

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 35, Issue 18

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

May 6, 2011

## Weather



**Today**

High: 79, Low: 52  
Sunny



**Saturday**

High: 84, Low: 58  
Partly Cloudy



**Sunday**

High: 88, Low: 62  
Mostly Sunny



**Monday**

High: 90, Low: 67  
Partly Cloudy

## News Briefs

### Class 11-09 Assignment Night

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-09 will hold their assignment night tonight at the Columbus Club.

### 19 AF/CC, CCC Visit

Columbus Air Force Base welcomes the 19th Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, and the 19th AF Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Wilson for their May 10-11 visit.

### AF Ball Golf Fundraiser

An 18-hole golf tournament will begin noon, May 13 at the Whispering Pines to raise funds for the 2011 Columbus Air Force Ball. Greens fees are \$10, and carts are \$10. See inside for information on how to win a free ticket to the ball!

## Inside



Feature **10**

BLAZE: CAFB cornerstone is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick  
**Team BLAZE senior leadership stand together in front of the BLAZE Hanger May 4 in support of the 14th Flying Training Wing's new #1 priority: Back-2-BLAZE. "BLAZE" which stands for Building Leaders, Advancing Integrity, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do.**

# Back-2-BLAZE

### Col. Barre Seguin

14th Flying Training Wing  
Commander

Team BLAZE, our World Series of inspections is over, for now. And with the closing of our series, comes a new wing #1 priority. Our new #1 Team BLAZE priority shifts our focus of effort, beyond mission

accomplishment, away from inspection preparation and back to the cornerstone of our Team. Team BLAZE, we are now putting a priority of effort toward getting Back-2-BLAZE!

BLAZE, our wing's moniker and cornerstone, was coined by Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, USAF, retired, when he was the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander

in the late nineties. In search of a rally-cry, one the 14 FTW Airmen could get behind and identify with as a wing moniker, Gen. Catton ran a contest. He tasked Columbus Air Force Base Airmen to offer slogans for consideration. He selected BLAISE, for Building Leaders, Advancing Integrity, Service Before Self, and

See **BLAZE**, 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 (12-03)	2.83 days	-1.97 days	Jun. 8	48th (11-09)	-0.59 days	-1.89 days	May 20	49th (10-GB)	2.14 days	1.00 days	May 11	T-6	425	361	18,598
41st (12-02)	0.85 days	-1.79 days	May 17	50th (11-09)	-3.43 days	-6.58 days	May 20					T-1	139	156	5,942
												T-38	158	160	6,296
												IFF	36	29	1,389

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Ronald R. "Ron" Ladnier, Commander 17th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base Germany.

## BLAZE

(Continued from Page 1)

Excellence in all we do. When BLAISE was ceremoniously unfurled, Airmen shrugged their shoulders, looked at one another, and with a questioning voice asked, "Blasé?" Quickly realizing Blasé wasn't the rally-cry he was looking for, Gen. Catton went back to the drawing board and the wing ended up with BLAZE, for Building Leaders, Advancing Integrity, S[Z]ervice before S[Z]elf, and Excellence in all we do.

Recent lapses of discipline both at Team BLAZE and around Air Education and Training Command have highlighted the necessity to increase our emphasis on our Air Force basics of building leaders and ensuring our Airmen embody our Air Force core values. Each incident occurred, in part, due to a failure of leadership or a breakdown in adherence to our AF core values, which resulted in mission failure. As our cornerstone, we must focus our Feed the Fight efforts on building leaders and ensuring our core values are instilled and part of what defines our Airmen. This is our wing priority, and our focus on Back-2-BLAZE will start from the top.

Leadership is the skill of influencing people to enthusiastically accomplish the mission, with character that inspires confidence. According to Jim Hunter, a leading expert on servant leadership, leadership is character in action, and leadership development and character development are one. Therefore, our focus on building leaders must focus on character development, and, to that end, on reinforcing the personal courage necessary to commit to and cultivate compliance. Additionally, we must personally have the courage to live our core values and to expect and enforce the same in our fellow Airmen. Building leaders is building character, and building character is committing to compliance and our core values. Leadership is about doing the right thing. Character is about doing the right thing. Living our core values is the right thing...always.

I've often heard integrity defined as doing the right thing

regardless of who's watching. I recently discovered a new definition of integrity. When talking to a group of over 400 elementary school age children, I asked, "How many of you want me to stop talking so you can get on with enjoying the planned festivities?" All 400+ hands went up. That's integrity!

Service before self is not only about putting the demands of the mission first, but it's also about being a servant leader to peers and those entrusted to our care. We need to strive daily to ensure the needs of those we work with or supervise are met ahead of our own needs. This is service before self. Lastly, we strive for excellence, always! Excellence is compliance and accomplishing the mission to the best of our ability within our resource constraints. Feeding the Fight with respect to building leaders, advancing integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do brings us Back-2-BLAZE.

One additional thought: in our core values, it is not just integrity, but rather integrity first. That means when in a situation where our core values of excellence or service before self conflict, always resort to integrity...first.

The "2" in Back-2-BLAZE is what wingmen in flight use to respond to their flight lead when directed to accomplish a task. Thus, my priority also embodies the wingman concept within the framework of living our core values.

So, Team BLAZE, at all levels our priority is building leaders and emphasizing and holding each other accountable for being the embodiment of our core values. We will deliberately pursue this priority, with our BLT or BLAZE Leadership Team leading the way. The BLT will have an off-site the first weekend of June focused on "Servant Leadership and Strategic Negotiation" development, as well as a WWII D-Day walk through history. I expect leaders at all levels to find ingenious ways to develop leaders entrusted to their care and to ensure our core values are inculcated into every Team BLAZE Airman. Part of my guidance to Team BLAZE is to "Be a wingman." Let's be wingmen to one another as we get Back-2-BLAZE!

## 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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## MSG parking lot repairs delayed



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

**Equipment for repairing the 14th Mission Support Group south-western parking lot awaits for an opportunity to begin the project May 2. Due to recent rains the parking lot is expected to be closed until Monday, May 16.**

# 19th AF commander and command chief master sergeant to visit CAFB



Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, 19th Air Force Commander, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas will be visiting Columbus AFB May 10 to 11 along with his wife Mrs. Patricia Solo to better familiarize himself with Team BLAZE's mission. During his stay the former 14th Flying Training Wing commander will meet with Airmen, tour the base's new facilities, and meet with the local community.

General Solo was commissioned in 1978 after being named a distinguished graduate in the ROTC program at Michigan State University. Following graduation, he served in a variety of operational assignments as a C-141 pilot. While serving as a C-141B chief pilot in the 8th Military Airlift Squadron, General Solo commanded 26 combat support sorties during Operation Desert Storm. During operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, General Solo directed the Joint Logistics Operation Center at the Pentagon, where he coordinated all deployment orders to meet combatant commander requirements for overseas contingency operations. Prior to his current assignment, General Solo was the Commander, 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, responsible for planning, scheduling, and directing a fleet of nearly 1,300 aircraft in support of strategic airlift, air refueling and aeromedical operations around the world.

The general is a command pilot with more than 5,500 flying hours in the C-141, C-5, KC-135, C-17 and T-1A.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Williams, 19th Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas will visit Columbus Air Force Base May 10 to 11 to gain a better understanding the Team BLAZE Mission. During his stay he will meet with the base's enlisted Airmen and leadership, tour facilities, and meet with the local community.

Chief Williams is the senior enlisted leader responsible to the NAF commander for the professional development, military readiness and mission effectiveness of the NAF's enlisted Airmen. 19th Air Force consists of 17 wings, more than 17,000 Airmen, 6,300 civilians and executes more than 5,000,000 flying hours annually; producing 26,000 trained aircrew members for war fighting commands.

Chief Williams enlisted in the Air Force and reported to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic military training in December 1982. His assignments include bases in California, Florida, Georgia, North Dakota, and Virginia. Chief Williams also served overseas in Germany and the United Kingdom.



## 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
9	10 19th AF/CC and CCC Visit Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ AFRC BCC Community Reception for 19 AF/CC. CCC, 6 p.m. @ Gram's Camp	11 IFF Graduation, 4:45 p.m. @ 49th FTS	12	13 Back-2-BLAZE Day AF Ball Fund-Raiser Golf Tournament, noon @ Whispering Pines	14/15 OG Career Day
16 CSC Dinner, 6 p.m. @ Club	17 12-02 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club	18	19 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel Annex Veterans Education, Training and Assistant Night, 5 p.m. @ Golden Triangle WIN Job Center Daedalians Meeting, 6 p.m. @ Club	20 11-09 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	21/22

## Long Range Events

May 23: Night Flying Week

May 24: CCAF Graduation

May 26: Memorial Retreat Ceremony

May 27: 11-10 Assignment Night

May 31: Enlisted promotions

June 2: Caring for People Forum

June 3: Boy Scouts Flag Retirement Ceremony and BBQ

June 4: Annual Classic Car Show

# 2011 AF Ball coin design competition

Win a free ticket to the 2011 CAFB AF ball

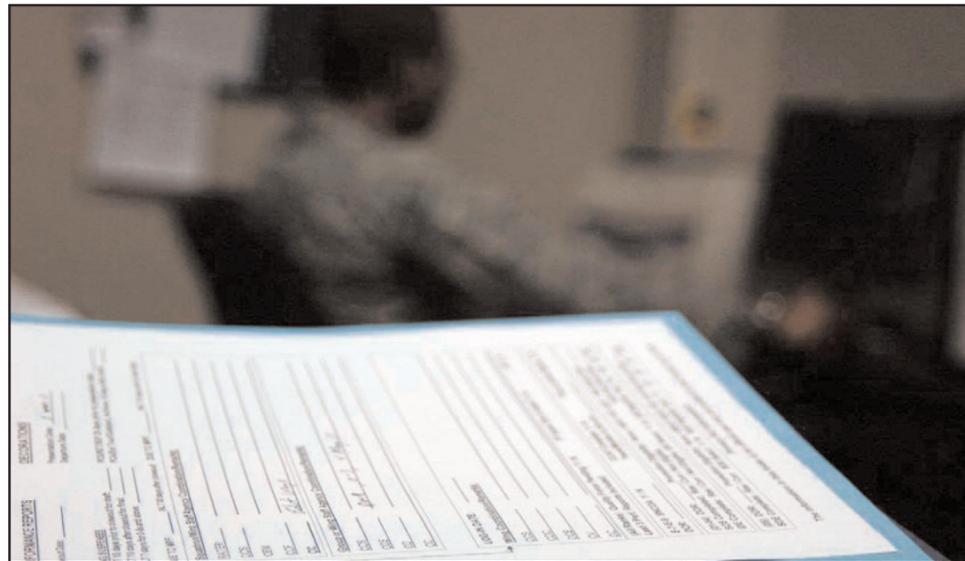
**Capt. Kristin Hollrith**  
2011 Annual Ball Committee President

to try your hand at designing a coin, please feel free to submit an idea... or two! If your design is picked as the one to be used on this year's coin, you will be recognized at a wing staff meeting as well as at the Columbus AFB Air Force Ball on Sept. 16, with a free ticket will be paid for by the Annual Ball Committee. Anyone can submit a design; deadline for entries is May 20. Please submit all designs to Capt. Kristin Hollrith at [Kristin.Hollrith@columbus.af.mil](mailto:Kristin.Hollrith@columbus.af.mil) or drop off at the 37th Flying Training Squadron, building 236, in the executive officer's office. Thank you in advance for your participation!



This year, the Columbus Air Force Base 2011 Air Force Ball theme is "Through the Eyes of an Airman." The idea is to take a look at how each of us affects the mission of Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight on a daily basis. In order to appropriately commemorate the event, a coin will be given to every attendee. The Annual Ball Committee is opening up the opportunity to design the AF Ball coin to each of you. If you are artistically inclined or just would like

# OPRs/EPRs on time, better quality



**Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Team BLAZE members pooled from every stopping point along the Columbus Air Force Base evaluation report process spent May 2 and 3 reviewing the process with the aim of improving the evaluation report methods here.

"OPRs and EPRs are the number one way we as an Air Force formally document the performance of our military members from an Airman to general," said Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Wing Training commander. "We owe it to our Airmen of every rank to ensure that we have an evaluation reporting process in place that ensures accountability, accuracy and timelessly of their performance reports."

The team's first recommendation was to give the raters more lead time to write the initial draft of member's officer performance report or enlisted performance report. To accomplish this, the shells for the reports will be built 60 days from the close-out of the OPR/EPR.

The team recommended breaking down the OPR/EPR statuses by wing and group levels when briefing at the commander's staff meeting. In turn, the groups would also break down OPR/EPR statuses by group level and squadron level to ensure leadership at all levels are aware of the statuses of the reports for which they are accountable.

"More than 1,800 OPRs/EPRs are processed

through Columbus AFB each year," said Capt. Tom Klusek, 14th FTW Process Improvement Office chief. "Some of those have to also be sent to other bases before they can be signed off, so keeping track of those as well as the ones processed here is imperative."

To help keep track of OPRs/EPRs being processed, the team received a brief about the new Evaluation Management System that will be implemented here and throughout Air Education and Training Command to do just that.

The AETC EMS objective is to reduce the workload associated with preparing officer and enlisted performance reports while ensuring the evaluation process remains fair and provides for accurate portrayal of performance, according to Master Sgt. Daniel McCleskey, 14th Communications Squadron superintendent. The goal is also to improve timeliness and meet Air Force standards.

The final recommendation is to educate everyone who will be a rater on the new EMS and to provide a new Columbus writing guide to standardize the way reports are written here.

"Providing the raters with better products and giving them the proper education will improve the quality of the initial report from the very start," Capt. Klusek said. "It will reduce errors and speed up the entire process by reducing the amount of rework typically done to performance reports as they progress through the reviewing process."

# Commander's Action Line 434-7058



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.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-7058. 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.

# BARGAIN LINE

## Homes

**For sale:** Beautiful three bedroom two bathroom home at 235 Justin Circle in Ridgeland Estates. 1,948 sqft. Stone fireplace with gas logs, French doors to the back patio, 15' vaulted ceiling in living room, master bath suite with his and hers vanity sinks, an additional room, laundry room, two-car garage, gas connection on back patio for a grill, spacious yard, screened room off the breakfast area in the kitchen, attic storage over garage and master bedroom. \$139,000. See more at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com) (listing ID 4763383.) Call 570-4221.

434-7068, ext. 7068

## Transportation

**For sale:** 2001 Dodge Dakota SLT 4x4 pickup, quad-cab, maroon, 82,000 miles, V8, standard transmission, \$6,700. Call 425-0373.

## Miscellaneous

**For sale:** Dell Inspiron 1100 laptop for sale. 14.1" LCD, Pentium 4 2GHz CPU, 640MB RAM (upgradeable to 1GB), 40GB hard drive, wireless access card, CD/DVD Burner. This laptop has been restored to factory settings with Windows XP Home Edition (and all updates installed), and includes OpenOffice and antivirus software. \$100. Call 425-5481

**For sale:** Hard wood full size bed and matching dresser, \$450 for both. Computer desk, \$80. Toro electric leaf blower, \$40. Ruger M77 .270 rifle with Bushnell 4x scope, wood stock, \$400. All negotiable! Please call (703) 501-3275.

**For sale:** Stroller, \$3. High back booster seat for up to 80 pounds, have manual, \$10. Used only in grandparent's vehicle. Call 328-7053

**For sale:** Microwave, \$35. Samsung TV 27" (no remote), \$35. Infant car seat GRACO, \$30. Entertainment center \$30. Call (228) 202-7585.

**For sale:** Moving north? Snow-blower, used just one winter. Bought for \$600, willing to sell it for \$100. Also selling two lawn mowers, make me an offer, looking to clear up space. Call 245-0273

**For sale:** Duncan Phyfe Dining Table with six chairs and butterfly leaf, \$175. (785) 259-4023

**For sale:** 2006 Sea Doo jet ski, 44 hours, 215 horsepower, 10.1 feet long, black and gold, seats three, easily pulls skier or tube full of kids, max 70 MPH, BRP XRT. \$6,000 includes trailer, cover, tube, life jackets and knee board. Call 425-0373 or 425-0367.

## Saturday Yard Sales

**Carport sale:** Bedroom suit, highboy chest of drawers, lots of miscellaneous items. East Columbus. 873 Pleasant Hill Road. Columbus, Miss. 39702.

[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)

Freeing up space at your house? Sell your item in Silverwings today!

## Base News

### Thrift Shop grand re-opening

The Thrift Shop has moved to its new location building 530, old post office and is slated to hold their grand reopening on May 12.

### The Landings at Columbus Presents: Ladies Night Out!

Residents please join us on May 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Landings for a night of pampering and fun! We will have the following treats available: Manicures, pedicures, hair styles, hair cuts, make-up, chair massages, relaxing music, appetizers and beverages. To show you all how much you are valued, all services are free and on a first come, first served basis!

### Spring into Shape

Do you have a few pounds you want to lose but don't know where to start? Are you trying to lose some weight before summer but need some motivation? Do you want to be a part of Columbus Air Force Base's newest weight-loss competition? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come on down to the Health and Wellness Center and see if you can Spring Into Shape!

Spring Into Shape is a comprehensive weight-loss competition that begins April 25 and concludes June 24. You can sign up as a four-member team or compete individually. Weigh-ins will be held periodically to track your progress. You will also have the option to participate in rocking fitness classes, shocking Commissary tours, and accurate body composition tracking to help you succeed in making healthy lifestyle changes! Awesome prizes will be awarded to the top male, top female, and top three teams with the highest percentage of weight loss! For more information about Spring Into Shape, call your HAWC Staff at 434-2477 or 434-2236. To sign up, please stop by the HAWC before April 18.

### 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.

### Operation Purple

Operation Purple camps offer a free week of summer fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed. These free week-long camps are provided through the generous support of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation. The

goal of the Operation Purple camp program is to give military children tools to help deal with the stresses that result from a parent's deployment, through a memorable camp experience in a "purple" environment. Operation Purple camps are open to military children of all ranks and services: active and reserve components-and give priority to children whose parents are currently within a 15 month deployment "window" (specific dates announced each year). At Operation Purple camps military children experience an exciting week of outdoor fun and adventure. 2011 Operation Purple camps will be held in 25 states as well as Japan. For more information and to sign up, go to: [www.militaryfamily.org/op](http://www.militaryfamily.org/op)

### You made the Grade

The Exchange Service is moving military students who excel in the classroom to the head of the class with its "You Made the Grade" program. This education rewards initiative recognizes students who maintain a "B" average or better with a booklet full of complimentary prizes for every qualifying report card. AAFES' "You Made the Grade" booklet includes coupons for a variety of free offers. In addition, each booklet also contains an entry form for a quarterly drawing in which three winners are randomly awarded savings bonds in \$2,000, \$3,000 or \$5,000 denominations. To receive the AAFES "You Made the Grade" booklet, students must present a valid military ID card and proof of an overall "B" or better average to their local Exchange. Students may receive one coupon package for every qualifying report card, but may enter the savings bond drawing only once per calendar year. Military families can contact the Columbus Exchange main store manager or general manager for more information at 434-8484.

### Stylique Salon now open at the Exchange

The Stylique Salon, formerly known as the Beauty Salon, is the now located in the Exchange mall, just past the restrooms. Come visit Tuesday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m for all hair care needs. Ethnic hair care is also available.

### 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](http://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

### Pioneer Clubs Program

Pioneer Clubs' children religious education program has ended for the summer and will resume Aug.23. For more information and volunteer opportunities, contact Ms. Ida Hall, 434-2500.

### May RefresHer

Join us May 26 in the Chapel Annex at 6 p.m. for dinner and a movie. Bring your favorite dessert to share. All ladies are welcome to attend. If you would like to be involved in planning the next RefresHer, please contact Senior Airman Melissa Vallia at 434-2500.

### 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.

Protestant Men of the Chapel: Come out

### SAT Testing

The SAT college admissions examination will be given on May 25 at 8 p.m. in the Education Center. The education center can only give the SAT to military personnel. Please call 434-2562 to schedule.

### CCAF Graduation Ceremony

The Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony will be on May 24 at 10 a.m. in the Columbus Club. Chief Master Sgt. Leonard Thibodeaux, 14 Mission Support Group Superintendent, is the guest speaker. All are invited.

### vMPF Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits

Members can now access the vMPF and click DoD TEB website to transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. The vMPF application will verify the Airman's eligibility to transfer benefits, provide timely notice regarding eligibility issues and allow Airmen to complete, sign, and forward the required statement of understanding to the Automated Records Management System. You can link to the vMPF through the AF Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/afpc2ww3/vmpf/Hub/Pages/Hub.asp>.

and join the men of CAFB Chapel every Saturday morning at 7 a.m. for Bible study and devotion in the Chapel Annex.

### 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

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! This summer, connect your kids to God and watch them grow stronger in their faith as they discover that God is "wild" about them. The Columbus Air Force Base chapel is proud to present this year's "pandamania" VBS June 6-10. For more information about this ecumenical Christian event including registration, volunteer opportunities, and age requirements, contact the Base Chapel at 434-2500.

# Trail BLAZE'r

**Name:** Biron Ross

**Unit:** 14th Judge Advocate , chief of contracts, environmental law and labor law

**Time at Columbus AFB:** Five months

**Time in Service:** Five months

**Hometown:** Chicago, Ill.

**Career goals:** Assistant professor of education and technology at a college or university

**Family members:** Brother Kimon, sister Heaven, mother Ann, father John.

**Favorite musician:** Najee

**Favorite movie:** Devil in a Blue Dress

**Biggest pet peeve:** Intolerant people

**Favorite book:** Too many to name

**Inspirations:** Mother

**Personal motto:** "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -Ghandi



## Study shows 24-percent savings with AAFES

DALLAS — A recent study of Army and Air Force Exchange Service prices shows that troops save an average of 24 percent when exercising their AAFES benefit.

Conducted in October 2010 by an independent research firm, the Market Basket Survey focused on the percentage of savings military patrons receive based on market, retailer and department.

The survey compared prices at nine locations including Baltimore, Md.; Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Killeen, Texas; Omaha, Neb.; Tacoma, Wash.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Hampton/Newport News, Va.; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Los Angeles, Calif.

Due to the variations in currencies overseas, AAFES officials said they focused on operations in the U.S. However, the value proposition

remains consistent throughout the world.

The results, indicative of the AAFES Command's ongoing efforts to survey prices both locally and nationally, reaffirm AAFES' commitment to providing the best possible prices for authorized patrons, wherever they're called to serve, AAFES officials said.

If shoppers do encounter a lower price, AAFES goes as far as to match the price with or without a competitor's ad.

For example, if a shopper spots a price difference of less than \$10, the shopper notifies the cashier and the price is matched on the spot.

For price discrepancies greater than \$10, shoppers need to bring in a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price.

In either scenario, the product

must be identical to the item at AAFES.

"The Exchange even offers a 14-day price guarantee on any purchase made at the exchange," said Col. Virgil Williams, AAFES' chief of staff. "That means if an item is sold at a lower price by the exchange, or any local competitor, the price is matched up to two weeks after the sale."

Complete details concerning AAFES' price matching policy are available online at [www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService/priceMatch.htm](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService/priceMatch.htm).

"Whether price matching or surveying our everyday prices, the results speak for themselves: Shoppers save at the Exchange," Colonel Williams said.

(Courtesy of Army Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs)

# Dollars & Sense: Keeping Your DTS Profile Updated

It is important for travelers to ensure that their home address, duty station, organization, and their Electronic Funds Transfer and Controlled Spend Account /Government Travel Card account information is up-to-date and accurate in their Defense Travel System profile. If this information is not kept up to date, travel reimbursements may be affected or delayed. Please note that even though 100 percent reimbursement is sent to Citi-Bank for the CSA card, your EFT information is still required in DTS.

In addition to the information above, travelers should periodically check their profiles in order to update other information such as rank, phone number, emergency contact and other traveler information.

When should you update your profile?

- GTC/CSA expires or is reissued
- Moving to a new address locally or Permanent Change of Station
- Promotion
- Transferring to another organization on base
- How do you update your profile?
- From the DTS homepage (after login), mouse over to "Traveler Setup" on the top menu bar and select "Update Personal Profile."

·On the "My Profile" screen, click on each of the following sections to verify your information: My preferences, my additional information, my TSA information, my account information.

Ensure your "Present Station" under "My Additional Information" states "Columbus AFB" and your organization is correct. If this section is not accurate, please contact your unit's Organization Defense Travel Administrator immediately for assistance.

·To save changes, select the "Update Personal Information" button at the bottom of the screen.

### 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](mailto: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.

# Quarterly awards highlight Team BLAZE members

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

The 14th Flying Training Wing's best of the best were showcased at the first quarterly awards ceremony of 2011 April 26 at the Kaye Auditorium.

Team BLAZE first quarter award winners are as follows:

**First Sergeant Council "Diamond Sharp" Award:** Staff Sgt. Lacey Schafer, 14th Operations Group

**Airman of the Quarter:** Airman 1st Class Aaron Hawley, 14th Mission Support Group

**NCO of the Quarter:** Tech. Sgt. Erica Solis, 14th Medical Group

**SNCO of the Quarter:** Master Sgt. Tyron Taylor, 14th MDG

**Honor Guard member of the Quarter:** Senior Airman Austin Parrent, 14th OG

**CGO of the Quarter:** 1st Lt. Jaclyn Sullivan, 14th MSG

**FGO of the Quarter:** Maj. Samuel Joplin, 14th OG

**Flight Commander of the Quarter:** Capt. Chris Ianni, 14th MDG

**IP of the Quarter:** Maj. Jayant Mahajan, 49th Flying Training Squadron



**Cat. 1 Civilian of the Quarter:** Jessica Hoskins, 14th OG

**Cat. 2 Civilian of the Quarter:** Calvin Harris, 14th MSG

**Cat. 3 Civilian of the Quarter:** Danny Adams, 14th MSG

**Flight Chief of the Quarter:** Richard Sandifer, 14th OG

**Volunteer of the Quarter:** Kristie Walford, Columbus Spouse's Club

*(Editor's note: Tech. Sgt. Erica Solis and Calvin Harris were unavailable for photos)*

# Back-2-BLAZE Day slated for May 13

**John Lindell**  
14th Flying Training Wing Ground Safety Manager

The 14th Flying Training Wing Safety office will be hosting a Back-2-BLAZE Day to launch the Critical Days of Summer Campaign on Friday, May 13 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The focus of this event is the 14th FTW commander's new Team BLAZE #1 Priority of "Back-2-BLAZE."

In addition, the theme of the event is "Safety is Leadership." The Back-2-BLAZE Day will consist primarily of a Safety Fair event that will include vendors, booths and interactive displays showcasing safety equipment and training for a variety of activities. Examples include water sports and boating, bicycle, motorcycle and outdoor sports and recreation safety, outdoor summertime safety for activities such as home and yard work maintenance, information and displays regarding maintaining good physical and mental health and a free child automobile safety seat inspection station.

In order to ensure a pleasant and comfortable experience, attendance at the Safety Fair event will be managed by breaking up Team BLAZE into four separate groups. The 14th FTW commander will kick off the event with opening remarks for each group at Kaye Auditorium at the prescribed times designated in the adjacent table. These times are subject to change depending on

mission requirements. Following the opening remarks, attendees will be directed to the Safety Fair display area in the parking lot behind Kaye Auditorium as well as across the street in the Fitness Center track area of Freedom Park. Harris Street will be closed at the corner of Seventh Street and the Corner of Simler Blvd for the duration of the event. In the event of inclement weather, the Safety Fair will be hosted in Hangar 3, commonly known as the "Wash Rack" or building 452. Military Members will be in UOD.

Back-2-BLAZE Day is mandatory for all active duty military, and highly recommended for DAF and NAF civilian personnel to the extent that mission accomplishment allows. Some personnel, both military and civilian, will understandably be unable to attend due to mission requirements. All contractor personnel are welcome to attend. Contractors must obtain any necessary permission through their employer, and their work schedule and contract must permit attendance. Contract performance will not be negatively impacted or impeded due to contractor attendance at the event. Contractors will be allowed to attend the Back-2-BLAZE Day anytime between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Team BLAZE family members are also welcome at the Safety Fair portion of Back-2-BLAZE Day.

In conjunction with the Back-2-BLAZE Day, a motorcycle seasoning ride is being planned for any interested active duty military, civilian and

contractor employees. Col. Ken Bryson, 14th Mission Support Group commander, will be the senior officer on scene for the seasoning ride. All active duty military motorcycle riders participating in the seasoning ride are required to attend the 14th FTW Commander's kickoff briefing at 8 a.m. in Kaye Auditorium, DAF and NAF civilian motorcycle riders participating in the seasoning ride are highly encouraged to attend. Motorcycle pre-ride safety inspections and briefings will be performed by a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation- rider coach at approximately 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of building 530, also known as the old Post office parking lot and will conclude in time for the 14th FTW commander's kickoff briefing at Kaye Auditorium at 8 a.m. The motorcycle seasoning ride will kick off in the parking lot of building 530 immediately following the 14th FTW commander's kickoff briefing. Active duty military personnel are allowed to wear UOD or civilian clothing for the motorcycle seasoning ride, but all riders must meet the proper personal protective equipment requirements. The motorcycle seasoning ride, safety briefing, inspections, and breakfast will last a total of approximately three hours. The riders will attend the Safety Fair when they return from the seasoning ride.

If you have any further questions regarding the Back-2-BLAZE Day, please contact the Wing Safety office at 434-SAFE.

## Back-2-BLAZE Day Schedule

Group	Kaye Brief Time
14 MDG/WSA/Motorcycle Ride Participants	8 a.m.
14 OG - Students	9 a.m.
14 OG - Permanent Party	10:30 a.m.
14 MSG	11:30 a.m.
Contractors	Anytime from 9-11:30 a.m.

# General from Pentagon advises graduates on next assignment

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

The Director for Joint Integration, Directorate of Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. spoke to graduating Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-08

Maj. Gen. Stephen Wilson used his speech to add his personal contribution to preparing the class for their next assignment. General Wilson noted that he may not know exactly what the future may hold but several general principals should help prepare the new pilots for anything they may face.

"I don't know what you're going to face out there, but did anybody thing that two months ago we'd have issues like we do

today?" he said. "Did Libya come up on anybody's radar?"

The Air Force core values were heavily emphasized by General Wilson.

"They're not just the words we say, that's the cornerstone from which our Air Force operates. Make that number one," he said. "If you live that you're off to a great start."

General Wilson reminded the attendees that it takes the whole team to get the mission done. Civilians, active duty, reserve and national guard forces all make up the team he said. He encouraged the graduates to remember that they cannot do their mission without that team.

"As part of that team you're going to be leading Airmen, and we have the best airmen by far in the world," said General Wilson. "They're intelligent, they're innovative and they're looking to you."

Keep being part of that lifelong learning

in the Air Force every day said the graduation speaker.

"Be that guy in your squadron that everybody looks to because you have the answers," he said.

To provide a picture of what happens when everything comes together General Wilson told a deployment story about his team working over several hours on a mission to destroy a cave system, and ended up collapsing the mountain.

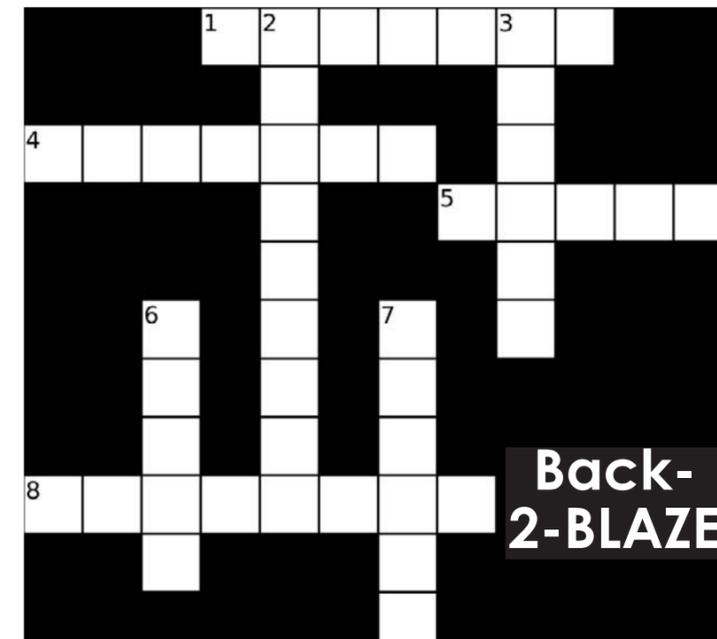
"That's what happens every day in our Air Force where great, innovative, smart airmen who have a great foundation in the core values from which they operate every day and they know they're part of the team. Who are experts and leaders that are ready are doing that mission every day," he said "and now you're going to be joining that team to become something bigger than yourself."



U.S. Air Force photo  
**Maj. Gen. Stephen Wilson, The Director for Joint Integration, Directorate of Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. spoke at the SUPT Class 11-08 graduation, April 29 at Kaye Auditorium.**

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 74 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



**1 Across**  
The month in 1997 that base's nickname was announced in.

**4**  
The "2" in back-2-BLAZE embodies the \_\_\_\_\_ concept.

**5**  
The AETC is part of the BLAZE symbol.

**8**  
Back-2-BLAZE is the wing's new #1 \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Down**  
BLAZE 1 is traditionally the callsign of the wing \_\_\_\_\_.

**3**  
BLAZE was created as a team \_\_\_\_\_.

**6**  
The weekly BLAZE'r award is just another way that BLAZE is part of CAFB.

**7**  
The 14th FTW commander that instated BLAZE.

# Base families offered a variety of activities

## AROUND TOWN

### Market Street Festival

Free and open to the public! May 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Five entertainment stages, over 20 musical acts. Kids activities, ride, and characters. 225 arts and crafts vendors, Juried Arts show, 5K run, Zumba in the streets with the Y, car giveaway, hands on marketplace, food court and so much more! For a full listing of the festival's events and details, visit [www.marketstreetfestival.com](http://www.marketstreetfestival.com).

### Music on the Patio

Music on the Patio at Whispering Pines Golf Course will be May 6, 6-9 p.m. Enjoy live music and drink specials. Direct questions to the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

### Golf Tournament

Whispering Pines Golf Course is hosting the 27-hole Challenge tournament on May 7. This individual-play tournament will begin at 8 a.m., and the cost is \$15 plus green fees and cart. Entire cost will go into prize fund. Flights based on number of players. Participants will play the first 18 holes, then pick nine scores to drop and replace with another 9-hole round to better the final score. Burger burn provided after play. Call the Pro Shop at 434-7932 for more information.

### Thirsty Thursdays

The golf course will have drink specials every Thursday in May from 4-7 p.m. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

### Boat Safety Course

Outdoor Recreation will be offering a boating safety course on May 14, at 9 a.m. This is a required course in the State of Mississippi for anyone operating a boat born after June 30, 1980. The cost is only \$5. Call 434-2505 or 434-2507 for more information.

### America's Kids Run

The 2011 America's Armed Forces Kids Run will be May 21, starting at the Youth Center parking lot with registration at 8:15 a.m. and a 9 a.m. start. This event is open to all ages and families are encouraged to participate. Sign up by May 20 online at [www.americaskids.org](http://www.americaskids.org) or contact the Youth Center at 434-2504 for more information. A free t-shirt will be given to all that sign up.

### Auto Hobby Special

Throughout the month of May, get a free brake inspection with the purchase of an oil change. Call 434-7482 to make an appointment.

### Register for Youth Summer Day Camp

Registration for Youth Summer Day Camp or Part-Day Camp continues until the limited spaces are filled. The camps are open to youth (K-6), and cost is based on family income. Day Camp begins May 25. Questions should be directed to Terri Graves at the Youth Center, 434-2504.

### Air Force Club Membership Scholarship

Air Force Club members and their family members are eligible to win a \$1,000 educational scholarship by submitting a one-page essay of 500 words or less entitled "My Contributions to the Air Force." Submissions are due no later than July 1. More information is available in displays around base and online at [www.afclubs.net](http://www.afclubs.net). Linda Dodson of the 14th Force Support Squadron is the point of contact and may be reached at 434-2314.

### FitFamily Cook It Up!

Enter the FitFamily "Cook It Up Healthy Recipe Contest" for a chance to win great prizes and bring Celebrity Chef Herb Mesa to Columbus AFB. The contest runs through June 30, and there is no limit to the number of recipes that can be entered. Visit [www.usaffitfamily.com](http://www.usaffitfamily.com) for all of the details and to enter the contest.

### White Water Rafting Trip

Travel with Outdoor Recreation and

ITT to enjoy white water rafting down the Ocoee River, July 16-18. The cost is \$169 per person and includes transportation, lodging, rafting and some meals. For just \$10 extra, float down the river in your own tube. Space is limited and registration is required no later than July 1. Call 434-2505 or 434-7861 for more information.

### Base Stable Openings

The Columbus AFB stable 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.

### 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.USAFFitFamily.com](http://www.USAFFitFamily.com) to earn points and achieve levels for participation in Family Fun activities, family sports and fitness and family nutrition. Recognition is provided at each level to encourage families to continue on the path of wellness. The FitFamily program encourages Air Force families to make healthy lifestyle choices and provides resources and tips in an effort to promote overall family fitness. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

### Space A Lodging

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

### 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 or 434-7861 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.

# Mullen discusses personnel pluses, concerns

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Calling personnel issues his greatest comfort and greatest concern, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff today praised U.S. service members for the way they've adapted through a decade of war.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told attendees at a Government Executive Magazine leadership briefing that while he is most proud of the flexibility and adaptability of U.S. military forces, he also is concerned that Americans is losing touch with the U.S. military.

The experience in Iraq illustrates the adaptability of U.S. service members, Admiral Mullen said, noting that when he took office in 2007, the U.S. surge into Iraq was underway and the levels of violence in the country were high and looked to be going higher.

"I was there last week, and it is like night and day," Admiral Mullen said. "There has truly been an extraordinary shift and change and the creation of an opportunity for 26 million people that just didn't exist. That came at a great price, and that (this has occurred) is a reflection of our military's ability to adapt and change from the classic conventional force to what I call the best counterinsurgency force in the world."

After 10 years of war and the multiple deployments that have entailed, the U.S. military continues to learn and adapt, Admiral Mullen said.

A well-known strength of the U.S. military is that it's an all-

volunteer, professional force, the admiral said. But less well known is that it's also a weakness, because only a small percentage of the nation's population has a firsthand military connection.

"I do worry about the connection we have with the American people," the chairman said. "We're less than 1 percent of the population. We come from fewer and fewer places, and I worry about the things we don't do any more."

The base realignment and closure process has shuttered many facilities, Admiral Mullen said, and that means service members no longer live in many neighborhoods around the country where they once were part of the fabric.

"We're not in the churches, coaching the teams, going to the schools," he said. "So the relationship or understanding (of the military) is often created by what's in the media."

The military footprint in the country will not change, the admiral said.

"But America's military must stay connected with the American people," he added. "If we wake up one day and find out that we're disconnected or almost disconnected, I think that's a bad outcome for the country."

The National Guard and other reserve components are great avenues for connections, he said. These service members are in every part of the country and can explain the military to the greater population.

Admiral Mullen said service members need to use this avenue to better communicate with Americans.

The American people respect the military and want to

reach out to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, Admiral Mullen said, but often are confused about how to do so.

The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments and local communities must work together to ease service members' transition to civilian communities when they leave the military, the nation's top military officer said.

If they do, he added, the communities certainly will get more than they give.

"I say this generation is 'wired to serve,'" he said. "They are in their mid-20s, and they've seen some very difficult times in some cases. But they offer great potential for our country, and with a little investment ... they'll take off and provide decades of service."

Americans also need to reach out to those wounded in the wars and the families of those killed, Admiral Mullen said, noting that these families lost their lifelines to the military when their spouses died.

The military needs to embrace these families, he said, and so do U.S. communities.

Finally, the chairman repeated a message he has emphasized consistently and repeatedly about the need for the military to remain apolitical.

The U.S. military always is under civilian control, and uniformed members "need to be absolutely neutral," Admiral Mullen said.

"We serve the civilian leadership," he said, "and we need to be very mindful of that and how we speak about it and engage, whether we are active or reserves."

## Holocaust victims remembered by Team BLAZE



Attendees listen to the 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Zefrem Smith talk about his impressions from a recent visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in DC during the Holocaust Remembrance Breakfast on May 2.

## 14th OSS ties top bench press at fitness center

**Chad Hudson**

14th Force Support Squadron fitness specialist

Twenty-eight competitors competed in six weight classes participated in the latest Fitness Center semi-annual bench press completion on April 11. Phil Sheridan, 14th Operations Support Squadron and Steven Szente, 14th OSS, tied for the best lift of the competition with a max lift of 375 lbs. The 300 Club welcomed six new members this year; Tony Perez, Michael Rowe, Darnell Gillie, Michael Bolduc, Joseph Ramirez and Jordan Guhan. This program is for males able to bench 300 lbs or better and females to bench 135 lbs or better. The event happens twice a year, usually in April and October. This event has grown over the last couple of years and looks to continue to get bigger and better. The fitness center looks forward to seeing everyone in October!

# You and PT

**Chief Master Sgt. Leonard “Leo” Thibodeaux**  
14th Mission Support Group Superintendent

What is your PT attitude? Do you test once a year because you scored a 90 or better on your last fitness assessment? Are you happy with testing twice a year because you’re in the 75 to 89 point range? At the moment I’m in the 84 and above point range; my flaw appears to be I eat barbecue and fish fry a little too much.

In the Air Force News Service article ‘Airmen embracing fitness culture’ the chief master sergeant of the Air Force tells us “Readiness is the primary purpose of developing the new fitness standard, and so far Airmen are stepping up to the challenge as the program normalizes.” Chief Master Sgt. James Roy’s comments are true for the majority; however, a few Team BLAZE members are not listening. Our Air Force is going through an ever changing environment and fitness has a key part to our success. As a member of the Air Force and Team BLAZE you have a conscious choice to embrace fitness or simply ignore it. Either way your attitude drives your successes or failures. If you haven’t recognized a PT failure will impact on your career...wake up!

Starting with failure number one, there is a strong chance you’re going to receive a referral performance report. If you luck out and miss the referral report after your first failure, you’re definitely getting a referral and a

Letter of Reprimand from the commander on your second failure. Referral evaluations hit home on several venues. In the enlisted Weighted Airman Promotion System process, you become ineligible for promotion for a year and the EPR point loss will impact future WAPS promotion cycles. If you’re a SNCO or officer, you might as well start looking for other career opportunities. Failure three and four, over two years, grants a wing commander determination on your future in the Air Force. If you will, picture this job interview between a future employer and a person separated for failure to maintain fitness standards.

Employer: “So I see you were in the Air Force, why did you separate?”

Future employee: “Yes sir, I separated from the Air Force because I couldn’t maintain fitness standards.”

Employer: “I see...thank you for your time, we will be in touch.”

A little theatrical; but you get the point. Nobody is exempt from fitness, every Team BLAZE member makes a daily choice to participate or not participate in fitness.

Fitness has to be a part of your daily routine. It’s up to you if you exercise three, four or more times a week. Put PT into the same context as your day-to-day job. You’re not going to cut a corner or only give 50 percent in the performance of your duties, so why do the same for PT? “Excellence in all we do” requires discipline, and our third core value rings true for PT as well. If you commit to excellence and give 100 percent to your exercise routine, then failure will never be a concern. Nobody is asking you to train for a marathon. Your Team BLAZE leadership is simply asking you to give 30 to 40 minutes, at least three times a week to fitness. Each squadron has a PT program, partic-

ipate, give 100 percent every time, and reap the benefits of a passing fitness assessment. The Team BLAZE commanders continuously demonstrate an attitude of excellence and as 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief Zefrem Smith would say “Bring about goodness” in their respective fitness areas of responsibility.

As we head into the summer months, I challenge each Team BLAZE member to strive for excellence in their own fitness program. Make a commitment to excellence and give a 100 percent during every PT session. Let us strive toward a 100 percent pass rate this summer and zero fitness assessment failures over the remainder of 2011. As you plan out your duty week, incorporate 30 to 40 minutes a few times a week for PT. Don’t let your bad fitness choices negatively result in failure and adversely impact your future promotions or career. Set a goal and train to achieve it. Your unit Physical Training Leader is always willing to work with you on developing a strong fitness program.

A strong fitness program alone won’t get you into the 90 to 100 point range. You’ve got to make healthy meal choices. If you’re looking to change your food habits, a great place to start would be the Health and Wellness Center. The HAWC has a fully qualified staff, with experts on how to cut calories, make healthy food choices, and create heart smart meals. Next time you’re at the Fitness Center stop by the HAWC or give them a call at 434-2236.

My goal is to score a 90 or higher in July so I don’t have to test this winter. If you see me out on the track, at the gym or even at the pool swimming laps, ask me how my “90” is coming along.

# Sacrifice: A proper perspective

**Capt. Douglas Pietersma**  
20th Air Force Director of Intelligence

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — Like so many other military members, my 2009 deployment started with a tearful goodbye to my family and a long walk down the Jetway of a local airport. I was off to the desert, or more generically, the Middle East. I was not particularly looking forward to this deployment, but I would do my duty as required.

As with all military endeavors, there seemed to be an inordinate amount of “hurry up and wait.” This is the phenomenon of showing up six hours before catching the rotor, or contract aircraft, only to spend five of those hours waiting to depart. These sentiments seemed to be shared by my fellow service members as we waited for what seem to be an eternity.

Flying from the continental United States to an overseas location is never a short enterprise. As expected, the long flights were accompanied with poor sleeping, if any, and barely edible airline food. All in all, it was an undesirable experience.

After arriving at our first stop in Southwest Asia my fellow service members and I were informed our layover could be anywhere from one to five days. With nothing to do and thousands of square miles of barren land to do it in, the prospects of something better were fading quickly. This brought morale to an all-time low for everyone, and I was no exception.

I was sorely disappointed to hear my air transport would be aboard a C-130 Hercules. This was certainly not the most favorable way to get to where I was going. Cramped space would put my knees right up against the person sitting opposite of me, and high temperatures in this region would no doubt leave me sweating off pounds by the minute. Our carry-on luggage might end up on top of us, or more uncomfortably, underneath us. This all proved to be exactly as I imagined.

Trying to look on the bright side, I told myself, “Things couldn’t be all that bad. This should be a non-stop flight to my final destination, right?”

Unfortunately, there would be a three-and-a-half hour flight, a layover at relatively remote location, then a short flight to my final destination. At this point, I didn’t care much, because I had hardly slept at all in four days, and I just wanted to get where I was going.

The only good thing about the layover was that it was only supposed to take a few minutes as several passengers and their cargo were being offloaded. Things were going as planned, and we were ready to depart from our short layover when the back ramp of the aircraft came open again and the engines shut down completely.

I thought, “What could possibly be the problem now?” The pilot came back into the passenger and cargo compartment and announced the flight had been delayed because we would be taking “HR” on board.

I thought, “HR? What in the world is that?” The pilot said there would be a ceremony as this took place, and then we could be on our way. It was then I realized “HR” meant human remains.

Reality check  
There had been a casualty of the conflict I was going to support, and that casualty was an American. The body of that American would be loaded onto the aircraft transporting me and my fellow service members to our deployed location. For the deceased service member, this would be the first leg of a journey back to grieving loved ones for final respects and burial in the United States.

As my fellow passengers and I disembarked the aircraft and headed for the terminal at this military field, the mood was somber. We weren’t sure exactly what was going on or how long it was going to take, but that seemed less important in the context of what was happening. Just then, a senior NCO announced we had been invited to participate in the ramp ceremony, which our pilot had previously mentioned.

Every passenger of our aircraft moved quickly to participate in the ceremony. We joined more than a hundred service members already standing in formation. As we began to take our places, more service members continued to show up. By the time the ceremony began, there were

approximately 300 to 400 service members in two long formations.

We marched out to form a corridor through which the flag-draped case would pass in procession.

With the color guard in place, the senior leaders took their position and we all saluted. An Army chaplain then read scripture as he lead eight Soldiers bearing the case on their shoulders. Some of those Soldiers had tears running down their cheeks, no doubt because they knew the individual in the casket.

Normally, standing at attention for 15 to 20 minutes would have seemed like torture, but not in this situation. The strength to stand and salute was easy when compared to the sacrifice of the deceased we were saluting. Even though we were tired from several days of flying, there were no complaints as we paid our respects.

I didn’t know the name, gender, military service or military specialty of the person in the case. Neither did I know the circumstance nor cause of death. But, none of that really mattered, because one of my fellow countrymen had given the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

As the bugle played Taps, I felt tears coming to my eyes, for the reality of the moment overshadowed what now proved to be petty annoyances I had felt over the previous few days.

Perspective  
At first, I thought how much of an honor it was to have this American hero onboard our aircraft on the last leg of our journey. However, the more I thought, the more I realized it was also my honor to accompany this hero on the first leg of the final journey home.

Were my inconveniences really as big as I thought? The delays and travel complications were nothing in comparison to the dreadful anticipation of this warrior’s loved ones who might have already heard of his tragic death.

This put into clear perspective my responsibility, lest I forget that I, like every service member, raised my hand and swore an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Although I don’t desire the same end as the one to whom I paid respects that day, I am willing to accept such an end, if that is the cost required of me for the freedom of my family, the freedom of every citizen of the U.S. and the freedom of every citizen of this world.

# Top 3

**Category: Airman**  
**Senior Airman Terrance Williams**  
**14th Security Forces Squadron**

- Home Town:** Houma, La.
- Time in the Air Force:** Three years
- Time at Columbus AFB:** Two years
- Career Short Term Goals:** Make staff sergeant
- Career Long Term Goals:** Making the Air Force a career
- Nominated by:** Master Sgt. Jason Baty, 14th Security Forces Squadron First Sergeant

**7. Nomination reason:** Senior Airman Williams has gone on two back to back deployments, is currently pursuing off-duty education, and was the squadron POC for the Black History luncheon. With the high demands of being a security forces member and all that is required of her, Airman Williams always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face.



# Air Force further reduces officer RIF requirements

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Several year groups and competitive categories no longer will be required to meet the September 2011 reduction-in-force board.

Air Force officials announced that RIF-eligible officers from previously announced competitive categories for chaplains, medical service corps and 1999 and 2000 judge advocate general year groups will not meet this year’s RIF board.

The RIF board will now only consider officers in the grade of captain and major in the following year groups and competitive categories:

Captains: line of the Air Force, 2000 and 2003 through 2005 only.

Majors: line of the Air Force, 2000; judge advocate general, 2001 through 2003; and biomedical service corps, 2000 and 2001

According to Air Force officials, the RIF board will consider approximately 9,000 offi-

cers to retain at least 95 percent in the year groups and competitive categories listed above.

Answers to specific RIF and voluntary separation pay questions are available at the FY11/12 Force Management Programs section on the Air Force Personnel Services website. Type “15766” in the search by keyword box to go directly to the FAQs.

For information about specific skills needed by the Air Force Reserve or Air National

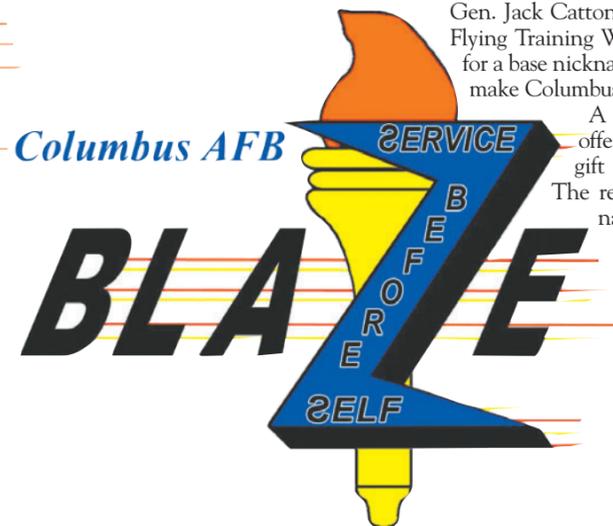
Guard select embedded links. Detailed RIF eligibility criteria, to include the latest information on year groups and competitive categories eligible for the RIF board, are on the AFMERS website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/login>; do a keyword search for RIF. First time users will need to create an account with a username and password.

*(Courtesy of the Air Force Personnel, Service and Manpower Public Affairs)*

# BLAZE: A CAFB cornerstone



U.S. Air Force graphic  
The BLAZE logo has evolved over time from its original design that was unveiled in October 1997.



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

"All great teams have a name, and if there is one thing I've learned since coming to Columbus, it's that we are indeed a great team."

With those words spoken in 1997 retired Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, then Colonel Catton the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, made the call for a base nickname that reflected the people that make Columbus Air Force Base exciting.

A call for submissions was made, offering a reward of a day off and a gift certificate to a local restaurant. The requirements were that the nickname had to capture the excitement

of being a part of Columbus AFB, and had to begin with a "B"; giving additional meaning to the "CB" printed on every plane on base.

On the final day of October the same year, the nickname was presented at a commander's call with much flair.

"Today we unveil what we are going to be called from this point on," announced the wing's commander, setting the course for over the next 13 years.

"BLAZE" was created from a team effort. With the Air Education and Training Command stylized behind the "Z" it stood, and continues to stand for "Building Leaders, Advancing integrity, Service before Self, and Excellence in all we do."

Suggestions were made after the presentation as

to how the design might be improved, and teamwork came together to create the cherished moniker.

As for the prize, General Catton recognized that the base had come together to set the standard, and gave the wing a day off.

BLAZE has become more than just the nickname from nearly 14 years ago. It has become engrained into Columbus AFB. The 14th FTW's commanders continue their tradition of identifying their call sign as BLAZE 1. The BLAZE 56, a staff sergeant and technical sergeant professional organization on Columbus AFB, has taken the moniker into their own. More examples are found throughout the wing that show the 14th FTW's pride, history and love of being part of Team BLAZE.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman First Class Chase Hedrick  
One of the requirements for the base's nickname contest in 1997 was that the nickname had to start with "B"; giving additional meaning to the "CB" printed on every plane on base.



U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson  
The Col. Louis C. Mallory Hangar, named after the first commander of Columbus Army Air Field, is commonly known as the BLAZE Hangar because of the large prominently displayed banner over its Simler Blvd. facing doors.



The BLAZE 5/6 is Columbus Air Force Base's primary professional organization for staff sergeants and technical sergeants. They prominently feature the BLAZE theme with their name and their logo.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks  
Many organizations incorporate BLAZE into their organization's programs such as the 14th Civil Engineer Environmental Flights Earth Day shirt further internalizing the BLAZE theme.



U.S. Air Force graphic  
The coveted 14th Flying Training Wing commander's coin features the BLAZE logo and the explanation for its moniker on one side of the coin.