

**"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"**

**Vol. 36, Issue 1**

**Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.**

**January 6, 2012**

## Weather



**Today**

High: 67, Low: 49  
Mostly Sunny



**Saturday**

High: 64, Low: 40  
Showers



**Sunday**

High: 58, Low: 34  
Partly Cloudy



**Monday**

High: 60, Low: 33  
Partly Cloudy

## News Briefs

### Clinic Expanding Service Hours

The Koritz Clinic has expanded its hours and is now open Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and closes at noon on the third Thursday of each month. Appointments may be booked by calling 434-CARE or visiting [www.TricareOnline.com](http://www.TricareOnline.com).

### Enlisted Boss and Buddy Night

The Columbus Air Force Base Top 3 will hold be holding the Enlisted Boss-N-Buddy Night tonight, Friday Jan. 6, beginning at 4 p.m. at Indy's. Appetizers will be provided by the Columbus Club. SNCO's bring an NCO, NCO's bring an Airman.

### AETC Symposium

The 2012 Air Education and Training Command Symposium will take place from Jan. 11 to Jan. 14. For more information visit [www.aetcsymposium.com](http://www.aetcsymposium.com).



U.S. Air Force photo

**The 14th Flying Training Wing Command Staff, Staff Judge Advocate, Historian, Protocol, and Silver Wings offices have moved to the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building.**

# BLAZE Forward

**Col. Barre Seguin**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
commander

Team BLAZE, as we start 2012, we pause to reflect on a great year of mission accomplishment and focus on the year ahead. Our wing priority remains accomplishing our mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight. As we continue to accomplish our mission, unique opportunities exists to shape our Air Force and base of 2012 and beyond. These opportunities exist due to the uncertain fiscal times our nation faces. Indeed, our Air Force of 2020, and our Columbus Air Force Base, will not be the same Air Force and base we've known for the past 5, 10, or 20 years. Now is our opportunity to play our part in influencing and shaping both. Our focus in approaching this opportunity will be to BLAZE Forward as we continually pursue our vision to be an Innovative Training Environment, Focused on Family, Partnered with Community!

Innovation is essential to shaping our Air Force and base of the future. Innovation like that exhibited by Senior Airman Brandon Smith. Smith incorporated real-world Air Traffic Control scenarios into training simulations, providing increased realism for our ATC Airmen continuation training. For this innovation, Smith was awarded the Air Education and Training Command Innovation Award by the AETC.

See MISSION, Page 2

## Inside



Feature **8**

2011 A Year in Review is this week's feature.

## 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 (12-13)	2.21 days	0.06 days	Feb. 13	48th (12-04)	1.90 days	3.27 days	Jan. 27	49th (12-DB)	-4.98 days	-1.42 days	Jan. 31	T-6	195	213	7,044
41st (12-12)	2.19 days	-0.37 days	Jan. 18	50th (12-04)	0.37 days	-2.77 days	Jan. 27					T-1	60	66	2,302
												T-38	78	74	2,568
												IFF	28	28	960

The graduation speaker is Gen. Gary North, Commander, Pacific Air Forces; Air Component Commander for U.S. Pacific Command; and Executive Director, Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii

## MISSION

(Continued from Page 1)

Commander, General Rice. Furthermore, innovators like Dr. Carl James, and Rhett Graves, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron, enhanced mission capability and saved money during the process. They and their team, utilizing common peg-board from a local hardware store, corrected an airflow problem in our aircraft paint barn and, in the process, saved \$3.2 million in construction costs and recognized over \$160,000 per year in energy and maintenance savings. These are only a couple of examples of our Airmen producing efficiencies through innovation and creativity. In addition to being innovative, we must continue to focus on families as we BLAZE Forward.

Our Air Force recruits Airmen, but retains families. To retain families, we will continue to prioritize our Caring for People initiatives, bolster our Key Spouses, and support and fully resource our Airmen and Family Readiness Center. Where we have the resources within our control to pursue issues you, our Airmen and family members, identified in our local Caring for People forum, we are doing so. Our Key Spouse program has grown from 14 Key Spouses in January 2011 to a robust 33 Key Spouses in December 2011, a whopping 135 percent growth in the program! Our Key Spouses welcome Airmen and families to units, help to meet the needs of families of deployed Airmen, and disseminate essential and nice to have information to unit spouses, to name a few of their duties. Every unit on base now has a Key Spouse (some more than one), to include our Wing Staff Agencies. One of our Key Spouses who has since PCS'ed, Perla Hopkins, was awarded the AETC Key Spouse of the Year by General Rice. These programs, and others that support Team BLAZE, require community support

to be fully successful.

In a future which will likely, in part, be defined by decreasing resources, partnering with community is absolutely essential to maintaining services for Airmen and their families. Mutually beneficial partnerships like our pursuit with a local higher education institution to offer a course and certification in Turf Grass Management with our Whispering Pines Golf Course as the classroom. Partnership like our recently established Strategic Advisory Group, which provides your senior BLAZE leadership team advice from Columbus AFB Wingmen on areas we can better team with our community. Our award winning-community was recognized as the recipient of the first-ever Altus Trophy for providing the best base support in all of AETC. We will further this relationship and leverage community support to mutually benefit our Airmen and families and to enrich our community.

As we BLAZE Forward to recognize our vision of an Innovative Training Environment, Focused on Families, Partnered with Community, I ask that we do so with an eye to the future and not a longing for the past. We are at an historic crossroads which will define our Air Force of the future. Positively contribute to what your Air Force will look like. Thank you for your invaluable mission contributions in 2011. Your BLT is justifiably proud in the mission accomplishment of the entire team of military, civilian and contractor Airmen. We are, and will remain, the greatest Air Force the world has ever known. This superlative of superlatives is because of you, our Airmen. Look to the future, Team BLAZE, and play your active role in defining it! Happy New Year. I look forward to proudly being a part of your many and great accomplishments in 2012 as we BLAZE Forward!

## SILVER WINGS

### How to reach us

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### Submission Deadline

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

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

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>
9	10	11	12	13	14/15
Night Flying Week  Class 13-03 PPW, 6 p.m. @ The Grill		Jan. 11-Jan. 14: AETC Symposium		Class 12-04 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club	
16	17	18	19	20	21/22
MLK Jr. Day, most CAFB offices closed	Newcomers Orientation, 9 a.m. @ Club	Class 12-12 Track Select, 5 p.m. @ Club			

### Long Range Events

**Jan. 24:** Wing Quarterly Awards Ceremony  
**Jan 26:** BCC Luncheon  
**Jan. 26:** Town and Tower Prayer Breakfast  
**Jan. 27:** Class 12-04 Graduation  
**Jan. 31:** Enlisted Promotions  
**Jan. 31:** IFF Graduation  
**Feb. 1:** African American Heritage Month begins  
**Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day  
**Feb. 3:** Class 12-05 Assignment Night  
**Feb. 6:** Night Flying Week

# TrailBLAZE'r

**Name:** Tech Sgt. Jacob Lewis

**Unit:** 14th Contracting Squadron

**Job title:** Contracting Specialist

**Time at Columbus AFB:** 3 years 3 months

**Time in Service:** 10 years 11 months

**Hometown:** Salt Lake City

**Career goals:** To make senior master sergeant before I'm 35

**Family members:** Jaxon Lewis and Sophia Lewis.

**Favorite musician:** Aaron Lewis from Staind and Corey Taylor from Slipknot

**Favorite movie:** The Devil's Advocate



**Biggest pet peeve:** Lazy people

**Favorite book:** "Paradise Lost" by John Milton

**Inspirations:** My Dad, and my children.

**Personal motto:** Winning isn't everything it's the only thing.

## Safety Day held for Aircrew, Airfield Operations



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick  
**Tech Sgt. Benton Spencer, 14th Operations Support Squadron, reviews the topics covered during the half Safety Day on Jan. 3 to Air Traffic Controllers. The brief took place in Kaye Auditorium and covered the effects of problems like complacency and lack of professionalism can cause dangerous situations.**

## Koritz Clinic Expands Hours

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

The 14th Medical Group Koritz Clinic has already met its New Year's resolution to expanded clinic hours for beneficiaries.

In addition to standard appointment hours, appointments will now be available during the afternoon of the first, second, and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Before the change, most clinic services were closed each Thursday to provide training time for the group's personnel. According to Capt. Jay Fury, the 14th Medical Group practice manager, the increase in available services during these new times will provide an additional 10 percent more appointments each week, coming to an estimated 1,000 more appointments each year.

"It's going to be a seamless transition for our beneficiaries," assured Fury. "When they call 434-CARE to book an appointment or go to TricareOnline.com they'll simply have more options to choose from when it comes to booking appointments."

Colonel Billye Hutchison, 14th Medical Group commander said the change to the clinic hours was the result of feedback from customers and new training schedules for medical group personnel.

"It was actually our patient's feedback that drove this change. By shifting around and consolidating our training schedules we can now see patients most Thursday afternoons and provide our patients with more opportunities to get the care they need," she said. "Our medics will still get the training time they need to provide our beneficiaries with the same top notch care they've always had, but now we'll close all clinic services only on the third Thursday afternoon each month to dedicate that time to training."

The Koritz Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closes at noon on the third Thursday of each month. Appointments may be booked by calling 434-CARE or visiting [www.TricareOnline.com](http://www.TricareOnline.com).

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

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



# Honor Guard steps up



U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson

Members of the Columbus Air Force Base Honor prepare to present the colors during the Lowndes County Elected Officials Inauguration Ceremony on Jan. 3 at the Trotter Convention Center. Over the Holidays the CAFB Honor Guard received 11 requests for support in four days. Members volunteered to return from leave early or stepped up to leadership roles, supporting each one to the best of their capabilities.

# TRICARE beneficiaries have several pharmacy options

Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

Despite questions about whether the Walgreens pharmacy chain will continue as a TRICARE provider, beneficiaries will have several options for filling prescriptions, Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said today.

The retail pharmacy contract between Express Scripts Inc., or ESI, and the Walgreens pharmacy chain is set to expire on Dec. 31, Lainez added.

If the contract is not renewed, Walgreens will no longer be a pharmacy network provider, she said, but beneficiaries will be able to find a nearby network pharmacy using the "find a pharmacy" feature at the ESI website, <http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare>.

"We are committed to ensuring all our pharmacy beneficiaries are aware of the many options that TRICARE makes available to them," said Army Brig. Gen. Bryan Gamble, the TRICARE deputy director. "By now, all of our beneficiaries who use Walgreens to fill prescriptions should have been contacted to advise them of their pharmacy options and to take action to ensure their pharmacy benefit remains uninterrupted. The health of our service members, retirees and their families remains my number one priority."

In addition to 56,000 network pharmacies, Lainez said, TRICARE beneficiaries have other pharmacy options, including military pharmacies at no cost and convenient, low-cost TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery.

Beneficiaries can check the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.mil> for more information.

ESI has mailed information or contacted by telephone the beneficiaries who use Walgreens, and in December, they followed up with reminder letters.

If needed, beneficiaries can take current prescription bottles to a new network pharmacy to have prescriptions transferred.

Beneficiaries who need help finding a pharmacy or changing their medications to home delivery, or who have other questions, can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-885-6313.

# Base families offered a variety of activities

## Happy Birthday, Dr. King!

The Columbus AFB Library will be hosting a birthday party and family story time celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Tues., Jan. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 434-2934.

## Casting Call for CAFB Models

The Columbus Club is looking for a diverse group of models from across the base to participate in the BLAZE The Runway Fashion Show and After Party on Feb. 24. If you are 18 years or older and have poise, style and just enough attitude, call Rita at 434-2489. All models will be assigned no later than Feb. 3, so sign up NOW!

## Ready for the Redeaux in the Bayou?

Watch the BCS National Championship Game between University of Alabama and Louisiana State University at Indy's in the Columbus Club on Mon., Jan. 9. Doors open at 5 p.m. and pregame coverage begins at 6 p.m. Enjoy pizza, wings and draft specials while you watch the big game. For more information, contact the Club at 434-2489.

## FREE Salsa Lessons

Come join the fun at the Columbus Club and learn to Salsa...or just come to dance! Classes are scheduled Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4 and 11 with two classes each night at 6 and 7 p.m. For more information, call the Club at 434-2489 or visit us on Facebook at CAFB FSS Rocks. Open event "Salsa Night".

## New Year - New Body?

Jumpstart your 2012 AND your metabolism! Slim down, tone up and feel great in Fitness Boot Camp at the Fitness Center. A certified personal trainer will lead all the classes scheduled Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8:30-9:30 a.m., beginning Jan. 23. Sign up now because space is limited. Fitness and Sports also 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. Moms can participate with their little ones each Tuesday, 9 a.m., in a Stroller Fitness Class which meets at Freedom Park. 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.

## Check Out the New Books!

The Columbus AFB Library is now receiving a steady flow of new books to include adult bestsellers and children's new favorites. Also, soon to arrive are new teen books and updates to the non-fiction collection. Stop by your Base Library today to see what's arrived so far!

## Youth of the Year Packages Available

Youth of the Year application packages for youth ages 13-18 are available at Youth Programs or online at BGCA.org. Completed packages must be submitted at the Youth Center by Jan. 12. The local Youth of the Year will be announced at a celebration at the Youth Center on Jan. 19, 4 p.m.

## Hot and Easy to Use - FSS Gift Cards

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.

## Get Connected to Columbus AFB

If you're wondering what's going on here at Columbus AFB, go online to [www.cafbss-rocks.com](http://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.

## Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes and martial arts instruction. Time and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

## New Year - New Body?

Fitness and Sports offers several great cardio classes throughout the week. These include spin classes on Mon. and Wed., 11 a.m., and Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m. Moms can participate with their little ones each Tuesday, 9 a.m., in a Stroller Fitness Class which meets at Freedom Park. 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.

## 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](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com) or call the A&FRC at 434-2790.

## 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](http://www.USAFfitFamily.com) to earn points and achieve levels for participation in Family Fun activities, family sports and fitness and family nutrition. Recognition is provided at each level to encourage families to continue on the path of wellness. The FitFamily program encourages Air Force families to make healthy lifestyle choices and provides resources and tips in an effort to promote overall family fitness. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

## 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.



# Dollars and \$ense: Controlled Spend Account Policy Change - Temporary Spend Limit Increases

Effective immediately, there have been policy changes to the Controlled Spend Account's Temporary Spend Limit.

Change 1: CitiBank will no longer allow cardholders to request more than two Temporary Spend Limit increases per billing cycle (NTE \$5,000), since, prior to departing for TDY, travelers are required to have a travel authorization approved, which increases their credit limit in order cover the amount estimated on the travel authorization.

- If a travel authorization is received after a TSL has been granted that equals or exceeds the TSL amount previously granted, the TSL "count" will automatically reset.

- If a cardholder is verified as in a PCS status by either 14th Comptroller Squadron or the Agency Program

Coordinator and has had a TSL denied due to a payment being received, which closed out the credit balance, then the TSL can be re-set with APC or CPTS approval.

Change 2: Cardholders with a past due account must go through their APC for a TSL.

Change 3: Cardholders with a suspended account (delinquent > 60 days or more) will not be eligible for TSL.

Change 4: Cardholders with a cancelled account will not be eligible for TSL; no further charges can be honored.

\*\* Citi reserves the right to refuse a TSL based on suspected personal use/misuse and will refer cardholder to their APC as appropriate; Citi will notify 14 CPTS of any cardholder that is refused a TSL based on this situation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your CSA account, please contact the 14th CPTS Financial Customer Service at [14cpts.fcs@Columbus.Af.Mil](mailto:14cpts.fcs@Columbus.Af.Mil) or call 434-2695/2705/2095.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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:** 2005 Nissan frontier king cab SE, silver, auto, power locks-mirrors-windows, 4.0 V6, alloy wheels, all terrain tires, bed-liner, CD player, 75,000 miles, everything looks and runs great. \$13,000 or best offer (405) 590-3626.

**For sale:** 2008 Orange Dodge Caliber SXT. One owner, 87,000 miles, manual shift, good condition, 29 Miles Per Gallon. \$8,300.

**For sale:** 2009 Kawasaki Monster Energy Edition KX 450, liquid cooled four stroke, DFI Keihin fuel injected, Digital DC-CDI Ignition. Like new condition. \$3,800 or best offer. For more info Contact 435-0464.

### Miscellaneous

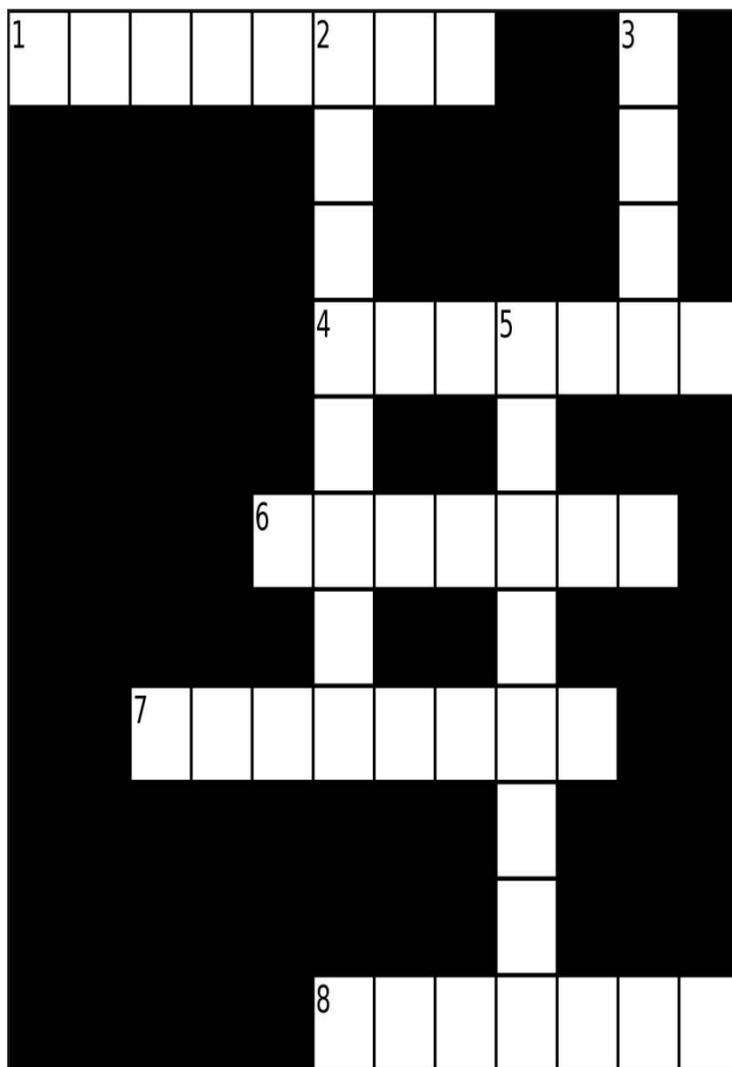
**For sale:** Chain link fence without poles. Free to pickup. (405) 590-3626

**For sale:** Professional camera Canon 40D with charger, battery and strap \$600. Solid hand made corner-desk and dresser \$50 and \$100. GE dryer, runs great, \$100. Call (208) 559-6953. I can send pictures if you are interested.

### Yard Sale

**Yard Sale:** Saturday, Jan. 7 starting at 8 a.m. at 5514 Hamilton Ave. Many nice household goods, kids toys, baby items, luggage, adult and child clothing.

# AETC Bases & Missions



- Across**
- Along with Columbus AFB and Vance AFB, this base conducts Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.
  - Along with Lackland AFB, this base is home to one of the two largest medical facilities in the AETC.
  - This base is home to Air University.
  - Headquarters of AETC.
  - F-22 pilots are trained at this AFB.

- Down**
- All enlisted Airmen begin their training at this Air Force Base.
  - This base trains F-16 pilots and maintainers.
  - Euro-NATO joint jet pilot training is conducted at this base.

# January Enlisted Promotions

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

Fourteen of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen sewed on their next stripe during the enlisted promotion ceremony on Jan. 3 at the Columbus Club.

- Promoted are:
- Airman First Class Samuel Blaettler, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron.
  - Airman First Class Courtney Maxwell, 14th Medical Support Squadron.
  - Senior Airman Brandon Simon, 14th Operations Support Squadron.
  - Senior Airman Rikki Wash, 14th Logistics Readiness Division.
  - Senior Airman Perry Huffman, 14th Communications Squadron.
  - Senior Airman Jessica Luecking, 14th OSS.
  - Senior Airman Dustie Daniels, 14th OSS.
  - Senior Airman Nathaniel Dobbins, 14th OSS.
  - Staff Sgt. Daniel Slay, 14th CS.
  - Tech Sgt. Gary Fisher, 14th Force Support Squadron.
  - Tech Sgt. Charles Ball, 14th MDSS.
  - Tech Sgt. Joseph Roberts, 14th Flying Training Wing.
  - Master Sgt. Brian Fisher, 14th MDSS.
  - Master Sgt. Renee Oliviel, 14th Medical Operations Squadron.



## 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.

## Tucker brings 47 years of service to a close



**Nic Roos, Community Services Flight Chief, 14th Force Support Squadron, present Odie Tucker Bowling Equipment Repairer, 14 FSS, a shadow box in honor of his retirement after 47 years of service during a ceremony at the Bowling Center on Dec 29.**

U.S. Air Force Photo/Gwen Granderson

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/Columbus\\_AFB](http://www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB)



# Defense bill affects pay, separation bonuses, more

**Karen Parrish**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama signed the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act on Dec. 31, 2011, which increases active-duty and reserve pay by 1.6 percent and governs Defense Department activities, from procurement to military personnel policy.

Several provisions in this year's act will potentially affect active-duty and retired service members and their families.

Section 347 requires DOD to finance an independent assessment of overseas troop basing, advising retention, closure, realignment or establishment of U.S. military facilities outside the U.S. "in light of potential fiscal constraints on (DOD) and emerging national security requirements in coming years."

Section 402 reduces authorized Army minimum end strength from 562,000 to 547,000. The other services' authorized minimum strengths are unchanged, with 325,700 for the Navy, 202,100 for the Marine Corps and 332,800 for the Air Force.

Section 512 of the act creates a new member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which currently includes the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff, the chief of naval operations and the Marine Corps commandant. The new member will be the chief

of the National Guard Bureau, who will have responsibility for "addressing matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces in support of homeland defense and civil support missions."

Section 526 extends voluntary separation pay and benefits authority, formerly set to expire Dec. 31, to the end of 2018. Section 530 converts the high-deployment allowance from mandatory to authorized. The allowance currently pays \$100 a day, in addition to all other pay and allowances, to a deployed service member who has been deployed 401 days or more out of the preceding 730 days.

Section 701 limits annual TRICARE enrollment fee increases for retirees and their family members to an amount equal to the percentage by which retired pay increases that year.

Section 702 sets mental health assessment requirements for service members deployed for contingency operations. The act calls for a series of assessments: one within 120 days before deployment; another during the period between 90 days after a deployment begins and 180 days after it ends; a third within a year after the deployment ends; and a fourth between 18 months and 30 months of redeployment.

The act states assessments are intended to "identify post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendencies, and other behav-

ioral health conditions ... in order to determine which such members are in need of additional care and treatment for such health conditions."

Assessments are not required for service members "not subjected or exposed to operational risk factors during deployment in the contingency operation concerned," the act states.

Section 954 affirms that DOD "has the capability, and upon direction by the president may conduct offensive operations in cyberspace to defend our nation, allies and interests," subject to the law of armed conflict and the War Powers Resolution.

Signing the bill into law, President Barack Obama acknowledged "serious reservations" about parts of the act, particularly provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation and prosecution of suspected terrorists.

"I have signed the act chiefly because it authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, crucial services for service members and their families, and vital national security programs that must be renewed," Obama said in a statement released today.

The act also contains critical initiatives to control spiraling health-care costs within the Defense Department, develop counterterrorism initiatives abroad, build the security capacity of key partners, modernize the force, and boost the efficiency and effectiveness of military operations worldwide, he noted.

## Base News

### Commissary Open Jan. 17

The Commissary will be open Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. following a Monday Holiday.

### The Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in building 530. Phone: 434-2954.

### Mississippi Governor's School

The Mississippi Governor's School is accepting applications for the 2012 session from current 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in accredited Mississippi high schools. MGS will be held on the campus of Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss. June 3-22, 2012. The theme for the session is Leading with Vision. Application materials are available on the MGS website: [www.muw.edu/govschool](http://www.muw.edu/govschool). Applications should be postmarked by Jan. 20, 2012. For more information, please call 241-6096 or e-mail [govschool@muw.edu](mailto:govschool@muw.edu).

### 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](mailto:edward.hodge@columbus.af.mil).

### Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. Please visit the Thrift Shop for more information on consignments. Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. They can be dropped off anytime in the donation shed. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in building 530. Phone: 434-2954.

### 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.

### 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.

### Saint Leo University

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

### Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. Please visit the Thrift Shop for more information on consignments. Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. They can be dropped off anytime in the donation shed. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in building 530. Phone: 434-2954.

### IDEA Program

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

## Airman and Family Readiness Center

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

### Self-paced Tutorials

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

### Relocation assistance

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

### Employment Workshop

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

### Spouse welcome

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

### Tap Workshop

Jan. 3 to 5 starting at 7:30 a.m. Seminars on

Jan. 3: 7:45 a.m. Health Benefits; 8:45 a.m. Miss. Dept of Employment Security; 9:30 a.m. Dept of Veterans Affairs; 12:30 p.m. Disabled TAP; 2 p.m. Dept of Labor TAP portion. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. POC AFRC, 434-2790.

### Key Spouse Training

Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Columbus AFB squadrons are always looking for energetic spouses who would like to volunteer and be a part of the Key Spouse Team. No experience is required, just a positive attitude and a compassion and commitment to help others. The Airman and Family Readiness Center provides initial Key Spouse Training. To learn more about your unit's Key Spouse Program please contact the AFRC for details at 434-2790.

### Ten Steps to a Federal Job

Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search for federal employment, To register call 434-2790.

### Hearts Apart Social

Jan. 13 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.

### Newcomers Orientation

Jan. 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For newly arrived AD and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Columbus Club, to register call 434-2790.

### Creating a Healthy Marriage

Jan. 19 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.

# Warrior spirit restores stolen Christmas

**Capt. Cathleen Snow**  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Christmas spirit was stolen away from a deployed Airman serving in Afghanistan when his home in south Florida was burglarized and all of his kids' Christmas presents taken from beneath the tree days before Christmas.

As a combat-search-and-rescue helicopter crew chief, Staff Sgt. Kristopher Castillobrock, deployed from the 920th Rescue Wing here, received the news from home after a day of launching life-saving missions out of Kandahar Airfield to rescue injured service members.

Feeling helpless and unable to provide comfort and security to his wife and three kids from afar, Castillobrock went to his first sergeant at the 26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Master Sgt. Matt English, who immediately mobilized the warrior spirit to help.

"Unfortunately, when these tragedies happen around the holidays, we are especially affected by the loss," said Col. Robert Ament, the 920th RQW vice commander.



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Cathleen Snow  
"With all the shopping completed, key spouses of Airmen of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., and Airmen of the same, put their warrior spirit in motion to restore Christmas for a deployed Airman's family who was the victim of a burglarization when they had all their Christmas presents stolen from beneath their tree. The presents will be delivered in time for the holiday."

When the tragic news was reported back to the 920th RQW here, Airmen and key spouses of Airmen pulled together to return Christmas to the young family. While the family is safe, wing members not only mobilized an effort to resupply the gifts, but they took their support to a higher level to restore the family's sense of security.

"We've contacted the 482nd Fighter Wing and (U.S. Southern Command) (both located near Miami) and fellow Airmen are heading to the burglarized home to repair the break-in damage and look into installing an alarm system," Ament said.

The family expressed their gratitude for all of the support and said the children were excited that "the Air Force was going to help them." They also expressed gratitude for English's help in coordinating police assistance so the family could return to the home to get clothing without being afraid.

Santa Clause is expected to head back to the family's home for a second go-round of present delivery very soon.

"These things we do, that others may live," Ament said. "For the 920th Rescue Wing, this isn't just a motto — it's a mission we live by, both at home station and abroad."

To learn more about the 920th RQW, follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

# Happy New Year Team BLAZE!

**Command Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon**  
14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief

As 2011 goes into the history books, many of us reflect on all that has taken place in the last year and look forward to what 2012 will bring us. Individually many of you, myself included, set personal or professional goals or have desires we may or may not have met. Our families' likely faced trials, and certainly as an Air Force community we encountered many challenges.

Now that we've entered the "clean slate" of a new year, I offer a few thoughts as you set your path toward new goals for 2012. Using the BLAZE moniker, which as most should be well aware, stands for Building Leaders, Advancing Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. I'll apply a different twist that may aid you in working towards your goals or, may, in and of themselves, be goals for this New Year.

B - Building relationships. "This thing called life" truly is a team sport and fostering relationships with family, fellow Airmen (our total force team) and our local community is vital to achieving individual or corporate goals. As you set your goals, include family members and coworkers to help hold you

accountable and to encourage you as you strive to complete your goals. If you haven't done this before it may be a little uncomfortable, but I encourage you to push through, as the benefits of having someone by your side to motivate, give counsel, or urge you on is invaluable.

L - Lifelong Learning. If we think we've "arrived" just because we've accomplished a certain level of training or schooling we often find out in pretty short order that isn't truly the case. Keep in mind that you don't necessarily need to be in the classroom to be "learning." Strive to learn something new daily; about your job, your spouse or significant other, your children, your coworkers or yourself. Challenge yourself to dust off that instrument that you haven't picked up in a while or practice the foreign language you started learning on your last assignment. However it applies to you, just never stop learning!

A - Appreciation. Many of us are accustomed to hearing "thank you for your service" as we travel through airports to and from deployments, or even when we are at the local supermarket or gas station in uniform. We too must show true appreciation throughout the year to those around us, especially our family and friends who often fill the gap for us when duty

calls. Additionally, giving a heartfelt thanks to those who serve us, whether at restaurants, the Commissary, BX or wherever you may be, let those folks know that what they do is important and appreciated.

Z - Zeal. Webster's defines zeal as "enthusiastic, diligent devotion in pursuit of a cause, ideal, or goal." If you have a goal that is worth going after, then do not pursue it half-way. Be deliberate... zealously go after your goal!

E - Equip. For many goals there is likely some preparation required. For example, if you are trying to improve your fitness, it might mean a trip to the doctor to make sure you are physically able to pursue your goal. Are you looking to start college classes? A visit to the Education Office is a good place to make sure you are starting on the right path. Regardless of your goal, do your homework and ensure that you are "equipped" and ready to go after it, as not being prepared is a sure way to derail your efforts.

As we BLAZE Forward into 2012, I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that will come our way, and I am proud to serve beside each and every one of you as we all take Columbus AFB to higher levels of success. Happy New Year Team BLAZE!

## The dos and don'ts of the political season

**2nd Lt. Abraham J. Raymond**  
71st Flying Training Wing Legal Office

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — With the excitement of the presidential primaries lurking around the corner, there are a few things Airmen must remember during this upcoming political season.

When you joined the military or became a federal employee, you did so with the knowledge that this decision came with some sacrifice.

Everyone is encouraged to register to vote, research candidates and vote for the candidates. However, in order for this representative democracy to function properly, civil servants and military professionals cannot be seen as partisans.

Both military members and federal employees work for the government and in doing so they must support elected officials regardless of whether or not they voted for, or against, par-

ticular candidates. For this reason, among others, getting a paycheck directly from the federal government necessarily limits a person's ability to participate in some aspects of the political process.

Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," and Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," outline permitted and restricted political actions for active military members.

Military members who violate these rules may face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

There are some recurring issues surrounding prohibited political activities. A frequent issue concerns whether or not an individual can display a large political sign on his or her car or truck. Displaying a large political sign on your automobile is prohibited; however, members are allowed to display a political

bumper sticker on his or her car or truck.

Military members are prohibited from using official authority to influence an election or solicit votes for a specific candidate or issue.

Military members are limited in their involvement in the political process off duty as well. This includes being a candidate for, or holding, political office, except in those circumstances authorized by the AFI.

Speaking at any partisan political gathering, including a radio or television program, and advocating for a partisan political candidate or party is also prohibited.

Military members should reference AFI 51-902 when they have any questions regarding the legality of their political activities

Rules governing political activities by government civilians are found in a federal law known as the Hatch Act. DOD civilians who violate the Hatch Act face adverse personnel actions, including suspensions and employment termination.

Most restrictions surrounding the Hatch Act are centered on the prevention of supervisors influencing subordinates to participate in or contribute to partisan groups or candidates. Federal employees may not display partisan political campaign materials in the workplace.

While federal employees may express opinions about candidates and issues when off duty, when on duty, in uniform, in a federal building, or in a federally owned or leased vehicle, federal employees may not express opinions directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group.

There are three important things to remember during the upcoming political season. First, regardless of status, using command influence to sway subordinates to vote for a particular party, candidate or issue is prohibited by law or directive.

Second, when you receive a paycheck from the federal government, some aspects of your political freedom are limited.

Third, if you are unsure whether or not a political activity is approved, reference AFI 51-902 or contact your base legal office.

## Experts discuss future of Asia-Pacific

**Christopher Kratzer**  
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The Air Force Research Institute, or AFRI, hosted the Asia-Pacific Symposium Dec. 6-7 at Maxwell. The event, titled "The Asia-Pacific Century: Overcoming the Strategy Gap," brought together key experts to discuss the shifting economic and strategic focus of the United States, according to Dr. John Shaud, the director of the AFRI and retired Air Force general. "We have brought in experts from not just the United States but truly all over the world to come here, speak to us and share some thoughts on the emergence of the Asia-Pacific region," he said. "The president of the United States recently visited the area, and the Secretary of State was in Myanmar very recently, so it's an area we are really focusing on."

Justin Logan, the director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, a think tank in Washington D.C., echoed Shaud's comments, stressing the need for a shift in priorities. "I think it's important for everyone to take a broader interest in

the Asia-Pacific region, not just the AFRI. I think that it's become clear, particularly over the last decade, that our most important strategic interests don't lie in the Middle East; rather they lie in the Asia-Pacific region. I think this conference is a reflection of that realization," he said.

Shaud said holding the conference will allow the AFRI to publish key research on the area. "We want to have a greater understanding of the region, and in the process, we will produce papers that examine some of the aspects, particularly, of the United States and the Air Force, as far as air strategy would be concerned for the Pacific region," he said.

That research is what sets this conference apart, according to Shaud. The information the AFRI staff learned from this conference could have far-reaching effects. "One of the outstanding things that came out of the conference is that we have proceedings. In other words, this isn't a coffee shop talk kind of thing where everybody feels like they know each other better and then we go back home," he said. "We actually make a product and distribute it, and people take a look [at it] when

they are formulating policy."

The goal of this effort is to help develop and influence an improved policy that will use resources more efficiently and help the Air Force better navigate the region's complex issues, according to Shaud. "We're seeking to influence strategic planning. The resources can follow the strategic plan rather than the budget driving the strategy. That's where we are trying to go with this."

He hopes the Air University will play a bigger part in that strategic plan by being a coveted venue to host other key conferences like the Asia-Pacific symposium. "Under (Air University commander and president, Lt. Gen. David) Fadok, we talk a lot about Maxwell being a venue for bringing experts in national security and the military from Washington, the United States and all over the world together for conferences like this," Shaud said. "It's an academic venue, and it's a venue where you have policies of nonattribution. People will speak to one another very frankly. We try to distill all of that and make a product that is useful for the Air Force."

## Air Force offering second round of VERA/VSIP

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is offering a second round of voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay beginning Jan. 9.

The move is part of the Air Force's continuing effort to meet the Department of Defense requirement to maintain civilian funding at fiscal 2010 levels

"The Air Force recognizes the invaluable contributions of our civilian workforce, but also recognizes the fiscal constraints under which the Department of Defense and the government as a whole are operating," said Maj. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, the director of force management policy. "We are working to balance mission needs while taking care to minimize the effect on our current permanent civilian workforce and their families."

The first round of VERA/VSIP was used as a voluntary means to reduce civilian workforce levels, enabling strategic rebalancing efforts. As the Air Force continues its fiscal 2012 civilian workforce restructure, round two of VERA/VSIP will be used to further realign and rebalance the civilian force.

Civilian employees will receive VERA/VSIP eligibility surveys from their personnel managers in January and applications are due Feb. 3 or an earlier date established by local authorities. Applicants approved for this round of VERA/VSIP will need to separate on or before April 30.

"We are pursuing all available force management measures, to include civilian hiring controls, where required, with the goal of avoiding involuntary measures for our current permanent workforce," Dunbar said.

In August, the Air Force instituted a 90-day hiring freeze that was lifted as an Air Force-wide control Dec. 16. Hiring controls remain in effect in some areas and vary by major command, depending on current MAJCOM strength relative to approved funding levels. Of the positions already identified for elimination, many were vacant, and the freeze created additional vacancies. By lifting the Air Force-wide freeze, MAJCOM managers and hiring officials will be able to hire personnel into vacant positions that remain to support the future Air Force mission.

For any information about civilian employment, voluntary separation programs and other personnel issues, visit the secure Air Force Personnel Service website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

## Dietary supplements removed from Exchanges due to health concerns

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has implemented a temporary moratorium on the sales of products containing DMAA within military facilities.

The moratorium will remain in effect pending further review of relevant scientific evidence and reported events, officials said.

Recent reports show that two Soldier deaths and additional adverse health effects in other service members may be related to the use of dietary supplements containing DMAA, which is also known as dimethylamylamine.

"We support the decision of the Military Exchanges and Commissaries to remove products containing DMAA from their shelves until we can make a further determination about the safety of this ingredient," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, the deputy director of Force Health Protection and Readiness Programs with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness.

DMAA is sold as a single supplement and in combination with multiple other ingredients. In particular, it is often combined with caffeine, a legal, natural stimulant. Stimulants may accelerate metabolism, heart rate and blood pressure, which may increase the body's production of heat, especially in hot and humid conditions.

"We are concerned about reports of heat illness, kidney (and) liver damage, and sudden death in service members who reportedly used products containing DMAA," Kilpatrick said.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson asked the surgeons general of the military services to conduct a review of available scientific evidence and adverse event reports to better understand any potential relationship between DMAA and these events. Recommendations from this review will guide further decisions, officials said.

"We take the health of our service members and families very seriously, and believe this action is necessary as a precautionary measure until we can learn more," said Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, the Army surgeon general.

(Courtesy of the U.S. Army Medical Command Public Affairs.)

## Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, Academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website with exception of Air Force publications through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

# Remembering Our Past to Inspire Our Future: 2011 A Year In Review



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

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Kyle Rose takes a picture of a firing T-38 Talon engine while visiting the engine test cell on July 13. Forty-five Civil Air Patrol Cadets arrived here on July 11 for a four day Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training familiarization course in which they were able to glimpse the rigorous demands and awesome opportunities that each student pilot trained at Columbus Air Force Base experiences.

**434-RIDE**  
**662-434-7433**

In the early months of January and February 2011, the preventive program 434-RIDE was initiated with the intent to prevent DUIs. Thanks to a team of volunteers, this anonymous hotline offers a no strings safety-net alternative to getting behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol.

**Dr. Doris Crusoe**  
Wing Historian

As we remember and reflect upon our past journey through 2011, Team BLAZE successfully met numerous challenges as well as celebrated the rewards of those accomplishments. Thus, those events and milestones offer a course in which to inspire future goals.

Throughout the year several memorable cultural events were held, designed to celebrate and embrace the strength of diversity within the Air Force and wing. Even more, the wing held several off-site and on-site leadership events as well as hosted numerous Distinguished Visitors.

In terms of Producing Pilots the wing successfully graduated 308 SUPT students, 15 ALP students and 12 international pilots. Airmen continued to advance as 34 members graduated Airman Leadership School, 20 Noncommissioned Officers graduated the NCO Academy and four Senior Noncommissioned Officers successfully completed SNCOA. Team BLAZE fed the Fight in terms of deployments, when the wing deployed 97 members, the highest number of Airmen ever at any one given time.

Over the past year the 14th Mission Support Group and six squadrons welcomed new commanders. The wing also bid farewell to Col. George Ross and hailed Col. Matt Isler as the new vice commander.

During the early months of January and February, the preventive program 434-RIDE was initiated with the intent to prevent DUIs. Thanks to a team of volunteers, this anonymous hotline offered a no strings safety-net alternative to getting behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol. Moreover, many of the base's sharpest Airmen attended the 2-day AETC Symposium in San Antonio, Texas. The operating system Window Seven was introduced to the base, presenting more than a few challenges.

Perhaps one of the most impressive highlights of the year occurred on Jan. 20, when the City of Columbus received the first ever Air Education and Training Command Altus Trophy for their support of Columbus AFB. Later in February the wing received news that it had won its tenth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period July 1, 2009 to Jun. 30, 2010. During that same month the wing suffered a Class A mishap

when a T-38 crashed in Texas. Fortunately, the pilot escaped with minor injuries.

March could be viewed as an extremely challenging period but quiet a productive and rewarding time as well. A unit compliance inspection was conducted to measure the wing's effectiveness to meet its mission requirements. As a result, Team BLAZE received an overall Satisfactory rating, meeting the mission. Moreover, several individual units and agencies received Outstanding as well as Excellent performance evaluations.

12 May, the base CSC held its grand opening of a new Thrift Shop. Notably, on May 26, Capt. Jeffery A. Hill, a former Columbus AFB student pilot killed while flying a military aircraft, was ceremonially honored and memorialized. His name is engraved onto the Wing's Memorial Wall at Smith's Plaza.

The following month, Columbus AFB hosted 40 Civil Air Patrol cadets from July 11 to 15. The cadets were afforded an opportunity to briefly experience Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. In addition, on July 24, a 21 member team represented the 14th SFS when the group participated in a 146 mile walk from Alexandria, La. to Brookhaven, Miss. This challenging "Ruck March to Remember," was a tribute to the Security Forces Airmen that had fallen over the 10 years since the 9/11 attacks. Each member of the team marched roughly 7.3 miles carrying a 45 lb rucksack and the Security Forces Guidon.

During the extremely warm summer month of July, a grand milestone was witnessed, as the Wing commander landed the first sortie at the Golden Triangle Regional airport. This recorded landing marked the completion of an extended runway which met the required length necessary to utilize the airport for T-38s training purposes. Meanwhile, per guidance from NASA, Columbus AFB Plan 281 (Space Shuttle Ferry Flight Support) and wing contingency checklist G-2, Space Shuttle Support was rescinded as the space shuttle program ended.

In August, T-1 Jayhawk instructor pilots from Columbus AFB were awarded the title of "Best T-1 Team" during the Air Mobility Rodeo 2011 award ceremony. Meanwhile, the wing received a first time visit from Gen. Edward Rice, Commander, Air Education and Training Command and AETC

Command Chief Master Sgt., Jim Cody. Both leaders proclaimed the highest praise for Team BLAZE's accomplishments.

As we moved toward the end of the fiscal year, an Honorary Command induction ceremony held at the BLAZE Hangar would help to aid the course for deeper community relations. Twenty-three honorary commanders participated in the event which allowed them to experience a formal military ceremony. The month of September ended with a successful community tradition, as Team BLAZE came together to show a deep appreciation for local retirees as a Retiree Appreciation Day was held at the Columbus Club.

October would mark the beginning of a new fiscal year and the start of the year's Combined Federal Campaign which would meet and exceed our yearly goal. Through concerted efforts between 14th Operations Group and Communication, Civil Engineers, Contract and Operations Support Squadrons, 31 localizer course guidance system (navigation Aids) were relocated and passed the flight check to the tightest commissioning tolerances.

During the month of November, the Air Force announced its plans to restructure the civilian work force. Although the decision would ultimately affect several Team BLAZE members, the wing leadership worked diligently to ensure that those members who wanted to remain employed with CAFB would be given that choice.

Prior to the calendar year ending, on Dec. 2 the wing was honored with an additional unit as the 14th Student Squadron was reactivated with a mission to manage Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students during casual status and in flying training as well as to manage academic and simulator instruction and student support services.

The base held its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and several members of Team BLAZE participated in the local Columbus Christmas parade. We also need to remember all of our Team BLAZE members deployed around the world supporting the global war on terrorism. They face danger on a daily basis to preserve the freedom all Americans enjoy and many take for granted.

As we bid farewell to 2011 and look ahead to 2012, I wish each of you a safe and prosperous new year.



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

In March the 14th Flying Training Wing underwent a Unit Compliance Inspection, receiving an overall rating of Satisfactory. There was an outpouring of support from the local community to the 14th FTW during the UCI, with many signs wishing the base luck placed outside shops and offices in the local area.



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

Senior Airman Chris Jones runs by a group of supporters July 26, 2011, in Vidalia, La. during their leg of the "Ruck March to Remember." Support during the trip came from the community, local businesses and many police stations.



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

The first ever Altus Trophy for best community support in AETC, shown here, was awarded to the local community, including the City of Columbus and Lowndes County, at the AETC Symposium Jan. 20, in San Antonio, Texas.



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

In August, T-1 Jayhawk instructor pilots from Columbus AFB were awarded the title of "Best T-1 Team" during the Air Mobility Rodeo 2011 award ceremony. In this photo after the event leadership of the 14th Flying Training Wing, 14th Operations Group and 48th Flying Training Squadron stand behind the Columbus T-1 team selected to compete at the Air Force Materiel Command 2011 Rodeo.