

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 35, Issue 32

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

August 12, 2011

Weather



Today

High: 96, Low: 72
PM Thunderstorms



Saturday

High: 93, Low: 71
Isolated T-storms



Sunday

High: 90, Low: 66
Isolated T-storms



Monday

High: 88, Low: 65
Sunny

News Briefs

Class 12-06 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-06 will hold their Track Select at 5 p.m. tonight at the Columbus Club.

Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Aug. 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel, information, refreshments, and activities. Please RSVP when invitations are received. Headcount of attendance prior to event is critical for planning and preparation. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

Enlisted Softball Game

Enlisted Airmen, dust off your old gloves and loosen up your muscles for an all enlisted wing-wide softball game! No formalities, no trophies just a lot of fun and camaraderie. Join us, Aug. 15 on Field One (closest to the gym) from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Cold water, Gatorade and ice cold popsicles will be available. Families are invited and for all who wish to enjoy, there will be a two-story waterslide! This event is being sponsored by the BLAZE 5/6.



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin
Gen. Edward Rice, Commander, Air Education and Training Command and AETC Command Chief Master Sergeant Jim Cody, addressed Columbus AFB Airmen during an all-call on Aug. 9. The AETC senior leaders answered many questions about the future of AETC, and urged Airmen to look for ways to improve processes.

AETC/CC makes first visit to CAFB

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

Rice dove into the mission and day-to-day life of the people in the 14th Flying Training Wing.

with the operation here.”

The commander of Air Education and Training Command touched down at Columbus Air Force Base for the first time Aug. 9.

“I am very impressed. The Airmen are doing a great job of meeting the mission every day,” said Rice. “I like the innovation that I see, the lean forward attitude, the professionalism. I’ve been very pleased

The relationship the local community has with Columbus AFB was not unknown to the general, who personally presented local leaders with the inaugural Altus Trophy for top AETC community support at the AETC Symposium in San Antonio last January.

During his two-day stay, Gen. Edward

See **VISIT**, Page 2

Inside



Feature 8

The Youth Programs at Columbus Air Force Base are highlighted this week.

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 (12-07) | 6.46 days | 0.87 days | Sep. 6 | 48th (11-13) | 2.00 days | 1.48 days | Aug. 19 | 49th (11-JB) | 1.00 days | 0.60 days | Aug. 11 | T-6 | 1,146 | 1,042 | 27,995 |
| 41st (12-06) | 1.77 days | -2.83 days | Aug. 12 | 50th (11-13) | 0.50 days | -3.95 days | Aug. 19 | | | | | T-1 | 333 | 366 | 9,296 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | T-38 | 401 | 396 | 10,013 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | IFF | 105 | 85 | 2,089 |

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, USAF Retired, Former commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

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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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.

VISIT

(Continued from Page 1)

To welcome General and Mrs. Rice, more than 100 community leaders hosted a reception Aug. 9 in a historic Antebellum home.

"It's not a surprise that the first Altus trophy winner came from the community here in Columbus," said Rice. "The tremendous support and turnout during last night's social event is important to us as we move into the future. We must strive to maintain those strong bonds both outside the fence-line and inside with the cohesive working team that we have here."

Rice also noted the relationships strengthened by Columbus AFB through its international pilot training programs are important for future operations.

"Especially when dealing with an international environment, relationships are everything," said Rice. "It's hard to put a price on that, but as we continue to move into a future where we are more interconnected, those relationships will pay us back in spades."

The future was the topic of the day during an all-call held by Rice Aug. 9. The general conversed with Columbus AFB Airmen on plans for the future, challenging them to look for ways to improve processes and help with fiscal constraints.

"I think each one of us within the area in which we work can look for areas to improve the way we do business and be more efficient," said Rice. "I encourage all Airmen to understand the principals of AFSO21 and apply them in their daily lives and understand that we are looking for their suggestions on how we can continue to meet the mission with fewer resources."

Continuing to look forward, Rice said that, within the next decade, acquisition would begin for the T-X to replace the aging T-38C Talon airframes and better prepare future pilots for fifth generation aircraft.

Rice, his wife Teresa, and the AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Cody concluded their 2-day visit to Columbus by boarding a C-130 Hercules and continuing their command visit in Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Flight Medicine seeing dependents again

The 14th Medical Group is excited to announce that the Flight Medicine clinic is once again seeing dependents age 18 and over of sponsors assigned to Flight Medicine. Earlier this year, deployment-related manning issues required us to move all Flight Medicine dependents into the Family Health clinic. Now that manning has improved, we can once again see dependents of sponsors assigned to Flight Medicine.

Eligible patients who wish to be seen in Flight Medicine again should come to the clinic and bring their ID card to Beneficiary Services to transfer their registration back to Flight Medicine. Federal health privacy regulations require patients do this in person; spouses cannot do this for them. Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday.

| <u>Mon</u> | <u>Tue</u> | <u>Wed</u> | <u>Thur</u> | <u>Fri</u> | <u>Sat/Sun</u> |
|---|---|------------|-------------|---|--|
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20/21 |
| Night Flying Week | Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ AFRC | | | Class 11-13 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye | |
| Enlisted Softball Game, 4:30 p.m. @ Field One | Columbus Spouses' Club Ice Cream Party, 7 p.m. @ Landings | | | | |
| | Senior Leader MSU Tour | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27/28 |
| | | | | Class 11-14 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club | Aug. 27: Re-painting of Freedom Park, 8:30 a.m. @ Freedom Park |

Long Range Events

- Aug. 29: Newcomers Orientation
- Aug. 30: Honorary Commanders Reception
- Aug. 31: Enlisted Promotions
- Sep. 5: Labor Day Holiday
- Sep. 6: Class 12-07 Track Select
- Sep. 8: IFF Graduation
- Sep. 8: Dorm Dinner
- Sep. 9: Class 11-14 Graduation

Name: Airman 1st Class Corbin Starnier

Unit: 14th Communications Squadron

Job title: Knowledge Operations Manager

Time at Columbus AFB: One year, five months

Time in Service: One year, eight months

Hometown: Gettysburg, Pa.

Career goals: Bachelor Degree in Computer Science

Family members: Lauren Starnier, father. Lori Scott, mother. Brook Scott, sister. Tony Scott, step father.

Favorite musician: Drake

Favorite movie: Almost Heroes

Biggest pet peeve: Cockiness

Favorite book: "Harry Potter" by J.K. Rowling

Inspirations: Gordon Ramsey

Personal motto: "If it ain't broke don't fix it."

Trail BLAZE'r



14th OSS, built for Speed



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin
Col. Steve Stater, 14th Operations Group Commander, passes the 14th Operations Support Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Joseph Speed, 14th Operations Support Squadron Commander, at a formal ceremony August 5 in Hangar Six. Speed replaced outgoing commander Lt. Col. Alex Walford.

Dollars and \$ense: Get Controlled Spend Account Updates in Real-Time with Mobile Alerts

Citi GSA SmartPay® cardholders can now manage their card accounts on their mobile phones with mobile alerts. After subscribing to the alerts on CitiManager, cardholders can receive short messaging service (SMS) and e-mail updates on balances, statements, transactions, and other relevant information about their accounts.

Cardholders can use four statement and payment alerts to stay on top of their expenses:

- **New statement available:** Receive notification when your statement is available to be viewed on CitiManager. Cardholders are reminded to review their statement and start expense reports to accelerate payment or reimbursement.
- **Payment due:** Receive notification five days before payment is due on your account. Cardholders are also reminded to complete expense reports and make payments on time to avoid late fees.
- **Payment received:** Receive confirmation when your payment has been received and the

credit limit has been refreshed. Cardholders can travel with confidence, knowing they will not be stopped at the point of sale for insufficient credit.

- **Payment past due:** Receive notification of your statement due date if payment hasn't been received. Cardholders are reminded to review their expense reports and ensure payment is made.

Whether in the office or on the road, cardholders can use mobile alerts to receive prompt notification of events without the need to log onto CitiManager, call customer service, or ask a program administrator for updates.

How to register to receive mobile alerts:

1. Log in to CitiManager
2. Click "My Profile" on top navigation bar
3. Click the "Alerts" link below your cardholder details
4. On the alerts page, select your desired SMS and e-mail alerts
5. Add the desired mobile phone number/email address and check the box

6. Save your changes

After step six, the alert setup process is complete. Citi will then send an activation SMS message to the newly registered mobile number.

7. Retrieve the activation code from the registered mobile phone

8. On the CitiManager alerts page, enter the activation code, check Terms and Conditions, then click "Save".

CSA Training is available at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/csa.cfm>

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.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

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



Maj. Gen. Wilbert D. "Doug" Pearson Jr.

Maj. Gen. Wilbert D. "Doug" Pearson Jr., USAF Retired, last served as Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He directed the development, test and



evaluation of manned and unmanned aircraft systems; the testing of experimental and research aerospace vehicles and parachute systems, and aerodynamic deceleration devices; the operation of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School; and the development, control and operation of the Edwards Flight Test Range.

General Pearson entered the Air Force in 1970 as a distinguished graduate of Officer Training School. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the F-4, F-15, F-20, F/A-22, T-38 and more than 50 other aircraft. His flying includes 364 combat hours during the Vietnam conflict. He commanded the F-15 anti-satellite Combined Test Force during the time of peak flight activity and, while flying an F-15, launched the first anti-satellite missile which successfully intercepted and destroyed a satellite in earth orbit.

Local paper delivery to resume on base

The Commercial Dispatch will be available to base residents for home delivery in the housing areas and in vending machines in front of the Exchange and Landings at Columbus Housing Office beginning next week. The Dispatch is printed daily except for Mondays. For home delivery, call the Dispatch circulation department at 328-2471.

Ask Rufus: Col. "Joe Duck" and the hurricane

Rufus Ward

14th MDSS Honorary Commander

Maj. Joseph Duckworth arrived at Columbus Army Air Field (then Kaye Field) in early 1942. He rented a Columbus antebellum home and merged not only into his work at the base but also into the social life of the town. The April 1942 "Columbus Pilgrimage Guide" included the home now known as "Magnolia Hill" as a "Star Home" "presently occupied by Major Joseph B. Duckworth". To the people of Columbus he became known simply as "Joe Duck".

Little did the citizens of Columbus know the important role in aviation that Duckworth would play. That role became apparent when in November 1942, Duckworth's efforts to improve safety and better train pilots resulted in his accomplishments being featured in Time Magazine. His innovations in instrument instruction and flying led to his being known as the "father of Air Force instrument flying."

He is now, though, most noted for making history when he and Lt. Ralph O' Hair became the first pilots to intentionally fly through the eye of a hurricane. Out of his flight evolved the Air Force Hurricane Hunters and modern tracking and study of hurricanes.

During early 1942 the Army Air Force was experiencing an excessive rate of pilot training accidents and fatalities at all of its training bases. At the twin engine advance flying school the Army had just opened at Columbus, the base commander Col. Louie Mallory decided to do something about the problem. He assigned his training director, Major Duckworth, to figure out the problem and fix it.

Many of the problems seemed to center on the twin engine A-29 Lockheed Hudson. Instructor pilots hated it and said it was "full of green dragons." It was the transition trainer to the B-26 which combat pilots "loved".

What Duckworth found was that the instructor pilots were not being properly trained to teach cadets how to fly a trainer-bomber that was "mighty hot to fledglings." Duckworth reported back to Mallory and the qualifications to become an instructor pilot at Columbus were upgraded. In addition a "Flying Evaluation Board" of four officers to evaluate and retrain instructors was established. He also



Courtesy photo
Lt. Col. Joseph Duckworth at his desk. To the people of Columbus he was known as Joe Duck."

found a deficiency in instrument flying training and started the "full panel attitude system of instrument flying."

Between May and October of 1942 the number of students at Columbus doubled but the number of accidents decreased by 44percent. Soon instructor pilots from bases as far away as the Pacific Coast were sent to Columbus to be evaluated. Then in November of 1942, Maj. Gen. Ralph Royce put newly promoted Lt. Col. Duckworth's system in place throughout the entire 56 station Southeast Training Command.

The innovative success story of Mallory and Duckworth was then featured in a November 30, 1942, "Time Magazine" article titled "Teaching the Teachers".

In 1943 Lt. Col. Duckworth was commander of the Army Air Forces "Instructors' School (Instrument Pilot)" at Bryan, Texas. It was there that Duckworth's most notable aerial experience occurred. On the morning of July 27, 1943, a hurricane was making landfall near Galveston, Texas. Duckworth and Lt. Ralph O' Hair were having breakfast

with some veteran British pilots who were at the base. The British were kidding Duckworth because American airplanes were being removed from the storm's path and they inquired if the American planes and pilots were just not good enough. Duckworth got tired of the ribbing and decided to do what no pilot had ever attempted to intentionally do, or at least admitted to doing. He and O' Hair decided to fly through the eye of the hurricane and shut the British up.

They took off from Bryan Field and headed for Galveston in an AT-6 single engine trainer. As they approached Galveston the air traffic control tower at the Houston Airport asked them on the radio if they realized there was a hurricane at Galveston. When informed of their plans the tower asked where to send the search parties to find their wreckage.

They completed the flight and returned to the Bryan field. Upon landing they were met by the base weather officer who wanted to fly back through the storm and collect data. He climbed into the airplane and Duckworth flew through the storm a second time. The base meteorologist made observation and kept a record of the flight. The Air Corps quickly realized the value of flying into a storm to measure its intensity and provide better warnings. Within a year regular reconnaissance flights were being made into tropical storms and hurricanes. Today the Air Force "Hurricane Hunters" still fly into storms and are based at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

Col. Duckworth retired from the Air Force in 1955 and served for a time as the head of the safety bureau of the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D.C. He died in 1964 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The significant innovations in pilot training developed by Col. Duckworth began at Columbus Army Air Field. His legacy remains at Columbus AFB with the continued training of the world's best pilots. His memory is recalled in the Base Operations Building which is named for him and contains a small display honoring him.

Base News

Compulsory School Attendance: Home School

As the new school year begins, the School Liaison Office would like to remind parents of the State of Mississippi law governing school attendance particularly as it pertains to families who Home School.

Under the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, parents and guardians are required to enroll their children in a public, private or home school. This law applies to children who have reached the age of six and have not exceeded the age of seventeen by Sep. 1.

Children who have attained or will attain the age of five years on or before Sep. 1 and have enrolled in a full-day public kindergarten will also be under the Compulsory School Attendance Law. Any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the Mississippi compulsory school attendance law may be punished in a court of law.

Parents who are teaching their children at home (home school) are required to complete a certificate of enrollment card each school year. You can complete this card at the Columbus AFB School Liaison Office, located in Building 730, Suite 174A. Mississippi law requires this card to be completed prior to 15 September 2011. Please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at: slo@columbus.af.mil for an appointment to complete your registration.

Bowling Meeting

The annual meeting for the Tuesday Nite Mixed league will be held on Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Strike Zone bowling center. We can accept up to 10 teams. If you don't have a team and want to bowl please come to the meeting as we can always find a place for new bowlers to join us. The Annual Meeting of the Tri-Cities Association will be held on Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. in the Bulldog Bowling Center. Please come and make your voice heard. Any questions can be directed to 328-7067.

Luau at The Landings

The Columbus Spouses' Club will be holding a luau-themed ice cream party on Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. It's hot, so join them at The Landings for ice cream and music featuring DJ Sam Chism. Cost is \$7 a person. RSVP by noon on August 11.

Airman's Attic

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman's

can 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.

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 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.

Notice:

Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, regretfully announces the death of Capt. Holger von Oetinger, 14th Operation Support Squadron. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate of Capt. Von Oetinger should contact Capt. Chad Overton the Summary Court Officer, at (719) 930-3105.

able. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by Room 120 in Bldg. 926 (Old Personnel Bldg.)

Base Thrift Shop

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

IDEA Program

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

Education Counseling Hours

Education counseling (CCAF, Bachelor's/Master's programs, Tuition Assistance, etc.) is now available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Edward Hodge at 434-2562 to schedule.

Airman and Family Readiness Center

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

Self-paced Tutorials

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

Relocation assistance

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

Employment Workshop

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

Spouse welcome

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

Chapel Schedule

Pioneer Clubs

The CAFB Chapel has begun registration for the Pioneer Clubs children religious education program. The program is held each Wednesday evening 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. This program is open to children ages 3-12. This is an ecumenical religious program aimed at teaching children about Christ in every aspect of life. A potluck dinner is served each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Parents must accompany their children at the dinner.

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

The CAFB Chapel is conducting a variety of adult Bible studies from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. A potluck dinner is served at 5:30. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please contact the Base Chapel at 434-2500 for a list of studies.

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

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight

Category: Airman
Nominee Name
Grade: Airman 1st
Class Tameka
Nelson
Unit: 14
Operation Support
Squadron



- Home Town: Man, WV
- Time in the Air Force: One year and three months
- Time at Columbus AFB: 10 months
- Career Short Term Goals: Ace the End of Course CDC Exam and attain a 5-Skill Level.
- Career Long Term Goals: Complete a Nursing degree and enter into a Commissioning program or transition into the civilian sector as a healthcare provider, prior to achieving an MSN and possibly going to Medical School.
- Nominated by: Chief Master Sgt. Tony Young, 14th Operations Group
- Nomination reason: Airman 1st Class Nelson is the cornerstone of 14th OSS Host Aviation Resource Management Office! She managed the office during her NCOIC's deployment and her superintendent's 8-week SNCOA course. She also trains new NCOs and SNCOs on operations while ensuring her CDC 5-level training continues to progress, with an amazing 96 percent average on her CDCs. Additionally, Nelson is responsible for more than \$2 million in resources annually and has streamlined the way aircrew data is processed for SUPT students, error-free. Nelson was vital to the Annual Wing Sports Awards Banquet and the annual 14th OSS Combat Dining-in Committee. Needless to say, Nelson has been personally recognized multiple times by wing and squadron leadership for all her selfless efforts and has been a role-model for those who cross her path. It is obvious that Tameka Nelson operates at a level well beyond her pay-grade, with a positive, optimistic attitude to match; that is why Nelson is well worthy of the Spotlight!



Category: NCO
Nominee Name Grade:
Tech Sgt. James Pender
Unit: 14th
Security Forces
Squadron

- Home Town: Woodville, Miss.
- Time in the Air Force: Thirteen years and seven months
- Time at Columbus AFB: Three years and three months
- Career Short Term Goals: Achieve the rank of E-7
- Career Long Term

Goals: Be the follower to my leaders I am supposed to be and be the leader to my Airman that I am supposed to be .
6. Nominated by: Master Sgt. Jason Baty
7. Nomination reason: Tech Sgt. Pender is the epitome of a "quiet", humble leader. His customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, and overall military bearing are stellar at all times. As a Defender, he is constantly working, during his scheduled down time, to ensure mission readiness. Many have never heard a single complaint come out of his mouth, and are confident that Pender will go far in his Air Force career because he lives by our core values day in and day out...everyday.

IFF 11-JBC Graduates

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will graduate Introduction to Fighter Class 11-JBC on 11 Aug. 2 members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the Combat Air Forces.



Capt. Benjamin Kuster F-15E

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and International flying training in the T-38C/IFF 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.



2nd Lt. Dustin Cochlin F-16

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 our newest fighter wingmen!

Wingmen, family hold memorial service for Team BLAZE member

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

Friends, family and Team BLAZE members mourned the loss of an Airman at a memorial service in his honor Aug. 8.

Capt. Holger Von Oetinger, 14th Operations Support Squadron Transition Student Flight Commander and a T-6 instructor pilot at Columbus AFB, Miss.,

was found dead in his Lowndes County residence by local sheriff's deputies Tuesday, Aug. 2.

At a ceremony in the base chapel on Aug. 8, wingmen of Von Oetinger, or Alex as he was known to those close to him, were invited to pay their condolences and grieve alongside the family of the deceased.

"While we mourn the loss of this instructor pilot, let us not forget the service

he performed: the students he trained and the pilots he produced," said Lt. Col. Alex Walford, 14th Operation Support Squadron commander.

Von Oetinger received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2006. He arrived at Columbus AFB in Nov. 2008.

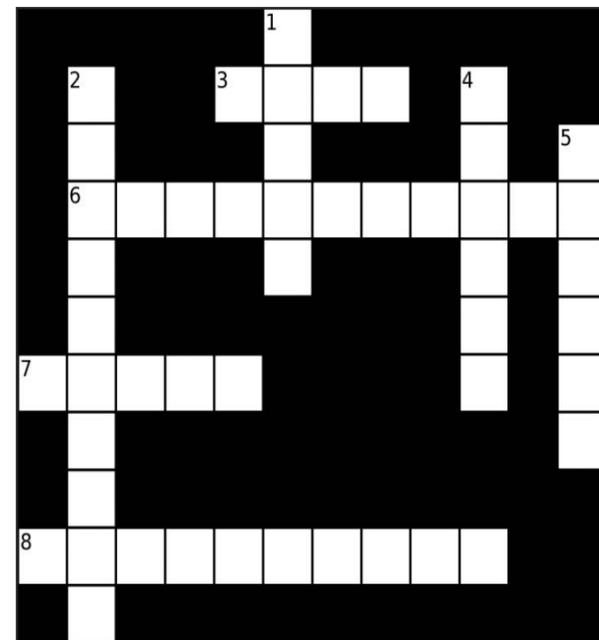
The cause of death is currently under investigation.

Columbus AFB hosts reintegration program



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jacob Corbin
 Kristin Ellis, wife of deployed Army Specialist Joseph Ellis, speaks with Dee Bond, a TRICARE representative, at the Yellow Ribbon Program event held Aug. 6 at the Columbus Club. The Yellow Ribbon Program is designed to aid reserve and national guard servicemembers in reintegrating to civilian lives upon returning from deployment.

Crossword: Youth Center



3 Across
 The Youth Center partners with 4-H and the Boys and Girls _____ of America.
 6 The Youth Programs priorities are: Academic success, good character and _____, and healthy lifestyles.
 7 Youth center programs can help youth represent Columbus AFB at special _____ throughout the year.
 8 The Youth Center is often in need of _____s help with events such as Breakfast with Santa and the Spring Fling.

Down
 1 Youth Center programs are open to most Team _____ members.
 2 Open to kids from 9-18, the Open _____ programs and activities take place from 3-8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
 4 Program at the youth center for afterschool care while parents are at work. _____ age program.
 5 The Youth center offers youth _____ for athletes of many ages.

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 for more information.

This week bring your lawnchair and listen to the Gestalt Gardener at the Hitching Lot Farmer's Market, corner of 2nd Ave. and 2nd St. N. on August 13 from 7-10 a.m.

Columbus Main Street

Looking for something to do in the local area? Check out the Columbus Main Street website, www.columbusmainstreet.com to see what's going on!

Daily Historic Home Tours

Visit the newly restored Tennessee Williams Welcome Center and Museum beautifully placed in historic downtown Columbus at 300 Main Street. This site is the first home of legendary playwright Tennessee Williams. Take a complimentary tour through this National Literary Landmark and pick up information on local antebellum homes which are open year-round for tours. Tours are \$10 per person, per tour. Contact the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center at 328-0222 for more information.

FSS

(Continued from Page 10)

cess. Every Thursday after 6 p.m., play 9 holes with a cart for just \$15. Then "Thirsty Thursdays" offers drink specials in the Pro Shop or on the patio from 4-7 p.m. The Saturday morning "Dog Fights" are open to all levels of golfers and begin at 8 a.m. each week. Every Sunday play 18 holes with a cart for only \$20. Direct questions to the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

Deep Disney Discounts Extended

There's still time to get the kids to the Disney parks in Florida for a great price! Disney Military Salute has extended the deeply discounted ticket specials to Sept. 30, 2012, along with an increase in the number of tickets available at the special prices at Columbus AFB's ITT office. For more information about this and other fun, affordable vacation ideas, contact Outdoor Recreation/ITT at 434-2505/2507.

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.

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.

Join FitFamily!

All ages can benefit from the Air Force Services fitness and wellness initiative, FitFamily. Families can register as a team at www.USAFitFamily.com to earn points and achieve levels for participation in Family Fun activities, family sports and fitness and family nutrition. Recognition is provided at each level to encourage families to continue on the path of wellness. The FitFamily program encourages Air Force families to make healthy lifestyle choices and provides resources and tips in an effort to promote overall family fitness. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Space A Lodging

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

Affordable Tickets at ITT

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

Youth Center Sponsorship Program

Moving is hard, but it is also a time to meet new friends, find new hangout spots, get involved in fun and different things and travel to interesting places. The Youth Sponsorship Program at Columbus was created by and just for youth. For assistance in this sometimes difficult transition, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504 and join in the fun of the youth sponsorship program.

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.

VA officials reach out to veterans to explain upcoming changes to GI Bill

Department of Veterans Affairs officials are reaching out to inform veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post 9/11 GI Bill that take effect in 2011.

"The Post 9/11 GI Bill is incredibly important because it reduces the financial burdens of higher education so that veterans have an opportunity to achieve their education goals," said Gen. Allison Hickey, undersecretary for benefits. "VA believes it is important for veterans to be aware of changes to the GI Bill this year and learn more about how these changes may affect them.

"It's hard to believe how far we have all come with the Post-9/11 GI Bill the past two years," she said. "Today, more than 537,000 students have received over \$11.5 billion in GI Bill benefits to help them take charge of their future."

Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, effective Aug. 1, include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state, capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans' entitlement for future academic semesters. Also, certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

Beginning Oct. 1, eligible individuals will be able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for programs such as non-college degrees, on-the-job training and correspondence courses, and they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when only enrolled in distance learning courses.

VA officials are implementing the latest round of changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill and have already begun processing fall 2011 enrollment certifications. The VA outreach has helped to increase participation by colleges and universities in the Yellow Ribbon program, which helps students avoid out-of-pocket costs that may exceed the benefit. Currently, more than 2,600 schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon program.

"VA is committed to ensuring veterans have the information and tools they need to succeed," Hickey said.

Complete information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at: www.gibill.va.gov. VA's education information phone number is: 1-888-GIBILL-1.

For ongoing benefit information, veterans and service members can log into the VA eBenefits website at www.eBenefits.va.gov. To ask a question in a secure e-mail, use the "Ask a Question" tab at: https://www.gibill2.va.gov/cgi-bin/vba.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php.

Homes

For rent: \$800 per month. Beautiful three bedroom, two bath house. Perfect for a family or a few pilots! The entire house has been remodeled. New carpet in every bedroom. Patio area perfect for barbeques. Large fenced back yard great for pets. Washer, dryer, fridge and all other major appliances included. 408 24th Ave N, Columbus. Please call 240-0001 for more information or to schedule a showing.
For sale: 235 Justin Circle. Beautiful three bed, two bath, 1,990 sq. ft. home in Ridgeland Estates (Caledonia School District) less than six miles from Columbus AFB. Home features stone fireplace with gas logs, French doors to the back patio, 15 foot vaulted ceiling in sunken living room, master bath suite with his and hers vanity sinks, formal dining 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. Rent for \$1,250 per month includes lawn care. Please call 574-9599. See more at www.militarybuyowner.com.
For sale: Convenient and furnished 15,000 sq. ft. ranch-styled home, three bedroom two bathroom, sits on one and a half acres just two miles in front of South Gate. Ideal for lightly traveled professionals who don't have a ton of stuff (furniture and appliances must stay). Non-smoking and pet-less candidates preferred. Seven-hundred fifty dollars per month plus utilities with \$200 deposit. Contact (202) 368-0898 for showing, application and credit check.

Transportation

For sale: 2007 Suzuki Boulevard S-40 (650cc). 1,200 miles. Blue, windshield,

saddlebags, gel seat, never dropped, one owner, clear title, always garaged. \$3,200 No tire kickers-cash in hand for test ride. Pictures available; please call and ask. Call 243-2245.
For sale: 1966 Sprint 200 Mustang. Candy apple red with black interior. Engine recently rebuilt, new radiator, new brakes. Needs minor interior work. Runs and looks great. \$6,500. Call 352-1796.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Pine Wood five drawer chest and full size bed with mattress and box spring. \$600 or best offer. Call 352-3526 for details.
For sale: Gold's Gym exercise bike in excellent condition, \$150. ASPCA large dog crate, \$25. Black GE Mini fridge and freezer combination, \$100. Gently used 10' x 6' outdoor kennel with rain/heat cover included, \$200.

Pets

For sale: CKC Reg. cocker spaniel puppies, variety of colors. \$150 each. Call 356-6957.

Wanted

Wanted: Piano teacher, experience working with children desired. Looking for someone on or close to the base. Call 425-8616.

Base families offered a variety of activities

You Build 'Em, You Race 'Em

Individuals or teams of as many as four may enter this floatable cardboard boat contest and race on Aug. 30. Build the boats on site at Independence Pool and then race for prizes! Entry fee is \$100 per team and entrants must be at least 16 years old and must provide building materials -- cardboard and duct tape only! Signup by Aug. 22 and attend a mandatory meeting on Aug. 23 at 1:30 at the Youth Center. Call 434-2504 for more information.

New Pool Hours Announced

As the season draws to a close, Independence Pool is phasing out some of its hours of operation. Beginning Aug. 19, the pool will only be open Sat.-Sun., noon to 7 p.m. The pool will close for the season on Sept. 5. Call 434-2505 for additional information.

WHO DAT?

Saints home game tickets are now available here at Columbus AFB. Drop by the Information Tickets and Travel Office or call 434-2505 for more information and pricing.

Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament Coming to New Courts

The Fitness and Sports Center is having the "Duel at Dusk," a three on three basketball tournament Aug. 26, 6-9 p.m., on the newly renovated outdoor courts. The cost is \$40 per team with a four-player maximum. There will be a slam dunk contest during the tournament, and prizes will be awarded to the winners and the runners-up. This tournament is sponsored by our 2011 Annual Fitness Program Sponsors, who are: (gold level) Ashley Furniture HomeStore, The Dispatch, WCBI, Triangle Federal Credit Union, Techniq, Cable One, Verizon Wireless, Bud Light and ESPN Radio; (silver level) Annunciation Catholic School, Rob Naugher-State Farm Insurance, Splash In a Flash, North Mississippi Medical Center and Patti Johnson of Century 21 Doris Hardy and Assoc. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information, call the fitness center at 434-2772.

Interested in Tournament Play?

The One-Person Scramble is set for Aug. 27 at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Cost is \$10 per person plus greens fees, and play begins at 8 a.m. Sign up by Aug. 26.

The Club Championship is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-6! Cost is \$50 per

CAFB golfers opinions needed

The second annual golfer survey is being launched Aug. 15 by HQ Air Force Services at 71 courses worldwide. Columbus AFB is expected to generate 300 completed surveys on its own.

The survey, designed by the National Golf Foundation, gives Columbus AFB golfers and anyone else who might use the course, pro shop facility or snack bar the chance to provide valuable feedback on the base course and impact golf on Air Force bases all over, according to Pam Wickham, Golf Operations Manager.

"A similar survey was presented here in 2007 to determine what was most important to the golfers at Whispering Pines Golf Course," said Wickham. "Because of that survey, we've seen some really positive changes on our course."

Since the 2007 survey, all but one of the suggestions for improvements to the course has come to fruition. The primary suggested improvements were to add more menu items, cover the patio, improve greens and bunkers and add nine more holes.

In 2009, a 20x40 tent was installed over the patio, making it more bearable in the hot weather "to sit and watch as golfers come up the No. 9 fairway or to enjoy an outdoor meal or cold beverage from the snack bar," Wickham said.

"The greens were replaced last season and have come in very nicely this year," she added. "We have had comments from our golfers that ours are some of the best greens in the area."

In 2008, most of the sand bunkers were converted to grass bunkers which allow the course's maintenance crew to better maintain them.

A variety of sandwiches were added to the snack bar menu in March, which has made the pro shop a popular daily on-base lunch destination. As a result of the increased business brought by the new lunch menu, the golf course received a small project initiative to renovate the snack bar and pro shop. Completion of the improvements funded through this initiative is expected in November or December this year. The improvements will improve the current food service areas and the pro shop overall, making it an ideal alternative location for meetings and conferences.

"The final suggestion of adding nine more holes to the course is not out of the question," Wickham said, "but at the present time, our customer base cannot financially support an 18-hole course and the fiscal liabilities of maintaining it."

The golf course is constantly striving to improve its services, to include the condition of the course, more programming with more variety and providing customers recreational outlet.

"Help us help you," Wickham said. "Fill out a survey."

For more information or to respond to the survey go to www.usafservices.com or visit the pro shop for an off-line survey. Surveys will also be available Aug. 15 at www.cafbsservices.com. Completed surveys may be returned to the golf course, bowling center or fitness center no later than Sept. 15.

person for members and \$75 for nonmembers.

Price includes three days of golf, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, prize fund and door prizes. Carts are extra. Tournament is open to all levels of golfers, both men and women, and will be flighted after the first day of play. Sign up by Aug. 29. Call the Pro Shop at 434-7932 to sign up or for more information.

Let us know how we are doing in making your golf enjoyable!

Just go online to www.usafservices.com to fill out one of our golfer surveys.



(Paper versions are available in the pro shop)
USAF SCN: 11-005

Aug. 15
to
Sept. 15

well-known, licensed and insured professionals who can now give you the same great service on base as they have been providing downtown. Pick-up service at your office is available. For more information or to make an appointment, call 434-7842.

Share Your Knowledge

Volunteer tutors are needed for all subjects and all grades. Tutoring will take place at the Youth Center between the hours of 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. For more information, contact Ms. Terri Graves at 434-2504.

Join a Bowling League Today

Registration is ongoing, and league play begins Sept. 1 at Strike Zone Lanes. The leagues include Monday night Ladies' League; Tuesday night Mixed League; Wednesday night Couples; Thursday night Intramurals; and Saturday morning Youth. For more information or to sign up, please call the Bowling Center at 434-3577.

Hey Single Airmen! Get Your PLAYpass Now!

Single Airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive special discounts and rewards valued at more than \$500 each. 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 now. 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 or call the AFRC at 434-2790.

"Bump and Run" to the Golf Course for Daily Specials

In addition to offering a great lunch menu with daily specials Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Whispering Pines Golf Course is starting some great daily golfing and drink specials in July. There's "Moonlight Mondays" -- nine holes and a cart for just \$15 or 18 holes with a cart for only \$20 from 3 p.m. to close. "Two-Fer Tuesdays" offers two golfers the chance to play 18 holes with a cart for just \$35. Kids under age 14 golf free with a paid adult at each Wednesday's Family Day. The Thursday "Twilight Special" is continuing due to its suc-

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Great futures start here at CAFB youth programs

Jeri Peterson
Chief, Airmen and Family Services Flight

We at the Columbus Air Force Base Youth Program work to positively impact youth and give them experiences to build a good foundation for the future.

Academic success, good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles are the priorities of our program. We strive to meet these goals by incorporating the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H Club philosophies into our core programming.

We believe that by providing the five key elements for positive youth development; safe environment, a ton of fun, a trained staff, varied opportunities and experiences and achievement recognition, our youth will grow into responsible adults.

We provide a safe, positive environment for youth physically and emotionally. Our programs include fun, age-appropriate activities based on the things that youth and teens are excited about. The Youth Center is staffed by trained, guidance-oriented youth development professionals that provide supportive mentoring relationships. We strive to provide opportunities and experiences that youth might not normally have. Staff members set high expectations for young people, enabling youth to believe in them-

selves. Individual and group achievement recognition through praise and positive reinforcement is a main focus at the Youth Center.

Offering high-yield activities that provide fun with a purpose is the key to keeping youth interested in coming back and participating in the expansive list of positive activities.

We offer core programming in the following areas: character and leadership, education and career development, health and life skills, arts, recreation, sports and fitness. The individual programs offered are too numerous to list, but a monthly calendar is available at the Youth Center or online at www.cafbssrocks.com.

School Age, Youth Development and Youth Sports and Fitness programs are available at the Youth Center. The School Age and Youth Development programs are for children in Kindergarten to age 18, while some of the Sports and Fitness program include children as young as three.

Columbus AFB Youth Programs takes pride in taking advantage of variety of resources such as BGC, 4-H, Air Education Training Command and Air Force Services initiatives to provide youth with opportunities such as specialty camps and programs.

This year we were able to offer six local specialty camps for youth with AETC funding, and several of our local

youth attended specialty camps in Huntsville, Ala., and San Antonio, Texas, thanks to Air Force scholarships and initiatives made available.

Partnerships with the 4-H Club and BGC open many doors for our youth at CAFB. With the help of these partnerships, we work to provide programs and recognition at the local base/community, state, regional and national levels. Our two-time local Youth of the Year winner was the first military youth to win at the Mississippi BGC competition, earning her scholarships and bringing accolades to our base.

It is our mission to provide the foundation in youth developmental programming, to offer opportunities and to recognize the accomplishment of youth for a start on the future.

Clearly, the great achievements of many of our local youth this past year shows we are on the right track. We have a strong history of providing great experiences that have made young people healthy, kept them safe and given them direction.

We want to make sure that youth are fulfilling their potential and provide them a head start in becoming responsible adults.

Ultimately "Great Futures Start Here" should ring true for every young person who comes through our doors.

DJs, Rock and Roll and the Club: A Test of Leadership

Professor Gene Kamena
Air War College

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. —The officers' club, or O'Club, in Aschaffenburg, Germany, was the focal point for social and professional gatherings. It was ideally located among unit barracks and family housing areas. The building containing the O'Club was large and impressive. It had once been the O'Club for the German army, and if one looked closely, one could still discern impressions of swastikas on the walls. In 1986, the year the club burned to the ground, this grand building served as the O'Club for the American army.

In 1986, the "Cottonbalers" of the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment were stationed in Aschaffenburg, Germany. I was in command of its Headquarters and Headquarters Company, or HHC.

An HHC is a large company consisting of roughly 350 Soldiers, including cooks, medics, the battalion staff, (even the battalion commander was assigned to the company), all the maintenance functions, the support platoon and battalion scouts.

The men serving in HHC were a mixed bag of Soldiers, supporters and administrators, not known for iron discipline while in garrison. As a line company commander, when discipline was found wanting, I ordered the entire company to the field for a week or so until standards were re-established. This technique was not possible with an HHC because the Soldiers performed support duties in garrison. The medics conducted sick call, the cooks cooked, the mechanics repaired vehicles, the staff worked for people who outranked me and so on.

Several weeks after the club fire, agents from the local Criminal Investigations Division, or CID, came into my office and informed me that they suspected two Soldiers from the support platoon in my company of setting fire to the club.

The CID agents revealed that the two Soldiers in question had worked part time at the club, without informing their chain of command, as disc jockeys. They must have really liked the club's DJ equipment, because they decided to steal the equipment and set fire to the club to destroy any evidence of the theft. The CID agents con-

ducted a search, with my permission, and found the stolen items in the Soldiers' room with serial numbers still intact. Confessions were forthcoming a short time later.

When the details of case came to light, I received a lot of help from everyone in my chain of command. My very survival as a commander was in question for a time, but survive I did, with the help of a couple of senior officers who went to bat for me and for the company. Today, with the benefit of hindsight, time and distance, I would like to highlight some leadership lessons:

- Know your people. It is a leader's job to know his people, to know how they live and what they do on and off duty. HHC was a large company, but that is an excuse and not a valid reason for not knowing what was going on in the lives of two people who worked for me. A leader, however, cannot be intrusive into the personal lives of their people, but leaders know how their people live, and what their people do, on and off duty.

- Be prepared to be fired. I was responsible for the actions of my Soldiers. Nowhere in the assumption of command

orders is there a clause that states command is fair. Do your best, make things happen, but always be prepared to be fired. Remember, it is not your command. It belongs to the nation.

- A commander is responsible for everyone in the command, even people who make mistakes like burning down the O'Club. During the trial and afterward, I was still the commander of the two Soldiers who burned down the club. It was my job to ensure that they received a fair trial and due process. My leadership responsibility ended only after they were transferred to the prison at Fort Leavenworth.

- Provide top cover for subordinate leaders. Two senior officers in my chain of command took the risk of providing top cover to me and for the Soldiers in my command. They had nothing to gain by doing so, but they were leaders of integrity. Remembering what those leaders did, I have made it a point to provide top cover to subordinates. Good leaders assume risk and ensure subordinates have a chance to learn and grow.

Youth Programs at Columbus

Jana Hall
14th Force Support Squadron Marketing

Columbus Air Force Base Youth Programs offer fun activities, varied educational experiences and achievement recognition for our base youth in a safe environment under the watchful eyes of highly-trained staff members.

Watching the friendly staff interact with the kids at the Youth Center, it is easy to see how much they enjoy and care for the children. It is the goal of the staff members at the Youth Center to help youth realize and fulfill their potential and provide them a head start in becoming responsible adults.

Core programming offered at the Youth Center includes character and leadership, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, and recreation, sports and fitness. Priorities are set on academic success, good citizenship and healthy lifestyle choices now to carry our youth into adulthood.

Dependents of any armed forces active duty members or reservists, retirees, DoD employees, AAFES and DeCA employees and permanent contractors on base may participate in most facets of youth programming. The Youth Center has a variety of opportunities and activities for children from Kindergarten to 18 years.

"Not everyone that works and/or lives on this base realizes their youth can take advantage of our extensive programming and facilities," said Kayline Hamilton, Director of Youth Programs. "We have a fabulous place for kids to come, develop essential life skills and stay out of trouble."

School Age Programs

Youth, grades K-6, can participate in the School Age Program

which offers afterschool care, school holiday camps and summer camps for those needing care all day while their parents are at work.

The program's staff is made up of certified providers, and the program is accredited through the national organization Council on Accreditation which provides focused training on safety, human relations, nutrition, conflict resolution and more.

There are still a few more slots available in the School Age Afterschool program. Cost is based on total family income. Interested individuals should contact Terri Graves at 434-2504 for more information.

Youth Development Programs

Children, ages 9-18, are welcome to join the Youth Center and take advantage of the Open Recreation programs and activities, Monday-Friday, 3-8 p.m.

"Open Recreation offers healthy afterschool activities to encourage good lifestyle choices and leadership development," Hamilton said. "And our teen programs are focused on getting these young people to realize their potential and act on it."

Youth Development offers a wide range of programs for teens and preteens, including instructional classes, specialty camps and special family events holiday celebrations.

Partnership with the 4-H Youth Development Organization and the Boys and Girls Club of America affords even more variety in positive programming and recognition for our youth's achievements on the local, state, regional and national levels.

A 4-H club representative visited two or three days each week throughout the summer, offering activities centered on health, nutrition and fitness to our base youth. Similar programming will continue throughout the busy school year. Several of our local teens attend-

ed the Mississippi State 4-H Career Day in Starkville this summer, and youth Center staff are able to participate throughout the year in various training workshops.

The affiliation with the BGCA has opened many doors for CAFB youth over the years. Most recently, our two-time local BGCA Youth of the Year brought home state honors and was recognized at the Air Force Youth of the Year Celebration last week in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to initiatives offered by the Air Education Training Command and HQ Air Force Services, our local center was able to offer six specialty camps over the summer and six of our local youth were awarded scholarships to attend out-of-state specialty camps.

Building Strong Minds and Bodies

The Youth Sports program offers team sports year-round to help build healthy lifestyle habits, encourage sportsmanship, responsibility and teamwork, boost confidence, improve coordination and motor skills and develop individual and team pride.

Sports offered include basketball, soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball, flag football, cheerleading and volleyball.

Youth Sports offers "Start Smart" for 3 and 4-year-olds for most of the sports and requires a parent or guardian to participate in practices and games.

Seasons for the little athletes and for the older youth last six weeks, and every athlete is required to have a current sports physical on file at the time of registration. The cost is affordable at \$35 for Start Smart athletes and \$40 per season for older athletes. Every participant receives a team shirt and a small award at each sport's closing ceremonies.

For more information on Youth Sports, contact Pierre Allen at 434-2504.



LaChardonnay Johnson won the state Youth of the Year title in Jackson, Miss., in March. She has been a member of the Columbus AFB Youth Center for more than 11 years. The two-time local Boys and Girls Club America Youth of the Year winner was the first military entrant in state history to win the state title. She was recognized last week in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Air Force photo

Developing Future Leaders: Success Stories

In just the past few months, several Columbus AFB Youth Center members have brought accolades for themselves and bragging rights for the base Air Force wide and on the national level.

LaChardonnay Johnson was recognized just last week at the Air Force National Youth of the Year celebration in Washington, D.C. Our local two-time BGCA Youth of the Year Winner brought home the Mississippi Youth of the Year title in March, becoming the first military entrant in the state's history to win the honor.

Johnson, the daughter of La Chunda Sparks, 14th Medical Group, also was elected State Reporter for the 4-H Club this summer and business manager for the 4-H Cooperative Leadership Conference where 80 youth were chosen to tour county cooperative facilities throughout the state in July.

"This highly-motivated young lady also has been a member of and served as president of every club or service organization we have at the Youth Center since I met her about 11 years ago," Hamilton said like a proud papa.

"We're so proud of her," said Jeri Peterson. "Kudos have come down from the Pentagon, Air Force Services and MAJCOM levels."

Johnson, a recent Caledonia High School graduate, has received several scholarships, including a \$6,500 purse for her state-level Youth of the Year win. She also received a \$17,000 scholarship from Mississippi University for Women where she plans to attend in the fall.

All of Johnson's Youth Programs-based awards resulted from lengthy application processes to include essays, interviews and

merit for outstanding grades, citizenship and volunteer work on base and in the community.

Several other local youth were chosen at the Air Force level to represent Columbus AFB at two different out-of-state specialty camps this summer. Other than transportation, the costs of the camps were covered by scholarships earned by the participants.

Erin Isler, 14, daughter of Lt. Col. William Isler, 14th Medical Operations Squadron commander, received the distinct honor of being chosen for both camps.

Kaylee Dickie, 17, daughter of Master Sgt. Larry Ambrose, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron and Ashley Martian, 14, daughter of Capt. Daniela Martian, 14th Operations Support Squadron also won spots at the first-ever Air Force Leadership Camp in San Antonio, Texas.

Along with Isler, Benjamin Hall, 12, son of the Jana Hall, 14th Force Support Squadron, and Jensen Reed, daughter of Shane Reed, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, won spots at this year's Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Al.

Hall and Reed brought home the Outstanding Team Award. They served on the same team of 18-20 campers, and both acted as commander on an assigned mission winning them the honor.

Sixty-four Air Force youth were chosen from about 200 Space Camp applicants recommended by the individual installations worldwide. These 64 were part of the nearly 1,000 campers who attended the week-long camp.



ABOVE: Youth Center members, Sarah Townsend, 15, daughter of Betty Townsend, 14th Contracting Squadron, and Alexandra Brown, 13, daughter of Gwen Granderson-Ford, 14th Force Support Squadron, get cooking at one of the many specialty camps offered by Youth Programs over the summer. RIGHT: Jensen Reed, Benjamin Hall and Erin Isler received Air Force scholarships this summer to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Al. Isler also was chosen to attend the Air Force's first-ever Leadership Camp in San Antonio, Tex., on scholarship. U.S. Air Force photo



Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Programs rely on volunteers throughout the year for their success.

In addition to special events such as Breakfast with Santa and Spring Fling, volunteers are needed to help tutor youth in all subjects throughout the school year and to instruct various mini-camps during the summer months.

"If you have a talent," Hamilton said, "you have the opportunity to pass it on here at the Youth Center."

Volunteer coaches are also needed throughout the year for all sports. Typically, practices and games are on weekdays between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m., and only two events are scheduled per week (i.e., one game, one practice). Volunteer coaches must fill out a coaching application before the Youth Center will pay for coaches training through the National Youth Sports Coaching Association and First Aid and CPR certification training. Volunteer coaches must also attend one coaches meeting prior to the beginning of the sports season.



U.S. Air Force photo

Encouraging youth to become civic-minded servants is one of Youth Programs' goals. These little helpers participated in the Big Help Project this summer to clean up the main gate area and road leading into the base.



U.S. Air Force photo

Families are encouraged to participate together in Youth Programs activities. The family of Master Sgt. Kyle Scafidi ran together in this year's America's Kid Run. Scafidi is the first sergeant of the 14th Communications and Civil Engineer Squadrons and acting first shirt for Force Support and Contracting squadrons.