

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

May 13, 2011

Vol. 35, Issue 19

Weather



Today

High: 83, Low: 60
Scattered T-storms



Saturday

High: 75, Low: 56
Isolated T-storms



Sunday

High: 72, Low: 53
Partly cloudy



Monday

High: 70, Low: 50
Partly cloudy

News Briefs

Class 12-02 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-02 will hold their Track Select at 5 p.m. May 17 at the Columbus Club.

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. The cost is \$40.

Dorm Dinner

The next Dorm Dinner is scheduled for 5 p.m. May 19 in the Chapel Annex. The event, sponsored by the African American Heritage Committee, will have an Asian theme in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Inside



Feature 8

The Outdoor Recreation Center is featured this week.



U.S. Air Force photo/ Elizabeth Owens
1st Lt. Emily Brakora, 14th Medical Operations Squadron clinical nurse shows off a simulation dummy to Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, 19th Air Force commander and 19th Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Williams. The 19th AF leadership visited Columbus Air Force Base May 10 and 11 to see the 14th Flying Training Wing firsthand.

19th AF/CC visits Columbus AFB

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

The commander, 19th Air Force, visited the men and women of Columbus Air Force Base for the first time in his new role May 10-11.

Maj. Gen. Mark Solo spent two days visiting Team BLAZE and observing its

mission of Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen and Feeding the Fight.

He said the men and women of 19th AF, including the members of Team BLAZE, play an integral role in the Air Force mission.

“The men and women of 19th Air Force are not only expected to be subject matter experts and train our people to be the best, but also to help train our coali-

tion partners and allies,” said General Solo. “It’s important that we get that right.”

“My goal as 19th Air Force commander is to make sure we continue to graduate the very best pilots, combat systems officers and air battle managers that we can and that the combatant commanders require.”

The general said he was happy with

See VISIT, 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)	3.99 days	-1.06 days	Jun. 8	48th (11-09)	3.16 days	-1.39 days	May 20	49th (10-HB)	-1.33 days	-1.33 days	Jun. 13	T-6	1,188	1,232	19,469
41st (12-02)	3.87 days	-0.36 days	May. 17	50th (11-09)	-2.80 days	-5.93 days	May 20					T-1	366	409	6,197
												T-38	411	488	6,627
												IFF	98	62	1,422

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

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.

VISIT (Continued from Page 1)

how the men and women of Team BLAZE accomplish that mission every day.

"I'm impressed with the enthusiasm of the officer's and Airmen on this base and the knowledge of their jobs and how they are a part of the mission," he said. "It's been a pleasure to visit and meet with them."

General Solo offered some advice for the men and women training to become the future pilots and leaders of our Air Force.

"They're about to embark on an exciting part of their lives and careers," General Solo said. "I urge them to take what they learn here at Columbus and apply those lessons throughout their career. The skills and leadership they learn here will serve them for the rest of their lives."

General Solo said in

training our coalition partners and allies, we are helping to build relationships that will benefit our countries far into the future.

"I don't think we'll ever go to war alone again," he said. "I can't think of a better way to improve our relationships than to train alongside each other and learn with each other."

The general said we are helping to train the next-generation of military leaders for our coalition and allied nations.

The 19th AF commander also addressed the future of the numbered air force.

"We're currently working through different plans and strategies for standing down 19th Air Force," he said. "If we do it right at the command level, it will be transparent to the men and women at the wings."

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

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

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

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
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
23 Night Flying Week Enlisted Call (T) Civilian Call (T)	24 CCAF Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Club Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ Cole's Cottage	25	26 Memorial Retreat Ceremony, 4 p.m. @ Smith Plaza IFF Grad, 4:45 p.m. @ 49 FTS Asian Pacific Heritage Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. @ Club 12-09 PPW, 6 p.m.	27 11-10 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	28/29

Long Range Events

May 30: Memorial Day Holiday

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

June 4: Salute to D-Day Veterans

June 6: Vacation Bible School

June 8: 12-03 Track Select

June 9: Daedalians Meeting

June 10: 11-10 Graduation

June 11: Super Sonic Golf Tournament

Base Soccer Team defeats Mississippi State

Capt. Eric Peterson
BLAZE Soccer Team captain

The Columbus BLAZE soccer team traveled to Starkville on April 23 to play Mississippi State's club soccer team. The team was hoping to bring home a win and continue to gain momentum as it gets ready for the 2011 United States Adult Soccer Association National Cup tournament that takes place over Memorial Day weekend. In its season opener earlier in April, the BLAZE soccer team tied a Tupelo premiere team 3-3.

From the first whistle, the BLAZE soccer team started out more aggressive and determined to take the victory home. However, with many new players on the squad and an overall lack of game experience as a team, it took the first 15 minutes for the team to settle down and start passing the ball well. The experience of the MSU team exploited this weakness with an early goal right through the defense. However, with the entire BLAZE defense composed of two-year veterans, the team quickly sorted out any defensive mismatches. Led by team Captain, 1st Lt. Chris Brown, a 2010 team MVP, and 1st Lt. Nick Kellenbence, a two-time MVP in both 2009 and 2010, the team was able to completely deflate the MSU attack. After these initial minutes, the team settled down and the BLAZE gained momentum as the game progressed. The BLAZE offense, led by 2nd Lt. Josh Rhynard, Capt. Drew Lammy and 2nd Lt. Richard Nova, continued to press the MSU team. Nearing the end of the first half, the team was able to equalize the score at 1-1 with a beautiful shot by Lieutenant Nova from the 20 yard line.

Coming out of half time, the team continued its pressing attack and the endurance from the midfield proved invaluable in both the defensive and offensive fronts. 2nd Lt. David Phillip and Lieutenant Nova were able to take control of the center of the field while 2nd Lt. Chris Feese, A1C Ian Steele, and A1C Tomas Lavigne exploited the perimeter. The go-ahead goal was scored in the 60th minute by Capt. Eric Peterson off of a rebound shot by Lieutenant Rhynard. Then the final tally was put in at the



BLAZE soccer team members pose in front of the goal posts in Starkville Miss. after their win against the Mississippi State's club soccer team. From left to right: 2nd Lt. Scott Hartenstein, 2nd Lt. Josh Bosworth, 2nd Lt. Josh Rhynard, 2nd Lt. David Phillip, Capt. Drew Lammy, Capt. Eric Peterson, 1st Lt. Chris Brown, 2nd Lt. Richard Nova, 2nd Lt. Chris Feese, Capt. Justin Reynolds, Airman 1st Class Ian Steele, 1st Lt. Nick Kellenbence, 2nd Lt. Kirk Bingaman and Airman 1st Class Tomas Lavigne.

89th minute by Lieutenant Rhynard as he dribbled around two defenders and then the goalie to put it in the back of the net.

It was a hard fought game and an outstanding 3-1 victory for the BLAZE soccer team. The team will continue to practice and get ready to represent the entire state of Mississippi in the prestigious USASA National Cup in just a couple weeks. It will compete against 10 other teams from the southeast in the regional qualifier that will take place in Tuscaloosa, Alabama over Memorial Day week-

end. Only one team from each state earns the chance to play in the National Cup tournament. It is the second consecutive year that the BLAZE soccer team has earned the opportunity to represent Mississippi in the most important adult soccer tournament in the country.

Please contact Captain Eric Peterson if you are interested in playing soccer or joining weekly scrimmages at eric.peterson@columbus.af.mil. The team currently plays on Sundays at 4 p.m and Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. The team also hosts many Tuesday practices.

Courtesy photo

There's no such thing as a free lunch



Biron Ross
14th Flying Training Wing
Judge Advocate General

Over the years, gifts and gratuities for aircrew have become common place at airfields looking to attract new business. More and more, military aircrew members are being presented with sometimes lavish gifts or gratuities for simply doing their duties. Although this may initially sound like an ideal "win-win" scenario, acceptance of such gifts could actually be permanently damaging to a member's career.

Consider the following scenario: While on a military training mission, Capt. James Smith and 1st Lt. John Dimmer arrive at the Armstrong New Orleans Airport to refuel. Surprisingly, they are greeted immediately by the general manager of the airport. She expresses her many thanks for choosing the

airport for their refueling needs and tells them of the difficulty she has experienced in attracting more flights to the airport since Hurricane Katrina. While they wait for fuel, she escorts both of them to a private lounge where they are offered a free meal by a wait staff primed to serve them. The men are also presented with two New Orleans Saints T-shirts, two box seat tickets to a New Orleans Saints football game and the keys to the Mercedes Benz as a "loaner." Can Captain Smith and Lieutenant Dimmer accept these gifts? The answer is No.

Aircrew members, defined as pilots, flight commanders, aircraft commanders and crew chiefs, can never accept gifts or gratuities offered in order to influence their decision or given as inducement to perform an official act. [5 U.S.C. 7353(b); 18 U.S.C. 201(b)(c); 5 C.F.R. 2635.202(c)] Acceptance of such gifts could subject the members to disciplinary

action. Additionally, pilots are considered "ordering officers". An ordering officer is an individual authorized to place orders to purchase fuel against a Defense Energy Support Center's Aviation Into-plane Reimbursement Card. This authority to obligate government funds bestows upon both them, and the entity processing such card, an even higher ethical standard. Take a look at the back of each AIR Card; they all contain the same warning regarding gifts as a reminder of this duty.

The gifts and "VIP treatment" noted above are clearly intended to induce the pilots to select this airport for future refueling needs, an official action, and to spread the word concerning the hospitality to fellow aircrew members thereby influencing their official actions.

The above example is a clear case, over-the-top, example of "influence" and of the kinds of "hospitality" aircrew members can

Hookin' Stan concert to support Smithville residents



Hookin' Stan" a band made up of Team BLAZE members is performing at a benefit concert Saturday, May 14 at the Princess in support of Smithville residents who were affected by the storms two weeks ago. The show will begin at 8:30 p.m. and will go until 1 a.m. "Hookin' Stan" members guarantee good times and great music. A \$5 cover costs can be made monetarily or in a donation of goods.

U.S. Air Force photo

experience. However, quite often the solicitation can be more subtle. Offers of reduced priced food, rental cars, free taxi rides, free gift cards, free bottles of alcohol or reduced price shirts are quite common. All the more reason aircrew members must remain vigilant, use common sense and regard their duty. Back-2-BLAZE, our renewed focus on applying the Air Force Core Values demands nothing less. Mom was right: There's no such thing as a free lunch.

If you encounter or suspect such illegal activity, please report it to your commander and the DESC at 1-800-2-TOPOFF, extension three immediately. DESC contact information is also available on the back of each Air Card. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the legal office at 434-7030.



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB



19th AF Command Chief experiences Columbus



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Williams talks with Columbus AFB Airmen during an enlisted call at Kaye Auditorium May 11. Topics included the responsibilities of being an Airman in today's Air Force, force balancing and the planned deactivation of the 19th AF.

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

The 19th Air Force command chief master sergeant came to visit Columbus Air Force Base for the first time in his career to gain a better understanding of the 14th Flying Training Wing and its Airmen May 10 to 11.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Williams learned about the base's mission, its Airmen, and its community to form his initial impressions about the base.

"I had no idea what to expect, but I will tell you that it is a little gem tucked away in the state of Mississippi," said Chief Williams. "Everybody here was professional."

Chief Williams also gave feedback to the enlisted Airmen of Team BLAZE during his enlisted call where he talked about the responsibilities of being an Airman in today's Air Force, force balancing, the planned deactivation of the 19th AF and the relocation of its assets and other topics relevant to Columbus AFB's enlisted Airmen.

"A lot of people ask what is going to happen to the wings. If we do this right this will be transparent to the wings..." assured Chief Williams.

The call was also opened up for questions from the base's Airmen which expanded on the call's topics and elicited leadership lessons from the command chief.

"I was impressed with the questions that were asked during the enlisted call," said Chief Williams. "Those questions gave me a sense that they were in tune to not just Columbus AFB but to the big Air Force."

Chief Williams also expressed his goals for the 19th AF's enlisted force of being relevant, inspiring leadership and professional pride. He said from the first time he was introduced to the base's mission, he thought it fit perfectly.

"The mission statement of Columbus AFB is spot on: 'Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen and Feeding the Fight,' he said. "I will tell you that Advancing Airmen is important to me, and I have been totally impressed by the base."



Trail BLAZE'r

Name: Kristina Conwill
Unit: 14th Medical Operations Squadron
Job title: Exercise Physiologist
Time at Columbus AFB: 3.5 years
Time in Service: 5.5 years
Hometown: Millport, Ala.
Career goals: Obtain my Masters degree in exercise science, pursue a teaching or coaching career and maybe retire at Columbus Air Force Base.
Family members: Chris (husband), Calen (son) and stepsons Skyler, Braxton and McKellar.
Favorite musician: Nickelback
Favorite movie: The Blind Side and 61*
Biggest pet peeve: Laziness or Indecisiveness
Favorite book: Beyond Belief by Josh Hamilton and Tim Keown
Inspirations: Mary Lou Retton: "I'm very determined and stubborn. There's a desire in me that makes me want to do more and more, and to do it right. Each one of us has a fire in our heart for something. It's our goal in life to find it and to keep it lit."
Personal motto: "My life is not about me!"

17th AF, U.S. Air Forces Africa commander to speak at SUPT Class 11-09 graduation

Maj. Gen. Ronald R. "Ron" Ladnier is Commander, 17th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The command serves as the Air Component to U.S. Africa Command and has responsibility for all Air Force activities in the Africa theater spanning 53 countries, 11 million square miles and more than 900 million people.

General Ladnier entered the Air Force after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He previously commanded the first operational C-17 airlift squadron, a C-



Maj. Gen. Ronald Ladnier

141 operations group, a KC-135 air refueling wing and the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center. He has also served as Commandant of the Air Command and Staff College. His staff experience includes logistics readiness and program management on the Air Staff, acquisition management on the Air Mobility Command staff, and inter-agency planning at the Department of State. His most recent deployment experience was as the Director of the U.S. Central Command Deployment and Distribution Operations Center.

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 afr@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.

Budgeting Basics

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

Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

Mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring. Briefing should be completed at least 90 days prior to separation and may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 a.m. and takes approximately 30 minutes.

Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at the AFRC; Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m. and post-deployment at 1:30 p.m.

Smooth Move,

May 17 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A class that provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. Learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and AFRC.

Creating a Healthy Marriage

Workshop to learn the myths and stages of marriage on May 19 from 11 a.m. to noon. The keys to creating and maintaining a healthy marriage. Conducted by the Military Family Life Consultant.

Sponsorship Training,

For all Unit Intro Monitors and sponsors May 24 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Information on the importance of a good, effective sponsorship program and resources available for both sponsor and newcomer. To register call 434-2790. In addition, A public version of eSponsorship Application and Training (eSAT) can be found on the MilitaryINSTALLATIONS homepage (http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mils) in the Sponsorship article for each installation.

Hearts Apart Social

A social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel on May 24 from 4:30 to 6:30. Information, refreshments, and prizes. Advance registration required.

Bundles of Joy

May 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For active duty military and spouses assigned to Columbus Air Force Base who are pregnant or have a child up to four months of age. Info speakers on finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. An Air Force Aid Society program. Held at the AFRC.

BARGAIN LINE

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

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.ahm.com (listing ID 4763383.) Call 570-4221.

For sale: Spacious four bedroom two bathroom home in Caledonia school and youth sports district. House is only three years old, 2,321 sqft and rests on 1.1 acres. Refrigerator, washer, dryer, outdoor children's playhouse and swing set, power washer, and riding mower stay! Will also pay \$3,000 towards buyer's closing costs. See more at www.militarybyowner.com (Ad number MBO173792). Call 356-4611 or email BartandPearl@yahoo.com with questions or to see pictures of the entire house, a virtual tour, or set-up a viewing time.

For sale: Beautiful four bedroom two bath home in Caledonia. Excellent floor plan with 1.2 acres. Very close to schools, and base. For sale with

Southern Family Prudential for \$200,000 with owner paying up to \$4,000 in closing costs or for rent for \$1,500 a month. For more information call (605) 430-6251.

Transportation

For sale: 2006 Ford F250 XLT, 6.0 Turbo diesel, AT, all power, leather interior, DVD, lift kit, 18" Dick Cepek rims, 35" Nitto Mudgrapplers, Bully Dog Programmer, MBRP turboback exhaust, Bushwacker fender flares, toolbox, linex bedliner, extra set of XD Rockstar rims, 55,000 miles, excellent condition. \$30,000 or best offer. Call (601) 850-0764

For sale: 2002 Volvo S40 fully loaded, four door, 114,500 miles. Needs work. \$3,500 or best offer as is. Please call 356-4611.

For sale: 2006 Mercury Milan. Black exterior, tan leather interior, heated seats and sunroof. 114,000 miles. \$4,500 or best offer. Call 364-2109 or 816-1701.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Like new Marlin 336W 30/30, less than one box of shells used. Comes with one box of shells. Firm price of \$250. Call 386-9100.

For sale: Solid wood computer desk with hutch, \$40. Wrought iron coffee and two end tables, \$75. Call (843) 697-2942 for more information.

For sale: JS Sanders Collection 1,200 thread count Egyptian cotton queen sheets NIP, \$65 or best offer. Graco infant swing with zoo animals, \$25. Like new yellow The First Years baby and toddler tub, \$10. Baby Delight Snuggle Nest co-sleeper, \$10. Call at 434-9263.

For sale: Dog run 13'L x 7'W x 6'H, \$40 you move. John Deere push mower excellent condition, \$100. Sharper Image Ionic Breeze GP air purifier, \$25 each. Barely used black microwave, \$20. 4.1 MP Olympus digital camera 7.5x Zoom, \$10. Adjustable basketball hoop (needs minor repair), \$20. Please call (618) 670-5318.

For sale: Hard wood full size bed and

matching dresser, \$425 for both. Computer desk, \$65. Toro electric leaf blower, \$30. Ruger M77 .270 rifle with Bushnell 4x scope, wood stock, \$400. All negotiable! Please call (703) 501-3275.

For sale: Bedroom suit, dresser with large mirror, headboard and night stand, \$300. Highboy chest of drawers, \$400. Cost \$2,000 new. Very good condition. 328-3977.

For sale: IBM computer re-formatted as new with keyboard, monitor and mouse, \$100. 10" hanging ferns, \$4. Three gallon hostas ready to divide, \$5. Crepe myrtles, 3' tall, \$4. Electric dryer, roper by Whirlpool in excellent condition, \$50. Call 356-4292.

Yard sales

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

Sell your item today!

Base News

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.

Case Lot Sale

The Commissary will have a case lot sale on May 13-14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Motorcycle PPE at Exchange

Air Force compliant personal protection equipment for motorcycle riders is now carried at the base Exchange.

Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. Please visit the Thrift Shop for more information on consignments. Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. They can be dropped off anytime in the donation shed. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in Bldg 530, also known as the old post office.

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

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.

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.

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/afpc2zw3/vmpf/Hub/Pages/Hub.asp>.

ACT/SAT Testing

Information on ACT and SAT tests are now available on their respective websites (<http://www.act.org> and <http://www.collegeboard.com>). Answers about registration as well as quick tips regarding both of these important

tests for aspiring college students can be found here. The tests are provided throughout the year, with advanced registration required.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

The ERAU office is open Monday Wednesday Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located in Building 926, suite 124. ERAU is offering Master of Aeronautical Science and Master of Science in Management degrees. For more information contact the ERAU office at 434-8262 or Memphis.center@erau.edu

Saint Leo University

SLU offers on-base classes in psychology, criminal justice, and business administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by Room 120 in Bldg. 926 (Old Personnel Bldg.)

IDEA Program

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

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 RefreshHer

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 RefreshHer, 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

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.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

IFF 11-GBC Graduates

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will graduate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 11-GBC on May 11. Three members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots and weapon system operators

in the Combat Air Forces.

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and International flying training in the T-38Cliff aircraft. The 49th FTS provides training to fighter pilots and weapon system officers entering

Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the F16, F15C, F15E, and A10C.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Students bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack

capability then move on to surface attack and low-altitude tactical navigation phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these students will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!



2nd Lt. Robert Carpenter
A-10



2nd Lt. Elijah Culpepper
A-10



2nd Lt. Stephen Jude
F-16



2nd Lt. Christopher Morse
F-16



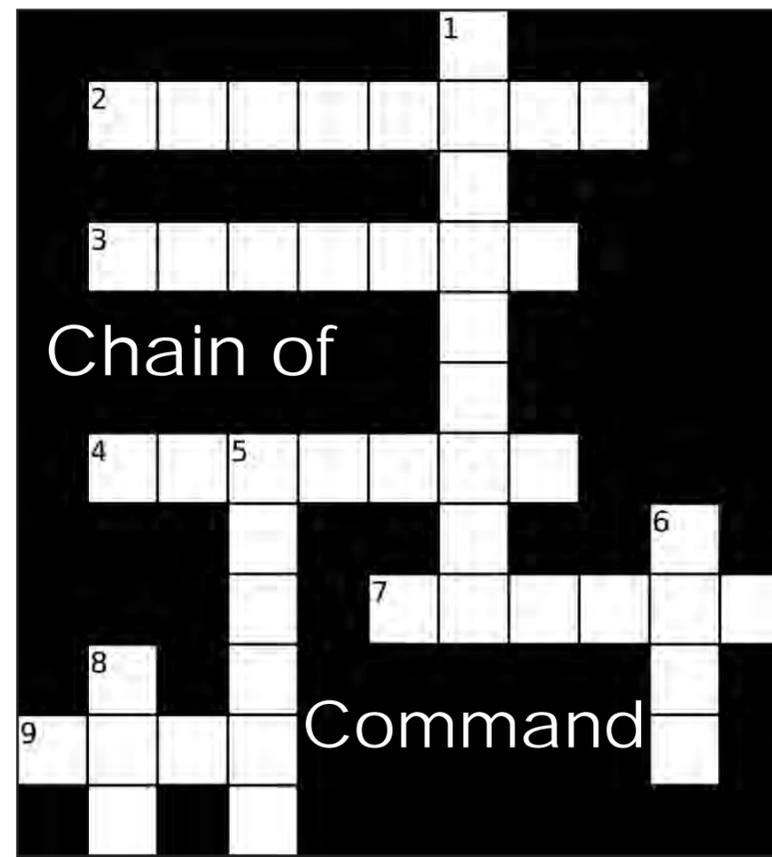
1st Lt. James Powell
F-15E



1st Lt. James Reeder
F-15E



2nd Lt. Zach Wallace
F-15C



2 Across
Air Force Chief of Staff; Gen.

3 Secretary of the Air Force; Donley

4 Undersecretary of the Air Force; Erin

7 14th FTW commander; Col.

9 19th AF commander; Maj. Gen.

Down
1 Vice Chief of Staff; Gen. Philip

5 Assistant Vice Chief of Staff; Lt. Gen. Richard

6 AETC commander; Gen.

8 Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force



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.

Force management explained

Monica Mendoza
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A group of mostly captains sat in on a recent briefing here to find out more about the 2011 Force Management Program.

In February, Air Force leaders announced another round of involuntary force-management programs to reduce personnel, and this time it affects mostly officers.

For some of the officers, it was not the first time they sat in such a briefing. Some of the captains have faced this proposal before.

Though the numbers are in their favor — 300 out of 9,000 officers, or 5 percent, will be let go — some said it's still nerve racking.

"Even though it is the bottom 5 percent that is being cut, everyone is going to worry when their career is on the line and they are not in charge of it," said 1st Lt. Alyssa Tetrault, the military personnel section chief here.

In February, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said the Air Force ended fiscal year 2010 with 2,300 officers above end strength, or the congressionally mandated ceiling, and had one of the highest retention levels in 16 years. Those

two factors combined led to this round of the Force Management Program.

There are two programs in play: the force shaping board and the reduction in force board. Both aim to shape the size of the force but, affect different groups.

For junior officers, the plan includes force-shaping boards beginning in May. The FSB will consider year groups with excess officers in the judge advocate general corps, and affects officers in the 2006 to 2008 commissioned year groups.

Captains and majors will face the RIF

- Captains: line of the Air Force 2003 through 2005
- Majors: line of the Air Force 2000; line of the Air Force-J 2001-2003

- Biomedical service corps: 2000 and 2001

Results are expected to be published in November, and the mandatory date for separation for those not retained is Feb. 1, 2012.

Now is the time for officers to prepare letters to the board if they desire, Lieutenant Tetrault said.

Those facing FSB must submit letters by May 8. Those facing RIF must submit letters by Sept. 18.

Airmen can find out more about the letters in the Personnel Services Delivery Memorandum, No. 11-12, on the Air Force

Personnel Center website.

"(The PSDM) tells them everything they need to know about letters to the board and where to send them, who to contact if they have questions," she said.

Since the February announcement of the 2011 Force Management Program, there have been some changes to year groups and categories.

Lieutenant Tetrault said she encourages Airmen to read the PSDM and "take an active role in your career."

She said it is important that RIF-eligible officers ensure their records are current, particularly with regard to duty history, appropriate professional military education and advanced academic degrees.

By August, officers should know where they stand, Lieutenant Tetrault said. Those traditional line officers eligible for force reduction will know if they have been rated as "definitely retain," "retain," or "do not retain."

RIF-eligible officers need to make plans just in case, said Sherri Kitchens, the transition assistance program manager.

She said those officers should consider a pre-separation counseling brief offered at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

"That is the first transition service that we offer," Ms. Kitchens said. "We welcome you at two years out of your date of separation. Even if you are just thinking about separation, we would love to have you. It does not obligate you in any way and it does not affect personnel records."

Bin Laden raid will help defeat al-Qaida, Obama says

Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The death of Osama bin Laden and the unprecedented collection of intelligence material from the raid that killed the terrorist leader will help the U.S. deal a serious blow to al-Qaida, President Barack Obama said May 8 in a recent television interview.

President Obama discussed the operation that killed bin Laden in Pakistan and the implications of his death for the fight against terrorism.

"We now have the opportunity ... to finally defeat at least al-Qaida in that border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan," President Obama said.

"That doesn't mean that we will defeat terrorism," he added. "It doesn't mean that al-Qaida hasn't metastasized to other parts of the world. But it does mean we've got a chance to deliver a fatal blow to this organization if we follow through aggressively in the months to come."

Describing last week as one of the most satisfying for the nation since he's been president, President Obama called bin Laden "a symbol of terrorism and a mass murderer" who has long eluded justice.

"For us to be able to definitively say, 'We got the man who caused thousands of deaths here in the United States and who had been the rallying point for a violent extremist jihad around the world' was something that I think all of us were profoundly grateful to be a part of," he said.

The president said shortly after he took office, he spoke privately with CIA director Leon E. Panetta about putting more resources, focus and urgency into efforts to find bin Laden. The CIA worked steadily on the problem since 2001, President Obama said, but "a range of threads were out there that hadn't quite been pulled all together."

Over many months, CIA and military experts worked closely to identify bin Laden's compound, gather evidence and, beginning last August, shape the action plan that ultimately nabbed the al-Qaida leader.

"This was a very difficult decision, in part because the evidence we had was not absolutely conclusive," President Obama said.

The plan entailed enormous risk to the men who carried out the mission, the president said.

"I thought it was important, though, for us to be able to say that we'd definitely got the guy," he added.

Also, the president said, the opportunity to

exploit information that might be found in the compound factored into his decision to authorize the raid.

President Obama said he and his team were not surprised to find bin Laden hiding in plain sight, but they were surprised to learn that the compound had been there for so long without information leaking out about it.

"I think the image that bin Laden had tried to promote was that he was an ascetic, living in a cave," the president said. "This guy was living in a million-dollar compound in a residential neighborhood."

Bin Laden was in the compound for at least five years, he added.

The president said his biggest concern in planning and executing the operation was ensuring the U.S. team could get out, regardless of how the mission turned out.

"As outstanding a job as our intelligence teams did ... at the end of the day, this was still a 55/45 situation," he said. "We could not say definitively that bin Laden was there. Had he not been there, then there would have been significant consequences."

Geopolitical risks were involved in entering the sovereign territory of another country, landing helicopters and conducting a military operation, he said.

"If it turns out that it's a wealthy prince from Dubai who's in this compound and we've sent Special Forces in, we've got problems," the president said.

The team that conducted the raid was so capable, President Obama said, that it gave him the confidence to proceed with the mission.

"I think the American people have some sense of how good these guys are," he added, "but until you actually see them and meet them, it's hard to describe how courageous, how tough, how skilled, how precise they are."

The mission was worth the risk, President Obama said, because the nation has "devoted enormous blood and treasure in fighting back against al-Qaida since 2001" and before that, with the embassy bombing in Kenya.

"I said to myself that if we have a good chance of not completely defeating, but badly disabling, al-Qaida, then it was worth both the political risks as well as the risks to our men," the president said.

After the mission, President Obama said he felt relieved.

"I walked up with my team and I just said, 'We got him,'" he said. "And I expressed my profound gratitude and pride to the team that had worked on this."

Proposal would save \$3.2 billion in health care costs

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's proposal to reform the TRICARE health plan and the military health system would save at least \$3.2 billion between 2012 and 2016, the Pentagon's chief financial officer told Congress yesterday.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee, Robert F. Hale said the initiatives would support President Barack Obama's debt-reduction plan, which calls for a \$4 trillion reduction in the federal budget by 2023.

President Obama's plan includes a reduction of \$78 billion in DOD's fiscal 2012 budget and an additional \$400 billion in national security cuts through 2023.

Mr. Hale said that although \$3.2 billion is only modest savings toward the president's overall goal, the savings are "substantial" within DOD.

"The federal government as a whole would save money under this plan -- not a lot, but there are modest savings," he explained. "The department savings from this proposal would

be very substantial. We're looking out over the whole career of an individual and setting aside money to pay for it, so you immediately see major effects."

The fiscal 2012 budget request calls for \$52.5 billion to support the military health system's 9.6 million beneficiaries, which include retirees, active-duty members and their families. The department's health care bill has more than tripled from \$19 billion in 2001.

"We've got to find ways to maintain the quality of health care but slow the growth in cost," Mr. Hale said.

Meeting that challenge begins with streamlining operations at the health affairs headquarters, he said, which means cutting more than 700 civilian contractors from the TRICARE staff.

The proposal also calls for reforms for beneficiaries, including a maximum \$5 per month increase for working-age military retirees under 65, raising the co-payment for prescription drugs, and regulatory changes that would eliminate special subsidies for community hospitals that serve beneficiaries, Mr. Hale said.

Mr. Hale noted that TRICARE enrollment

fees have not increased since Congress appropriated funds for the program in 1994.

Families pay an estimated \$460 annually for TRICARE Prime coverage, but had the fees been indexed today to meet the growth in per capita national health expenditure, those fees would now be more than \$1,000 per family each year, he said.

Beginning in 2013, future enrollees would pay fees based on the national health expenditure if the proposal is enacted, Mr. Hale said, and that, he added, still would be significantly less than what beneficiaries would pay in the private sector for health insurance.

The proposals would save an estimated \$430 million over the next five years and would stabilize cost sharing in TRICARE at a level much more favorable than what Congress envisioned in the 1990s, Mr. Hale said.

Reform proposals in pharmaceuticals include incentives for allowing the department to prescribe generic drugs and deliver prescriptions by mail, saving \$2.5 billion by 2016, he added.

Mr. Hale told the panel that the rates DOD pays to "sole community hospitals" that serve military beneficiaries are substantially higher than the rates it pays to other hospitals. Sole community hospitals are determined by Medicare rules that factor in distance from other hospitals, capacity and other criteria.

Federal law requires that the department adopt Medicare rates when practical, and combined with lower rates paid to sole community hospitals, the proposal would save the department \$395 million through 2016, Mr. Hale said.

"We will phase in this change slowly, at least over a four-year period, in order to avoid adverse effects on care provided at these hospitals," he added.

Mr. Hale also discussed the department's proposal for equitable treatment for all

Medicare-eligible military retirees.

Under current law, he said, some Medicare-eligible enrollees are allowed to remain in the U.S. Family Health Plan, a TRICARE Prime option that provides care to active-duty family members and all military retirees regardless of whether they participate in Medicare Part B, which covers doctor services, outpatient care and home health services that Part A does not.

DOD officials, Mr. Hale added, seek legislation that requires those who are part of the U.S. Family Health Plan to join Medicare, as all other retirees must.

This, he added, will ensure that TRICARE does not pay claims that exceed Medicare rates when military retirees qualify for both programs.

"We will make these fee changes very gradually, very slowly, and 'grandfathering' all those who are currently over age 65 and in the Family Health Plan, so it will take place over a number of years," Mr. Hale said. "I particularly ask the committee's support for the provisions affecting the sole community hospitals and for legislation to permit changes to the U.S. Family Health Plan."

The proposals are more than reasonable, Mr. Hale said, and strike a solid balance between bringing savings and maintaining quality health care for veterans and their families.

None of the proposals would affect active-duty troops, he emphasized.

"These proposals generate savings that will help us pay for needed training and equipping of the armed forces," Mr. Hale said. "If we don't get authority to do this, we'll face major holes in the military budget, and it will be very hard to handle in difficult budgetary times. But most importantly, these proposals will lay the groundwork for a sustainable future of the military health care system."

Dollars and \$ense: Is it cheaper to fly or drive for my TDY or PCS?

Traveling TDY:

Your orders approving official will determine if driving your Privately Owned Vehicle is advantageous to the government or not. If your orders approving official authorizes you to drive, then you will be authorized mileage, tolls, ferry fees, and per diem for driving. If traveling by POV is not advantageous to the government, you will be reimbursed for your actual method of travel, not to exceed the cost of common carrier transportation, to include taxis to and from airports and per diem. The current mileage rate for using your POV on a TDY is \$0.51 per mile.

References:

Joint Federal Travel Regulation Volume 1, Chapter 3 Part D
JFTR Volume 1, Chapter 5
Joint Travel Regulation Volume 2, Part D, Section 1
JTR Volume 2 Chapter 5

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.



As of press time, **91 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed** worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Base families offered a variety of activities

AROUND TOWN

Hitching Lot Farmer's Market

The Hitching Lot Farmer's Market will hold a grand opening May 14. The market is open Mondays from 5-7 p.m., Thursdays from 6-10 a.m., and Saturdays from 7-10 a.m. Visit hitchinglotfarmersmarket.com for more information.

BLAZE "N" Wheels Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

The Second Annual BLAZE "N" Wheels Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show will be June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Freedom Park and will feature food, live music, jumpers and more! Judging begins at 10:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 for the first vehicle and \$15 for each additional vehicle if paid by May 21. Late registration is \$25 per vehicle. Classes include classic (1950-1985), late model (1986 to present), trucks (all years), antique (pre-1950) and motorcycles. For more information or to register, go online to www.cafbservice.com.

9th Annual Super Scramble Sponsored in Part by Sonic

Whispering Pines Golf Course is hosting the Ninth Annual Super Scramble Sponsored in Part by Sonic on June 11-12. The format is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. each day. The field is limited to the first 18 paid teams. Cost is \$60 per person plus cart and includes green fees, prize fund, a mulligan, door prizes, tee prizes and lunch after play on Saturday. Carts are on a first-come, first-serve basis and cost \$15 per person for the weekend. If you supply your own carts, the trail fee will be waived. Deadline to enter is June 6 for those without base access and June 9 for all others. Entry forms are available at the Pro Shop, Sonic Drive-In on Hwy 45 North and online at www.cafbservices.com. For more information, call 434-7932.

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 Sat., 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 2507 for more information.

America's Kids Run

The 2011 America's Armed Forces Kids Run will be Sat., 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 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 Ms. 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.

Ms. 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, 2011, and there is no limit to the number of recipes that can be entered. Visit 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 7861 for more information.

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 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.

Asian Pacific diversity, heritage

Maj. Aaron Han
Asian Pacific Heritage Month POC

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month which is a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. What specifically is "Asian-Pacific Americans" you ask? The term Asian Pacific encompasses the entire Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The "Asian Pacific American" designation encompasses over 50 ethnic or language groups including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. There are now more Asian and Pacific Islander groups than in the past - with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Island subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures. These groups include Asian-Indian Americans, Laotian Americans, Cambodian Americans, Hmong Americans, Samoan, Guamanian and many other language groups.

Since the Asian and Pacific culture encompasses such diversity within itself, it can be overwhelming and difficult to choose how we celebrate the culture. Sometimes people can take too narrow of an approach to commemorate such a large culture. Most people think about eating Asian cuisines and watching cultural performance when comes to celebrating Asian Pacific history and culture.

Although these kinds of celebrations are wonderful and educational, taking the time to remember those Asian-Pacific Americans who have served our nation in times of her need is also an important way of celebrating Asian-Pacific American heritage. Such way has a very special meaning for those of us who wear the uniform and have answered the same call. After all, Memorial Day also falls in May.

Asian-Pacific Americans have proudly served their nation from the Civil War to the current Global War on

Terrorism. The members of 442nd Regimental Combat Team of WWII epitomized the dedication and bravery of Asian-Pacific American servicemen. The unit, comprised mostly of Japanese Americans, is recognized as the most decorated unit in United States military history, receiving a total of 18,000 awards. Among these awards were seven presidential unit citations, 9,500 Purple Hearts, and 52 Distinguished Flying Crosses. These men served their nation honorably even when their families back home were unjustly locked away in relocation camps that resulted from bigotry and unfounded allegations.

The tradition of service among the Asian Pacific Americans continues today. The current number of Asian-American military veterans stands at 276,079. A total of 31 Asian-Pacific Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor from WWI to Vietnam War.

As we celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month and come together to honor all of our fallen brethren on Memorial Day for their contribution to our great nation and we hope that such a contribution will continue to make our country strong through diversity.

Planning your career: Don't get ahead of yourself

Frank McGowan
412th Logistics Test Squadron

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- Have you ever heard that common expression, "No one is going to look out for your career better than you are?"

Anyone with more than a couple of years of service in the military or as a federal employee has certainly heard this. The more senior members have a better feel for what it means than the junior members, and for the most part it is a statement we all pretty much understand.

Or maybe it was being told to find a mentor; does that sound familiar?

We all remember our first mentor, someone who took us under their wing and fed us those little nuggets of wisdom we still carry to this day. Plus, they helped make sense of the many different and seemingly complicated career choices available to us.

Those choices can seem quite daunting when you are a young Airman, junior officer or new civil servant on your first assignment, and you're just trying to understand the basics of your primary duties and how the Air Force as a whole works. There is a lot of sound advice available to help us manage our careers step-by-step as we move through the years and hopefully ful-

fill our aspirations. I want to touch on a very simple principle that has been very beneficial to me throughout my career.

One of the best pieces of advice I received for managing my career was given to me really before my career even began. As a trainee in Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, my instructor was a senior captain. To this day I do not know if the discussion about what job you get was part of his lesson plan or he was just sharing his thoughts with us. He was talking about individuals who are so caught up with moving up the ladder that all they focus on or talk about is where their next assignment is or what their next job will be, not giving their full attention to the job at hand.

Of course, he was cautioning us not to be like those individuals, and this is what he said to our class: "The best way to take care of your next job is by taking care of the job you are in now." When I heard that as a young officer trainee, it just seemed to make perfect sense; it was one of those little nuggets of wisdom that just dropped into my lap and has stuck with me throughout the years.

Some of you are now asking, "What is so 'important' about that advice? Of course

you have to do well in your current job to get a better one." What did the OTS instructor mean when he recommended "taking care of the job you are in now"? Did he mean for you to go to work each day, keep your nose clean and do a good job? Yes, but he was really communicating much more than that.

He meant give 110 percent to everything you do each and every day. Be a team player who others can count on under any circumstance. Do not complain about what jobs or tasks you or your unit is asked to accomplish, but take them on and produce nothing but top-notch results. Pay attention to the little details in each job you are given and not just the "big rocks." Bring solutions to your boss and not just problems. Lastly, treat others the way you would want to be treated.

Now, this list is not all inclusive and I could expand upon each principle expressed, but if you make an effort to follow these principles you can become a respected expert in your job and people will start to seek you out to help them solve the difficult problems they face in their jobs. Over time, you can be sure your boss and your bosses' boss will take notice and you will become one of those go-to people

who exist in every organization. In addition, the aforementioned work habits are what lead to doors opening up for that next job.

Your reputation for doing excellent work and being a go-to person will precede you and when the right person is being sought for that tough assignment or to fill that key position, your name will be on the short list of candidates, or better yet it will be a by-name request with your name on it.

Now, I am not suggesting you don't engage in sound career planning and setting future job objectives. I highly encourage you to think about where you want to be two or even five years from now and lay out a plan to get there. I also encourage you to seek out senior personnel to get their advice and learn from their experiences setting a career path. Additionally, find a mentor you can go to and get their honest assessment of your strengths and weaknesses so you can set a course to build on those strengths and develop those areas that need improvement.

But, remember this: If you do not excel in the job you are in now, opportunities to take on greater responsibility or expand your worth to the organization will not avail themselves. So, be the absolute best you can be in the job you are doing today and, most likely, the next one will take care of itself.

Columbus AFB outdoor recreation opportunities abound



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Bikes of all sizes are available for family activities. A weekend package can also be purchased for \$8.

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

Summer is fast approaching, and the 14th Force Support Squadron's Outdoor Recreation is prepared to help Team BLAZE members enjoy it to the fullest. Offering a vast array of programs, services and equipment rentals Outdoor Recreation is the one stop shop for everything.

Many outdoor programs are available throughout the year. Popular events include whitewater rafting in the summer, and ski trips in the winter. Contact Outdoor Recreation to see what events are coming up, or have them arrange one just for you!

Columbus' Information, Tickets and Travel office at Outdoor Recreation has discounted tickets for the Memphis Zoo, Dollywood, Six Flags Over Georgia and Disneyworld in Orlando. Their registered travel agent can also help book group and individual cruises, as well as most any other type of vacation.

For those interested in taking their own road equipment for backpacking, boating, fishing or sporting are available to help anybody from the



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Outdoor Recreation offers outdoor programs and opportunities for many members of Team BLAZE to enjoy.

beginner to the experienced outdoorsman pursue the outdoors. Pack light with sleeping bags, a tent and a compass, or take it easy by renting a camper to keep more modern comforts close by.

Many pieces of equipment are available to be

rented piece by piece, or pre-packaged kits for camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, or biking can be rented for full weekends.

Boats and campers can be rented, though those who would like to check out a boat must have a boater safety license. Apply on-line at www.boat-ed.com or schedule a class at Outdoor Recreation. A printed certificate must be shown when renting a boat.

Beat the heat with a pass to the base pool from Outdoor Recreation. The pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend.

Carnival games and jumpers are some of Outdoor Recreation's most popular pieces and can be rented for birthday parties or any other type of gathering to the event. Daily and two day rates are available.

Certain specific pieces of rental equipment for lawn, garden, or yard work are also available at Outdoor Recreation. Augers, hedge trimmers and many other pieces of equipment that may not be commonly used are available for rent.

For more information about Outdoor Recreation and their many programs and services, visit their website at www.cafbservices.com, stop by for a visit or call 434-7861 or 2507.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Camping, hiking and fishing equipment is available at Outdoor Recreation for either individual rental, or package deals. Outdoor programs with guides are also available; see Outdoor Recreation for details on upcoming events.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Several types of boats and canoes can be rented to help Team BLAZE members enjoy Mississippi's lakes and rivers. To rent a boat, a boater safety license must be presented. Applications can be found on-line at www.boat-ed.com.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Elizabeth Brahan, Allen Wilson and Matt Sherman, lifeguards for the base pool, hose and scrub the pool in preparation for it's upcoming opening on memorial day weekend.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Klaus Bauer, Outdoor Recreation aid, inspects one of Outdoor Recreation's 13 jumpers in preparation for its next use. Jumpers are one of Outdoor Recreation's most popular items and are commonly used at birthday parties by Team BLAZE members.