

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 36, Issue 9

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

March 2, 2012

## Weather



**Today**

High: 81, Low: 50  
Strong Storms/Wind



**Saturday**

High: 61, Low: 36  
Partly Cloudy



**Sunday**

High: 65, Low: 42  
Partly Cloudy



**Monday**

High: 68, Low: 39  
Sunny

## News Briefs

### Class 12-14 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-14 will hold their Track Select ceremony at 5 p.m. March 8 at the Columbus Club.

### Happy Fund Tournament

This year the Happy Fund will host its Annual Four-Man Scramble Golf Tournament, March 9th at the Whispering Pines Golf Course on Columbus Air Force Base. The primary purpose of the Happy Christmas Fund is to anonymously provide clothes, school supplies and other necessities to underprivileged children in the Columbus, Miss. area. If you are interested in signing up call the Whispering Pines Pro Shop at 434-7932.

### 70th Anniversary Reminder

The 70th Anniversary of Columbus Air Force Base will be celebrated at a banquet on March 9. For more information on parking and last minute tickets, see page 5.

## Inside



Feature **8**

Black History Month is highlighted in this week's feature.

# CAFB holds prayer breakfast

**Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens**

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base was visited by Col. Gerald McManus, Command Chaplin of the Global Strike Command, during its own observation of the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 28 at the Columbus Club.

Team BLAZE, religious leaders and members of the local community participated in this breakfast in part to promote the spiritual aspect of Comprehensive Airman Fitness in order to maintain proper resiliency.

McManus shared several stories that involved people discovering their personal spiritual motivation and using that to inspire resiliency, despite the obstacles life puts in their way.

One story he told involved a girl whose mother held her family together but during the birth of her 15th child went into a coma for 11 years. Despite the downturn that her family took, the girl managed to live a happy life.

“Melinda, a survivor, built a philosophy around the experiences of her life,” said McManus. “As a child, life throws you these things. You learn, you adapt, your mind kicks in helping you to cope and to deal. You have feelings you might want to shut down or give up, but the next day you go on.”

This philosophy represents the overall meaning of resiliency and shows how important it is to remain resilient through tough times.

See **BREAKFAST**, Page 2



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
Col. Gerald McManus, Command Chaplin of the Global Strike Command, speaks at the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 28 at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base. McManus told several stories during the breakfast that demonstrated the importance of spiritual resilience.

## 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 (12-15)	2.22 days	3.06 days	Apr. 2	48th (12-06)	1.17 days	2.92 days	Mar. 16	49th (12-FB)	0.15 days	2.27 days	Apr. 2	T-6	2,505	2,778	12,198
41st (12-14)	2.09 days	0.92 days	Mar. 8	50th (12-06)	-2.05 days	-1.65 days	Mar. 16					T-1	955	930	3,977
												T-38	1,056	1,078	4,536
												IFF	272	295	1,233

The graduation speaker is Brigadier General William B. Binger, Commander, 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas.



## March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month Committee is currently accepting nominations for "Women Pioneers". If you know an amazing woman on Columbus Air Force Base please submit a four line nomination package detailing what makes them a pioneering woman to andrea.smith@columbus.af.mil. No specific format required. Submission due no later than March 19.

March is Women's History Month, the base is planning the following events to celebrate Women's History:

**March 13, noon to 2 p.m. at Kaye Auditorium:** Women's Expo featuring some

of the base's female leadership sharing their stories as well as informational booths from several base agencies.

**March 17, noon to 2 p.m. at the Freedom Park Track:** Shamrock Walk for Women's History.

**Third week in March Columbus Club:** Women's History Month Luncheon with Guest Speaker and awards for "Women Pioneers".

**March 30:** Women's Retreat Ceremony.

The Columbus AFB Library will have display for Women's History Month throughout March.

### BREAKFAST

(Continued from Page 1)

Another story that McManus shared was that of a man that was shot during the Vietnam War and couldn't move or walk. The man found the strength in himself to crawl through the jungle using his arms for three days until he was found and taken to a hospital where they told him that he'd never walk again. He also forged a philosophy based on experiences in his life.

"No matter what your life experience is as a combat soldier, every battle that you're in you are scared to death, said McManus. "You have to choose, are you just going to lie

down or are you going to get back up and fight?"

Col. Barre Seguin, Wing Commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing also spoke during the Prayer Breakfast and noted that the breakfast was beneficial to strengthening Comprehensive Airman Fitness.

"Today is not about a specific faith, but it's about recognition that our fitness in our spiritual domain is as important as our fitness physically, mentally and socially," said Seguin. "So I ask that this be a spiritual renewal of sorts for you in however it was meaningful to you, that your takeaway is one of renewed emphasis in the time you place toward the spiritual domain of fitness to ensure resiliency."

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
5 Night Flying Week	6	7	8 Class 12-14 Track Select, 9 a.m. @ Phillips	9 Happy Fund Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. @ Golf Course 70th Anniversary Banquet, 6 p.m. @ BLAZE Hangar	10/11 OG Career Day (10th) Daylight Savings Time Begins (11th)
12	13	14	15 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel Annex Daedalians, 6:30 p.m. @ Club	16 Class 12-06 SUPT Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	17/18

Long Range Events
March 22: ALS Graduation
March 23: Class 12-07 Assignment Night
March 26: Night Flying Week
March 26: Sports Banquet
March 26: Spring Pilgrimage
March 26: AFAF Campaign Begins
March 27: Newcomers Orientation
March 30: Caring for People Forum
March 30: Class 12-15 Track Select

## SILVER WINGS

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### Submission Deadline

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

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

# Annunciation Catholic School teams up with Columbus AFB

**1st Lt. Mark Hankes**

48th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot

Annunciation Catholic School, in correspondence with their "In Our Nation Now day" teamed up with Columbus Air Force Base members on Feb. 1 to send 20 care packages to deployed Airmen.

"While service is something all classes do throughout the year, we want the school, as a community, to participate in at least two school wide service projects throughout the year as well," said Susan Allgood, Annunciation 3rd Grade teacher. "This year's Catholic Schools Week theme, 'Academics, Faith, and Service' made it perfect time to incorporate a school wide mission project.

The school chose In Our Nation day to celebrate local military men and women and what they do for the nation by giving back and supplying care packages said Allgood. The school also invited active duty and retired military personnel to join them in an assembly and reception in their honor. Capt. Tandon Mardis, an instructor pilot with the 49th Flying Training Squadron attended the assembly.

"Captain Mardis was motivating our students and sharing with them the impact a care package can make to deployed men and women," stated Mrs. Allgood.

The class was challenged to create ten care packages that would be sent to Columbus AFB men and women overseas. The class not only rose to the challenge, but quickly doubled to a total of 20 in a short period of time. Annunciation, despite being a small school, had an overwhelming response from the 3rd grade class, parents, and church members. They donated a conservatively estimated \$1,000 worth of mixed nuts and seeds, beef jerky, lemonade mixes, etc. as well as personalized cards and letters written by the students.



Students from the Annunciation Catholic School and Capt. Tandon Madis, 48th Flying Training Squadron load care packages bound for deployed Columbus Air Force Base members on a truck Feb. 1. The school doubled their original goal and donated a total of 20 care packages, each personalized with cards and letters written by students.

Courtesy photo

"Our students are very aware that we are all called to serve others," said Allgood. "The fact that we have several military families as part of our school family gives our students a greater awareness of the sacrifice military people and their families make for us. Our students and parents are great about stepping up and helping others. By the CAFB (Columbus AFB) provid-

ing us with real names of military men and woman, the students here at Annunciation Catholic School knew exactly who we were helping from Columbus on the other side of the world serving in foreign countries. The students thrived on knowing men and women from Columbus were receiving their packages."

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 65 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## 2011 AETC Airfield Operations annual award winners

Congratulations 2011 AETC Airfield Operations annual award winners:

**Colonel Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year:** Capt. Raul Cantualla Jr., 14th Operations Support Squadron.

**Air Traffic Control Training Achievement Award:** Staff Sgt. Chenoa Clardy, 14th Operations Support Squadron.

Best of luck at the Air Force level competition!

## DBIDS socialization phase

14th Security Forces Squadron is conducting a socialization phase of the Defense Biometric Identification System. During the socialization phase, your ID card will be scanned to verify proper registration. If you have not registered your ID card, we ask that you report to the Visitor Control Center to complete required

actions. The VCC is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We do not anticipate any delays, however, please be patient as you enter the installation. If you have questions or concerns, contact Master Sgt. Christopher Fitzhugh at 434-7236 or Tech Sgt. Donnie Stone at 434-2111.



Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing commander (center) pauses for a photo with Congressman Alan Nunnelee, first congressional district of Mississippi, Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics, Sarah Young, House Appropriations Committee staffer, State Senator Terry Brown Mississippi Senator Pro-Tem, members of U.S. Senator Thad Cochran's staff, BLAZE senior leaders and members of Mississippi governor Phil Bryant's staff toured Columbus AFB Friday Feb. 24. Ferguson was invited by the Mississippi Congressman Nunnelee to tour Columbus AFB to better understand the complexities of the pilot training mission.

## Ferguson visits Columbus Air Force Base

**Lt. Col. Michael Harner**  
Commander, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Last week, Columbus Air Force Base hosted several high-level distinguished visitors from Washington, D.C. for a one-day orientation of the installation's mission, personnel and community. One of the visitors was Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations. Ferguson is responsible for the management, policy and oversight of the \$6 billion annual Air Force installation and facility programs. These programs include facility management, base closures, military construction, family housing, acquisition, maintenance, operation, repair and disposal of real property. In essence,

she is the senior Air Force civilian for civil engineering.

During her time with the BLAZE team, Ms Ferguson was given a mission brief, toured the base and interacted with the Airmen. In addition, she took time out of her busy schedule to hold a civilian call for the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron. As a career civil service employee, Ferguson started her career at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. as a design civil engineer and has been a part of civil engineering community throughout her more than 30 years with the Air Force.

While speaking to the squadron, Ferguson discussed the acceleration of the civil engineer transformation that is occurring at Headquarters Air Force, all major commands and base level squadrons. She also discussed how the

civil engineer community will consolidate resources from the commands into a centralized support organization managed through two forward operating agencies. In addition, she talked about the impacts to the Secretary of Defense's request for two rounds of Base Realignment and Closure, as well as entertained other presented by 14th CES civilians. Her willingness to meet and discuss openly the view from the top with the civilian work force was most appreciated and extremely well received. She clearly articulated the importance of staying the course and finding ways to be more innovative and in the end emphasized how engineers will continue to lead the way as we build ready engineers, build great leaders, and build sustainable installations.

## TrailBLAZE'r



**Name:** Senior Airman Justin Rodriguez  
**Unit:** 14th Civil Engineering Squadron  
**Job title:** Fire Inspector  
**Time at Columbus AFB:** Four and a half Years  
**Time in Service:** Five Years  
**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas  
**Career goals:** Become the best in everything I do.  
**Family members:** Beautiful wife Priscilla and superhero son Lawson.  
**Favorite musician:** Notorious B.I.G.  
**Favorite movie:** Zoolander.  
**Biggest pet peeve:** When people live by a double standard.  
**Favorite book:** "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding  
**Inspirations:** My Dad, he always put his family first growing up and I respected that.  
**Personal motto:** No matter how good you are doing, you can always do better!

## 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.



# CMSAF Roy: Developing Airmen key to future success

**Tech. Sgt. Richard A. Williams, Jr.**  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

ORLANDO, Fla. — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy emphasized the evolution of training Airmen before a crowd of approximately 400 Airmen, industry officials and Air Force Association members here Feb. 24.

Roy, who spoke on the second day of the Air Force Association's 2012 Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition, told attendees that developing Airmen and working to unlock their full potential are keys to the success of the future force.

"We have great Airmen, we have a good process as to how we develop those Airmen and we need to evolve that process," Roy said.

With around 68 percent of Airmen in the Total Force joining after Sept. 11, 2001, and with an average age of 21 years upon enlistment, Roy said these Airmen tend to be a bit more mature than recruits were ten years ago, and they quickly get a different Air Force experience than the pre-9/11 force.

"In my view, we have the most combat hardened force that we have ever had," he said. "The experiences they have received over their tenure are certainly different than maybe mine over the last 30 years."

This means several challenges face leaders in today's Air Force, including how to train



and mentor the 21st Century Airmen, many of whom have served on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Another significant challenge in today's Air Force is training Airmen in an effective, efficient manner using advanced technology, Roy said.

"Today's Airmen are digital natives," he said. "They know new technology, how it works, what it should look like and how it should interact."

"We have Airmen who are using this equipment, using laptops and other devices out on the airfield doing aircraft maintenance," he added.

These "digital natives" are certainly in tune with how to use the latest technology, and Roy is convinced the service can exploit that to

*With around 68 percent of Airmen in the Total Force joining after Sept. 11, 2001, and with an average age of 21 years upon enlistment, Roy said these Airmen tend to be a bit more mature than recruits were ten years ago, and they quickly get a different Air Force experience than the pre-9/11 force.*

better prepare Airmen to meet mission requirements.

Air Education and Training Command officials are looking into the concept of deploying training materials through electronic readers.

Airmen can already find promotion test study materials online, and Roy said Airmen are in many cases jumping at the chance to download these to their electronic devices.

"Some Airmen today get a link to their CDC's and they have a choice of a hard copy or a soft [electronic] copy," Roy said.

Many opt for the electronic CDC's because they get them immediately, he added.

With this in mind, Air University and the Air War College are both providing electronic materials for distance learning to their stu-

dents with some success. This could become a viable way to enhance professional military education not only for active duty Airmen, but for Guardsmen and Reservists, of whom only 10 percent currently attend in-resident PME, Roy said.

"Digital media would allow everyone to get the most updated versions of material possible," Roy said, adding this would lead to earlier, more consistent exposure to Air Force institutional competencies, better preparing Airmen for mission requirements.

The use of new technologies could be a beneficial tool for developing Airmen from basic training until retirement, but Roy cautioned that it's not a fix-all.

Leaders must still use the proper mix of training and hands-on applications in order for Airmen to maintain their technological edge, said Roy.

"We have to make sure our Airmen are absolutely grounded in the idea of tactical expertise," Roy said. "Fundamentally that's who we are."

Reiterating earlier comments made by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Schwartz, Roy said, "We are going to have a smaller force so we need to make sure our Airmen, the right Airmen, are at the right place at the right time, with the right skills."

## BARGAIN LINE

### Transportation

**For sale:** White 2003 Chevy Venture van LT. Tan interior, heat and air-conditioning, 3.4 liter V6 engine, front-wheel drive, power windows and power locks, luggage rack. 121,760 miles. \$5,300. Call 240-1243.

### Homes

**For sale:** Furnished 1,500 sq. ft. ranch-styled home, three bedroom two bathroom, sits on one and a half acres just two miles in front of South Gate. Ideal for lightly traveled professionals who don't have a ton of stuff (furniture and appliances must stay). Non-smoking and pet-less candidates preferred. \$650 per month plus utilities with \$300

deposit. Contact (202) 368-0898 for showing, application and credit check.

**For sale:** 2006 Clayton mobile home, 14' x 56', two bedrooms and one bathroom, all electric, located on lot outside gate of CAFB. Good condition. \$15,500. Call 251-5990.

### Miscellaneous

**For sale:** Kincaid cherry wood three-piece entertainment center, pocket doors, \$350. Call 889-3974.

**For sale:** Great Outdoors TG560N Grill. Natural gas, 560 sq. inches, five stainless burners at 60,000 BTU's, 12,000 BTU side burner and rotisserie, \$100. Call 889-3974

**For sale:** Sony Xplod Power Amp, XM-GTX6040, 600 watts, new. \$50. Call 889-3974.

**For sale:** Ruger Vaquero .45 Colt single-action revolver. Wood grips, excellent condition, includes old-style leather holster, \$499. Assorted muzzle-loader accessories, powder, caps, balls, bullets, quick loaders, measure, bullet starter, etc. Call 434-8544.

**For sale:** Three-in-one game table with cover. Pool, air hockey and table tennis. Excellent condition. \$95. Call 328-1925.

**For sale:** Beer making equipment. Call 386-1408 for details.

### Wanted

**Wanted:** Local Chapter 6 of the Disabled American Veterans are in need of several used computers and printers. If you have a used computer or printer you would like to donate, please contact the Senior Vice President John Owens at 434-1096 or 434-1393.

Visit us online!  
[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)

# AETC commander: Air Force staying ahead of learning curve

**Dianne Moffett**  
Air Education and Training  
Command Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash  
**Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., the commander of Air Education and Training Command, addresses Airmen and defense industry professionals about the future of Air Force learning at the Air Force Association's 2012 Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 23, 2012.**

ORLANDO, Fla. — The commander of Air Education and Training Command spoke about the future of Air Force learning at the Air Force Association's 2012 Air Warfare Symposium here Feb. 23.

Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr. addressed Airmen and defense industry professionals on the Air Force's need to continue to adapt how the Air Force provides Airmen the tactical expertise, operational competency and strategic vision to execute the full range of Air Force missions.

"Training provides Airmen with the capabilities to answer questions; education prepares Airmen to ask the right questions in the first place," Rice said. "To operate in the world as it exists today, with its increased constraints in budgets and increased pace of technology, the balance between training and education will shift and weigh more on education."

The Air Force has to adapt to an unprecedented change in technology, he said. More technology has been introduced in the last 25 years than in the previous 200 years.

"The Airmen we bring in today are of the millennial generation," Rice said. "They learn

very differently than our previous generations. These magnificent young people, with all their abilities, are fully capable of multitask-

ing, are at home with new technology and are very comfortable in the cyberspace world."

Rice said the Air Force must facilitate

learning with less traditional classroom-based teaching and shift to learning with the full spectrum of tools today's technology can provide, including tablets that hold all class publications and manuals for each Airman, computer-based training and high-fidelity simulator training.

Virtual extended classrooms will provide more hands-on training and allow Airmen to learn at their own pace, the general said. If an Airman has a problem, they can login to a class chat room or seek individual help from an instructor.

"Sometimes the feedback you get from a computer simulator is more accurate than from an instructor," Rice said.

Increased use of technology will also increase the cost effectiveness of training, he said. The general cited the cost of flying operations for undergraduate pilot training as an example. The UPT price tag is lower than in previous years because of the use of high-fidelity training simulators, which lessen requirements for flight time and fuel.

"We must embrace the opportunity of technology to shape our future in terms favorable to the United States Air Force," Rice said.

# Collaborative effort in making force structure changes

**Mitch Gettle**  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — Air Force total force officials discussed the strategic planning efforts that resulted in making the 'hard choices' affecting future Air Force viability and force structure here Feb. 22.

Driven by the 2011 Budget Control Act and new defense strategy, the Air Force needed to align the current force structure to get the best mix of active duty, Guard and reserve forces to carry out the new strategy, said Maj. Gen. James "Mike" Holmes, the assistant deputy chief of staff for Operations Plans and Requirements.

Holmes detailed the Air Force's fiscal 2013 force structure plan and how the strategic shift to the Asian-Pacific region and change in future fight scenarios dictated the decisions made.

Given the current fiscal landscape, the Air Force targeted four areas to ensure a relevant and capable total force.

"We need to continue some modernization ... balance a force structure that is sufficient for requirements of the new strategy ... fund readiness to ensure our force doesn't become hollow ... (and) take care of our people," Holmes said.

The Air Force needed to balance these four areas as it looked to reduce costs in the upcoming budget, he added.

Holmes was joined in the discussion by Maj. Gen. James "JJ"

*"We need to continue some modernization ... balance a force structure that is sufficient for requirements of the new strategy ... fund readiness to ensure our force doesn't become hollow ... (and) take care of our people," Holmes said.*

Jackson, the deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, and Maj. Gen William Etter, the deputy director of the Air National Guard.

Jackson explained the collaborative efforts that led to the current force structure decisions.

The process started in summer 2011 when Air Force leaders from the active and Reserve components began discussions on the future total force, Jackson said. As the budget and strategy outlook evolved over the next six months, so did the force structure discussions, and as with any collaborative effort there were some concerns over the choices that needed to be made.

The active, Guard and Reserve interests were represented in these discussions and any concerns were vetted during the sum-

mer process, Etter added.

Etter and Jackson, involved in the congressional discussion process for budget and force structure, said it is in this setting where many concerns about the Air Force's force structure decisions are discussed.

"Every state has concerns and they're mostly local concerns," Jackson said. "We tried to look at it holistically, across the whole total force, across the whole United States, and of course that is where the decision process and military judgment had to come in.

"When you have a discussion on the process and the decisions made from the strategy on the (hard) choices we had to make, (congressional leaders) are accepting of the process, in my opinion," Jackson said. "They didn't like it but, just like all three of us here, had to make hard choices; we don't necessarily like every choice we had to make for the Air Force."

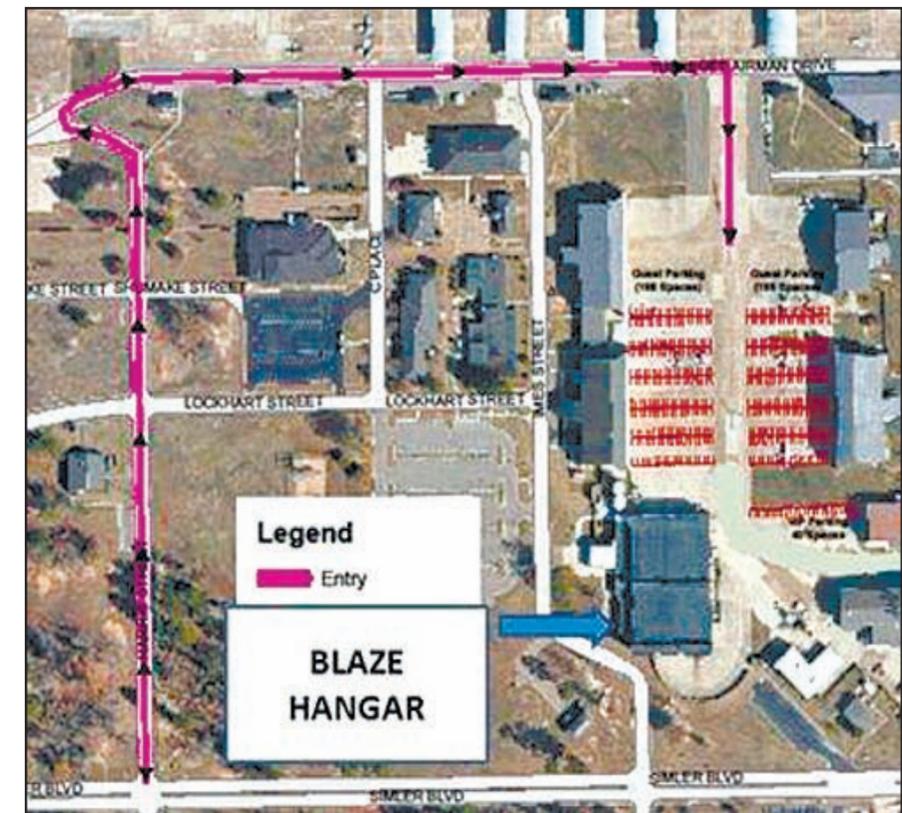
Another thing prevalent in the congressional meetings is an understanding "we have very difficult financial challenges ... and given that financial challenge, there are only so many ways to go down a path," Etter added. "There is (also) an understanding that the budget is going to be a challenge to the nation and because of that there's going to be reductions."

Currently, only the aircraft and mission change force structure announcements have been made. The manpower force structure details will be released in early March.

# Fashion Runway BLAZE



Courtesy photo/2nd Lt. Jon Averca  
**Capt. David Macon, 14th Civil Engineer Programs Flight Chief shows off during the BLAZE the Runway Fashion Show and After Party at the Club. The event was a joint venture between the Columbus Club and the Base Entertainment Committee, and was sponsored by Belk, Hunt Columbus Military Housing, and JC Penney (no federal endorsement of sponsors intended).**



# CAFB 70th Anniversary tips

It's time to get ready for one of the biggest events of the year for team BLAZE! Next Friday, March 9th will mark the 70th anniversary of the very first class to graduate from pilot training here at Columbus. Not only is this a momentous achievement in of itself, but the night is poised to honor the occasion in an equally spectacular fashion.

To help everyone prepare for the night, the 70th Anniversary Committee wanted to share some more details to ensure everyone has an enjoyable and safe evening:

**Location:** BLAZE Hangar  
**Times:** 6 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Dinner, Dancing until 10 p.m.  
**Parking:** Behind the Blaze Hangar (see caption)  
**Free Shuttle Service:** A ride home to anywhere in the Columbus area from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. (Shuttle will leave approximately every 30 minutes or as demand dictates.)

**Beverages:** Full bar service available (a few bars may be cash only!)  
**Attire:** Service dress or heritage uniform  
**Tickets:** \$30  
Buy your tickets while you can, dust off that

vintage uniform, and come celebrate alongside your fellow "Legendary Airmen" at a truly remarkable evening!

## Highlights Include

- Guest Speaker - U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, Former Columbus Air Force Base Judge Advocate
- 20 Piece Orchestra Performing Live Jazz and Swing Music
- Vintage Warbirds and Columbus AFB Historic Displays
- Local WWII Veterans
- Heritage Uniforms Encouraged!

## Contact The Following For Your Unit Ticket Representative:

- 14 Operations Group — Maj. Andrew Wistril, 434-1660
- 14 Medical Group — Staff Sgt. Kareema Palmer, 434-2205
- 14 Mission Support Group — Michael Mangus, 434-7445
- Dyncorp — Laura Dunser, 434-2824
- 14th Wing Staff Agencies — Maj. Ferrari, 434-7076

## Five sew on new stripe



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

**Congratulations to our newly promoted enlisted Airmen: Senior Airman Parrish Dejon Cox, 14th Medical Operation Squadron, Tech Sgt. Danielle Lytle, 14th MDOS, Senior Airman Joseph Plumpp, 14th Operations Support Squadron, Airman First Class Andrew James Devers, 14th MDOS, Airman Nicholas Gordon Halbasch, 14th OSS.**

## Deployed Staff Sgt. promoted



U.S. Air Force photo

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Lofgren, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Peter Stone, 380th AEW Command Chief promote Staff Sgt. Seth Babcock effective March 1. Babcock is deployed from Columbus Air Force Base as part of a 6-man fire fighting team.**

## Red Tails Traveling Exhibit



**The Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron's new Rise Above Traveling Exhibit will visit downtown Columbus in the Hitching Lot Farmers Market parking lot Feb. 29 through March 3 and reserved for Columbus Air Force Base March 3 from 8 a.m. to noon. The travelling exhibit is a customized 53' trailer with expandable sides that houses a 160-degree curved movie screen and seating for 30 in climate-controlled comfort. A 14-minute original movie called "Rise Above" focuses on what the Tuskegee Airmen - pilots and their support personnel - had to overcome to be allowed to fly and fight for their country during World War II. It also features some great flying footage - in the Mustang - that is enhanced by the long curved screen. Sponsored by the Texas Flying Legends Museum, admission to the Rise Above movie is free. For more information, or to reserve seating for a group, contact 329-1191**

## Base News

### 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.

### Contraceptive Counseling Class

There are currently many safe and effective options for preventing or delaying pregnancy. The staff of the 14th Medical Group, wants to make sure you have the information you need to make your best choice. The Family Health Clinic is now offering a Birth Control Counseling Class covering topics ranging from natural family planning to tubal ligation. The class is offered once a month and taught by a Women's Health Provider and a Registered Nurse. Classes will be held at the Koritz Clinic, the last Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30. Please call the clinic appointment line at 662-434-2273 to reserve your spot in the next Birth Control Counseling Class.

### CLEP Testing Discontinued

The Columbus Education Office no longer offers CLEP exams. Computerized CLEP testing however 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>.

### ACT/SAT Testing

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

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

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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

### Saint Leo University

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

### Base Thrift Shop

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

### Sponsorship training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application and Training (eSAT) is now available. It can be found on the MilitaryINSTALLATIONS homepage <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>, under "Are You a Sponsor?"

### Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

Mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring. Briefing should be completed at least 90 days prior to separation and may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 a.m. and takes approximately 30 minutes.

### Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty person-

nel who are deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at the AFRC; Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m. and post-deployment at 1:30 p.m.

### 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

A Transition Assistance Program workshop will be held March 6-8 starting at 7:30 a.m. Seminars on March 6: 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.

### Hearts Apart Social

March 6 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel, information, refreshments, and activities. Please RSVP when invitations are received. Headcount of attendance prior to event is critical for planning and preparation. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

### Using the Internet for Job Search and Transition

March 14 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Using the internet to enhance your job search. Tips, websites and how to succeed.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic Community

**Sunday:**  
3:30 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice  
4 p.m. – Confession  
5 p.m. – Mass  
6 p.m. – RCIA

**Thursday:**  
4:15 p.m. – Choir Practice

### Protestant Community

**Sunday:**  
9 a.m. – Adult Bible Study  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service  
Noon – Monthly Potluck Lunch

Fellowship (4th Sun)  
6:30 p.m. – Youth Study (Grades 6-12)

**Tuesday:**  
9:00 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study—*David: Seeking A Heart Like His* by Beth Moore, begins Feb. 14  
5 p.m. – Lieutenants Bible Study

**Wednesday:**  
4:30 p.m. – Choir Practice  
5 p.m. – Dinner  
6 p.m. – Religious Education: Adults, Children (Pioneer Clubs—ages 3-12)

**Saturday:**  
7 a.m. – Men's Monthly Breakfast and Study—*12 Ordinary Men* (2nd Sat)

## Services officials announce teen summer camps

Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Services Agency officials recently announced the call for three Air Force teen summer camps for 2012.

The annual camps are designed to help Air Force youth build leadership skills and aspire to careers in space or aviation.

The Teen Aviation Camp is scheduled for June 2-7 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and is designed to give youth an experience that will help them decide if aviation or the Academy is a career choice. Participants will get to fly inside a Cessna 145 among other aviation activities.

The Teen Leadership Camp is scheduled for July 8-13 at the University of Texas at San Antonio. This camp will give youth a glimpse of what university life is like while developing their leadership skills. Activities include team building, rope courses, conflict resolution and public speaking.

The Air Force Services Space Camp is scheduled for July 22-27 at the U.S. Space and

Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. The camp allows youth to experience, imagine and interact through space shuttle mission simulations, tours of the space center and the chance to witness everyday challenges faced by astronauts.

All applicants must be a dependent of an active-duty Air Force member living on an Air Force or joint base installation or a dependent of an Air Force guardsman, reservist, retiree or civilian. Applicants must be entering their sophomore or junior year in the fall of 2012 to apply for the aviation and leadership camps. The space camp is open to youth ages 12-18.

Teens interested in applying must complete a nomination registration form and submit the form to their installation youth program by April 2. Selected participants will be notified by April 20.

Attendees will only be responsible for transportation costs; all lodging, meals and program costs will be at no charge to participants.

For more information about each camp or other Air Force youth programs, visit [www.afyouthprograms.com](http://www.afyouthprograms.com).

# Base families offered a wide variety of activities

## Youth Awards Celebration

Youth Programs will award its members for best attendance, best participation and other outstanding achievements and service in Youth activities on Feb. 28, 4:15 p.m., at the Youth Center. Parents are invited to attend. Contact the Youth Center at 434-2504 for more information.

## Photography Contest

Entries for Youth Program's base level photography contest will be displayed Mar. 20, 3 - 6 p.m., at the Youth Center. Youth ages 6-18 who are members of the Youth Center are encouraged to learn and practice their photography skills and participate. Black and white, color, digital and alternative process submissions are due by Mar. 14. It is free to become a Youth Center member! For more information, please call 434-2504.

## Perimeter Road Run

The annual Perimeter Road Run is set for Mar. 16, 7 a.m. Commanders' trophy points are awarded for participation in this event. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

## Intramural Volleyball

Get with your unit's fitness representative now to sign up for Intramural Volleyball. Play starts Mar. 27. Special thanks to our annual Fitness Program Sponsors who make our intramural programs possible. They are Premier Ford, Bud Light, Cable One, ESPN Radio, WCBI, The Dispatch, Ashley Furniture, Triangle Federal Credit Union, Annunciation Catholic School, Splash in a Flash, Rob Naugher of State Farm, Saint Leo University, Patti Johnson of Century 21 – Doris Hardy and Associates and North Mississippi Medical Center. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

## Sign Up for Air Force Youth Camps

Applications are now being accepted for the coveted scholarship spots to the Air Force's elite teen camps this summer. Teen Aviation Camp is in Colorado Springs, Co., June 2-7, and is open to teens entering their sophomore or junior year next fall. Space Camp will be at the U.S. Rocket and Space Center in Huntsville, AL, July 22-27, and is open to ages 12-18. Teen Leadership Camp is set for July 9-13 at University of Texas at San Antonio and is open to teens which have completed their freshmen school year at the time of camp. Application submissions for all three camps are due no later than Mar. 8. All applicants must be interviewed before their application will be submitted. For more information about the application process or for applications, please call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

## Blue or Green Plate Specials?

Yes, that's right! You can get either a blue or green plate special for lunch during the week right here on base. Both offer great food choices at fantastic prices. The Columbus Club offers a daily blue plate special Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., for just \$6.95 for nonmembers and \$5.95 for members. Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a green plate special Tue.-Fri., 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., for just \$6.95. Drinks are included in prices. For more information, contact the Club at 434-2419 or the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

## 3-4-1 Rentals at Outdoor Recreation

Rent on Friday and return on Monday for a one-day rental fee Feb. 1 – Mar. 30. Offer excludes boat and camper rentals but includes many other great get-away items such as canoes, kayaks,



jumpers, tents, trailers, etc. For more information, drop by or call Outdoor Rec at 434-2505.

## Lifeguards and Swim Instructors Needed

Outdoor Recreation is looking for certified lifeguards and certified swim instructors for the upcoming summer pool season. For more information on how to apply, call Steven Bocek at 434-2507.

## Daily Fitness Classes Available

Columbus AFB Fitness & Sports offers a variety of heart-pumping, sweat-inducing classes throughout the week including weekday spin classes, Mon., 11 a.m., Wed., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m. There's a Stroller Fitness Class, Tues., 9 a.m., beginning at Freedom Park. Come check out Zumba every Tues. and Thurs., 11:30 a.m., and circuit training classes on Tues. and Thurs., 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 434-2772 or go online to [www.cafbfssrocks.com](http://www.cafbfssrocks.com) and click on the link to the Fitness page.

## Framing and Engraving at Great Prices

Don't forget to "Shop CAFB First" when you are looking for the perfect gift! Arts and Crafts custom frames and engravings just about anything for prices much lower than you'll get in town. For more information, stop by or call 434-7936.

## 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!

## Car Maintenance on Base

Don't forget you can get your general automotive maintenance and repairs at the Auto Hobby Shop right here on base and even while you work. If you are a do-it-yourselfer or shade-tree mechanic, Auto Hobby offers a wide array of where you can also get general auto maintenance and repairs. For more information and pricing, drop by Auto Hobby or call 434-7842.

## 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 WORLD-WIDE...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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Know where your loyalty lays

**Lt. Col. William Bryant**  
51st Fighter Wing Director of Staff

*Our loyalty to the Air Force should likewise take precedence over unit loyalty.*

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Unfortunately, some magazines often include articles detailing abuse of authority and position by leaders in the Air Force. The obvious question often is, “Why didn’t somebody say something earlier?” If you asked the individuals who knew what was going on why they didn’t say anything, the answer would likely be that reporting the incidents would have been “disloyal.” This view, while very common, is also very wrong.

Loyalty can be defined as “faithful adherence to a sovereign, government, leader, cause, etc.” The key to many people’s misunderstanding of loyalty is the many levels listed in the above definition. For professional Airmen, our loyalty is to the nation first, to the Air Force second, to the unit we are assigned to third, and finally to individual leaders or ourselves. Higher levels of loyalty take precedence over the lower when there is a conflict.

Our loyalty to the nation is contained in the oath we take when we enter service. We swear to, “support and defend the Constitution of the United States.” This is our highest professional loyalty and should take precedence over all others. For example, if a staffer at the Pentagon knew that the Air Force was violating the law in an acqui-

sition program, his loyalty to the nation would take precedence over his loyalty to the Air Force and he should report what he knows to an appropriate agency such as the Inspector General. Many of the worst acquisition scandals could have been avoided if this concept of nested loyalty was better understood, and in the long run, the Air Force would be a stronger force than it is today.

Our loyalty to the Air Force should likewise take precedence over unit loyalty. An example of this might be if an individual in a unit knew that inspection records were being falsified. To report this information makes the unit look bad, but is required for Air Force leaders to understand the real state of the force so we can accomplish our mission.

The next level of loyalty is to the unit. While some people will disagree, I believe that this is the last level of loyalty that is mandatory. We owe loyalty to the unit or organization but not necessarily to the individual who is currently running that unit. However, we do owe appropri-

# Leave your shell behind; the lesson of the lobster

**Lt. Col. Oliver Leeds**  
92nd Air Refueling Squadron  
Commander

it was definitely not moving.

My father reassured me that he wasn’t dead and gone; he had shed his shell and was watching us from behind a rock. But why was he hiding? My father explained the lobster was vulnerable without his shell, and he hid to seek safety.

I don’t remember how old I was when this happened, but I found fault with this explanation: “If the lobster needs to be safe and he’s safe inside his shell, then why would he ever leave his shell?” In answering this question, my father sprung my first philosophy lesson on me: “If he never leaves his shell, he never gets any bigger.”

Every morning when I woke, the first thing I did was run to the fish tank to see my “lobster.” One morning, a rather appalling sight greeted me: a hollow shell. It looked like the lobster, but it had become transparent, it lacked tentacles and

times I’ve reflected on that lesson is astounding. Safety is essential, but it’s not our purpose. We are programmed for growth; it’s in our DNA. People from all walks of life face frequent choices between these two imperatives: to leave our “comfort bubbles” and dare something new, or to play it safe? Tragically, many choose to deny themselves life’s challenges in order to play it safe and, like Shakespeare’s cowards, they “die many times before their deaths.”

This is not to suggest we should be anti-safety. Safety is a mindset that serves us well — especially when we “leave our shells” — but pursued as an ultimate end,

ate respect to individuals based on rank or position. If a commander or supervisor is doing something to hurt the organization, your loyalty to the organization should cause you to report it despite the fact that doing so might be viewed as disloyal to the person.

Personal loyalty is the final level of loyalty, and here is where the most common issues lie. Many leaders believe this loyalty is their right based on rank and position. I disagree. Personal loyalty is earned through action and loyalty to the subordinate. It’s not a right that comes with the position. Personal loyalty is a powerful force for good within an organization, and it can be found woven into all of the highest performing organizations. True personal loyalty is not “quid pro quo” and is not based on what the other person can do for you. It is based on honest involvement and caring by both leaders and subordinates in each other’s lives and careers. To build personal loyalty a leader should start by exhibiting loyalty.

Confusion about loyalty in the Air Force is often generated by a lack of understanding that loyalty at the higher levels trumps loyalty at the lower levels. There are also many leaders who believe that they are owed personal loyalty by their subordinates even when there is wrongdoing. While personal loyalty is a powerful force for good in a high performing organization, it must be earned through reciprocal loyalty to subordinates.

results in nothing. Like the lobster, we ought to think of growth as the given assumption and safety as a way to manage all the vulnerabilities that go with it.

The Air Force term for growth is “professional development.” That kind of growth requires us to change jobs, take new assignments and even live in new countries. In each new environment, we listen more, and we learn fast. We harden our shells with the confidence of new knowledge, and, at the end of the process, we are “bigger” in our minds and safe, too. We thrive, we lead.

Until the itch to leave our shells begins again.

## 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.

# Black History Month Concludes

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

Master Sgt. Norma Chism, 14th Operations Group First Sergeant shared a story of perseverance through tests and the changing of America during the 2012 Black History Month Luncheon on Feb. 27 at the Columbus Club.

Her speech centered on the topic "Every Testimony Begins with a Test", and pointing out how that topic has changed each individual, and how specifically the tests of black women changed them and America.

"Think about your test, what was it, and how did you handle it?" said Chism "The word test sometimes makes us a little uncomfortable: PT Test. WAPS Test. You get a lot of emotions when it comes to those things, but when you make it personal; what was your test, and what was your proven ability, what was your proven character that test allowed you to see about yourself?"

Despite all of the negative emotions about tests, she pointed out that tests are what make people grow. Pointing out a specific example of a black woman who went through many

tests throughout her life, Chism pointed out how both she grew, and helped change a nation.

"The one that I chose to talk about today, she walked in shadows. Oftentimes would you hear her spouse's name, but very rarely were her accomplishments ever highlighted," said Chism. "Yes, she endured hurt, pain, rejection. Even her life oftentimes was threatened to be taken. This remarkable woman withstood the test of time. I would like to highlight the accomplishments of none other than Ms. Coretta Scott King."

Chism gave a brief introduction to the tests of discrimination throughout the life of Ms. King, in her accomplishments and her daily life.

"Many don't know that though she walked in the shadows of her husband, she herself was a civil rights activist. Although she was a mother, she found a way to balance motherhood, being an awesome wife to her husband as he made his mark in history, and she even had her own interests."

Ms. King was also part of a Women's Rights activist, as well as the Founder, CEO and president of the Martin Luther King Jr. center for non-violent social change in Atlanta Georgia

said Chism. It was also Ms. King who fought the 15 year battle to make her husband's birthday a national holiday.

"This woman didn't give up when facing adversity; she didn't throw in the towel as she was burdened by creating a culture of change. She didn't quit when she found herself having more people against her than were for her," said Chism.

Ms. King wasn't the only Black Woman in America that has shaped America into what it is today. Chism pointed out popular names as historic as Rosa Parks and as modern as Oprah Winfrey, but also reminded attendees that many names of women who had faced tests and persevered were not recorded, but the effects of their efforts remain. Dedicating a story of a magnificent sword that was forged from an old rock to these women both known and unknown, Chism brought the story full circle.

"To all of the African American women that consider themselves to be just an old rock, we want you to know that we love you, we're so proud of you," she said. "We're proud of you for never giving up and never giving in and for you teaching us because of what you went through, truly your test is our testimony."



Courtesy photo

**Tech Sgt. Lanelle Scott, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, reads to children at the Child Development Center on Feb. 7. Black History Month volunteers did two readings to at the CDC on Feb. 7 and Feb. 9.**



Courtesy photo

**2nd Lt. Joseph Ampong, 14th Medical Support Squadron, serves food for Chaplain (Maj.) Leslie Janovec, 14th Flying Training Wing at the Soul Food Sampling event on Feb. 15 at the Chapel Annex. The Soul Food Sampling is a Black History Month event held to help promote culture through food.**



Courtesy photo

**Students from the Columbus High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps toured Columbus Air Force Base on Feb. 17. The tour was set up as part of partnering with the local community during Black History Month.**



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

**Master Sgt. Norma Chism, 14th Operations Group First Sergeant, was the featured speaker for the 2012 Black History Month Luncheon. The theme of her speech was "Every Testimony Begins with a Test."**



**Airman 1st Class Nicholas Mack, 14th Medical Support Squadron, performs during Open Mic Night Feb. 10 at the Columbus Club. The theme for the event was The Harlem Renaissance Era, a cultural movement from the 1920's and 1930's.**