

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 35, Issue 48

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Dec. 2, 2011

Weather



Today

High: 64, Low: 40
Sunny



Saturday

High: 65, Low: 46
Partly cloudy



Sunday

High: 66, Low: 49
Isolated T-storms



Monday

High: 58, Low: 37
Slight chance showers

News Briefs

Base 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.

Officers Calls

Officer calls will be held in the Kaye Auditorium Dec. 15, times as follows: 14th Medical Group, 7 a.m.; 14th Operations Group Permanent Party, 8 a.m.; 14th OG Students/Transition Officers, 9 a.m.; 14th Mission Support Group, 10 a.m.; 14th Wing Staff Agencies, 11 a.m.

Columbus Christmas Parade

The Columbus Christmas Parade, part of the Downtown Columbus Twelve Days of Christmas, will take place on Dec. 5, 7 a.m. beginning on Main Street. For more information, contact the Columbus Main Street Office, 328-6305, or Columbusmainstreet.com

Inside



Feature 8

The 37th Flying Training Squadron "Bengal Tigers" are highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Team BLAZE raised \$117,623.21 during the six week Combined Federal Campaign this year, exceeding the 14th Flying Training Wing's goal by nearly 18 percent. Even with Reduction in Force measures and continued economic struggles more Columbus Air Force Base Airmen donated to the CFC this year than last.

Team BLAZE's generosity shines through

Capt. Tim Thoren

2011 14th Flying Training Wing Combined Federal Campaign coordinator

In the final two weeks of the Combined Federal Campaign, the generous Airmen of the 14th Flying Training Wing rallied to raise over \$50,000 and exceed the Wing goal by nearly 18 percent.

When all donation forms were counted and all pennies tallied, Team BLAZE managed to raise an outstanding \$117,623.21 during the six week campaign. From the start CFC officials throughout the southeastern United States were well aware that achieving goals this year would be a challenge due to continued economic struggles.

"The 14th Flying Training Wing did a great job this year. We were concerned, given the current economic situation that organizations would have a difficult time reaching goals this year, but Columbus Air Force Base exceeded our expectations," commended George Blanchard, the Principal Combined Fund

See CFC, 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) | 2.57 days | 0.97 days | Dec. 13 | 48th (12-03) | 3.10 days | 4.00 days | Dec. 16 | 49th (12-CB) | 0.81 days | 2.12 days | Dec. 21 | T-6 | 2,349 | 2,115 | 4,913 |
| 41st (12-12) | 4.74 days | 1.41 days | Jan. 18 | 50th (12-03) | -0.21 days | -1.08 days | Dec. 16 | | | | | T-1 | 820 | 825 | 1,619 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | T-38 | 1,034 | 819 | 1,796 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | IFF | 324 | 218 | 445 |

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Noel T. "Tom" Jones is Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Columbus AFB Angel Tree

The First Sergeants need your help with taking care of our Airmen during the holidays. To help make this holiday a little bit brighter for a Wingman and their family, follow the instructions below:

Please pick an Angel off the tree at the Columbus Air Force Base Exchange and purchase a gift for that Angel from any store you desire.

The age and gender are on each Angel.

Once you purchase the gift, see a Base Exchange cashier or Customer Service Representative for further instructions.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration.



CFC

(Continued from Page 1)

Organization Administrator for Northeast Mississippi.

The \$100,000 target set in August proved to be a lofty but obtainable goal for the 14th FTW. The 2010 goal of \$88,000 was raised by 14 percent for 2011, an increase well ahead of goals set by other wings. In fact, the 14th Flying Training Wing had the third highest goal in the entire 19th AF, falling short of only two much larger bases.

Team BLAZE was able to raise a very large amount of money despite recent Reduction in Force measures and a growing uncertainty about job security and pension

plans. Capt. Tim Thoren, 14th FTW CFC coordinator suggested that the biggest reason the 14th FTW was able to raise so much was the record number of people who reached into their pockets to help others this year. 22 percent of eligible donors donated to the CFC this year, up from 20 percent in the previous year.

"The biggest lesson I'll take away from the CFC this year is the generosity of our Airmen is overwhelming," said Thoren. "Being part of a group of people as selfless as our Airmen makes me look forward to coming to work each day and I am more proud than ever to wear the uniform of the U.S. Air Force."

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.

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

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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

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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.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 71 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat/Sun |
|---|---|---|--|--|---------|
| 5 Base Cookie Drive, 6:30 a.m. @ Club Columbus Christmas Parade, 6 p.m. @ Downtown Columbus | 6 | 7 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Tuskegee Airmen Memorial, 11 a.m. @ Armory | 8 | 9 | 10/11 |
| 12 Christmas Parade Through Base Housing | 13 Newcomers, 8 a.m. @ Club Class 12-11 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club | 14 | 15 Happy Fund Shop and Wrap Day Officer Calls, 7 a.m. -MDG, 8 a.m. - OG Permanent Party, 9 a.m. -OG Students, 10 a.m. -MSG, 11 a.m. - WSA Daedalians Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m. @ Club | 16 Class 12-03 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye | 17/18 |

Long Range Events

Dec. 21:

IFF Graduation

Dec. 23:

AETC Family Day

Dec. 26:

Holiday observed

Dec. 27:

No Fly Day

Dec. 28:

CT Fly Day

Dec. 29:

No Fly Day

Dec. 30:

AETC Family Day

TrailBLAZE'r

Name: Senior Airman Jeremy Moore

Unit: 14th Communications Squadron

Job title: Airfield Systems Maintenance Journeyman

Time at Columbus AFB: One year, eight months

Time in Service: Two years, eight months

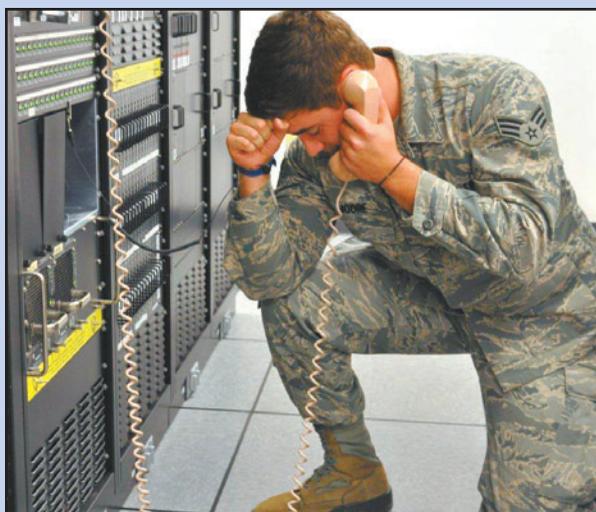
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.

Career goals: After completion of his Bachelors degree he plans to return to the Nashville area and pursue a career in education and coaching high school football.

Family members: Jeff and Amy Moore (father and mother), Nick, Cody and Logan Moore (brothers)

Favorite musician: Elton John

Favorite movie: The Count of Monte Cristo.



Biggest pet peeve: Liars .

Favorite book: Anything by Stephanie Meyer.

Inspirations: My Father.

Personal motto: "Hard work will bear talent when talent refuses to work hard."

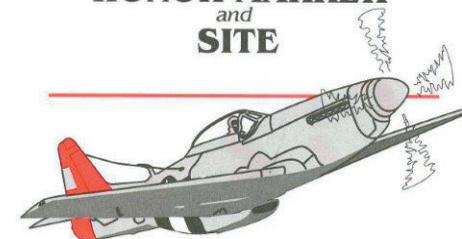
SUPT Class 13-02 welcomed by pilot partners



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Tom Wood

Emily Williams, Volunteer Coordinator and Public Relations representative of the United Way, discusses volunteer options with class 13-02 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center on Tuesday, 29 November. Class 13-02 were welcomed by their pilot partners, the Military Affairs Committee and Base Community Council at the event.

A TRIBUTE
to
Lt. Col. HERBERT E. CARTER, USAF (Ret.)
a Highly Decorated Member
of the Famed
"TUSKEGEE AIRMEN"
and
**PRESENTATION OF THE
Lt. Col. HERBERT E. CARTER
HONOR MARKER
and
SITE**



December 7, 2011

11:00 A.M.

*West Amory Elementary School
(Gymnasium)*

Amory, Mississippi

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

2011 Safety Award Winners and AETC nominees

AETC Rider Coach of the Year – Capt. Cornelius Godbee,
14th Operations Support Squadron.

AETC nominees for the Air Force Flight Safety Plaque -
37th

Flying Training Squadron, 41st Flying Training Squadron,
48th Flying Training Squadron, and 49th Fighter Training
Squadron.

AETC nominees for the Air Force Ground Safety Plaque –
The 48th Flying Training Squadron and the entire 14th Flying
Training Wing.

Team BLAZE AETC 2011 Medical Service Award Winners

USAF Biomedical Clinician Category I Officer of the Year,
CGO Category - Capt. William Clarkson

USAF Biomedical Specialist Category I Officer of the
Year, CGO Category - 1st Lt. Adam Irvin

USAF Biomedical Clinician Civilian of the Year - Wendy
Pennington

Outstanding Dental Airmen of the Year Award - Senior
Airman Justin Lane

Columbus AFB Top 3 Spotlight

Category: Amn

Name: Senior Airman Christina Ortiz

Unit: 48th Flying Training Squadron

Information:

1. Home Town: Rancho Cucamonga
2. Time in the Air Force: Two years, six months
3. Time at Columbus AFB: Two years, six months
4. Career Short Term Goals: Finish CCAF in Aviation Resource Management and use the ABC program to finish a Bachelor's degree. Study hard and make staff sergeant in May.
5. Career Long Term Goals: Possibly find an ROTC scholarship program and get a commission.
6. Nominated by: Master Sgt. Jeffrey Johnwick

7. Nomination reason: Senior Airman Ortiz displays the utmost professional behavior and accepts all challenges with a positive attitude and a winning smile. She is responsible for the management of mission essential criteria for 200 aircrew members. For two months, she and another Airman executed flawless aircrew launch duties without the assistance or guidance of an NCO. In addition to her outstanding work ethic, Senior Airman Ortiz is a key Wing Honor Guard member, was awarded Senior Airman Below-the-Zone (BTZ), and was selected as the 1COX2 Airman of the Year for AETC.



Category: NCO

Name: Tech Sgt. Amy L. Pringle

Unit: 14th Operations Support Squadron

Information:

1. Home Town: Collettsville, North Carolina
2. Time in the Air Force: Eleven years, four months
3. Time at Columbus AFB: Five years, two months
4. Career Short Term Goals: Make Master Sergeant, and get an assignment.
5. Career Long Term Goals: Become a first sergeant.
6. Nominated by: Master Sgt. Ronnie Swanner

7. Nomination reason: Tech Sgt. Amy Pringle has displayed outstanding leadership abilities by stepping up to take charge of two squadrons during a critical manning shortage in her career field, volunteering as the Operations Group POC for the Wing Retreat and Veteran's day parade, and being the primary training manager for the group's 140 enlisted personnel. She sets the example for other Airmen to follow, and recently distinguished herself by being awarded Distinguished Graduate at the NCO Academy, and as the 14th Flying Training Wing's NCO of the Quarter. She currently works in the Wing Flight Records office where she is in charge of roughly 950 flight records, and assists all of our base aircrew with their various aviation needs and questions.



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 a 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!



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.

Base News**Clinic Expanding Service Hours**

The 14th Medical Group will be open Thursday afternoons starting in January. The 14th MDG currently provides limited services every Thursday afternoon, however starting in January the clinic will be completely closed at noon only on the third Thursday of each month. The clinic will be fully operational all remaining duty days of the month.

Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding

Starting Jan. 1, 2012, all schools providing post secondary education programs through the DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) Program must agree to the new DoD MOU (<http://www.dodmou.com/>). For military members using TA, this means that if your school does not sign the DoD MOU, your school will no longer be approved to receive TA funds. The current list of schools that have signed the DoD MOU can be found at <http://www.dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx>. If your school is not on the list, you are encouraged to contact your school to ask if they plan to sign the DoD MOU (some schools may sign the DoD MOU after Jan. 1, 2012). If your school is not on the list by Jan. 1, 2012, please call the Education Center at 434-2562 or 434-2563 or come by Bldg. 916 for counseling regarding options for reaching your educational goals, which could include transferring to a DoD approved school. You can also email your questions to edward.hodge@columbus.af.mil.

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

The last day for Education Center testing (CDC, PME, CLEP/DANTES, etc.) will be Tuesday, Dec. 20, please plan accordingly. Normal testing hours will resume on Jan 3. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Christmas Drama

The Protestant Parish invites you to our Christmas Drama Dec. 11 at 10:45 a.m. in the Base Chapel. There will be refreshments in the Chapel Annex following the service. If you have any questions, please contact the Base Chapel at 434-2500.

Candlelight Service

The Protestant Parish invites you to join us for a Candlelight Service Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Base Chapel. If you have any questions, please contact the Base Chapel at 434-2500.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant Worship Service
Sunday:

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.

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

Please note that on The Holy Day of Obligation, Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, Mass will be held at 11:45 a.m.

Base families offered a variety of activities

Are You Feeling Lucky?

Take a quick trip to the casinos in Philadelphia with Outdoor Recreation/ITT tonight for just \$25 and receive \$25 in play credit upon arrival. The bus leaves the parking lot of the Exchange/Express (formerly the Shoppette) at 5:30 p.m. and heads back to Columbus AFB from the casinos at 1 a.m. If another day would be better, any party of 10 or more can book the bus any time for a casino trip for just \$25 per person. For more information, call 434-2505.

FSS Gift Cards – A Perfect Gift Idea!

Need a gift for a coworker or Squadron Holiday Party? These gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most FSS facilities (golf, bowling center snack bars, clubs) at Air Force installations worldwide...and they never go out of style. FSS gift cards can be purchased at Whispering Pines Golf Course, Strike Zone Lanes or at the Youth Center.

Volunteers Needed!

Weather permitting, volunteers are needed at Whispering Pines Golf Course to help clean up limbs, leaves, etc., on Sat., Dec. 10, 9 a.m. If interested in volunteering, please contact the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

Holiday Vehicle Maintenance on Base

Before you hit the road this holiday season, get your vehicle serviced and detailed at Auto Hobby. Call 434-7842 for more information or to make an appointment.

Engraving Deadline on Christmas Orders

The last day for engraving orders at Arts and Crafts is Dec. 9. ALL Christmas orders must be picked up on or before 5 p.m., Dec. 19, as 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.

Get Fit, Mommy!

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.

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 at your house.

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.

Get Off the Couch and Play!

Columbus AFB has an 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.

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.

How we Feed the Fight; a Tiger's perspective

Lt. Col. James "Finch" Sparrow
Commander, 37th Flying Training Squadron

With Thanksgiving over and the holidays closing in, we should all take a moment to reflect on this past year and be thankful for our blessings. For me personally the year started with a deployment followed by T-6 PIT and then a PCS here to join Team BLAZE. It has been a busy year for certain, but not near as busy or dangerous as the past year for our Airmen and joint brothers and sisters in arms who are in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am thankful for those who are sacrificing daily and even more so those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation's principles and advance freedom for those who do not enjoy it like we are fortunate to in America. We read about examples of this almost daily in the media, but some of us probably often wonder how tiny Columbus AFB is doing its part. I can tell you unequivocally just how that is happening in our squadron.

In the 37th Flying Training Squadron Bengal Tigers our mission is: Forging Military Pilots, Honing Warrior Leaders, Supporting the Joint Fight. These tasks are in line with our wing leadership's guidance and we are proud of what we accomplish daily. Did you know that every three minutes from just before sunrise to just after sunset a T-6 takes off? We average approximately 150 sorties daily between us and our sister squadron, the 41st FTS. These pilots we are training will go on to finish Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training in Phase III in either the T-1 or T-38, but more importantly they will be in the joint fight in a very short time. For example, in my previous position as a C-17 Operations Officer we could take a brand new copilot fresh out of Phase III and a couple months at Altus AFB in initial qualification training and have them ready within two weeks to fly combat missions. At no other point in recent American history would our graduates see combat operations that quick. Thus, by forging military pilots we are supporting the joint fight.

Col. Bruce Smith
366th Fighter Wing

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho — With the recent announcements from Air Force officials regarding civilian workforce restructuring and continuation of the enlisted date of separation rollback program, there is understandable potential for a feeling of fear about the uncertainty of what the future may hold.

While these changes may not directly impact all of us, not one of us is unaffected by these changes — we are in this together as Airmen, civil servants and wingmen.

We need to focus not on what we don't know, but what we do know. We know that we

are the world's finest Air Force because of our personnel, both military and civilian. We know that in order to move forward boldly into an uncertain future, we need to focus on what makes us great and improve upon it -- our people.

"It's important, now more than ever, we continue to build our strength," said Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. "Good wingmen stay ready for the mission -- physically and emotionally."

It is with this goal in mind we need to stress the importance of resiliency and how the Comprehensive Airman Fitness concept can help all of us stay fit to fight any fight, mental or physical. The recent news and subsequent battle with fear is no less a real fight than

being engaged in physical combat. "Being fit to fight means more than just being physically fit. With all of the demands on our Airmen and their families, psychological and emotional health are just as important to our overall fitness, and to our readiness as a command," said Gen. William Fraser, the former commander of Air Combat Command.

Some might argue the general's words apply only to Airmen.

The general's words ring true for more than just Airmen in ACC. Our Air Force consists of 10 commands filled with military and civilian personnel who all have one thing in common in spite of rank, age, gender location or education -- they are all humans whose lives are affected by their mental, physical, social

and spiritual fitness. First, we need to stay positive. Whether this is the instructor pilot setting the example to the student pilot or myself at a staff meeting trying to give guidance under our budget constraints, we must stay positive at all levels. It would be all too easy to adopt a negative attitude toward the current situation, but this would not serve our Air Force's interests or our nation's interests for that matter. Second, we all have to look for ways to help each other. In 2008 while stationed in Stuttgart, Germany on the US European Command staff I had the honor and privilege of hosting Mr. Edward Gere. Mr. Gere is a veteran of flying B-24s in the Pacific Theater during World War II and afterwards the Berlin Airlift. He authored a book, "The Unheralded: Men and Women of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift." He visited with us in Stuttgart to be our guest of honor at the Air Force Ball that year since our theme was celebrating 60 years since the Berlin Airlift. On one of the days he was with us, we drove up to Ramstein Air Base to give him an opportunity to speak to a NCO Academy graduating class. At the end of his discussion he offered to answer questions. One of the fine Airmen there stood up and asked, "Mr. Gere what made your generation become the Greatest Generation? What characteristics did you all possess?" Mr. Gere thought for just a couple seconds and answered, "WE NEVER SAID THAT'S NOT MY JOB." His answer was so profound that I will never forget those words. So in addition to staying positive, let's always look for ways to cooperate both in our squadrons and across the wing. With resources so scarce, it will take creativity to be successful. I have no illusions that our generation will ever be like Mr. Gere's but we can take a great lesson away from his answer.

Enjoy the holiday season while taking time to reflect and be thankful. Remember that what Team BLAZE is doing directly impacts the joint fight, and never say, "that's not my job." Once a Tiger...always a Tiger!

Remaining resilient amid uncertainty

being engaged in physical combat.

"It's almost certain that some will look at the news and proverbial writing on the wall and think there is no hope. That hope is not gone. As long as there is an Airman willing to uphold his end of the Airman's Creed, no one will be left behind and we will not fail. We need to be good wingmen, especially today, and watch out for our fellow servants, civilian and military alike. We need to be innovative, conscientious, frugal and resilient as we look to the days ahead. The future may seem bleak, but it is our future. What are we going to make of it?"

What is certain is that as we forge the way ahead in these uncertain times, we must fight that fear so as not to let it paralyze us, cause us undue stress or even endanger our wellbeing. We must remain resilient.

37th Flying Training Squadron "Bengal Tigers"

Unit mission

The 37th Flying Training Squadron mission is: Forging Military Pilots, Honing Warrior Leaders, Supporting the Joint Fight! The 37th FTS instructs future Air Force military aviators in Phase II of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, in the T-6 "Texan II". The 37th FTS also instructs several international military pilots through the Foreign Military Sales program and the Aviation Leadership Program whose graduates will receive their countries' coveted wings. The 37th FTS flies over 17,800 sorties and more than 24,000 flying hours annually with a budget of more than \$3.8 million. The squadron also qualifies and sustains 85 mission-ready T-6 instructor pilots from both active duty and reserves.

Key Leaders

The 37th Flying Training Squadron Commander is Lt. Col. James Sparrow.

Personnel numbers

85 Instructor pilots
5 Enlisted personnel
2 contracted civilian
87 SUPT students

Squadron functions

The 37th Flying Training Squadron conducts primary flight training in the T-6A "Texan II". Students receive

approximately 85 flying hours of training in basic aircraft control, aerobatics, night, instruments, navigation and formation flying in a five month period. Upon completion of their T-6 training, students go on to advanced training in either the T-38, T-1, or UH-1. The 37th FTS Bengal Tigers train approximately 260 students each year.

Unit name

The "Bengal Tigers"

Upcoming Challenges

With the Bengal Tigers currently being only 86 percent manned in addition to the increase in AETC deployments to MC-12 ISR platforms and augmentee staff jobs worldwide, manning will continue to be a challenge. The Bengal Tigers currently have six instructors deployed or training for deployments.

Recent poor weather is driving challenges to student production and continuity in student training. Phase II training has a high steady state ops tempo with takeoffs planned every three minutes from sunrise to sunset every weekday. There is very little room for increased sortie production from which to re-gain lost ground. Weekend flying and student wash-backs (if too far behind the timeline) are a few of the options available to the squadron.

The more significant grass roots impact to our students is perpetual weather delays. A tried and true principle of learning is of course repetition. The JSUPT Phase II syllabus calls for a sortie every day to day-and-a-half, allowing for instruction during the flight briefing,

physical practice in the aircraft, followed by guidance on how to perform tasks better only to go home and continue habit pattern development via 'chair flying.' Extended weather delays have an adverse effect on student training by breaking that flying continuity chain. The syllabus does allow for some breaks, but not to a scale we normally experience at Columbus in the winter months.

Unique aspects of the unit

The unit began as a fighter squadron in World War II. A highly decorated squadron, its pilots flew P-43s and P-38s in North Africa and Europe. Following the war, the squadron was re-designated the 37th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Its mission was air defense in Maine and Vermont, flying P-47s, P-84s, F-51s, F-86s and F-102s until its deactivation in 1960. On July 17, 1969, Air Training Command took over what was then known as the Columbus Army Flying School. The 3650th Flying Training Squadron was born; class 71-01 began their quest for the highly sought after "silver wings." On March 22, 1972, the 3650th was re-designated the 37th Flying Training Squadron, continuing the Bengal Tiger heritage. The squadron's credo is: "The World's Best Instructor Pilots Producing the World's Best Future Aviators through Superior Training for the United States and Allied Air Forces." This mission is accomplished with a sense of pride and professionalism unparalleled in this arena. From these beginning the Bengal Tigers have excelled in all tasks, with an unprecedented work ethic and commitment to its students and instructors.

Currently the 37th flies an average of 80 lines per day, which far exceeds that of any Combat or Mobility Air Force unit. In fact, Columbus AFB T-6's fly approximately 5 percent of the Air Force's total annual hours. The 37th Flying Training Squadron has a proud heritage, and a legacy that will remain intact for years to come, because, instilled in every member is a deep sense of commitment and responsibility for those we proudly serve!

Senior leader comments

The Bengal Tigers are not only supplying the best and brightest pilots to the Air Force and its allies, it also deploys its personnel to fill essential roles throughout the world, on the ground or in the air. They provide battlefield tactical intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in the USAF's new platform, the MC-12, which is currently the SECAF's #1 ISR priority. Through this platform, the men and women of the Bengal Tigers have had a direct impact in saving US service members' lives in Southwest Asia! Other Tigers are serving in the US Central Command's Deployment and Distribution Operations Center, where validation occurs daily for joint force airlift and air refueling requests to support our war efforts from a logistics standpoint. Yet another Tiger is deployed in a joint position as the Fixed Wing Program Manager overseeing the fixed wing fleet for all Afghan Air Force bases including Kabul, Khandahar, and Shindand. Through deployed efforts like these and by producing pilots the Bengal Tigers are supporting the joint fight! They are an integral part of Team BLAZE.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
2nd Lt. Jeremy Schnurbusch, a student pilot assigned to the "Dagger Dog" flight of the 37th Flying Training Squadron goes over his flight plan with Lt. Col. Joe Becker, 37th FTS instructor pilot. The Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Phase II syllabus calls for a sortie every day to day-and-a-half.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
2nd Lt. Daniel Walker, a student pilot with the 37th Flying Training Squadron, confirms information on a flight plan on Nov. 30. Both Walker and Booker are members of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-11.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
2nd Lt. Austin Merkel, 37th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, familiarizes himself with the proper checklist procedures for the T-6 Texan II. A preflight check is required before every sortie.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
Members of Specialized Pilot Training Class 12-15 stand at attention for their 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilots prior to formal brief on Nov. 30. Formal brief begins the day for many of the students and student pilots of the 37th Flying Training Squadron.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick
2nd Lt. Michael Krynski, 37th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, practices emergency procedures in a T-6 Texan II simulator to prepare himself for later flights. The 37th FTS Bengal Tigers train approximately 260 students each year.