

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 35, Issue 46

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

November 18, 2011

Weather



Today

High: 63, Low: 38
Sunny



Saturday

High: 68, Low: 55
Partly cloudy



Sunday

High: 74, Low: 57
Isolated T-storms



Monday

High: 76, Low: 53
Cloudy

News Briefs

Thanksgiving Holidays

Most offices on Columbus Air Force Base will be closed Nov. 24 to 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. The Columbus AFB Commissary will be open Monday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Streetsmart Briefings

"Stay Alive from Education" (S.A.F.E.) firefighters and paramedics will present the "Street Smart" program in Kaye Auditorium at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 a.m. on Nov. 21. All active duty military members 29 years of age and younger are required to attend. Additionally, teen drivers 14 years of age and older are encouraged to attend, but must have a signed permission slip because of the graphic nature of the presentation. See inside for details.

Enlisted Calls

Enlisted calls will be held Nov. 22 in the Kaye Auditorium. Times are as follows: Junior Enlisted, 8:30 a.m.; NCO, 10 a.m.; SNCO, 1 p.m.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 12-02 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Veterans, local community members, and active duty military give their respects during the singing of the national anthem by Airman 1st Class Michael Worth, 14th Contracting Squadron on Nov. 12 at the Lowndes County Courthouse. The ceremony followed a parade through main street, and brought Americans from around Columbus to honor veterans for their service.

Columbus AFB partners with local community to honor past, present veterans

2nd Lt. Brionna Ruff
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base supported and participated in the 2011 Lowndes County Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony on Nov. 12.

To honor all veterans for all of the sac-

rifices they have made for America, members of the local community and Columbus Air Force Base Airmen gathered to pay tribute to those who put their lives on the line.

"I've been overseas most of my career so participating in Columbus' Veteran's Day parade is a great opportunity to connect with the local community. It was

awesome to see how the City of Columbus responded. We all felt really appreciated. It was great to see many of the local veterans honored as well," said Master Sgt. Gary McCray, 14th Flying Training Wing command post superintendent.

Airmen lined up with local Veterans Day organizations and the Mississippi

See **VETERANS**, 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 (12-11)	5.34 days	3.25 days	Dec. 13	48th (12-03)	6.60 days	4.60 days	Dec. 16	49th (12-CB)	2.04 days	1.35 days	Dec. 21	T-6	1,439	1,310	4,108
41st (12-12)	4.25 days	0.77 days	Jan. 18	50th (12-03)	2.86 days	-0.41 days	Dec. 16					T-1	474	477	1,333
												T-38	539	546	1,523
												IFF	196	150	377

The graduation speaker is Col. Mark Czelusta, 314th Air Wing commander, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 85 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

2011 Holiday Cookie Drive

The Columbus AFB annual Holiday Cookie Drive will take place on Monday, Dec. 5, 2011. As the holidays approach, let's provide our single and unaccompanied personnel with home-baked goodies. Cookie donations will be accepted beginning at 6:30 a.m. the morning of Dec. 5 at the Columbus Club. There will also be collection boxes in squadrons around the base. For more information, please contact Dawn Westphal at 434-6003.



VETERANS

(Continued from Page 1)

Army National Guard 114th Support Group at 10 a.m. to begin a parade down Main Street and show local community members who lined the streets the pride and honor of the local veterans that have protected and surrounded them. With military vehicles, a 40-man marching formation and several generations of veterans representing many wars, the parade group made their way down Main Street to end the route in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse for the ceremony.

"I was touched, moved, and inspired by the depth of support and remembrance for our nation's veterans at the celebration in downtown Columbus," said Greg Stewart, local community member and civic leader.

Columbus Air Force Base Airmen opened the ceremony portion of the event with the posting of the colors by the honor guard, an invocation, and the national anthem.

Mississippi Congressman Alan Nunnelee followed the opening by thanking veterans for their service and challenging veterans to assist local schools in observing the federal holiday, a requirement by Mississippi state law.

The ceremony was closed by Willie Bankhead, one of the area's oldest veterans who served in the U.S. Army in France during the Normandy invasion who laid a wreath at a memorial dedicated to U.S. armed forces in front of the Columbus Courthouse with the help of Col. Barre Seguin, 14 FTW commander and Harry Sanders, President of Lowndes County Board of Supervisors. Veterans who have served and are currently serving came together and rendered salutes as CAFB Honor Guard played Taps and white doves flew over the crowd.

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
21 "Street Smarts" safety briefings, 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11 a.m. @ Kaye	22 Enlisted Calls, junior enlisted-8:30 a.m., NCO-10 a.m., SNCO-1 p.m. @ Kaye	23	24 Thanksgiving Holiday, most CAFB offices closed.	25 AETC Family Day, most CAFB offices closed.	26/27
28	29	30 Enlisted Promotions, 4 p.m. @ Club	1 Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:15 p.m.	2 Class 12-03 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club 14th STURON Activation Ceremony, 9:14 a.m. @ BLAZE Hangar	3/4

Long Range Events

Dec. 5:
Columbus Christmas Parade
Dec. 5:
Base Cookie Drive
Dec. 7:
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Tuskegee Airmen Memorial
Dec. 12:
Class 12-11 Track Select
Dec. 13: Christmas Parade Through Base Housing
Dec. 13:
Newcomers
Dec. 15:
Happy Fund Shop and Wrap Day

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

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

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

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

Duck Season Opens on November 25

JACKSON – Mississippi's duck season opens Friday, November 25 and many waterfowl enthusiasts are anxiously waiting. "We will soon begin flying our first aerial surveys to get an estimate of waterfowl numbers in the Delta," said Houston Havens, MDWFP Waterfowl Program Biologist. "As we continue to complete surveys, hunters can view waterfowl concentration maps on our website at www.mdwfp.com/waterfowl. Hunters can also track the progress of the mallard migration through our website, which is updated weekly by biologists throughout the Mississippi Flyway. Similar to last year's opener, areas that have dependable water should have a good start to the season."

2011-2012 Seasons for Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

November 25 – 27 2011

December 2 – 4 2011

December 7, 2011 – January 29, 2012

The duck daily bag limit is a total of 6 ducks, which may include 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 canvas-back, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, and 2 pintail. The merganser daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. Coots have a 15-bird daily bag limit. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers, and coots.

For more information on hunting seasons and regulations visit the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks web site at www.mdwfp.com or call 601-432-2400.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

Dollars and \$ense: Know the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR)

Para U4129-E: Lodging with a Friend or Relative.

Lodging cost reimbursement is not authorized for a member who stays with a friend or relative. A member, who lodges with friends or relatives, is authorized the TDY location meals and incidental expense (M&IE) rate, if otherwise eligible. The Service/Agency cannot direct the member to lodge with friends or relatives.

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.

Attention Columbus Air Force Base Personnel

Next year is the 70th Anniversary of the first pilot training class to begin at Columbus Air Force Base. To commemorate this event, there will be a competition to design the emblem and slogan that will be featured throughout the community all next year. Entries should include a graphic design to be featured on the commemorative coin, wing powerpoint slideshows, and patches (see right for example). The winner, as selected by Col. Seguin, will receive a commemorative anniversary coin and military members will get BLAZE 1 day off! Entries must be submitted to Capt. Keith Napolitano (keith.napolitano@columbus.af.mil) no later than Dec. 8. Make yourself a part of Columbus AFB history and submit your ideas today!



Team BLAZE gets S.A.F.E

The BLAZE holiday safety campaign on Nov. 21 with two "Stay Alive from Education" (S.A.F.E.) firefighter/paramedics presenting the "Street Smart" program in Kaye Auditorium at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 a.m. "Street Smart" portrays real-life experiences of firefighters and paramedics as they work to save the life of individuals involved in accidents where alcohol, drugs use, and seat belt non-compliance were a factor.

All active duty military 29 years of age and younger are required to attend. Additionally, teen drivers 14 years of age and older are encouraged to attend, but must have a signed permission slip because of the graphic nature of the presentation.

More information on S.A.F.E. or "Street Smart" can be found at <http://safeprogram.com/about-us.html>



Stay Alive From Education

The Stay Alive From Education (S.A.F.E.) program will be presented at CAFB, Kaye Auditorium 21 Nov 2011. This program deals with the consequences of distractions (cell-phones, iPods, friends, etc...) drug and alcohol use, the correlation of trauma, and the importance on the usage of seatbelts.

Presented by two certified Paramedics, the material and content of the S.A.F.E. program is graphic and explicit in nature, however, the information is essential and factual and may save the life of your child.

Students name (p rint)

Parent's signature

Date ____/____/____

If you would like more information on our program please visit our web page www.safeprogram.com

TrailBLAZE'r

Master Sgt. Pamela Schultz
14th Flying Training Wing
Maintenance Authority



Master Sgt. Pamela Schultz

Job title: Maintenance Authority Superintendent

Time at Columbus AFB: One year, four months

Time in Service: Twenty-two years

Hometown: Hankinson, North Dakota.

Career goals: Earn the rank of Senior Master Sgt. and complete my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

Family members: Sons: Nathan, Tyler, and Cody

Favorite musician: None

Favorite movie: Twilight series

Biggest pet peeve: Individuals who lack integrity

Favorite book: Anything by Nora Roberts

Inspirations: My mom and dad

Personal motto: Life is too short to be unhappy so pursue that which makes you happy. Always remember though, that not everything will go your way, but at least you tried.

Frame from the fight



Courtesy photo
Senior Airman Worship, 14th Communication Squadron receives a coin from the Army brigade commander of Task Force Bronco at a deployed location. Airman Worship is one of 85 Team BLAZE members currently deployed from Columbus Air Force Base.

New coins represent importance of CAFB key spouses



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents a key spouse coin to 14th Medical Support Squadron key spouse mentor Shirley Paz on Nov. 8 at the Columbus Club. The brand new key spouse coin was presented to all Columbus Air Force Base key spouses for their support.

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.

Transportation

For Sale: 2008 Dodge Charger RT with Hemi 5.7 L engine, 18 inch alloy wheels, dark gray, automatic, one owner, 22,000 miles, black leather, power sunroof, Sirius radio, Premium performance package - \$22,500 or best offer. Call 251-2815 or 329-1064.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: 89' Model 17.5 foot Basstracker with 90' Model 75HP Mariner, two batteries, 55 lb trolling motor, on-board charger. Runs great never had a problem, but needs some TLC: \$2,500. 242-0160

For Sale: GE 30" smooth top self-cleaning range, white, two years old, excellent condition, \$275 or best offer. Call 352-4278 or 329-4325.

For Sale: 1949 Ford 8N tractor, \$1,500. Call before 8 p.m. 241-0058 or 889-4700.

For Sale: Girl Baby Swing (pink, brown with Butterfly mobile, lights, and mosquito net), \$50; Older Bowflex with resistance rods, \$50; Bench Press Bar with 40lb weights on each side, \$25; Glass Computer Desk (L shaped), \$50. Call (210) 683-9424.

Appreciation luncheon held for international military spouses



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Brionna Ruff

Columbus Air Force Base International Spouses, international spouses of retirees, and BLT spouses were able to come together for a unique event allowing the International spouses from around the world to share stories about their different cultures and heritages. This event was an appreciation luncheon in honor of the international spouses. It was hosted by 14 FTW Commander's spouse, Mrs. Nancy Seguin, and local civic leader & CAFB Wingmen, Linda "L.L." Gates.

Crossword



- Across
- Wing commander guidance: Be a _____.
 - Introduction to _____ Fundamentals is another type of flying training done at CAFB.
 - Aircraft used to instruct pilots in the tanker/airlift track.
 - Aircraft used to instruct pilots in the fighter/bomber track.
 - Wing commander guidance: Develop and _____ for Airmen and their families.
 - Wing commander guidance: _____ Team BLAZE.
 - Advance _____.
 - CAFB is one of _____ SUPT bases in AETC.

- Down
- Specialized _____ Pilot Training.
 - Type of training the 14th FTW conducts.
 - Aircraft used for initial flight skills training.
 - Produce _____.
 - _____ the Fight.

Answer for last week



Commissary Holiday Hours

Monday, Nov. 21: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov 22: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 23: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov 24, Thanksgiving: Closed

Friday, Nov 25: Closed

Saturday, Nov. 26: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 27: Noon to 6 p.m.

"Your Commissary—It's Worth the Trip!"

Base News

CLEP Testing Discontinued

Dec. 31, 2011 is the last day that the Columbus Education Office will be allowed to offer CLEP exams. Computerized CLEP testing will be available at the Mississippi State Univ. Assessment and Testing Center (<http://www.ats.msstate.edu/testing/>). Military members will only be charged a \$23 service fee for the first-time administration of any CLEP exam at MSU. DANTES paper-based exams will continue to be administered in the CAFB Ed Office. Please call 434-2562 or 434-2563 for more information or to schedule an exam.

Base Education Planning and Advisory Committee Meeting

Are you interested in helping the Education Office improve the services it provides to CAFB personnel? If the answer is "yes," why not volunteer to attend the next BEPAC meeting on Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. in the 14th MSG Conference Room? The Education Office is looking for three military members to attend the BEPAC meeting and provide suggestions for improving on-base educational programs. Please call Edward Hodge at 434-2562 or 434-2563 or send an email to edward.hodge@columbus.af.mil to volunteer.

Holiday Testing Hours

Please remember that testing (CDC, PME, CLEP/DANTES, etc.) hours may be reduced during the period of Dec. 19 through Jan. 2 2012. Please plan accordingly. Normal testing hours are Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 434-2562 or 434-2563 to schedule your exam.

Motorcycle PPE at Exchange

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

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.)

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.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

One of the best feelings about retiring from the military Service is to know you are guaranteed a lifetime income as the result of a successful career. What about your spouse or dependent children? If you die, what guarantees do they have? Enrolling in the SBP prior to retiring will ensure they will have guaranteed income after your death. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at 434-2720.

Sponsorship Training,

Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for all Unit Intro Monitors and Sponsors. Information on the importance of a good, effective sponsorship program and resources available for both sponsor and newcomer. To register call 434-2790. In addition, A public version of eSponsorship Application and Training (eSAT) can be found on the MilitaryINSTALLATIONS homepage. <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mils>, in the Sponsorship article for each installation.

Hearts Apart Social

Dec. 6 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A 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.

Resume Writing (Military and Military Family)

Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Provides basic guidance and understanding of the fundamentals of resumes, to register, call 434-2790.

Heart Link

Dec. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spouse orientation for spouses with less than five years of Air Force affiliation or new to CAFB. Held at the AFRC, to register call 434-2790.

Newcomers Orientation

Dec. 13 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.

Creating a Healthy Marriage

Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to noon. Workshop to learn the myths and stages of marriage. The keys to creating and maintaining a healthy marriage. Conducted by the MFLC, to register call 434-2790.

Chapel Schedule

Pioneer Clubs Program

Pioneer Clubs' children religious education program resumed for the fall. For more information and volunteer opportunities, contact Ms. Ida Hall at 434-2500.

Lake Forest Ranch Family Retreat

The Protestant parish extends an invitation to the BLAZE community to attend its annual fall family retreat at Lake Forest Ranch. The retreat is scheduled for the three-day Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 11-13. The registration cost is \$50 per family and \$25 for singles and family guests. Payment must be received upon registration. Price includes cabin, all meals, and activities (horseback riding, wall climbing, zip-line, hay ride, and campfire s'mores). The weekend includes a 45-minute breakout session for men, women, and youth on Saturday morning; as well as a worship service on Sunday morning. Cabin availability is limited, so please register as soon as possible. To register and for more information, please contact Iga Hall at 434-2500.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant Worship Service
Sunday:
9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Traditional Worship Service (Children's Church)
All are invited to a fellowship luncheon following the 10:45 a.m. service the fourth Sunday of each month.

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

Catholic Services
Thursday
6 p.m. — Choir Practice
Sunday:
3:30 p.m. — Religious Education, grades K-9
3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice
4 p.m. — Confession
5 p.m. — Mass
6 p.m. — RCIA

SECAF to review disciplinary actions in AFMAO case

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley reaffirmed a commitment to ensure that appropriate disciplinary action was taken in regard to the management and procedures at the Dover Air Force Base, Del., Mortuary.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta asked Secretary Donley on Nov. 10 to review the Air Force's disciplinary measures and ensure they are adequate.

"There is no question the Air Force is accountable to our joint teammates and the families of the fallen for this critical and sacred mission," Donley said. "The lapses in our standards at Dover, which we strongly regret, are our responsibility to fix. I take very seriously Secretary Panetta's charge to ensure that appropriate disciplinary action was taken in regards to the Dover mortuary. Our review will be exceedingly thorough and rigorous, as our fallen and the families they leave behind deserve nothing less. Throughout the process, I want to reassure our military family that our fallen are being treated, and will continue to be treated, with the utmost reverence, dignity and respect."

Earlier this week, the Air Force made public a year-long investigation of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations at Dover AFB, the point of entry for U.S. service members who are killed or die overseas. The service implemented extensive corrective measures and improvements, and took action regarding three senior mortuary officials responsible for operations at AFMAO after employees complained about the handling of cases there.

The Air Force Inspector General began its investigation in June 2010. The investigation focused primarily on the handling of remains of four service members. The Air Force Inspector General's investigation was conducted in coordination with other federal offices and included nearly 50 interviews and an extensive review of mortuary operating procedures. Investigators found no evidence anyone intentionally mishandled remains, but concluded the mortuary staff failed to maintain accountability while process-

ing portions of remains for three service members. While it is likely that disposition of remains was by an appropriate method, it could not be shown that it was in accordance with the families' directions.

Each family received remains of their service member for interment; the staff, however, was not able to ensure additional portions of remains were handled in a manner consistent with the families' instructions.

The Air Force determined senior AFMAO officials failed to provide proper management and corrective actions when they did not respond appropriately to indications that procedures were inadequate to prevent problems related to the tracking of portions of human remains.

Additionally, the Air Force investigation determined the mortuary staff could have communicated more clearly with the representatives of a sister service about restorative actions taken to prepare the remains of a service member, killed by an improvised explosive device, whose family requested to have their Marine dressed in his uniform. In addition, the investigation found that there were deficiencies in administrative procedures, documentation, and electronic record keeping. The public's health was not endangered.

"The investigation concluded that the mission was always conducted with reverence, dignity, honor and respect for all served through the facility," said Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff.

"However, the standard is 100-percent accountability in every instance of this important mission. We can, and will, do better and as a result of the allegations and investigation; our ability to care for our fallen warriors is now stronger," Schwartz said. "Throughout the past year new processes have been put in place to ensure the exacting standards are met every time."

Air Force officials have contacted family designated representatives of the four families directly affected, and others requested by those representatives, and discussed these matters with them personally. Each family team was

headed by a general officer who, on behalf of the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force, expressed their apologies to the families for the additional grief this has caused.

Recently, it was reported that from 2003 to 2008, ashes of disassociated portions of remains were cremated and provided to medical disposition contractors who, after incineration, delivered them to landfills. This occurred when family representatives elected for the portions not to be returned to the family and authorized the mortuary to make disposition of them. In 2008, the Dover Port Mortuary adopted a better practice of retiring the portions at sea after cremation.

"The old practice was unacceptable and we recognized that and fixed it. We deeply regret concerns this may have caused families of the fallen," Schwartz said.

Air Force officials have requested, and the secretary of defense has directed, a separate independent assessment of the current overall operations of the Port Mortuary. The panel of the Defense Health Board will evaluate current operations.

The Dover AFB mortuary's staff consists of members of all branches of the military, including civilians and reservists. The staff includes mortuary affairs specialists, morticians and other technical experts. The staff operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and regularly responds to the trauma of war as staff members prepare the remains of fallen warriors under often-difficult circumstances. Since 2003, the mortuary center has prepared more than 6,300 deceased individuals for return to their loved ones.

Families of fallen service members may contact the Air Force toll free at 1-855-637-2583 or e-mail at doover.pm@pentagon.af.mil, if they have questions about this investigation or Air Force mortuary operations.

For additional information, media should contact Air Force Public Affairs at 703-695-0640 or after hours at 202-528-4929.

Air Force launches cutting-edge culture & language website

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The Air Force Culture and Language Center, part of Air University's Spaatz Center here, recently launched a new public website to provide information on the Air Force's efforts to increase cross-cultural competence — a critical warfighting skill cited by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in an August memorandum to all Defense Department personnel.

"Both military and civilian personnel should have cross-cultural training to successfully work in DOD's richly diverse organization and to better understand the

global environment in which we operate," the secretary wrote.

The site, www.culture.af.mil, highlights all AFCLC departments and programs, including free courses that provide Community College of the Air Force credit for Airmen and other cross-cultural competence media resources. Additional training and educational resources are offered to DOD members through the AFCLC's private site, at <https://wwwmil.maxwell.af.mil/afclc/>, which requires users to have a Common Access Card and be on a .mil or .gov server.

"The site is an incredible resource to help our military and civilian personnel become more cross-culturally competent," said Ms. Barbara Barger, the Air Force Senior Language Authority and director of the Air Force Language, Region and Culture Program Office. "Through the training and education offered by the AFCLC, we can ensure our people are able to negotiate culturally-complex environments and accomplish their mission, any time, any place."

AFCLC's public site is a one-stop shop, which also provides links to external cul-

ture, language and negotiation learning sites. Some examples include the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, the Marine Corps' Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command Culture Center, and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

For more information, contact the AFCLC at 334-653-7729 or via email to afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Language, Region and Culture Program Office.)

Air Force officials announce enlisted FY12 voluntary force management programs

Eric M. Grill

Air Force Personnel, Service and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials are offering enlisted Airmen voluntary separation and retirement programs for fiscal 2012 as part of the service's ongoing force-management initiatives.

Voluntary and involuntary force-management programs were implemented in fiscal 2010 due to a 17-year high retention rate. For fiscal 2012, the service remains over its congressionally mandated end-strength.

"Extraordinarily talented Airmen have answered our nation's call," said Col. Kenneth Sersun, the Air Force Military Policy Division chief. "With so many Airmen wanting to serve, we now have more Airmen serving than the authorized 332,800 end-strength funded by Congress."

Based on end-strength limits, the additional force-management measures are necessary to reduce the number of Airmen serving on active duty, he said.

The enlisted voluntary measures focus on Airmen in non-critical, overage specialties. These programs include limited Active Duty Service Commitment waivers, including waiving up to two years of enlistment obligations; Palace Chase transfers for enlisted Airmen with a one-to-one rather than a two-to-one year commitment; and enlisted Airmen may also apply to the Air Force Blue to Green Interservice Transfer to the Army program.

Eligible Airmen can begin applying immediately for any of these voluntary programs.

The challenge is balancing both the number and skills of Airmen within authorized, funded levels, Sersun said.

Airman and Family Readiness Centers will continue to provide support through the Transition Assistance Program and veterans' benefits seminars. These seminars include information on employment opportunities available in the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force civil service and private sector. Also included is information on the educational options available with the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Senior leaders highly encourage Airmen to consider opportunities along the Air Force continuum of service in either the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.

For information about this, and other personnel issues, visit the secure Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

CAFB supports local Veterans Day events



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Recently returned Columbus Air Force Base deployers Staff Sgt. Horace Conney, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron, Capt. Adam Johnson, 48th Flying Training Squadron, and Capt. Andrew Sheean, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, sing the Air Force song along with Col. Matthew Isler, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander on Nov. 10 at the East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle Campus during their 10th annual Proud to be an American 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.

TUSKEGEE

(Continued from Page 7)

the base theater, but these soldiers who were serving their country honorably still had to abide by the laws of segregation.

In the documentary, the late Roger Terry shared some of the details of his arrest and discharge from the military following the 1945 Freeman Field Mutiny in Indiana. Terry and 100 other black officers entered a white-only officers club as a means to integrate. Terry was the only one who was convicted and discharged — as a felon. That meant he couldn't vote or even receive government assistance. It wasn't until 1995 that Terry's record was cleared. Yet he still seemed to have a love for this country.

They talked about how they were fighting two wars simultaneously — the one at home against segregation and the one abroad against the Axis nations — for the double victory. I'm amazed, inspired and motivated by the allegiance those men had to this country that sometimes fought back while they were fighting for her. I question if I could've been that strong if I had been in the military during those times. Could I have been strong enough to clear the road for those coming after me? I'm still not sure of the answer, but I'm glad those men were.

I am so grateful to all of those Airmen who have paved a way for all types of people to be able to serve their country. But these men will always have a special place in my heart. And I hope that I can be as strong for the future generations of Airmen as they were for us.

It wasn't until the end of the documentary when I finally understood why the Tuskegee Airmen, men like my grandfather, fought like they did to serve this country. When you love someone, you don't just leave when things get bad. You see the good in them and remember why you loved her in the first place. And that's what the Tuskegee Airmen did.

One gentleman in the movie described it the best when he was asked why he continue to fight.

"America is not perfect," he said. "But I'll hold her hand until she gets well."

FSS

(Continued from Page 10)

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.

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.

Join FitFamily!

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

Space A Lodging

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

Affordable Tickets at ITT

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

Base families offered a variety of activities

Strike Zone's Turkey Shoot

The Bowling Center is having its annual Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot tournament is tonight, 7-9 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and includes 3 games of bowling and shoe rental. Cash prizes and turkeys will be given away. Sign up by no later than 6:45 p.m. as play begins at 7 p.m. sharp. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Breakfast and Pictures with Santa

Register NOW for Breakfast and Pictures with Santa on Dec. 3, 8-10 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person if registered before Nov. 28. Late registration is \$10. Volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Youth Programs at 434-2504.

Don't Wait on Your Christmas Orders!

Planning on framing or engraving as part of your Christmas gift giving? If so, please note that the last day to order custom framing and have it ready by Christmas is December 2. The last day for engraving orders Dec. 9. ALL Christmas orders must be picked up on or before 5 p.m., Dec. 19. Arts and Crafts will be closed Dec. 20-Jan. 2 for the holidays. Additionally, no craft or home décor classes will be offered until further notice. For more information, call 434-7836.

Fitness Offers New Class for Moms

Fitness and Sports has added a Stroller Fitness Class to the lineup each Tues., 9 a.m., at Freedom Park. Stroller Fitness offers moms a workout scaled for any fitness level they can do with their babies without needing child care. All strollers must have brakes, and workouts will be tailored to ensure the utmost safety for the precious cargo. In addition to the new class, Fitness offers several other great cardio classes throughout the week. These include spin classes on Mon. and Wed., 11 a.m., and Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays are also packed full with circuit classes at 5:30 a.m., and Zumba, 11:30 a.m. There also is a yoga class Fri., 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 434-2772.

Winter Golf Special

Play 18 holes of golf with a cart Tues.-Thurs. for just \$15 and Fri.-Sun. for only \$20. For more information, drop by or call the Whispering Pines Pro Shop at 434-7932.

Auto Hobby Presents Splash In A Flash on Base

Why go downtown when you can get the professional services on base? Columbus AFB's Auto Hobby Shop now offers the services of Splash In A Flash right here on base Mon.-Sat. to provide a variety of automotive care needs while you work or during your spare time.

New services include everything from exterior hand washes to full bumper-to-bumper detailing. Windshield repair, high-speed buffing or wet-sanding scratch removal, window tinting and carpet and seat shampooing/dyeing are also available.

So as not to waste any of your time, Splash In A Flash offers pick-up and delivery service to your office or home.

Should you need Splash In A Flash services off-base, a mobile detail unit is available. Additional services offered by the mobile unit are industrial and residential pressure washing, surface cleaning of driveways and parking lots and 18-wheeler, RV and boat cleaning services.

All cleaning products are 100 percent biodegradable and environmentally friendly. Other services offered by Auto Hobby include state vehicle inspections, tire repair and changes, rotation and balancing, road ready inspections, oil change and lube and many other minor and major vehicle repairs. Do-it-yourself is available at a nominal charge.

Auto Hobby is open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information on the services offered or to make an appointment to have your vehicle services or detailed, drop by Auto Hobby or call 434-7842.

Think Outdoor Rec for Holiday Entertaining

Let Outdoor Recreation be your one-stop shop for your holiday entertaining. All jumpers can be rented half-price during the month of December! Planning to entertain a large group? Reserve your tables and chairs today. Outdoor Rec even has Santa suits! Keep that group safe by reserving the designated driver bus NOW! There's a festive deal on camper rentals for just \$130, Dec. 23-27, to help with holiday overcrowding.

CAFB Youth Needed to Kick Butts

November is "Great American Smoke-Out Month," and CAFB Youth Programs wants local youth to participate in the national Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Create an original video or audio public service announcement for entry in the 4th Annual Kicking Butts on Film (and Radio!) Contest. This is a great opportunity for our youth to stand out, speak up and seize control in the fight against tobacco! Go to <http://www.kickbuttsday.org> and click on 2012 PSA contest for guidelines and additional information.

All Ages Get Reading at the Base Library

November's Preschool Story Time is each Wednesday, 10-10:30 a.m. The Library will launch a Book Club for adults later this fall

with regular meetings to be announced. For information about Library events, contact Bernadette at 434-2934.

Register for Youth Basketball ...Volunteer Coaches Needed

Registration for Youth Basketball is Nov. 7-28. Cost is \$35 for 3-4-year-olds and \$40 for ages 5-18. Register before Nov. 10 and save \$5. All games will be played on base, and league play begins in January. Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information, contact Youth Programs at 434-2504.

Get Connected to Columbus AFB

If you're wondering what's going on here at Columbus AFB, go online to www.cafbss-rocks.com. Opt in to receive emails about only those events and programs of interest to you. Also, find us on Facebook at CAFB FSS Rocks or on Twitter at CAFBFSS.

It Pays to Club!

The annual Air Force Club Membership Drive is on! Join the Club before Dec. 31 and try out your benefits for three full months at no charge. You will also win \$5-100 in FSS gift cards instantly upon application. Applications are available at the Columbus Club, Strike Zone Lanes Bowling Center and the Fitness Center. Club members receive discounts on every meal purchased at the Club, including

special functions, and have a chance at \$25,000 in annual scholarships available to members and their families. Locally and on bases around the world, Air Force Club members receive discounts at other FSS facilities including bowling centers, golf courses and more.

New Disc Golf Course Open!

Columbus AFB now has its own 18-hole disc golf course across the street from the Fitness Center. The course's layout includes par threes, fours and fives plus lots of trees making it great for beginners or pros alike. So grab your friends or family and a disc and have some fun! Disc sets are available for check out at the Fitness Center. Call 434-2772 for more information.

It's Like FREE Money!

Single airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive up to \$500 in special discounts and rewards through participating FSS facilities and programs. Get discounted trips at Information Tickets and Travel, rent equipment from Outdoor Recreation, play a round of golf, participate in a golf clinic, or go bowling with a friend. These are just some of the offerings through the PLAYpass program. To find out if you are eligible for a PLAYpass card, visit www.MyAirForceLife.com or call the A&FRC at 434-2790.

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Now is your chance to take martial arts classes at the Youth Center each Tuesday and Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. The first two classes are FREE just to check it out. Cost is \$45 per month with discounts for multiple members of the same family. Also, 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.

Lunch and Bowl is Back

The Lunch and Bowl special has returned 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.

See FSS, Page 11

From Baghdad, on Veterans Day

Maj. Gen. Russ Handy

Commander, 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Iraq, Director, Air Component Coordination Element-Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — On Veterans Day, when the nation formally recognizes the contributions of millions of past and present men and women in uniform, I want to pass on my sincere appreciation for the conspicuously grateful American people.

I was speaking to my wife about this on Sunday night and I reflected on how often she's stopped and asked how things are going over here and thanked for her service — and they ask her to thank me. As one of the thousands of family members waiting at home, she appreciates that. The folks she speaks to don't offer their opinion about whether or not our military ought to be engaged in country "X" or country "Y" — they just thank her, and they ask her to thank me and all of our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines over here, and hope we make it home safely.

I'm eternally appreciative of that attitude back home; it isn't lost on our men and women serving here. It is what sustains them. Rest assured our Airmen serving here will do everything in their power to ensure they get all our troops home safely.

So, it is of great interest to me for the American public to have an accurate and complete perspective of what their sons and daughters, husbands, wives, parents, friends and neighbors are doing over here in Iraq in a very challenging time. Our troops and their families have suffered during this mission and sacrificed to provide this opportunity the Iraqis now have for

some time. But no one should believe this sacrifice was in vain.

Our legacy here really is the extraordinary opportunity for the people of Iraq, but with that opportunity comes extraordinary challenges. As I think about the potential of this nation, squarely positioned in the middle of a very turbulent region, I can't help but reflect on what's going on in our country right now. If you think about it, on Tuesday, many went to the polls in the United States to cast their vote in a variety of state and local-level elections. We're also just within a year until our next U.S. Presidential election. That is what we and the people of Iraq have together provided this nation - this same opportunity to have a choice.

As I ponder this from here in Baghdad and think about all that we have in the U.S., I'm reminded of the significance of living in a free democracy where individual citizens are afforded the opportunity to go to the polls, cast their vote for a candidate of their choice and to influence what happens to them. I'm also reminded of the cost of both establishing and continuing a democracy — a democratic, inclusive system of government that Iraq now has. It's not easy, but it is worth it.

I started this journey a little more than 21 years ago. As an F-15 pilot, I led combat missions over Iraq in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Southern Watch. I returned to Iraq in August 2010, as Operation Iraqi Freedom ended and Operation New Dawn began.

Over the past 15 months I've traveled Iraq visiting our Airmen and witnessed a part of this country's transformation. I've looked at the palaces and facilities the Saddam Hussein regime built and I've read the history about what Iraqis went

through during that tempestuous time. There are Iraqis who are starting their own businesses, Iraqi soldiers, sailors and airmen learning what it means to defend their free nation and pan-Arab media everywhere publishing true and sometimes controversial stories. That's powerful stuff and it's very different from what I experienced in my first exposure to Iraq.

Was it worth it? I get that question a lot. Folks are asking: "With the economic issues in the United States, why are we spending all this money in Iraq?" Think about the region and think about the recent Arab uprisings ... and what has been going on in the 'neighborhood' at the grassroots level ... think about what the demonstrators were fighting for. Certainly they were demonstrating for better conditions and various social programs. But, they were also pleading for a democratically elected, inclusive government and Iraq has one of those.

Iraq is still struggling as a fledgling democracy and they are working their way through that. But it is difficult to overstate the importance of a stable, self-reliant Iraq and what that means to the region and to the world. It has tremendous influence on what happens in the United States from security to economics.

And certainly it's hard to think about anything that has happened here over the last 21 years without thinking about the nearly 4,500 Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the tens of thousands who have become casualties. That's what brings it home.

And so on this Veteran's Day, I thank you — every service member, every family member and every friend — who has supported this from the beginning to the 'new dawn.'

Tuskegee Airmen: A legacy of love

Tech. Sgt. Mareshah Haynes Defense Media Activity

PENTAGON — Last week I had the opportunity to learn about some Air Force history as well as family history.

There was a screening of a new documentary about the Tuskegee Airmen that was produced, by George Lucas, in conjunction with his feature film called "Red Tails." I was especially excited to see the documentary because my paternal grandfather was a bombardier in World War II and an original Tuskegee Airman.

This was one of the most exciting times in my Air Force career. The screening was at the Pentagon and it was billed as a red-carpet event, stars included. Cuba Gooding Jr., one of the stars of the feature film and the narrator for the documentary, was there along with the

Secretary of the Air Force.

And then there were the big stars — two original Tuskegee Airmen.

I had been waiting just about my entire Air Force career to meet another Tuskegee Airman besides my grandfather. It seemed that every time a group of them would come to my area something like a temporary duty assignment or a deployment would come up. Now, here they were, right in front of me live and in living color — William Broadwater and Lemuel Lewie Jr.

I'm not going to lie; I was excited to meet Cuba Gooding Jr. and Secretary Donley. But those two men, those Air Force pioneers and civil rights leaders, were the ones I had been waiting for.

I listened to their stories about how they entered the Army Air Corps, and I thought about how my grandfather probably went

through some of the same experiences they did. I looked into the eyes of the 92-year old Lewie as he told me about the trials he had to go through as a black man to become a pilot, and I thought those eyes probably saw the same struggle as my grandfather's eyes.

I listened to Broadwater, and I could see and hear the passion he has for flying while he talked about why he joined. He still carries that passion today and continues to fly at the tender age of 85. Did my grandfather have that same passion? Do I have that passion?

During the screening of the movie, I learned a lot of things about the Tuskegee Airmen that I didn't know before.

The men in the movie described how they as black Americans in the U.S. military had less base privileges than the German prisoners of war who they shared the base with. Those POWs were able to sit wherever they liked in



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Tiffany Trojca
Tech. Sgt. Mareshah Haynes interviews original Tuskegee Airman Lemuel Lewie Jr. during a screening of "Double Victory" Nov. 10, 2011, at the Pentagon. Double Victory is a documentary about the trials and triumphs of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. Lewie served with the 447th Bomber Group.

See TUSKEGEE, Page 11

SUPT Class 12-02 earns silver wings



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon



2nd Lt. Jonathan Benson
Joplin, Mo.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Thomas Braxton
Lake Village, Ark.
KC-135, Kadena AB, Japan

Twenty-seven officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot. Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-02 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

The graduation speaker for the class is Col. Mark Czelusta, commander, 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. He leads a team of approximately 1,200 military and civilian professionals who form the C-130 "Center of Excellence" for tactical airlift. The wing trains C-130 aircrew members from across the Department of Defense, Coast Guard, and 38 nations, as well as C-21 aircrews through the 45th Airlift Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Students receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

2nd Lt. Kevin Elardo, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Daniel Hann, T-38, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to Lieutenant Hann and 2nd Lt. Jonathan Benson, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Hann and 2nd Lt. Kevin Elardo, T-1 were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 12-02.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week pre-flight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in

the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with several business or civic organizations during their year of training.

This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus Air Force Base. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 12-02's pilot partners are Callaway Orthodontics and The Quality Inn.



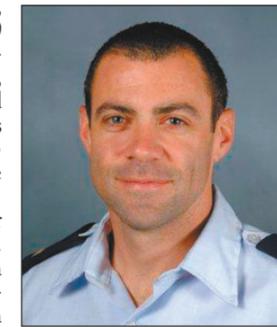
2nd Lt. James Cruz
Rouses Point, N.Y.
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Ian D'Amico
Long Island, N.Y.
HC-130, Westhampton Beach ANGB, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Cody Dean
Phoenix, Ariz.
KC-135, Sky Harbor International Airport, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Kevin Elardo
Temecula, Calif.
KC-135, March AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. David Garcia
Santa Rosa, Calif.
F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Michael Gargano
Audubon, Pa.
KC-135, Mildenhall AFB, England



2nd Lt. Clinton Brdlik
Lewisburg, W.Va.
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. James Bull
Dallas, Tex.
C-130 E/H, Yokota AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Daniel Hann
Littleton Colo.
T-38, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Zachary Huppert
Merritt Island, Fla.
E-8, Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Mark Jordy
Hopewell Jct, N.Y.
MC-12, Beale AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Andrew Konopacky
Meridian, Idaho
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. John Moore
Tucson, Ariz.
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Joseph Philip
Minneapolis, Minn.
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Brian Ray
Colorado Springs, Colo.
MC-12/C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Stephen Renner
Piedmont, Calif.
F-22, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Clarke Sumerel
Greenville, S.C.
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Morgan Talley
Houston, Tex.
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Robert Tentler
Chicago, Ill.
C-130 E/H, Little Rock AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Vanessa Warwick
Plano, Tex.
U-28, Hurlburt Field, Fla.