution in support of the State Department.

Colonel Schlegel said 17th Air Force, the air component for AFRICOM, had put the forces together and is orchestrating the airlift from its Ramstein AB headquarters.

“They have done a great job of coordinating the effort,” he said. “We stand ready to support the State Department and any requests they have.”

For now, the effort involves making sure passengers are safely moved from the developing humanitarian crisis on Libya's borders to their home country. As the displaced Egyptian citizens stepped off the ramps of the Super Hercules and onto Egyptian soil, they showed their gratitude to the American crews with handshakes and simple words of thanks, most coming in Arabic.



U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens
Displaced Egyptian citizens who fled to Tunisia from violence and instability in Libya are transported aboard an Air Force C-130J from Djerba, Tunisia to Cairo, Egypt March 5, 2011. This response to the developing humanitarian crisis is part of a broader U.S. government effort to relieve suffering caused by the crisis in Libya.

Base families offered a variety of activities

Lunch Available at the Golf Course

The Pro Shop Snack Bar at Whispering Pines Golf Course is now offering weekly lunch specials Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 434-7932 for more information.

Base Stable Openings

The Columbus AFB stables currently has stalls available to board horses. To board on base, you must be active duty, retired military, a GS or NAF employee or a contracted employee – in that order of priority. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505 or Connie Lisowski at 889-0138.

Net an AF Hoops 3-Pointer Souvenir Cup

Food, fun and basketball is the theme all through March as Indy's Restaurant at the Columbus Club, the Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course and Strike Zone Lanes bowling center snack bar promote the AF Hoops program from March 1 to April 10. These facilities will be offering 44-ounce 2011 Final Four souvenir cups filled with a favorite fountain beverage for \$2.50 each. This offer will continue while cup supplies last.

Indy's and the Bowling Center

They are also great places to catch a National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball game or tournament with friends or family while enjoying a meal.

For more information, contact Indy's at 434-2419, the Bowling Center at 434-3426 or the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

Say Cheese!

The Arts and Crafts Center is offering professional 3-D seasonal backdrops for your do-it-yourself photo shoots. You bring the camera, the kids, the pets, the friends...whoever. It's free and available for use Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays by appointment. Call 434-7836 for an appointment or for more information.

Home School Collection at the Library

The base library has a phenomenal collection of educational fun books, games, puzzles, "how-to" guides and the like for home-schoolers. For more information about the Home School Collection, please contact the library at 434-2934

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.

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, fitness and 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.

Past and future giants

Chief Master Sgt. Tony Young
14th Operations Group Superintendent

If you didn't attend the promotion ceremony last Monday you missed a unique and special event. It was special because we recognized five Airmen and three NCOs pinning on their next stripe. However, it was unique because the 14th Flying Training Wing had the pleasure of promoting Chief Master Sgt. Larmont Green. Chief Green is the first E-9 the wing has recognized since Command Chief Zef Smith was promoted back in November 2008. In 2010 the Air Force selected 504 of 2,287 eligible senior master sergeants for promotion. If you do the math that is a 22.04 percent selection rate however, if you compare that number to the entire enlisted population it's

only one percent.

What else makes Chief Green's promotion so unique is, he is a Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to the 375th Civil Engineering Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. IMAs are reservists who are assigned to active duty units to do jobs that are essential in wartime but do not require full-time manning during peace time. He is permanently assigned to Team BLAZE as the Assistant Installation Deployment Officer.

He, just like me and every other chief master sergeant, is very humbled to be standing here today on the shoulders of giants that came before us. Giants like Chief Master Sgt. Fred Archer, Tuskegee Airman and the first African American promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant in the Air Force.

Air Force facilitates passionate pursuit of learning

Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The faint smell of sawdust from a pencil being sharpened, the kiss of air from flipping the pages of new book and the hum of my teacher's voice as she explained the world all contributed to my passion for learning.

My insatiable curiosity and desire to learn significantly influenced my decision to join the Air Force. I knew before I raised my right hand that this would be the greatest opportunity in my life ? a way to discover something new every day. I knew I'd have the chance to learn how to be a good Airman in basic training, learn my career in tech school and at my first duty station, learn about different people and different cultures not only on deployment but within my own country and continue my formal education after duty hours.

In today's Air Force, deciding to forgo a higher level of education is no longer an option. At a minimum, a Community College

of the Air Force degree is required to advance into the senior noncommissioned officer ranks.

If planned carefully, that requirement can be easily completed in conjunction with at least a bachelor's degree within one enlistment. This is because in most cases it's possible to use the same credits for multiple degrees. For example, I completed my associate's degree at a civilian community college before I joined the Air Force and I've been able to apply those classes to both my CCAF degree and my bachelor's degree.

The best part is that all it costs is time because the Air Force allows each of its members \$4,500 a year of tuition assistance in addition to their G.I. Bill benefits. This is free money and you can use it at nearly any accredited educational institution to learn about almost anything that interests you.

Now, because of my duty requirements, I've relinquished my notebooks, pens and classroom atmosphere for discussion boards, e-books and the glow of a computer screen.

While it's definitely a different experience, I'm still moving towards my educational goals and feeding my sense of wonder.

Some advice that I have for active-duty members who want to pursue their education is -

Go to the education office. The staff is there to help you with every step of the tuition assistance process and answer any questions you may have about schools in the local area, G.I. bill benefits, testing for college credit, how to earn a CCAF degree and much more.

Use every penny of your tuition assistance. It's free money, and if you don't use it, you may as well set fire to \$4,500 dollars every year.

Make sure the school you wish to attend is accredited and that you get a degree plan for the major you want to pursue. Both are required for tuition assistance approval, so drop by the education office and ask them to check the institution's accreditation.

Look for a school that is "military friendly." Many schools will actually cover the cost of books, fees and even tuition if it exceeds the

\$750 per course tuition assistance limit.

Don't take on more than you can handle. Being in the military and attending college each have a tendency to increase stress on their own, so be realistic about how many classes you can take at a time without burning out.

Make time for the things that are important to you. College is time consuming. Use effective time management skills so you can still spend time with friends and family and take time for yourself.

Don't get discouraged. If you become overwhelmed, take a step back and evaluate your options. Most schools offer help for those struggling with classes; and don't forget the wingman concept.

No matter how you obtain it, an education is one of the most important things you can take away from your Air Force career because it will set you up for success even after you turn in your combat boots.

For more information, visit your base education office.

Dollars & \$ense Topic #27: TDY reimbursable expenses

What can be considered a reimbursable expense on my TDY voucher?

The following is a list of the most common reimbursable expenses and applicable requirements to be reimbursed. All expenses \$75 and over require a receipt to be reimbursed:

Lodging - A receipt is required for on and off base lodging regardless of amount. Receipt must be itemized Airfare and Commercial Travel Office fees. A finalized (not estimated) receipt is required regardless of amount.

Rental car - A finalized (not estimated) receipt is required regardless of amount. Rental car must be approved on orders. Global Positioning System rentals may be approved when deemed necessary by the

Approving Official.

Fuel for rental car.

Privately Owned Vehicle mileage or taxi and from airport.

Taxi fares.

Baggage tips (airport only). Baggage tips at hotels are not reimbursable (Civilians allowed government baggage only).

Laundry (Military). Actual expense not to exceed \$2 per day. TDY must be a minimum of 7 nights.

Laundry (Civilian). Actual reasonable expense. TDY must be a minimum of 4 nights.

ATM Cash advance fees (Government Travel Card/Controlled Spend Account only).

Excess baggage. Must be authorized in

orders, or approved by the AO on the voucher (includes the first piece of accompanied baggage if there is a charge for the first piece).

Currency Conversion Fees. The fee charged for currency conversion, including cash conversions.

To see the full list of reimbursable expenses, military members should reference Joint Federal Travel Regulations Volume 1 Appendix G. Civilians please reference Joint Travel Regulations Volume 2 Appendix G.

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

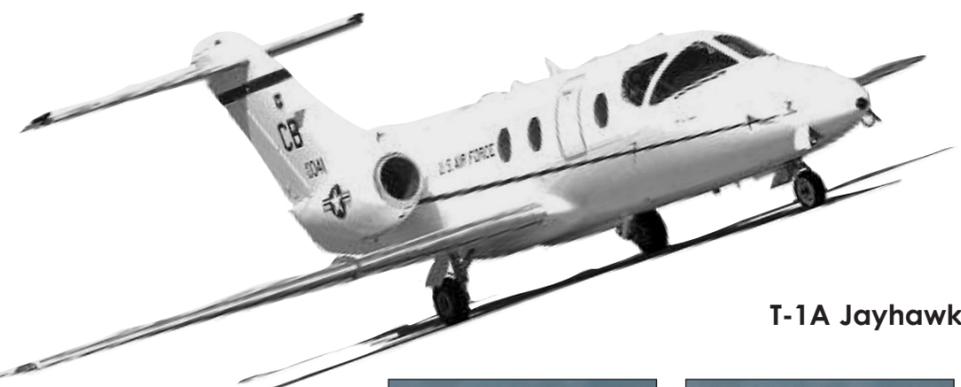
**If you are unable to come during customer service hours due to mission requirements, please call 434-2705/2095 to schedule an appointment.



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



SUPT Class 11-06 earns silver wings



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon



2nd Lt. Nojan Bauer
Fresno, Calif.
RC-26, Fresno ANGB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Sean Anderson
Gloucester, Va.
PC-12, Cannon AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. William Dyke
Oak Ridge, Tenn.
C-130E/H, FE Warren AFB, Wyo.



2nd Lt. Michael Langdon
Seattle, Wyo.
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.

Eighteen officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-06 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

The graduation speaker for the class is retired Gen. Robert Foglesong. He retired Feb. 1, 2006 from his position as Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe; Commander, Allied Air Component Command Ramstein; Air Component Commander, U.S. European Command, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and Director, Multinational Joint Air Power Competence Center, Kalkar, Germany.

Students receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

2nd Lt. Eric P. Cadorette, T-38, and 2nd Lt. David P. Buckley, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented Lieutenant Cadorette and 2nd Lt. Michael W. Langdon, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Lieutenant Cadorette and Lieutenant Buckley were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 11-06.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and

landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

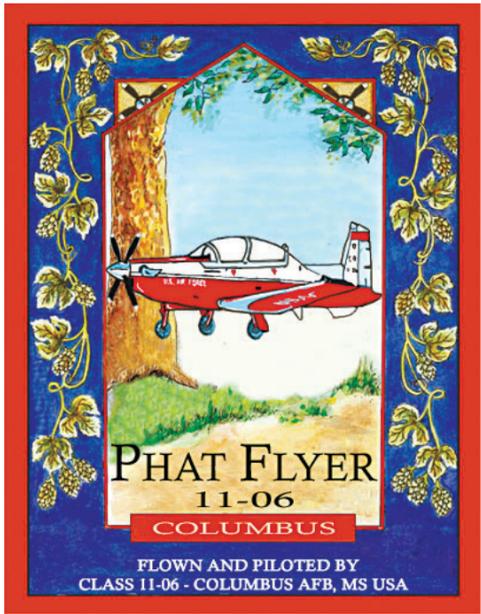
Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with several business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus Air Force Base. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners.

SUPT Class 11-06's pilot partners are Bob and Carol Eidson representing The Office Sports Bar and Grill as well as Boyce Adams, representing BankTEL Systems.



2nd Lt. David Buckley
North Kingstown, R.I.
C-130J, Quonset Point, R.I.



2nd Lt. Carson Carnette
Knoxville, Tenn.
KC-135R, McGhee Tyson, Tenn.



2nd Lt. Marius Mitria
Falticeni, Romania
MIG-21, Bacau Air Force Base, Romania



2nd Lt. Brent Smith
Ames, Iowa
F-16, Kelly ANGB, Tex.



2nd Lt. Trisden Wright
Lithia, Fla.
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



1st Lt. Cesar Rolon
Tijuana, Mexico
F-5E, Military AB No. 1 Santa Lucia, Mexico



2nd Lt. Matthew Belton
Brandon Fla.
C-130E/H, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Eric Cadorette
Holyoke, Mass.
C-21, Ramstein AB, Germany



2nd Lt. Ian Crawford
Charleston, S.C.
C-17, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.



2nd Lt. Michael Laney
Wilmington, N.C.
B-1, Dyess AFB, Tex.



2nd Lt. David Mackintosh
Manlius, N.Y.
C-130J, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Joshua Martz
Gainesville, Tex.
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Kelly Wright
Horsham, Pa.
C-21, Peterson AFB, Colo.

