

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 35, Issue 22

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

June 3, 2011

## Weather



**Today**

High: 100, Low: 74  
Mostly Sunny



**Saturday**

High: 99, Low: 73  
Sunny



**Sunday**

High: 98, Low: 72  
Partly Cloudy



**Monday**

High: 98, Low: 72  
Isolated T-Storms

## News Briefs

### Flag Retirement Ceremony

Boy Scout Troop 9 and the 14th Flying Training Wing will be holding a flag retirement ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. tonight at the SAC lake. Hot dogs, burgers and refreshments will be served beginning at 5 p.m.

### 2nd Annual Classic Car Show

The 2nd Annual BLAZE “N” Wheels Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show will be June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Freedom Park and will feature food, live music, jumpers and more. Judging begins at 10:30 a.m.

### Super Sonic Golf Tournament

Whispering Pines Golf Course is hosting the 9th Annual Super Scramble sponsored in part by Sonic Drive-In 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. 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.cafbser-vices.com](http://www.cafbser-vices.com). For more information, call 434-7932.



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

Dr. Raj Shaunak, Vice President of Workforce and Community Services at East Mississippi Community College, Mayhew campus, speaks at the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month breakfast at the Columbus Club on May 6. At the event Team BLAZE members learned about Asian-Pacific American heritage and their contributions to the America.

## Asian-Pacific American Heritage attendees catch glimpse of immigrant experience

**Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick**

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

American Heritage Month 2011 on May 26 at the Columbus Club.

At the event attendees learned about the sacrifices and contributions made by Asian-Pacific Americans, and listened to personal stories of immigration and integration experiences from the event’s guest speaker.

Dr. Raj Shaunak, Vice President of Workforce and Community Services at East Mississippi Community College, Mayhew campus, chose to give attendees a glimpse into the experiences of a first generation Asian-Pacific immigrant.

See APAH, Page 2

Team BLAZE gathered together to “Celebrate Diversity and Advance Airmen”, the theme for Asian-Pacific

## Inside



Feature 8

What time do you open? The hours of operation of most base facilities are in this week’s feature

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

### PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (12-03)	4.49 days	0.28 days	Jun. 8
41st (12-04)	5.49 days	0.48 days	Jun. 29

The graduation speaker is Col. George Ross III, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.

### PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (11-10)	4.82 days	-0.85 days	Jun. 10
50th (11-10)	0.85 days	-5.63 days	Jun. 10

### IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (10-HB)	-0.33 days	2.19 days	Jun. 13

### WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	151	140	29,265
T-1	44	50	6,870
T-38	56	59	7,393
IFF	14	10	1,858

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 73 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## 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.

## APAH

(Continued from Page 1)

"I could lay out the facts and figures, number and all that and tell you about the contributions that Asian-Pacific Americans have made to the betterment of America. But you will not remember it," he said. "So let me tell you this individual's story as to why he's standing here."

Dr. Shaunak began with his birth at the foot of Mount Kenya, Kenya, into a military family. He spoke of how his father came to be in the British Army, and of the values instilled in him at a young age.

"I remember when we were four or five years old reading on this red box, these two poems that were beautifully written with my father's handwriting. One was from Jefferson: 'We are endowed by a creator, some unalienable rights: 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'" he said. "I remember that from the age of four to six."

Dr. Shaunak's first time coming to America was when he came to visit a brother. He recounted the experiences of that trip: The big car, the long roads and great weather. He also described a particular situation when visiting the student union at Mississippi State University when he saw groups sitting in particular areas based on their affiliations and race.

"I walked in there and asked myself: 'Where do I sit? Hey, it's America! I paid for my food, I'll go sit where I want to!'" he recounted. "What a wonderful feeling." "People that are born and raised here in America sometimes take that for granted," said 2nd Lt. Brooke Begemann, a transition lieutenant currently with the 14th Flying Training Wing Chapel. "People who come here from other countries realize that this is a unique opportunity and I think they really appreciate that."

"I'm not telling you this story to tell you about me, but each part of it reflects on the immigrant experience, and especially from those of an Asian-Pacific heritage," explained Dr. Shaunak.

Wrapping up his speech, Dr. Shaunak noted that Advancing Airmen is part of Team BLAZE's mission and celebrating diversity is part of the mission. A mission that protects the American way of life

"You are not only defending our nation and the values and beliefs that we stand for," he said. "You are giving opportunities for people like me to live the American Dream."

## SILVER WINGS

### How to reach us

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### Submission Deadline

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

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

*This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.*

*Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.*

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*Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.*

*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
6 Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. @ Chapel	7	8 12-03 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club	9	10 11-10 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	11/12 June 11: Super Sonic Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. @ Golf Course
13 14th SFS CoC, 2 p.m. @ Club IFF Graduation, 4:49 @ 49th FTS	14 14th MDG CoC, 1 p.m. @ Club	15	16 Class 12-10 PPW, 6 p.m.	17 Class 11-11 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	18/19 June 18: Lebanese G.O visit June 19: Father's Day

Long Range Events
June 20: Night Flying Week
June 21: Newcomers
June 23: Col. Ross Fini Flight
June 29: Class 12-04 Track Select
June 30: Class 11-11 Graduation
June 30: Enlisted Promotions
July 1: AETC Family Day

## Dollars and \$ense:

### What could cause my Basic Allowance for Housing rate to change?

There are many circumstances that affect your BAH rate. The most common are:

- Type of tour - standard active duty tour or contingency (normal BAH regardless of tour length)

- Length of tour - 30 days or less, BAH-RC applies; 31+ days, normal rate BAH applies for either your residence or primary duty station, as applicable

- Change in marital status - if you get married or divorced or if your spouse enters active duty or separates

- Child support - if you are providing child support for a child who is your sole dependent and who is not in your custody

- Birth or death - birth of a child if you are not married, or death of a spouse with no children involved

- Promotion or demotion - the rate will update automatically when Military Personnel Element updates your pay grade

- Moving in or out of housing or the dorms - Housing or the dorm manager will prepare the AF Form 594 (Application and Authorization to start, stop or change BAQ or Dependency

Re-determination) to stop or start your allowance as appropriate.

- Relocation for a PCS - your BAH will continue at your old rate until you in-process with Finance at your new duty station

There are also some unique situations involving dependency determinations and recertification that could cause your BAH rate to change.

#### References:

AFMAN 65-116, Volume 3, Chapter 14.1

Joint Federal Travel Regulation, Volume 1, Chapter 10, Part A, Paragraph U10002B

#### 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.

## Columbus announced busiest ATC in AF



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick  
**Air Traffic Controllers from the 14th Operations Support Squadron keep an eye on the sky during a busy day at the Air Traffic Control Tower. According to the fiscal year 2010 USAF Air Traffic Activity Report from the AF Flight Standards Agency, Columbus Air Force Base contains the busiest Air Traffic Control complex in the USAF at 410,764 combined operations.**

## Retirement and separation: The next chapter

### Biron Ross

14th Flying Training Wing Judge Advocate Chief of General Law

Summer is usually a time for transition. That is why many choose this season to conclude their Air Force career and start the next chapter of their lives. Some will choose start a new career in federal service, others as government contractors, and others as semi-professional fisherman. Whatever the career choice, there are some basic rules that one must consider.

### Seeking Employment

When beginning a job search, you should avoid the temptation of using government resources. The Joint Ethics Regulation prohibits the use of government property and time for anything other than official duties. Your supervisor or commander may authorize the use of government equipment; however, don't assume that your use is reasonable or authorized unless you clear it in advance.

If you are currently negotiating for employ-

ment with a company that does business with the government, then you may need to issue a written notice of disqualification. The notice of disqualification serves notice to your department and superiors of your intent to seek employment with the company and requests removal from any particular matters with respect to said company. However, please be aware that merely "seeking" employment (e.g., sending an unsolicited resume) with such a company can also create a conflict of interest, which would require a written notice of disqualification. Please consult the legal office to obtain specific guidance on notices of disqualification.

### Accepting an Offer of Employment

Before accepting any offer of employment, here are some of rules you should consider:

Military members intending to begin employment while on terminal leave must first obtain permission. The request, and approval, should be accomplished via the AF Form 3902 or another written document. Supervisors and

commanders should obtain legal review of off-duty employment requests prior to approving them. Additionally, retired military members are prohibited from representing non-federal organizations before any federal agency while on terminal leave.

Military members are prohibited from accepting civilian employment (civil service) within DOD for six months from separation unless an exception is applicable. [5 U.S.C. § 3326]

General officers and senior civilian personnel are banned for one year from representing another party before their former agency with the intent to influence any official action. [18 U.S.C. 207]

Air Force personnel who work with contracts and procurement, or make key decisions in this area, must also be aware of the special restrictions arising from The Procurement Integrity Act (41 U.S.C. 423), to include a one year ban on acceptance of compensation in certain situations.

Retiring or separating Air Force personnel

are barred for two years from representing another party before any Federal agency or court regarding a particular matter that fell under their official responsibility during their last year of federal employment. [18 USC 207(a)(1)].

Retiring or separating Air Force personnel are prohibited from representing another party before a federal agency or court regarding a particular matter in which they participated personally and substantially at anytime during their Federal service for the life of that particular matter. [18 USC 207(a)(1)]

Retiring military members cannot accept employment from any foreign government, including corporations owned by foreign governments without the consent of the Secretary of their Military Department and the Secretary of State jointly. [AFI 36-2913]

This list is not extensive and there are exceptions. Thus, if you are as confused as I was when I first encountered them, then don't worry. The legal office stands ready and eager to guide you through the process. Please feel free to contact our office at DSN 742-7030 for assistance.

# Top 3 Spotlight

- Category: Airman  
Airman 1st Class Jon Copeland  
14th Operations Support Squadron
1. Home Town: Benton, La.
  2. Time in the Air Force: One year eight months
  3. Time at Columbus AFB: One year
  4. Career Short Term Goals: Start a Masters program
  5. Career Long Term Goals: Continue education
  6. Nominated by: Senior Master Sgt. Terrence Stanich
  7. Nomination reason: Airman



Copeland has demonstrated outstanding performance throughout his young career. His superior efforts have allowed him to obtain several duty certifications within 70 percent of the allotted time, placing him ahead of his peers. His "can do" attitude and unique training methods also allowed him to assist a fellow Airman overcome training challenges, which directly contributed to that Airman's successful certification. Further, Airman Copeland remains active in his base and community. His involvement includes: the 2010 CFC POC, the Salvation Army "Red Kettle" Campaign, Talladega Raceway usher, the 2011 OSS Combat Dining-In, and he served as facility guide during 20 CAFB tower tours, providing superb insight on ATC ops and its 14 FTW mission impact on more than 200 visitors. Finally, having already attained his B.A. degree, Airman Copeland is now only one class away from his CCAF. Airman Copeland's commitment to excellence is what makes him stand out as a true Wingman and Leader.

- Category: NCO  
Staff Sgt. Stephen Toussaint  
14th Force Support Squadron
1. Home Town: Laurel, Maryland
  2. Time in the Air Force: Four Years and nine Months
  3. Time at Columbus AFB: Three Years and six Months
  4. Career Short Term Goals: Receive my bachelor's degree in computer science and also look into special duty assignment such as Military Training Instructor.
  5. Career Long Term Goals: Become a commissioned officer and retire to become a civil service member.
  6. Nominated by: Senior Master Sgt. Kimberly Heng
  7. Nomination reason: Staff Sgt. Toussaint, NCOIC, Installation



Personnel Readiness Function, is known for his outstanding customer support and enthusiasm with which he approaches any task. He has personally deployed over 170 Columbus AFB personnel and recently restructured the wing accountability process for recalls, slashing report completion time by 50%. As Assistant NCOIC of the base honor guard, he is responsible for scheduling details for parades, retirements, funerals, and special events in addition to training new team members. Sergeant Toussaint's infectious optimism, commitment to excellence, and proven leadership is truly inspiring and apparent throughout Team BLAZE.

## Retreat honors fallen CAFB pilot



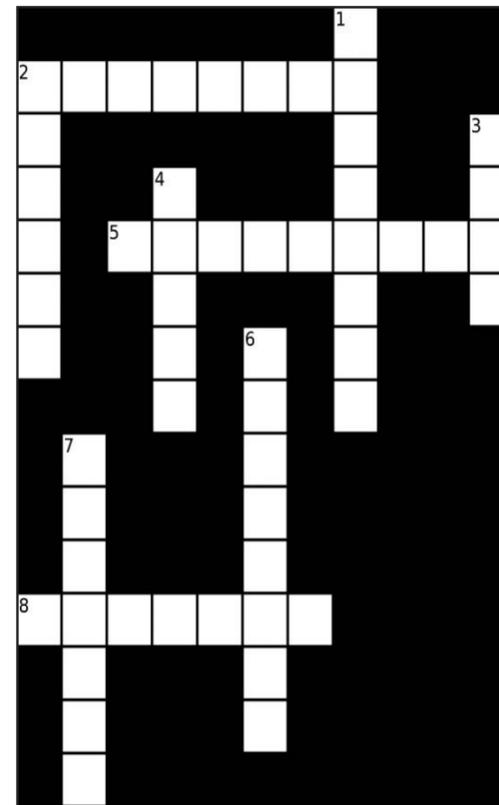
U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. James Corbin  
Senior Airman Morgan Good, base honor guard member, reveals the name of Capt. Jeffrey Hill during a wing retreat ceremony held on May 26 at Smith Plaza. Captain Hill was a T-1 Instructor Pilot with the 48th Flying Training Squadron.

## Congratulations to the May enlisted promotees



U.S. Air Force photo/ Elizabeth Owens  
Congratulations to 14th Flying Training Wing's newest enlisted promotees: Technical Sgt, Brandon Ward, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, Staff Sgt, Angel Galindo, 14th Contracting Squadron, Staff Sgt, Katie Smith, 14th Operations Support Squadron, Senior Airman Kyle Malczewski, 14th OSS, Senior Airman James Otis, 14th OSS, Senior Airman Dion Battisti, 14th CES, Senior Airman Shondelle Ah Kuoi, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, Senior Airman Joshua Keith, 14th OSS, Senior Airman Kelvin Jordan, 14th OSS, Senior Airman Ramses Rodriguez, 14th CONS, Senior Airman Gregory Wilkins, 48th Flying Training Squadron, Senior Airman Michael Sobers, 14th OSS, Senior Airman Heather Quebodeaux, 14th OSS, Senior Airman Aaron Coleman, 14th Comptroller Squadron, Senior Airman Eric Gonzalez, 14th CONS, Senior Airman David Gongora, 14th Security Forces Squadron, Senior Airman Jaquari Lopez, 14th Communication Squadron, Senior Airman Soo Young Shin, 14th MDOS.

## This week's crossword: Memorializations



- Across
- 2 Display in building 268 dedicated after a ceremony in 2004 to this group of Airmen.
  - 5 The base's enlisted dormitories were dedicated in 1999 to this Mississippi Congressman.
  - 8 Hall dedicated to a Columbus AFB graduate killed in action in 1972 over the Republic of Vietnam.

- Down
- 1 Monument dedicated to all men and women who have served at Columbus AFB was dedicated in \_\_\_\_\_ of 1979.
  - 2 Number of B-52 crewmen the stained glass windows of the chapel are dedicated to.
  - 3 Auditorium dedicated to a WWI captain from Columbus. Display cases house his uniform, personal and military pictures.
  - 4 Hall dedicated to a Columbus AFB T-37 Tweet Instructor Pilot who died in a KC-135 training mission.
  - 6 Auditorium dedicated to the 37th Flying Training Squadron commander from Jan. 1985 to July 1987.
  - 7 Small aircraft maintenance hangar dedicated to the colonel in charge of the base's construction in 1941.



### Last week's answer

## 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. \$1,250 per month or buy for \$139,000. See more at www.ahm.com (listing ID 4763383.) Call 570-4221.

For rent: \$900 per month. Beautiful three bedroom, two bath house located only 10 minutes from CAFB near the hospital. The entire house has been remodeled! New carpet in every bedroom. Patio area perfect for barbecues. Large fenced back yard great for pets. Washer, dryer, fridge and all other major appliances included! 408 24th Ave N, Columbus. Please call (703) 203-3414 for more information or to schedule a showing.

For sale: 2001 Damon Daybreak 35 foot Class A motor home. Asking pay-off \$31,000. Call 356-6844. Please leave message.

### Transportation

For sale: 2008 Chevy Cobalt LT (Cobalt Blue), 62,000 miles. \$9,500, clean title, single owner (non-smoker), all maintenance kept current, four new tires in Jan. 2011, new brake pads, very clean inside and out, auto locks, keyless entry and remote start-up, cruise control on steering wheel, digital info in dash (Temperature, tire pressure, etc.) ABS, traction control, rear spoiler. Passenger, driver and side airbags, XM radio, heat and air work great. Call (816) 434-8240, leave a message.

For sale: 2001 Damon Daybreak 35 foot Class A motor home. Asking pay-off \$31,000. Call 356-6844. Please leave message.

### Miscellaneous

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

For sale: Pack and play, \$20. Evenflow Ultra Saucer, \$20. Portable three-in-one booster seat, \$7. Potty'n'step stool, \$5. Cosco gentle motion swing, \$15. Fisher Price deluxe nursery monitor, \$10. Graco Infant car seat with base, \$25. Shopping cart cover, \$10. Vibrating Jeep bouncy seat, \$15. Safety 1st inflatable Cozy Tub, \$5.

For sale: Office chair, \$30. Office chair, \$15. Highboy chest of drawers, \$400. 328-3977.

For sale: 32" Panasonic CRT TV, \$75. Gray and black futon, \$60. Call 434-8358.

For sale: Hard wood full size bed and

matching dresser, \$350 for both. Computer desk, \$45. Ruger M77 .270 rifle with Bushnell 4x scope, wood stock, \$360. All negotiable. Please call (703) 501-3275.

For sale: 46" RCA rear-projection TV, \$150. Ping pong table, \$75. Call 574-9414

### Saturday Yard Sales

Yard sale: Multiple Families, Saturday, June 4, at 6 a.m. at The Point Church on 18th Avenue (behind Rite Aid on 45).

Carpool sale: June 3 and 4. Lots of nice boys and girls clothes. Sizes 2T's and up. Nice ladies dress shoes, (large sizes.) Left behind series. Lots of VHS movies for kids. Dean Martin HOST series. Small childrens desk and chair. Exercise items. Christmas tree ornaments. Lots of other items. 873 Pleasant Hill Road. (East Columbus) Columbus, Miss. 39702.

**Base News**

**Thrift Shop**

The Columbus Air Force Base Thrift Shop has moved locations. They can now be found in building 530 and are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 434-2954 for more information.

**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.

**Motorcycle PPE at Exchange**

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

**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.

**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.

**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>.

**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 University Aeronautical**

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 [HYPERLINK "mailto:Memphis.center@erau.edu"](mailto:Memphis.center@erau.edu) 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.)

**Airman and Family Readiness Center**

*(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email [afrc@columbus.af.mil](mailto:afrc@columbus.af.mil).)*

**Self-paced Tutorials**

Available on MS Office 2007 Suites; Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word and Windows Vista. Set your own learning pace at your AFRC.

**Relocation assistance**

Weekly workshop on programs, services and resources available through the Airman and Family Readiness Center held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness.

**Employment Workshop**

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

**Spouse welcome**

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

**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.

**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.

**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**

June 7 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.

**Hearts Apart Social**

June 14 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel. Information, refreshments, and prizes. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

**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: 2nd Lt. Andy Waddel  
Unit: 14th Operations Support Squadron  
Job title: Commander's Action Group Assistant.  
Time at Columbus AFB: Eight months.  
Time in Service: One year.  
Hometown: O'Fallon, Ill.  
Career goals: Further my education by earning a Master of Business Administration degree.  
Family members: Father, Michael; Mother, Jamie; Brother, Tom; Sister, Katie; Brother, Matt;  
Favorite bands: The Hives, Jimmy Eat World, Fall Out Boy.  
Favorite movie: Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back.  
Biggest pet peeve: Hypocrites.  
Favorite book: "When the Legends Die" by Hal Borland.  
Inspirations: My family, humor.  
Personal motto: "Mind over matter"

**AROUND TOWN**

**Hitching Lot Farmer's Market**

The Hitching Lot Farmer's 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](http://hitchinglotfarmersmarket.com) for more information.

**All-Girl Roller Derby Mayhem**

June 18 at the Columbus Faiground on Highway 69. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bout starts at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5, which includes the afterparty at The Princess Theatre. The Mississippi Brawl Stars will be playing the Pearl River Swamp Dolls.

**ID Card Reminders During Increased FPCONs**

Force Protection Conditions (FPCON) dictate the amount of measures needed to be taken by security agencies in response to various levels of terrorist threats against military facilities. FPCON Bravo describes a situation when a somewhat predictable terrorist threat exists. Security measures taken by agency personnel may affect the activities of local law enforcement and the general public. One of these measures is a 100 percent check of ID cards for military, civilians, and dependents. Government ID card holders need to be diligent, ensuring them and their dependants possess a serviceable and current ID card. Here are a few helpful reminders regarding government ID cards:

All MWR facilities including the commissary and base Exchange are conducting ID checks upon entry. Only government ID card holders will be permitted entry into these facilities.

If you are shopping at the commissary for a government ID card holder, you need to show your BLAZE card and your commissary agent letter when entering the commissary.

Retirees and dependants must provide two forms of ID

when renewing or replacing their ID cards. Acceptable forms of ID are: previous ID, driver's license, Social Security card, birth certificate, or a passport.

An SF Form 1172 must be signed by the sponsor or the sponsor must be present for their dependant to receive an ID card.

Dependent children over the age of ten years are authorized an ID card; when they are less than ten years of age, they may be authorized an ID card if the following applies: they are the dependent of a mil-to-mil couple, they reside with single parent, or if the child does not reside in the household of an eligible ID card holder.

Active duty members and civilian employees must bring a letter to the Military Personnel Section signed by their first sergeant or commander if they need to replace a lost or stolen ID card.

Your Military Personnel Section is glad to assist you with any ID card issues you may have. Please call 434-2626 or stop by the customer service counter in the Mission Support Group Complex, building 730, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Obama nominates Dempsey as JCS chairman, Winnefeld as vice chairman**

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced his choices as chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff May 30 during a Rose Garden ceremony.

Obama intends to nominate Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey as chairman and Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld as vice chairman. General Dempsey is currently the Army chief of staff and Admiral Winnefeld is the commander of U.S. Northern Command.

General Dempsey will replace Adm. Mike Mullen when his term ends September 30, and Admiral Winnefeld will replace Marine Gen. James Cartwright when his term ends in July.

The president intends to nominate Gen. Ray Odierno to succeed General Dempsey at the Army post.

The Senate must approve the nominations and the president called on the body to act expeditiously so the military transition will be "seamless."



Defense Department photo/Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley  
**Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with General Dempsey May 29 prior to the 2011 National Memorial Day Concert at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.**

# Handmade quilts cloak wounded warriors in love

**Tech. Sgt. Stacia Zachary**  
U.S. Air Forces Central  
combat correspondent

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — Service members categorized as critical care aeromedical transport team patients are all leaving the contingency aeromedical staging facility with a very special package: a handmade quilt stitched with love.

Shortly after the January arrival of the current CASF team, quilts began arriving at the clinic. Wanting to provide something special for the wounded warriors and hoping to provide a touch of home, Jill Shaver, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., began fashioning homemade quilts.

"We've found that there are so many people who just want to help but don't know how," said Lt. Col. Barbara Persons, the 451st Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Detachment 1 CASF commander. "These quilts are a testament to how much people care."

Straight from a supportive American's hands into the service member's lap, these handmade quilts take weeks of painstaking care to create.

"They usually come every four to six weeks and we'll get two or three of them at a time," the colonel said. "So much time and effort has been put into each and every quilt. You can just feel the love when you hold them."

The arrival of the first quilts came just prior to a CCATT patient's need for transportation.

"I remember when we first got these quilts," the colonel said. "Almost instantly we received word that a CCATT patient needed to be moved and it just seemed right that a quilt would cover him during transport."

The delivery of quilts became a harbinger to a wounded warrior's arrival.

"Within days we would have a person to give a quilt to," the



Shortly after the January arrival of the current contingency aeromedical staging facility team, quilts began arriving at the clinic. Wanting to provide something special for the wounded warriors and hoping to provide a touch of home, Jill Shaver, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., began fashioning homemade quilts and sending them to the CASF team.

U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

colonel said. "What a heaven sent (gift) it's been to be able to provide them with something that's been made with such care and love."

The quilts are part of a volunteer program where people from the United States send items to the CASF for service members in hopes of making their stay a little bit easier.

"Everyone is so generous," said Capt. Zoe Woolston, a 451st EAES Det. 1 CASF clinical nurse. "A lot of what we have here has come from people who just want to help in some way."

The CASF staff receives regular shipments of care packages for the troops, so many that an Airman was needed to manage the program.

Senior Airman Christine Holmes volunteered to take over the program and immediately set to work organizing the items they

had on hand and made an inventory of the items that service members might have need of.

"Many times, when a Marine comes in, they don't have anything, clothes, shoes, you name it," Colonel Persons said. "So, when people ask what we need, we're able to tell them because Airman Holmes has really done a great job identifying what we have on hand and what we need."

With all the care packages that come in, Airman Holmes has taken special care with the quilts. As the quilts come in, she ensures they are individually wrapped. Each bag is marked with a tag and stored in a box marked "CCATT Only."

"When the quilts arrive, I make sure I unpack them right away and put a blank anti-hijack tag on them and pack them away," said Airman Holmes, a medical technician deployed

from the 95th Medical Group at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. "When we get notified that a CCATT (patient) is ready to be moved, I start filling out the tag with his information to make sure it goes with him."

The handmade quilts are adorned with an embroidered Purple Heart medal at the center. The quilts all have decorative stitching sealing the quilts together. The stitching depicts an American bald eagle, stars and hearts. Most of them are in a red, white and blue color scheme but there is one quilt that stands apart from the rest. Mrs. Shaver made a purple one in case an injured female service member comes through the CASF.

"This one's got purple in it for a woman," Colonel Persons said. "I never like to pull these quilts out but I hope this one stays wrapped up; but if a woman does

come through here who's critical, there's a very special quilt waiting for her."

When the service member opens the quilt, he or she also receives a card from the quilter wishing the quick recovery of its new owner.

"The cards that she sends are addressed to the (service members) and sometimes after the patients have recovered, they contact her," Colonel Persons said. "Jill always wonders when she's making a quilt about who it'll go to. So, if a patient contacts her, it gives a her sense of closure in a way."

The quilts are signs to the wounded that they haven't been forgotten and people back home are thinking of them.

"It's good that we can send these quilts home with our critical patients because it shows them that there's a lot of support for what they're doing," Airman Holmes said. "As they recover, it's something they can have to remind them they're not alone and they're not forgotten."

Homemade quilts even adorn the beds in the wards, providing a less sterile environment for the recovering patients.

"It's got all these comforts of home and it shows that people care about you," said Marine Sgt. Todd Cross, an Abrams tank gunner and recovering patient. "It's a little touch of home."

The quilts are their own form of medication to the wounded warriors. As long as there is a need, critically wounded warriors will continue to receive tokens from members of a grateful nation.

"There are so many concerned people out there who just want to do something special for our wounded warriors," Colonel Persons said. "They send us enough that everyone who comes through here will know that the people back home care about their welfare."

# Seven decades of flying come to a close

**Airman 1st Class Benjamin Wiseman**  
23rd Wing Public Affairs

VALDOSTA, Ga. — More than 70 years of flying experience came to a close after one last flight in a Piper Saratoga aircraft May 20 in Valdosta, Ga.

While retired Col. Clarence Parker has been a pilot for the majority of his life, the now 90-year-old has decided to hang up his wings and start a new chapter in his life.

"I have decided that seven decades of flying was a great run," Colonel Parker said. "I wanted to stop on my own terms, and not when the doctors or my health dictated it."

Colonel Parker started his aviation career when he was just 20 years old. In 1940, he wanted to join the U.S. Army Air Corps, but his application was put on hold. Then he decided to earn his private pilot's license as a civilian instead.

A year later, Colonel Parker was called to action. "I had just landed from a flight when someone ran up and told me the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor," he recalled. "Within 48 hours of the attack, I was contacted by the U.S. Army Air Corps and instructed to go to San Antonio."

From that day forward, Colonel Parker's career took many twists and turns. He flew more than 35 different aircraft, ranging from the P-40 Warhawk to the B-52 Stratofortress. He has flown in three different wars and several combat missions:



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Benjamin Wiseman  
Retired Col. Clarence Parker prepares to take his final flight May 20, 2011, at the Valdosta Regional Airport, in Valdosta, Ga. Colonel Parker has flown for more than 70 years and recently decided to retire from flying at the age of 90.

World War II, the Berlin Airlift, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Dorothy Lee Parker, the colonel's wife, remembers many of the bases they both visited during their 69 years of marriage.

"We have been all over the world," she said. "When you're married to a pilot, you always seem to come second because the aircraft and the mission are always first. Despite that, I always enjoy traveling with him, and he's going to miss flying like hell."

He served his country from 1942 until 1971, ending his career as the wing commander at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Even after the colonel retired, he continued to fly as a civilian for 30 more years.

"He has been flying the entire time we have been married," Dorothy said with laughter. "After nearly 70 years of marriage, I finally get to be his main focus."

Colonel Parker shared a few words of advice before leaving the flying to the pilots of later generations. "Aviation is not only a challenge but an opportunity for young people," he said. "I encourage all pilots to approach flying with vigor and determination, and enjoy the rewards of your hard work."

Once Colonel Parker parts ways with flying, he and his wife plan to continue visiting family as well as traveling around the U.S. and Europe.

## 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.

## Intramural volleyball champions



Courtesy photo  
Columbus AFB Fitness and Sports Center hosted its annual intramural volleyball championship on May 19th. There were eight teams that played during regular season play and the top six teams entered into a double elimination tournament on Monday, May 16th. After three nights of play, the championship game was played between 37/41 Flying Training Squadrons and 14th Operations Support Squadron #2. Two games were played and OSS #2 walked away with the 2011 Intramural Volleyball Champions trophy and a perfect season with no losses. The fitness center would like to thank all those who played and came out to support their teams.

# Base families offered a variety of activities

## 9th Annual Super Scramble Sponsored in Part by Sonic

Whispering Pines Golf Course is hosting the 9th 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.cafbsservices.com](http://www.cafbsservices.com). For more information, call 434-7932.

## Missoula Children's Theater

Follow your friends from the Land of Oz through the wild, wild west of yesteryear – but with a twist...or “twister” rather. Join the Missoula Children's Theatre as local youth perform in the original musical production of “The Wiz of the West”. Auditions are June 13, 10 a.m., at Kaye Auditorium, daily practice is June 13-17, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and the performance is June 18 at 3 p.m. Youth grades K-12 are welcome. Sign up at the Youth Center by June 8.

## Passport to Food, Family and Fun

Pick up your Passport to food, family and fun after May 31 at any of the participating 14th Force Support Squadron activities, and get it validated for such things as attending events, patronizing the facility or just visiting. Turn in your passport(s) at any of the participating activities by August 31 for a chance to win prizes. The participating activities are the Bowling Center, The Daily Grind, Whispering Pines Golf Course, Columbus Club (and Indy's), Arts and Crafts (and Auto Hobby), Youth Programs, Fitness & Sports, Outdoor Recreation, ITT and the Child Development Center. For more information about this program, call FSS Marketing at 434-2337.

## 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.

## FitFamily Cook It Up!

Enter the FitFamily “Cook It Up Healthy Recipe Contest” for a chance to win great prizes



**The 2nd 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. Group rates are available. Trophies will be presented in all classes, and Best of Show will win \$500. 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.cafbsservice.com](http://www.cafbsservice.com) or call Linda Dodson at 434-2314 or Nic Roos at 434-2405.**

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](http://www.usaffitfamily.com) for all of the details and to enter the contest.

## 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.

## 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.

## PLAYpass Program

Single Airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive special discounts and rewards valued at more than \$500 each beginning May 28. The PLAYpass cards offer discounts that provide members and their eligible family members opportunity to participate in the 14th Force Support Squadron's participating facilities and programs for free or at a reduced cost. These cards can be picked up at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center beginning May 28. Please bring a copy of orders and a valid military identification card. For more information or to find out if you are eligible for a PLAYpass card, visit [www.MyAirForceLife.com](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com) or call the AFRC at 434-2790.

## 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, 5:30 to 6:30 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.

## 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.

## Space A Lodging

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

## Affordable Tickets at ITT

The Information, Ticket and Travel office has discounted tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios, Dollywood, Sea World, Busch Gardens, Six Flags over Georgia, the Memphis Zoo, Alabama Adventure, Dixie Stampede, Geyser Falls and more. Call 434-2505/7861 for more information.

# Flag Retirement Ceremony

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

On June 3, Boy Scouts Troop 9 from Caledonia, Miss. and the 14th Flying Training Wing will be partnering in conducting a flag retirement ceremony at SAC Lake for the BLAZE family and our community partners. Several individuals have asked; “Why?”

Over 60 percent of the houses on base have the U.S. flag flying every day, and according to “Flag Keepers,” a nonprofit

organization dedicated to the proper disposition of flags, started by a retired 27 year Marine; over 5 million flags are flown in America at any given time. What happens to the flag when it becomes too torn, tattered or dirty to clean or repair? Many people simply fold up their flags and put them away somewhere in their garage. Others turn their flags into the post office, scouts or organizations such as the Flag Keepers for disposition. Flags are burned in crematoriums and on occasion veteran organizations, and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America

# What you can't learn in a classroom

**Commentary by Miranda Winn-Poff**  
Special contributor to the 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

LAJES FIELD, Azores — May 12 was the day my oldest son, Phil, turned 7. I remember turning 7 very well — it was the age I was finally allowed to have a Barbie! It was also the year I lost one of my best friends. It was a big year!

But on this day Phil learned a little about the world around him, and I watched a bit of his innocence die as I described to him what he was seeing.

This made me realize he's growing up, he understands much more than I could imagine, and I would do anything to make sure he always knows the truth about the men and women who serve our country.

We took the boys to the American History Museum in Washington, D.C., May 12, and they had lots of fun. Of course, the hands-on parts were the best, but we also took them through the “America at War” display where they walked among relics and photos of war. As my husband, Brent, and my sons' grandfather pointed out various things, they learned about how children not much older than them would collect scrap metal during World War II.

They marveled at a Huey helicopter, learning the main job for this machine was not only to bring men into combat, but to take them out — no matter what. They looked at a piece of the Berlin wall, which I remember coming down. I tried to explain why there was a wall in the first place and the joy of watching it crumble.

Then we walked around the corner, and I saw for the first time the World Trade Center. I could reach out and touch it, and as I did I felt the horror of what happened. I had to take my hand off because it was almost hot. As I stared at a mangled piece of metal once part of the 70th floor of Tower 2, my oldest looked at me and pointed to a picture saying, “What happened?” It was a picture we all know, burned in our memories forever. It portrayed the exact moment of impact of the second plane, with fire and buildings and what I can only imagine as hell.

I saw this image reflected in the eyes of my baby, my son, who very quickly became a boy.

I told him that cruel people took four planes and used them as weapons, two of which hit these buildings and one of which hit the Pentagon.

The other went down, missing the target because of heroes. He asked if the buildings could be rebuilt. I told him no, but that we are

building something to remember them. I told him the Pentagon has been fixed, but there is a permanent scar in the earth where grass has grown over.

He asked me if people were hurt. I said yes, and that people died, but some did survive and got out in time. He then asked why bad people did this. I didn't have an answer. How do you respond to a child? I told him this act is why we are at war, and why we can't lose, and that good people are doing something about it.

“People like Daddy?” he asked. With tears in my eyes, I said yes. It hit me that even though my husband wears the same uniform that others wear and drives to an office, he is involved in this war. I looked up and saw a young man standing next to us with tears in his eyes.

“Thank you,” he said, and then looked away. I wondered why he'd said thank you. For Brent's service to our nation? For standing there with him in awe at the metal? For telling a child about what and why we are at war?

I have given birth to all of my sons in a time of war, and was just now telling them about it. I feel bad about this — there are men and women currently dying, hurting, crying and serving, and I owe them more than this. I know they are young, but some things need to be told. There

have flag retirement ceremonies.

Both of my boys were part of scouting as they were growing up and I was fortunate to have seen a flag retirement ceremony conducted by the Scouts. I wanted to share this experience with the BLAZE family and give us all a time for fellowship and conclude the evening with a very patriotic ceremony.

So when asked why we are having a Flag Retirement Ceremony; my answer has been two-fold. Share an amazing ceremony with the BLAZE community and help a Boy Scout in achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

“Flag Keepers”

349-L Copperfield Blvd #105, Concord, NC 28025;

<http://www.flagkeepers.org/Home.asp>;

are members of the greatest generation passing away and no one notices.

My sons need to hear and know the names like Doolittle, Easy Company, Hal Moore, Etchberger, J. Cunningham, and S. Giunta, but also the ones of those currently serving. These are the heroes of our country. These are people to look up to, and tell children stories about.

I looked around the room and saw a few uniforms that had been worn by other active duty members. One had been cut away from a young man's body; it's the same one that Brent wears, only this one is torn and there are stains on it. It took my breath away. My son, Phil, hugged me as my tears welled up.

I was thinking about what we as a country have been through in the last nine years, and it hit me hard. I was standing there staring at the single moment that has caused me more fear, anger and hate, but at the same time, the most patriotic feelings in my lifetime. And as Phil hugged me he said, “Mom, it's OK ... we will fix it.”

He is wiser beyond his seven years, and in the 10 minutes we spent in that room, he learned something more than any classroom could teach.

He saw what humans do to each other, bad and good. But in the end, he still believes with all of his heart that there is more good, and I saw a glimpse of the man that he will become.

Visit  
US  
online!

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Facebook

# What time do you open?



ABOVE: The Columbus AFB Youth Center offers a large selection of activities and recreation areas for children and teens. Special hours exist during the summer months to better serve Airmen and their families. RIGHT: The Columbus AFB Bowling Alley features a large selection of food items for customers to choose from, and offers extended hours Friday and Saturday nights for late night bowling.

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



ABOVE: The Columbus AFB Barber Shop is located inside the Base Exchange across from the Optical Shop and is open seven days a week. LEFT: The Columbus AFB Commissary is open six days a week with extended hours Tuesday and Thursday to help facilitate Team BLAZE members who may work longer hours due to mission requirements.

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

## Airman's Attic

Tuesday: Noon to 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. to noon.  
434-8824

## Airman and Family Readiness Center

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
434-2790

## Auto Hobby Shop

Sunday-Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-7842

## Base Exchange

Monday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday-Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-6013

## Base Housing (Pinnacle Hunt)

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
434-8213

## Base Operator

434-1110

## Base Pool

General Swim: Noon to 7 p.m.  
Lap Swim:  
Monday-Friday: 6 to 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
434-2491  
(Open seasonally from May to Labor Day, closes for this season Sept. 5)

## Barber Shop

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m.  
434-6699

## Bowling Alley Grill

Monday-Thursday: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
434-3426

## Bowling Alley

Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
434-2425

## Chapel

Protestant Traditional Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
Catholic Confession: 4:30 p.m.  
Catholic Mass: 5:00 p.m.  
434-2500

## Child Development Center

Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
434-2479

## Columbus Club

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Lounge: Friday: 4 p.m. to 12 p.m.  
434-2489

## Commissary

Sunday: Noon to 6 p.m.  
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
434-7109

## Custom Framing and Engraving

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-7856

## The Daily Grind

Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
434-1131

## Emergencies

Please call 911 and inform them you are on Columbus AFB

## Finance

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
434-2705

## Fitness Center

Monday-Thursday: 5 a.m. to 11

p.m.

Friday: 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
434-2772

## GNC

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-5050

## Indies

Monday-Friday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
434-2419

## Legal Office

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Power of Attorney walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Wills done Tuesday-Friday by appointment only  
434-7030

## Library

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-2934

## Lodging

434-2548

## Medical Appointments

434-2273 (CARE)

## Military Family Life Consultants

251-8627

## Optical Shop

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-8496

## OSI

434-2852

## Outdoor Recreation

Monday-Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8 a.m. to noon  
Thursday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to noon  
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
434-2507

## Personnel Customer Service

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
434-2626/434-2624

## Shopette

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
434-6026

## Subway

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
434-1369

## Taco Bell

Monday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday-Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed  
434-1369

## Thrift Shop

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
434-2954

## Visitors Center

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
434-3161

## Whispering Pines Golf Course

Every day: 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
434-7932

## Wood Shop

Wednesday-Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
434-7836

## Youth Center

Monday-Thursday:  
Open Recreation: 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
(Summer hours: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.)  
Office: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Friday:  
Open Recreation: 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Teens only 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.)  
Office: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
434-2504