

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 35, Issue 37

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

September 16, 2011

Weather



Today

High: 81, Low: 56
Partly cloudy



Saturday

High: 86, Low: 60
Partly cloudy



Sunday

High: 88, Low: 61
Isolated T-storms



Monday

High: 87, Low: 61
Scattered T-storms

News Briefs

Retiree Appreciation Day

Columbus Air Force Base wishes to say thank you to retirees, their families, and retirees' survivors for their many years of dedicated service. Retiree Appreciation Day will begin at 7 a.m. in the Columbus Club with registration and pastries. From 9 to 10:30 a.m. over 16 base agencies will staff informational booths at the Club in addition to a bus tour of the flight line and CAFB aircraft.

Newcomers Orientation at Club

Newcomers Orientation will be held Aug. 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for newly arrived Active Duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Columbus Club, to register call 434-2790.

Hispanic Potluck Dinner

Hispanic Heritage month kicks off with a family Hispanic food potluck at the Chapel Annex Sept. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Case lot

The Commissary will have a case lot sale on Sept. 23 to 24, 2011. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Inside



Feature 8

The lone dental technician, Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill is featured this week.



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin
Airman Leadership School Class 11-7 poses together after their graduation ceremony on Sept. 14 at the Columbus Club. ALS prepares Airmen for the responsibilities of being a front-line supervisor and is held at Columbus Air Force Base twice per year.

Airman Leadership School Class 11-7 graduates

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

at the Columbus Club.

After over five weeks of hard work, fourteen Airmen graduated Airman Leadership School in a ceremony Sept. 14

During their graduation ceremony, commanders, coworkers and friends gathered to celebrate ALS Class 11-7's accomplishment in completing their preparations to become front-line supervisors in today's Air Force.

Chief Master Sgt. Leonard Thibodeaux, 14th Flying Training Wing Interim Command Chief Master Sgt. offered his advice to the graduates; a box for the leadership tools they had gained over the last five weeks made up of their

See ALS, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (12-09)	3.10 days	4.45 days	Oct. 21	48th (11-15)	1.91 days	3.46 days	Sep. 30	49th (12-AB)	3.19 days	3.19 days	Oct. 11	T-6	1,421	1,366	30,078
41st (12-08)	3.70 days	2.91 days	Sep. 28	50th (11-15)	-0.13 days	2.30 days	Sep. 30					T-1	410	417	10,333
												T-38	524	468	11,346
												IFF	88	94	2,368

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Edward "Buster" Ellis, USAF retired, former 19th AF Commander.

Ruck March to Remember complete



U.S. Air Force photo

Staff Sgt. Chris Jones, 14th Security Forces Squadron and Columbus Air Force Base Ruck March to Remember POC poses with a Security Forces flag in Battery Park, N.Y. on September 11, 2011. Two thousand seven hundred ninety-six flags, one for each person who died on 9/11 heralded the end of the two month, 2,100 mile long journey across the country by Security Forces members from 23 units.

ALS

(Continued from Page 1)

attitude, image, and ability to give feedback.

The graduates of ALS Class 11-7 are as follows: Staff Sgt. Siddharth Sunny, 14th Force Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Kendra Harris, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Marquis Skinner, 14th Communications Squadron; Senior Airman Demenica Vick, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Airman Justin Stevens, 14th SFS; Senior Airman Damien Smith, 14th SFS; Senior Airman Eric Jorgensen, 14th Contracting Squadron; Senior Airman Keundra Gibson, 14th FSF; Senior Airman Jeremiah Jansen, 14th Mission Support Group; Senior Airman Markita Smith, 14th OSS; Senior Airman Arlington Terry, 14th OSS; Senior Airman Seth Babcock, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron; Senior Airman Justin Williamson, 14th CES; Senior Airman Austin Parrent, 14th OSS.

The award winners for ALS Class 11-7 are:

Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow Award: Senior Airman Arlington Terry, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Commandants Award: Senior Airman Damien Smith, 14th Security Forces Squadron

Academic Award: Senior Airman Jeremiah Jansen, 14th Mission Support Group

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
19 Hispanic Food Potluck, 5:30 p.m. @ Chapel Annex	20 Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24/25 Sept. 24: Retiree Appreciation Day, 9 a.m. @ Club
26	27	28 Class 12-08 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club	29 Wing photo, 8:30 a.m. @ Center Runway	30 Class 11-15 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions, 4 p.m. @ Kaye	1/2 Oct. 1: Energy Awareness Month begins

Long Range Events

- Oct. 3: Night Flying Week
- Oct. 8: Fire Prevention Week Parade, 9 a.m. @ Base
- Housing
- Oct. 10: Columbus Day
- Oct. 11: CFC Begins
- Oct. 13: Enlisted Calls
- Oct. 14: Hispanic Heritage Breakfast
- Oct. 14: Class 12-01 Assignment Night

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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.

IFF 11-KBC Graduates

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron graduated Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 11-KBC on Sept. 13. Three members graduated this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the Combat Air Forces.

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.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation

flights and then introduces pilots to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Students bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to surface attack and low-altitude tactical navigation phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these students will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!



1st Lt. Meggan Jacobsma
F-15E



2nd Lt. Aaron Berry
A-10C



2nd Lt. William Spurling
F-16

Hispanic Heritage Month: Many Backgrounds...

1st Lt. Ryan Kyzar
Hispanic Heritage Month POC

I may not be Hispanic, but I spent eight years of my life living in San José, Costa Rica. After returning to the United States shortly before college, I came to the realization that many Americans have a limited understanding of the diversity of cultures that exist across Latin America, and even across a single country. When many Americans think of Hispanics, they immediately think about our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Even with its rich cultural heritage, Mexico is only one part of Hispanic culture. If you think about the cultural differences that exist in our own country between, for example, Mississippi and California, or even the United States and Great Britain, you begin to understand the diversity of language and culture that

exists in Hispanic parts of the world.

One cultural difference is food. Authentic Mexican food is rather different from the food in other parts of Latin America, and what most Americans regard as Mexican is actually Tex-Mex. Other aspects of culture that differ greatly among Hispanic countries are music, art, and pastimes. Even accents and slang change from region to region, possibly to an even greater extent than in America.

Some things, however, are more universal. Rice and beans find their way into the cuisine of just about every Hispanic region. Family plays a huge role in Latin America. Latin America is known for its friendliness and easy-going atmosphere. And it can be said that there are two religions in Latin America, Catholicism and soccer, or fútbol. Along with the common language, these and many other things form a com-

mon strand among these different cultural groups.

This month, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage, our theme is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories... One American Spirit." I think that one way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage is to learn about all of the different regions and their unique culture. As we kick off the month, our first event will be a Hispanic Dinner and Potluck at the Chapel Annex on Sept. 19 at 5:30 p.m. We encourage everyone to attend, and bring your favorite authentic Hispanic dish to share. We will be cooking a main dish for everyone, and we are requesting a \$5 donation to help cover these costs. Some of our very own officers and Airmen will be there sharing about their Hispanic heritage. We look forward to seeing you there for a great evening of food and fellowship!

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Many Backgrounds, Many Stories... One American Spirit
Columbus AFB
15 Sep – 15 Oct

Monday, 19 Sep 5:30

Hispanic Heritage Fellowship and Potluck
Chapel Annex

Main dish prepared by volunteers. Favorite Hispanic dishes brought by attendees. 3 or 4 Hispanic BLAZE team members will share about their heritage. Suggested donation to cover main dish and other costs

Thursday, 22 Sep 4-6 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Day at the Youth Center

Scheduled to coincide with normal afternoon YC activities. Activities will include crafts, salsa dancing, and a Hispanic dinner

Tuesday, 11 Oct 3 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Book Reading
Base Library

Also scheduled to coincide with regular afternoon reading events. Volunteers will read books about Hispanic culture to children. Month-long display about Hispanic heritage

Friday, 16 Sept. 7 p.m.

Salsa in the Streets

Free salsa dance lesson, Free chips and dips

Open Latin dance: Salsa, Merengue, and Bachata

Lessons start at 7 p.m. directly in front of the Colvard Student Union on campus

Weekly during observance

Hispanic Heritage articles in Silverwings. One per issue during Hispanic Heritage Month, Crossword puzzle, Will take submissions for "favorite thing/best memory about Hispanic heritage" and will combine them to form a collage

Friday, 14 Oct 7:45 a.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month Breakfast
Columbus Club

Guest speaker: Carlos Rosales, Tampico Bay

Backup speaker: Chaplain David Zavala, CAFB

Looking for musicians to play Hispanic music

Breakfast prepared by Columbus Club with some Hispanic dishes. RSVP via e-invite, admission charged to cover food

Quitting Is For Winners!

Tech Sgt. Ryan Caviness
14th Medical Operations Squadron

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco is responsible for approximately 440,000 deaths in the United States and more than 5 million worldwide every year. In fact, tobacco kills more Americans than AIDS, auto accidents, alcohol, illegal drugs, fires, and homicides combined! Those who use tobacco are not the only ones who suffer; over 10 percent of deaths in the United States are caused by secondhand smoke. Tobacco use directly causes a decline in physical performance. It also places air crew members at higher risk of adverse situations from possible distraction, decreased night vision and hypoxic hypoxia at lower altitudes than expected due to lack of oxygen in the blood.

Because the nicotine in tobacco products is an addictive drug, most people find quitting extremely difficult. In fact, approximately 70 percent of tobacco users wanting to quit are still using tobacco products. However, as military members, we can apply the same determination and tenacity required for mission success to quit tobacco and win! Whether this is your first or fourth attempt to quit, the Health and Wellness Center offers a variety of tobacco cessation programs to help!

Our Freshstart program is focused on behavioral modification and long-term success. This four-part class starts on the first Tuesday of each month. Classes are held at the HAWC from 3 to 4 p.m. Prescription medication is made available through this program.

An online tobacco cessation program is also available for those who are not able to attend the Freshstart program. Participants complete a series of online modules and are given a certificate upon finishing the course. Prescription medication is also available through this program.

There are also "quitlines" for tobacco users to take advantage of 24/7. The Mississippi quitline can be reached by dialing 1-800-QUIT-NOW. TRICARE also offers a tobacco quitline that all non-Medicare eligible TRICARE beneficiaries can reach by calling 1-877-414-9949. Nicotine patches and gum are available through these programs.

Quit Kits are now available! This free kit is an alternative for those who wish to attempt tobacco cessation without formal counseling or classes. It contains stress balls, chewing gum, pen and pad for setting goals, etc. Stop by the HAWC to get your Quit Kit today!

If you would like more information concerning these tobacco cessation programs and find one to best suit your needs, contact the Health and Wellness Center at 434-2477.

Trail BLAZE'r

Name: Staff Sgt. Timothy Martinez

Unit: 14th Operation Support Squadron, Weather Flight

Job title: Weather Forecaster

Time at Columbus AFB: Four and a half years

Time in Service: Seven years

Hometown: Galway, N.Y.

Career goals: I am going to continue show casing Air Power until I am asked to leave.

Family members: Wife; Melissa. Son; Aiden. Dogs; Boo and Maggie

Favorite musician: Alkaline Trio

Favorite movie: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Biggest pet peeve: Slow drivers in the fast lane.

Favorite book: "Run" by Douglas Winter



Staff Sgt. Timothy Martinez

Inspirations: My family.

Personal motto: "What have I done today to be better?"

MPS TidBits

Records Review

It is very important for every individual to be vigilant in making sure their personal information and records are up to date.

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance

The purpose of life insurance is to provide for your survivors. Therefore, the critical issue to consider is who to designate as your beneficiary on your SGLI form in the event of your death.

It is also very important that you keep your designation current, especially if you have divorced and/or

remarried. The case of Ridgeway v. Ridgeway, which went all the way to the United States Supreme Court, aptly illustrates the importance of this point. In that case, the military member designated his spouse on the SGLI election form. However, when he was subsequently divorced and remarried, he never changed the beneficiary designation. When the military member died, the SGLI proceeds went to his ex-wife instead of his current wife.

Every time you PCS you will update your SGLI but you should also make it a point to double check if your personal situation ever changes.

Easy Steps:

Review your current SGLI by downloading from PRDA linked as

Top Portal Links on the Air Force Portal

Visit MPS customer service to complete SGLV Form 8286 if you need to update your SGLI

*Updating your SGLI with MPS customer service takes about ten minutes

The accuracy of your records will impact you and those you love. Don't leave these things in the hands of someone else. Do it today!

Military Personnel Section – Building 730

Customer Service Hours
Monday to Friday
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Comm: 662-434-3294
DSN: 742-3294

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 92 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Base News

Precious Metals Recovery Program

The Department of Defense needs your assistance in helping reduce operating costs. One way is to carefully check all expendable items for Precious Metals before throwing them away. Check with your unit Precious Metals Recovery Program monitor for more information or call 434-7170 or 434-7167.

Columbus Mothers of Preschoolers

A club for mom's of children age 5 and under. They meet twice a month and enjoy speakers, activities and encouraging one another. Mothers of Preschoolers is a national organization designed to strengthen and encourage moms to be all we can be! We meet at First United Methodist Church (Upstairs in the Artz Building) every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (childcare provided). Please contact Casey by email at caseye@cableone.net for more information.

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>.

Manpower openings

There are currently openings for qualified NCOs in the Manpower career field. If you have excellent mathematics and communicative skills, you may qualify for a career opportunity in this exciting career field. Interested? Call Linda Kessler extension 434-2341 at the Installation Manpower and Organization Office.

ACT/SAT Testing

Information on ACT and SAT tests are now available on their respective websites

(<http://www.act.org> and <http://www.collegeboard.com>). Answers about registration as well as quick tips regarding both of these important tests for aspiring college students can be found here. The tests are provided throughout the year, with advanced registration required.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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

Saint Leo University

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

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.

School Liaison Officer

The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Officer works with local school districts, schools, parents and students on issues related to elementary and secondary education for the children of ALL personnel (civilian, military and contractor) assigned to the installation. As parents of school age children are aware, there are many unique issues our children face as they transition to new schools. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. For assistance, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via

email at slo@columbus.af.mil.

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.

MPS Training dates require appointments

The Military Personnel Section in building 730 will hold in-house training on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during Night Flying Weeks. They will utilize appointments-only on these days to accommodate this necessary training. If you have any questions, contact the MPS Supt, Master Sgt. Taylor, at 434-2611.

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.

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:

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.

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.

AF Recruiting Commander thinks back, looks ahead

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

The commanding general of the Air Force Recruiting Service followed up with some of the officers he helped recruit, passing on words of advice during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-14 on Sept. 9.

Brig. Gen. Balan Ayyar described fond memories of his time as both a student and instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base during his return to where he earned his own wings.

"It's a real pleasure to come back and see the vibrant passion about this mission and the young men and women that are here. This base for as long as I can remember has had an exceptional.

"For me personally some very important milestones happened here," said Ayyar. "Not only the awarding of the wings, but I was courting my bride and married while I was a first assignment instructor pilot here at Columbus. I really began my Air Force career here so it has a great deal of meaning to me to be able to come back and see the enduring success of the base and the mission."

To the graduating class, the general spoke about the importance to the culture of the Air Force with the awarding of Silver Wings.

"It's worth considering that these wings are not what they seem to be. Of course they recognize the wonderful perform-



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin
Brig. Gen. Balan Ayyar, Commander Air Force Recruiting Service, speaks during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 11-14 on Sept. 9. Ayyar began his Air Force Career at Columbus Air Force Base as a first assignment instructor pilot.

ance and the matriculation from this very arduous course. But more than that they represent for those of us privileged to wear them a heritage of sacrifice, and leadership, intense professional expertise, precision, and perseverance and of courage. None of which you might feel now, but I want you to know that this is the beginning of what I hope will be an amazing adventure for you."

Calling on the history and legends of just a few of the great Airmen that had come before them such as General Curtis LeMay, Ayyar recounted one particular story of a bombing raid over German airspace.

"When I read that story, I have to wonder what those Airmen in the front seats of those bombers that had not been hit yet were thinking as the flak was why didn't they turn? What made them continue towards their mission?" Questioned Ayyar. "That's worth thinking about as a young aviator. That's the kind of courage and will you'll have to demonstrate in the profession of arms wearing these wings for this Air Force."

Closing his speech, the recruiting general predicted that even through coming challenges, the best days are ahead.

"As you come across the stage today and you put those wings on, remember that this is a profession, a deep and compelling profession of arms," said Ayyar. "The freedom that we have, the wars that we have been involved in, the things that are happening in the world will present the kind of challenges that will lead you to being your best self. High adventure and wonderful experiences are ahead."

9/11: Former AF surgeon recalls Pentagon post-attack response

G. W. Pomeroy Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Scores of people were injured, trapped. Before he made his way to the triage area where medics from all services would gather to treat and send off victims in ambulances, the senior Air Force medic waded through fire, smoke and chest-high debris looking for victims inside the Pentagon.

"The clock was ticking," retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton Jr. later told People Magazine. "I thought, 'If we wait for normal rescuers, we won't have anyone alive.'"

At first he thought it had been a terrorist bomb, "but then I saw the landing gear," Carlton said. "It was on the ground in the alley between the B and C rings. When I saw it there, not only did I realize an airplane had struck the Pentagon, but it was clear that the plane had come through the E, D and C rings to get there."

The terrorist attack on the Pentagon 10 years ago shook the nation; however, the

aftermath could have been much worse if not for Carlton's efforts months earlier.

One of several Airmen awarded the Airman's Medal for lifesaving contributions on Sept. 11, 2001, Carlton was the Air Force surgeon general when American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon. He wasn't thinking about it at the time, but the tragedy was replete with ironies. First of all, Carlton's office wasn't in the Pentagon; it was across town at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. The fact that he was there when the plane hit was a coincidence.

But the biggest irony — if not saving grace — was that he had approved what were apparently the first-ever mass-casualty exercises at the U.S. military headquarters earlier in the year.

The origin of the May 2001 exercise was a stairwell conversation in February 2001 between Carlton and now-retired Col. John Baxter, who was the Air Force's Flight Medicine Clinic commander in the Pentagon at the time. Baxter suggested a mass casualty exercise. Intrigued, Carlton and Baxter tried to come up with a scenario until their conver-

sation was interrupted by a jet taking off from nearby Reagan National Airport.

"We had to stop talking because the jet noise was so high," Carlton said. "Then we resumed our conversation."

Baxter suggested the idea of an aircraft hitting the Pentagon. He did not suggest wild-eyed terrorists bent on murder. In fact, Baxter's idea was mundane compared to the reality of what was to come.

"I thought it was a great idea," Carlton said.

The tabletop exercise, developed by Baxter and approved by Carlton, included the Army's DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic and the Air Force Flight Medicine Clinic, both housed within the Pentagon. Representatives from Arlington County Emergency Medical Services and various agencies also participated.

Carlton said they "did not do very well on the exercise" and set a "get-well" date for Sept 1, 2001. Even so, Col. James Geiling, then-commander of the DTHC, later said this exercise prepared them well to respond to the Pentagon attack on 9/11.

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.

Columbus Blaze earn 2nd in Defender's Cup Soccer Tournament

Capt. Eric Peterson
Captain, Team BLAZE varsity team

Twenty teams came to battle over Labor Day weekend in San Antonio, Texas for the right to be called the best varsity soccer team in the Department of Defense.

Blood, sweat, grass and dust all baked in a 106 degree blast-furnace permeated the air during the tournament group play on Saturday consisting of three 60 minute games entering into single-elimination tournament play Sunday and Monday. After Saturday's group play, the teams were rank ordered and the last eight teams would have to battle it out to make it into the 16 team single elimination bracket. The semifinal and final games stepped up the stamina test and were extended to the standard 90 minute games with only an hour and a half break in between.

The Team BLAZE team's first test in the tournament was Randolph Air Force Base and the game turned out to be a wake-up call for all the members of the team. Despite keeping possession of the ball for 75 percent of the game, a 10 minute lapse in their impenetrable defense allowed three rapid-succession goals. With their own shots went high, wide or were snagged by the goalkeeper, they were unable to finish and had difficulty gathering any sort of team dynamic. In hindsight some members of the team believed that their team representative should not have walked into the coaches meeting the day before and boldly proclaimed, "We're Columbus Air Force Base and we're here to win!"

After the team was routed by Randolph AFB's team 3-0, the BLAZE faced Medina Annex next and knew that there would have to be many changes or the team would be leaving early Sunday. However, Chaplain (Capt.) Jason Raines' magic boots held the key to unlocking the scoring drought. After drilling a goal into the back of the net versus Medina Annex. This paved the way for 2nd Lt. John Christy's own two goals in quick succession heralding 2nd Lt. Andrew Campbell's ball finding the net as well. Columbus' own 2nd Lt. Shawn McDonald blocked any and all shots that managed to sneak past the defense marching with BLAZE to a 4-0 win.

The third and final game of the day was versus Cannon AFB. In a brutal match and a must win or tie for BLAZE to make the bracket cut line, the team continue to improve upon its last victory and pulled out a tie following Capt. Drew Lammy's score off a penalty kick to tie the game 1-1. With 5 minutes to play and the field completely dark the game was called early for safety reasons.

BLAZE ended up ranked 9th overall which meant their



Courtesy photo

The Columbus BLAZE varsity soccer team poses together. If you are interested in playing soccer, the team practices Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. at the soccer field across from the 50th Flying Training Squadron. All skill levels welcome, whether you want to come out for the fitness, the fun, or to try out for the next tournament team.

first game the next morning was a grudge rematch against Cannon AFB. Whoever won that game would face-off against number 1 seed and defending champions Eglin AFB. The real challenge would lay with the 30 knot winds plus 20 knot gusts that would remain for the rest of the tournament. The team was able to take the victory versus Cannon off of a diving header from 2nd Lt. Nick Kellenbence in the final minutes of the game. It was the first non penalty kick score versus Cannon AFB in the entire tournament. The first 10 minutes versus Eglin was an intense back and forth battle for possession. Campbell got pinned in between three defenders in the midfield. After he managed to break out with the ball he turned and fired a laser to the upper left corner of the goal from 30 yards out. Capt. Eric Peterson followed five minutes later and broke past the last defender and fired another cross-net shot. Tech Sgt. Ualter Freitas put the nail in the coffin with the third and final score of the game. The BLAZE moved on to our semi final game versus Holloman AFB and the team rallied with a 2-1 victory. Ualter drove in the first

goal and Campbell closed the game and ensured a spot in the finals off a beautiful assist from 1st Lt. Aaron Nelson.

The final game was versus Patrick AFB, the number two seed overall in the tournament. The Columbus BLAZE soccer team had already played six games over three days which equated to six and a half hours of soccer in 100 degree or higher heat. Patrick managed to slip past an off-sides trap and score in the 25th minute. For the next hour both teams battled back and forth trying to score. The BLAZE had many opportunities controlling the entire second half of the game, but were unable to put in an equalizer. At the final whistle the score remained 1-0. However, the Columbus BLAZE were able to keep their heads high knowing that they had accomplished an unlikely feat against so many larger bases. They were elated to take second place out of 20 teams. The team had done so well that the Air Force Soccer Coach came up to the coaching staff after the tournament and stated that he was interested in six or seven players from our team for the all Air Force team.

AROUND TOWN Crossword: Hispanic Heritage Month

Hitching Lot Farmer's Market

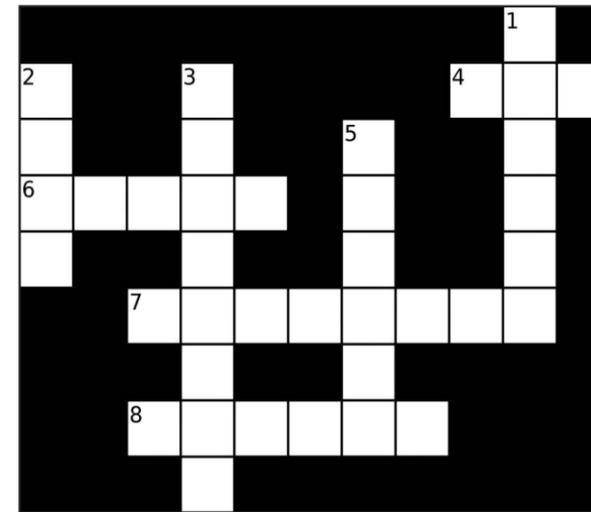
The Hitching Lot Farmer's Market is open Mondays from 5-7 p.m., Thursdays from 6-10 a.m., and Saturdays from 7-10 a.m. Visit hitchinglotfarmersmarket.com for more information.

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.



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|---|--------|---|---|------|---|
| 4 | Across | American-Mexican food is also called Tex-_____. | 1 | Down | Hispanic Heritage Week was extended to Hispanic Heritage Month under President Ronald _____. |
| 6 | Across | Sept. 18 is the independence day for _____. | 2 | Down | Sept. 15 is the independence day for Latin American countries Costa _____, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. |
| 7 | Across | This year's theme: "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One _____ Spirit." | 3 | Down | Día de la Raza, also known as _____ Day, occurs on Oct. 12. |
| 8 | Across | Soccer is known in many Latin American countries as _____. | 5 | Down | Sept. 16 is the independence day for _____. |

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 rent: Convenient and furnished 1,500 sq. ft. ranch-styled home. Three bed two bath. Ideal for lightly traveled professionals who don't have a ton of stuff. furniture and appliances must stay. Non-smoking pet-less candidates preferred. \$750 per month plus utilities with \$300 deposit. Contact (202) 368-0898 for showing, application and

credit check.

For sale: Three bedroom, two bath home, on one acre of land. Less than 10 minutes from base in Caledonia school district located off of Wolfe Rd. New roof, new carpet, new wood laminate flooring and beautiful ceramic tile. Perfect starter home! \$145,000. Please contact (812) 989-4184 for pictures or showing.

Roomates wanted: Looking for two roommates, \$400 per month per person. Fully furnished, living room, den, kitchen, bedroom, and laundry room with washer and dryer. Wi-fi and satellite TV included with shared electric and water. Eight miles from base. Please call 251-5245 to schedule an appointment.

For rent: Two bedroom apartment fully furnished for 650. For further information call 319-0217.

For sale: Beautiful Lakefront Home. 2480 sq. ft. Three bedroom, Three bath house, bonus room, two car garage, fireplace, beautiful sun room and back deck, one acre of waterfront property on Lake Pennington. Beautiful and quiet, private fishing lake just 12 minutes south of base. Tons of recent upgrades to house, all modern appliances, must see! Includes

one pier with screened in porch, beautiful sunset views, wired for electricity, and one small boat ramp. \$280,000. Contact 386-2900.

Transportation

For sale: 2008 BMW 335i Hardtop Convertible. Twin Turbo. Black with tan Leather interior. 43,000 miles. Brand new tires. All services just performed Sept. 1. Asking \$42,500 or best offer. Like new condition. Please call 574-1979 for more info.

For sale: 2010 Ford F-150 FX4 Super Crew, grey, 23,000 miles. nerf bars, spay in bed liner, bug shield, vent visors, window tint, asking payoff \$28,500 book value in over \$32,000. Call 549-1726.

For sale: 2007 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT. 65,000 miles, moon roof, bed liner and slim topper, sharp. Asking \$18,500. If interested call (502) 649-8634.

For sale: 2007 Harley Davidson FXST Softail, 96" engine, six speed trans, 9,200 miles, one owner/ always garaged, black and chrome, \$10,500 or best offer, Call 497-2175 for more information.

For sale: 2010 Nissan Frontier SE,

2WD, King Cab, six speed Automatic, AM/FM/CD Stereo, Tow Hitch, Bed Liner, anti-lock brakes. One owner with 7,622 actual miles, 23 miles per gallon on highways. Must sell; \$19,500. Call 327-1205.

For sale: Seven foot bass boat, two seats, live well, fish finder and trolling motor. \$1,200. If interested call (502) 649-8634.

For sale: 2009 Twist N' Go Venice, 49CC scooter. With a high performance Minarelli type two stroke engine, no 49 cc scooter can beat it. Vintage style. One owner. 1,100 kilometers on it. Carb just serviced, new oil tank and brand new sport exhaust system. Bought it for \$1,700, letting it go for \$900 or best offer. Call 434-8660 to see.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Bowflex Ultimate 2 excellent condition with leg extension, preacher curl attachments, 310lbs of resistance and original books \$1,650 or best offer (new \$2,500). Nordic Track EXP 1000XI—speed 0-10 mph, up to 10% incline, fold away design, five programmed workouts and iFit compatible \$200 firm. Chicco Polly High Chair

(green) like new with seven height positions, three recline positions, adjustable five point harness, two dishwasher safe tray insert and slim folding design (only used about three months paid \$150 new) \$100. Call 251-3062.

For sale: Beautiful old dropleaf table, 54 by 32, Only \$175. Two drawer metal file cabinet, only \$15. Call 328-4374.

For sale: Eight foot swimming pool with accessories, \$40. Cuisinart Coffee maker, \$40. JVC 5.1 HDMI home theater with built-in DVD player, iPod doc, \$100. Sony Bravia 40" LCD TV, \$500. Queen pillow-top mattress set, \$250. Call 497-2175 for more information.

Pets

For sale: Chinchilla for sale with huge cage, food, treats, and all the items in the cage for \$250. Named Hercules, almost a year old, very friendly. For more info on him or how to care for Chinchillas, please call 425-7882.

Pets

Wanted: Moving boxes. Call or text (608) 963-5220.



Visit us
online!

Facebook

Web page: www.columbus.af.mil

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB



Base families offered a variety of activities

Get Your Grill On!

The 14th Force Support Squadron, Columbus AFB Commissary and the Base Exchange are joining forces to put on a Tailgating Cooking Contest and Party on Sat., Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Commissary/BX parking lot. Bring the kids to meet Bully, the Mississippi State University mascot. Door prizes include Dan Mullen autographed footballs, a pair of New Orleans Saints tickets, children's bikes, gift certificates and more. For more information, go to www.cafbssrocks.com.

Annual BLAZE Race Returns

Columbus AFB's Fitness and Sports presents the BLAZE Race, a 5K or 10K flight line run on Oct. 1. Cost is \$20 if registered by Sept. 16 and guarantees a moisture-wicking shirt the day of the race. Late registration is \$25. Registration forms are available at www.cafbssrocks.com, www.active.com, or at the Fitness Center. Profits of this and similar events go toward the continued support of morale, welfare and recreation events on base. Contact 434-2772 for more information.

Professional Auto Detailing Now Available on Base

The 14th Force Support Squadron's Auto Hobby now offers the services of Splash In a Flash right here on base every Thursday and Friday to keep your vehicle looking its best. Make your appointment today to have your vehicle's interior, exterior or engine cleaned by 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.

Let's Get Moving!

The Fitness Center offers several great cardio classes throughout the week. These include daily spin classes on Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays are also packed full with circuit class at 5:30

WHISPERING PINES GOLF COURSE PRESENTS

Music on the Patio with a TWIST

Sept. 23, 5-9 p.m.

Drink Specials!
Kids Menu!
Cook Your Own Steak!

Featuring live music by Bobby Shannon & Ben Ferrell!

RSVP by Sept 16: \$15.95 nonmember
\$13.95 Golf Course Annual Member
RSVP after Sept 16: \$17.95 nonmember
\$15.95 Golf Course Annual Member

Price includes: Steak, Salad, Baked Potato, Broccoli Salad, Beverage, & Fruit Salad

Call the Pro Shop at 434-7932 to RSVP & for more information!

a.m. and kickboxing and Zumba at 11:30 a.m. There also is a yoga class at 12:30 p.m. each Friday. For more information, go to the Fitness page at www.cafbssrocks.com or call 434-2772.

Fall Soccer for Youth

Registration Sept. 6-23 at the Youth Center for fall soccer for youth ages 3-18. The cost is \$35 for ages 3-4 and \$40 for ages 5-18. All games will be played on base and play is set to begin in October. Volunteer coaches are needed. Call 434-2504 for more information.

Lunch and Bowl Returns

The Lunch and Bowl special returns to Strike Zone Lanes! Buy a lunch combo, Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and get two FREE games with \$1.50 shoe rental, with the exception of Thursdays IF there is league play.

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.

CAUTION: CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Contractors are scheduled to start refinishing the floors in the Fitness & Sports Center's gymnasium, racquetball courts and aerobics room on Mon., Sept. 19. The Fitness Center will close areas only as needed to allow work to proceed. The improvements should be completed in less than 30 days. For more information, please contact 434-2773.

Weekly Specials at Whispering Pines Golf Course

In addition to offering a great lunch menu with daily specials Tues.-Fri., Whispering Pines Golf Course is starting some great daily golfing and drink specials during the week. 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. The Wednesday golf special is 18 holes with a cart for \$30 which includes sandwich, chips and a drink. "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. 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.

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 issues 9/11 message to deployed personnel at 380th AEW

Capt. Gina McKeen
380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Lofgren, the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, issued the following 9/11 message to the deployed warriors at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Warriors,

On this day, take a moment to reflect on that horrible day from which we draw strength and conviction to move forward in this fight against terrorism. Remember those who were lost on that day and send your heartfelt thoughts to their families and loved ones — never forget.

On Sept. 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 struck the north tower of the World Trade Center, and we all wondered how such a mistake could happen. Then, at 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 struck the south tower and it all became clear. We were under attack.

After that, just a short distance from where I was at National War College, across the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., my classmates and I heard and then saw the smoke of American Airlines Flight 77 after it crashed into the Pentagon. The terrorists tried one more time to randomly kill Americans on United Airlines Flight 93, but brave Americans shouted out "Let's roll," and stopped that plane by sacrificing their lives for

the lives of others. Lost in all the attacks were 2,997 men and women from America and 90-some countries.

As you reflect on where you were on 9/11 — the moment you found out, the faces of those around you and the feelings you had then and now — remember when you saw the flags flying from bridges and houses, the people gathering together for comfort and prayer. The spirit of America rose up, committed to never letting such a despicable act happen again; thus, the "9/11 Generation" was born.

I want to pay special tribute to you, the members of the 9/11 Generation, who represent more than two million warriors who have honorably served, deployed and fought for what you believe in — freedom, liberty and

justice. Let us bond together and go forth knowing what we do is just and right.

They may have attacked us, but all they did was make us stronger, more sure of our conviction and motivated to overcome this test. Just as prior American generations have overcome great tests so, too, shall we triumph.

You are the 9/11 Generation, dedicated professionals who have volunteered to protect America and our freedoms. You embody the cries of "let's roll" and "we will never forget" on that fateful day. We have, with the help of many nations around the world, taken on this fight against terrorism and we are winning. Make no mistake; we will finish this. To all of you, my teammates: One team, one fight — Fight's on!

Civilian, military advisory board forms to better CAFB

Maj. Steve Drinnon
Chief, Commander's Action
Group

Columbus Air Force Base Wingmen gathered Tuesday night at the Columbus Club to hear a proposal for a new group of community leaders to offer advice to the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander.

Through the unanimous agreement of the Wingmen, Col. Barre Seguin's proposal for a Strategic Advisory Group was enthusiastically endorsed.

"This group brings the synergy of military and civilian talents and backgrounds to generate ideas that will be beneficial to both Columbus AFB and the broader community," Seguin explained. "These ideas will lead to innovative ways to continue to provide quality of life programs and will prove to be of great value to our Airman and their families."

The 14th Flying Training Wing Commander's Strategic Advisory Group will offer up strategic advice to the Commander for consideration on specific topics when requested.

Seguin said that in a time of dwindling resources and lean times ahead, having the inputs of business minded individuals will better help Columbus AFB take care of Airmen and their families.

The SAG will be composed of Columbus AFB Wingmen, who already hold an honorary position. Columbus AFB Wingmen have been designated by Wing Commanders since 1993 as individuals within the community who have gone above and beyond to support Columbus AFB's mission in various ways.

"The Wingman designation is a unique appointment that recognizes the many supportive leaders we have in our surrounding communities," said Seguin.

As the United States Air Force is undergoing a time of monumental change, bases that work as one with the community will be the most successful, according to Seguin. To this end, the Columbus Wingmen, through the Strategic Advisory Group, stand ready to serve their nation by partnering with Columbus AFB in an advisory role in these uncertain times.



Col. Barre Seguin and Columbus Wingmen chartered the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander's Strategic Advisory Group. The group will offer up strategic advice to the Commander for consideration on specific topics when requested.

U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson

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.

Behind the scenes: Custom care crafted by lone dental technician



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

While typically never seen by the actual dental patients themselves Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician, has been up close and personal with BLAZE members teeth since he came to Columbus AFB in 2010.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

As the only 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician at Columbus AFB, Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, and his office is a workshop of pliers, grinders, screws and glue which he uses to build dental appliances for all members of Columbus.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician, sets a crown mold he is building for a member a Team BLAZE. Staff Sgt. Merrill's one-man shop produces dental appliances from crowns and false teeth to retainers and mouth guards for military members.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician, positions a crown mold into a gold casting machine. This is one of the final steps in a two day process for creating gold crowns.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician, grinds down a retainer to ensure there are no sharp edges and it fits the specification for the dentist's needs.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

Staff Sgt. Nathanael Merrill, 14th Flying Training Wing Dental Lab technician, washes an impression of patient's teeth after grinding some of the excess material off. Dental lab technicians don't work with patients directly but with impression of the patient's teeth to build appliances for the dentists.

Dollars & \$ense Topic: DTS Authorizations and the CTO

The majority of uniformed members and civilian employees know that the use of the available Commercial Travel Office, such as Winggate or SATO, is mandatory when making official travel reservations (transportation and rental cars) (ref: JFTR U3120 (for military members) and JTR C2203 (for civilian employees)). However, sometimes, when travel authorizations are processed in Defense Travel System, members/employees are uncertain when they should contact the CTO directly for assistance. When transportation and rental car arrangements are made in DTS, the reservation automatically flows to the CTO for booking; however, there are times when the member may need one-on-one assistance. Below lists a few instances when you should call (or not call) the CTO:

When Should You Call a CTO?

-Non-DTS travel authorizations. When traveling on hard copy orders, call a CTO to make reservations. Provide the CTO with a copy of your travel authorization for ticket issuance.

-En route assistance. Travelers who have begun travel and need to make a change should contact a CTO via the 24-hour toll-free number (listed on the CTO provided itinerary/invoice).

-Unused tickets. The traveler must notify a CTO of any

unused or partially unused tickets as soon as possible. Unused tickets must be returned in the manner they were received. If you received a paper ticket from the CTO, the ticket must be returned to the CTO to process a refund.

-Complex multiple stop itineraries and/or remote OCONUS travel. DTS supports most multiple stop, CONUS and OCONUS travel. However, there may be times when special arrangements to remote locations are required or travel is very complex in nature. In those instances, you may contact a CTO directly or request CTO assistance through DTS.

When Should You NOT Call a CTO?

-Do not call a CTO to make reservations after you already made a reservation in DTS. DTS has processed the original booking based on your reservation. If a CTO is called to make reservations, it may result in duplicate reservations and possible duplicate charges on your government travel charge card. Any time you call a CTO directly, let them know if you have already made reservations in DTS.

-Do not call a CTO to ask questions about how DTS works. While CTOs receive and return your travel requests through DTS, they do not have access to DTS. For assistance with questions about DTS, call your local help desk or the Travel Assistance Center (TAC) at 1-888-Help-1-Go. The TAC is

available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including federal holidays. Staffed by a team of trained analysts, the TAC offers assistance on a range of travel related topics.

-Do not call a CTO to cancel or make changes to travel plans before departure. DTS can accommodate your initial travel request, as well as process cancellations and changes to existing reservations made prior to travel. When travel has not yet been initiated, follow the procedures for creating a DTS amendment to your authorization and then change/cancel your flight, hotel, and/or rental car arrangements, and expenses not incurred. NOTE: The CTO cannot change reservations made in DTS prior to the reservations being ticketed, which occurs approximately 3 business days prior to departure.

14th CPTS Finance Customer Service:

Bldg 730, First Floor Lobby.

Hours Of Operation: M-F 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

14th CPTS Financial Customer Service
(14cpts.Fcs@Columbus.Af.Mil)

Due to mission requirements, if you are unable to make the customer service hours, please email us or call 434-2705/2095 to schedule an appointment.