

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 36, Issue 10

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

March 9, 2012

# COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY

## Columbus AFB holds major event 70 years after first pilot class graduation

Columbus Air Force Base will hold the major event for celebrating its 70th Anniversary with a banquet tonight Friday, March 9 at the BLAZE Hangar.

The banquet will feature planes and memorabilia from by-gone eras as well as guest speaker and former Judge Advocate for the 14th Flying Training Wing U.S. State Senator Roger Wicker.

The date March 9 was chosen for

the event due to being the Friday closest to the first graduation of a pilot class 70 years ago on March 6, 1942.

See BANQUET Page 5

## ADVANCING AIRMEN: SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT PROMOTIONS

### Three from CAFB promoted

The Air Force Personnel Center released the selection list for senior master sergeant on March 8 at 8 a.m.

Three Team BLAZE members have been promoted to the second highest enlisted rank in the Air Force. Selected for promotion are:

See PROMOTIONS, Page 6

## OUR 14TH FTW PATCH

The history imbedded in the 14th Flying Training Wing Patch

**2nd Lt. Robert Dawson**  
14th Student Squadron

To the casual observer, the wing patch of the 14th Flying Training Wing appears as little more than an awkward Star Trek clone. On the contrary, a little investigation into the subject will reveal that our wing patch is full of inspiring symbols that are reminiscent of a rich history of legendary heroism. In its lifetime, the 14th FTW has also been the 14th Fighter Wing of WWII and the 14th Air Commando Wing and 14th Special Operations Wing of Vietnam.

See PATCH, Page 4

## TOURNAMENT SUPPORTS LOCAL LEGACY

### Four man scramble raises money for Happy Fund

The Happy Fund will host its Annual Four-Man Scramble Golf Tournament, March 9 at the Whispering Pines Golf Course on Columbus Air Force Base. While usually held on the Friday closest to Happy Irby's birthday on March 27 this year the tournament was moved to accommodate visiting guests to Columbus AFB for the 70th anniversary celebration.

The tournament will raise money for the Happy Christmas Fund, an organization dedicated to carrying on the memory and traditions of George "Happy" Irby by anonymously providing clothes, school supplies and other necessities to underprivileged children in the Columbus, Miss. area and other support during the holiday season.

In a tradition started over 50 years ago, local hero Happy Irby and his wife Sara saved tip money and donations from friends to help underprivileged children stay in school by pro-

See TOURNAMENT, Page 7

## PAST CC'S RETURN

### Three revisit CAFB for 70th celebration

Three prior wing commanders of Columbus Air Force Base will return on Friday, March 9 to help celebrate the base's 70th Anniversary.

Retired Col. Nick Ardillo, served as the wing commander

See PAST CC'S, Page 7

## NEW DRESSES FOR CLASSIC HOMES

Columbus Spouse's Club supports local community's Spring Pilgrimage by supplying dresses

**Airman 1st Class  
Charles Dickens**

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Every year members of Columbus Air Force Base volunteer to help the local community during the Annual

See DRESSES, Page 5

## IFF 12-EBC AND 12-FBC2 GRADUATE

### Six complete first phase of fighter pilot and weapon system operator training

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron graduated Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 12-EBC and 12-FBC2 on March 1. These six members completed this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots and weapons system operators in the Combat Air Forces.

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and

See IFF, Page 3

## DEPLOYED CAFB MEDICS PROVIDE CARE IN BELIZE

**SSgt Bryan Franks**  
Joint Task Force-Bravo  
Public Affairs

BELLA VISTA, Belize — A 46-member team from Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, provided medical care to approximately 620 Bella Vista

See MEDICS, Page 4

## The 14th Security Forces Squadron will be closed during Training Hours

**Airman 1st Class Amanda Smith**  
14th Security Forces Squadron

The 14th Security Forces Squadron will be closing the 3rd Thursday of every month for training. This training will ensure Security Forces can obtain the required career field training in order to better serve the public. All services will be open from 7:30 a.m. to noon on training days.

Please direct any questions to the following sections:

Security Forces Manager – Chief Master Sgt. Brian Martin at 434-7124,  
Investigations – Tech Sgt. James Pender at 434-2012,  
Operations – Senior Master Sgt. Veronica Spears at 434-7123,  
Logistics – Master Sgt. Kevin Dent at 434-7118,  
Reports and Analysis/Plans and Programs/Installation Security – Danny Adams at 434-2576.

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 62 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## Weather

 <b>Today</b> High: 59, Low: 49 Showers	 <b>Saturday</b> High: 68, Low: 54 Cloudy
 <b>Sunday</b> High: 70, Low: 57 Cloudy	 <b>Monday</b> High: 72, Low: 61 Scattered T-Storms

## News Briefs

### Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings time begins March 11, 2 a.m. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward an hour!

### OG Career Day

The next semi-annual Career Day will be held March 10. Briefings on many major airframes will begin at 8 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium and is mandatory for all students. Aircraft including the F-16, B-52, C-130J, C-130H, C-17, KC-135, TC-135, C-21, and KC-10 will be available for viewing at the SEC Ramp and T-6 parking ramp from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Static displays are open to all base ID holders and families are encouraged to attend. Parking will be available at the SAC ramp and in the Aerospace Physiology parking lot for access to the T-6 ramp. Busses will also be available for transportation from the Kaye Auditorium. Strike Zone Lanes will be hosting a grilling tent with refreshments for purchase at the SAC ramp.

### Dorm Dinner

Enlisted dorm residents are invited to the Chapel Annex on March 15 at 5 p.m. for a dorm dinner.

## Inside



### Feature 8

Columbus aircraft through the years are highlighted in this week's feature.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
12	13 Women's History Expo, 2 p.m. @ Columbus Club	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 MUW Women's Charity Walk-A-Thon, 2 p.m. @ Track (17th)
19	20 CSC Social, 6 p.m. @ Club	21	22 ALS Graduation, 6:30 p.m. @ Club	23 Class 12-07 Assignment Night, 5 p.m. @ Club E-Cycler Day, 10 a.m. @ Farmer's Market	24/25

### Long Range Events

- March 26: Night Flying Week
- March 26: Sports Banquet
- March 26: Spring Pilgrimage Begins
- March 26: AFAP Campaign Begins
- March 27: Newcomers Orientation
- March 30: Caring for People Forum
- March 30: Class 12-15 Track Select
- April 2: IFF Graduation
- April 6: Class 12-07 Graduation

## 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)	1.91 days	2.33 days	Apr. 2	48th (12-06)	-2.47 days	2.27 days	Mar. 16	49th (12-FB)	1.86 days	0.68 days	Apr. 2	T-6	699	699	12,954
41st (13-01)	2.08 days	2.82 days	Apr. 23	50th (12-06)	-3.56 days	-2.37 days	Mar. 16					T-1	191	159	4,136
												T-38	269	273	4,810
												IFF	65	73	1,306

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

**SILVER WINGS****How to reach us**

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

**Editorial Staff**

**Col. Barre "Heat" Seguin**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Commander

**Mr. Rick Johnson**  
Public Affairs Chief

**Airman 1st Class Chase Hedrick**  
Editor

**Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks**  
NCOIC

**Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens**  
Staff Writer

**Mrs. Tina Perry**  
Layout Designer

**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.*

# Track Select

Capt. Justin Harrington  
Capt. Jacob Papp  
2nd Lt. Lazir Ablaza  
2nd Lt. Jonathan Bailey  
2nd Lt. Canaan Barger  
2nd Lt. Anthony Bowers  
2nd Lt. Andrew Carlson  
2nd Lt. Matthew Darnell  
2nd Lt. Gregory Hollen  
2nd Lt. Joseph Kina  
2nd Lt. Joseph May  
2nd Lt. William Nunalee  
2nd Lt. Taylor Peterson  
2nd Lt. Jonathan Pridgeon  
2nd Lt. Robert Riley  
2nd Lt. Adam Robinson  
2nd Lt. Joshua Rosecrans  
2nd Lt. Nikolas Schueler  
2nd Lt. Emery Smith  
2nd Lt. Peter Steinmaker  
2nd Lt. Patrick Teal  
2nd Lt. Michael Warzinski  
2nd Lt. Kevin Wood

T-1  
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**Francis E. Dublisher Award**  
2nd Lt. Canaan Barger

**Top Guns**

**Contact:** 2nd Lt. Andrew Carlson  
**Instrument:** 2nd Lt. Matthew Darnell  
**Formation:** 2nd Lt. William Nunalee

# 12-14

**Class 12-EBC:**

**1st Lt. Micah Morris**  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Scott Harbison**  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Nathan Johnson**  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Christopher Jordan**  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Matthew Garvey**  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Lauren Hettich**  
F-15E

**Class 12-FBC2:****IFF**

(Continued from Page 1)

International flying training in the T-38CIFF aircraft. The 49th FTS provides training to fighter pilots and weapon system officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the F-

16, F-15C, F-15E, F-22, and A-10C.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Students bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to surface

attack and low-altitude tactical navigation phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these students will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!

**MEDICS**

(Continued from Page 1)

community members Feb. 28 during a joint medical readiness training exercise here.

Members of the Joint MEDRETE included Belizean Ministry of Health, the Belizean military and JTF-Bravo. The medical professionals treated illnesses including abominable pain, respiratory infection, skin infection, diabetes and high blood pressure.

All patients receive a preventive medical briefing from a member of the Belizean military as well as vitamins, inoculations and preventive health supplies before heading to the screening area for more care.

As part of the screen team U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jefflynn Hall, Medical Element Medical Technician, is on her first MEDRETE and finds the experience both rewarding and challenging.

"I like to help people and especially those who are in need...for me that's the rewarding part of this mission," said Hall, who is deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. "However, the challenge is not being able to do more while we are here...we can only bring so much when we travel and it never feels like enough."

Once a patient receives his or her brief, they are seen by a nurse or medical technician for a health assessment. Once the screeners are done the patient sees the medical care provider to receive treatment or a prescription they can have filled at the pharmacy.

On a MEDRETE, most members work in their assigned profession; however, for U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Atkins, Medical Element Radiology NCOIC, who is on his



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks/Released  
**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jefflynn Hall, Medical Element medical technician and U.S. Army Sgt. Chris Mahabir, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment flight medic, conduct a screening for a Belizean family during the first day of a joint medical readiness training exercise here Feb. 28. In 2011, Joint Task Force Bravo, Soto Cano AB, Honduras provided general medical care to 14,401 patients and dental care to 1,061 patients for a total of 15,462 individuals receiving much-needed assistance.**

first MEDRETE, that is not the case as he finds himself working in the pharmacy.

"It's a little difficult to bring an x-ray machine on a MEDRETE, but I feel by just being here doing what I can is making a difference," said Atkins, who is also deployed from Columbus AFB, Miss. "We take a lot for granted (in the U.S.), I've seen pictures from previous MEDRETES, but I'm just amazed at how resilient these people are."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks/Released  
**U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Atkins, Medical Element Radiology NCO in charge, discusses a prescription with a member of the Belizean Ministry of Health during the joint medical readiness training exercise Feb. 28. Members from the Belize Ministry of Health, the Belizean military and Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, provided medical services to approximately 620 members of the local area.**

In 2011, Joint Task Force Bravo, Soto Cano AB provided general medical care to 14,401 patients and dental care to 1,061 patients for a total of 15,462 individuals receiving much-needed assistance. The MEDRETE team will travel to the town of Independence to continue medical services Feb. 29.

**Below-The-Zone winner**



U.S. Air Force/Melissa Doublin  
**Airman 1st Class Corbin Starner, 14th Communication Squadron is awarded senior airman Below-The-Zone by Col. Scott Frickenstein, 14th Mission Support Group Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief.**

**PATCH**

(Continued from Page 1)

the heritage of which can be found on the patch.

During WWII we were the 14th Fighter Group. Four of the squadrons still belong to the wing today and include the 37th, 48th, 49th, and 50th. After patrolling the western coast of the United States in P-38's, we helped escort bombers to enemy targets in France. A year later the 14th found itself in North Africa providing escort, strafing, and reconnaissance missions. In 1943 the 14th performed dive bombing missions on Pantelleria Island, resulting in the eventual capture of Sicily. During the Vietnam War, the 14th produced numerous Medal of Honor recipients, including Major Bernard Fisher, 1Lt James Fleming, and A1C John Levitow.

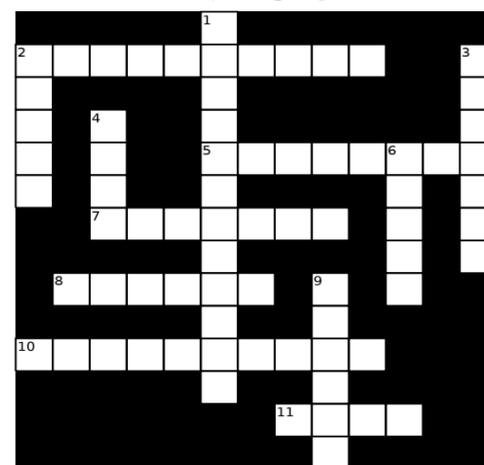
This heritage is ingrained on our patch. The white over black shield over two crossed laurel branches serves as a daily reminder of the honors and battle credits mentioned above and carried by the wing. The white stylized plane represents our peaceful humanitarian mission and the red



plane symbolizes the tactical power employed in close air support, ground support, search and rescue, and armed reconnaissance our wing conducted as a special operations unit. The stars represent the excellence with which we perform our mission and the blue represents the sky in which we perform.

As you continue your journey in the Air Force, remember those who have sacrificed to give us this legendary heritage, and carry with you the fervor to live up to its name.

**1940's**



- 2 Across The first true regular programming was produced in 1945, Jackie \_\_\_\_\_ was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ won an Academy Award for Outstanding Motion Picture
- 7 During the early 1940s the \_\_\_\_\_ Games were cancelled due to world conflicts
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ print clothing was popular in the early 1940s
- 10 In 1943 the film \_\_\_\_\_

**Women's History Month 2012**

**Last Week's Answer**



- 1 Down The Z3 was the world's first \_\_\_\_\_ fully automatic computer
- 2 The first \_\_\_\_\_ television was produced
- 3 The first detention of a nuclear device was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ test
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ is a defence alliance that was formed during the second half of this decade
- 6 The most popular music genre was \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 The \_\_\_\_\_ World War took place during the first half of this decade

**Former POW shares reintegration tips with reservists, families**

**Bo Joyner**  
Air Force Reserve Command  
Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO — Having spent more than five years in prisoner-of-war camps during the Vietnam War, Lee Ellis knows how difficult it is to reconnect with family and friends after a long military separation.

Ellis shared his experiences and tips for reintegration with about 450 Air Force reservists and their family members during a Yellow Ribbon event Feb. 25-26 here.

"War damages you," the retired Air Force colonel told his audience. "It damages you mentally, emotionally, spiritually. Except for anger, I know I totally shut down emotionally while I was a POW. That works great during war, but it doesn't work when you get back home. You have to reconnect with your emotions when you get home."

Ellis said there were some challenges connecting with his family and friends until he was able to reconnect with his own emotions.

"I was not always easy to live with," he recalled. "I was controlling. I was hyper-vigilant. I was hyper-sensitive to criticism. And I was also dealing with feelings of guilt because a lot of my friends never made it home. It took a lot of time to get a handle on all of the things I was feeling and to reconnect with the people who were closest to me."

Ellis urged the reservists on hand, all of whom are either facing a deployment in the near future or are just returning from a deployment, to be patient when they begin the reintegration process.

"Don't expect perfection," he said. "It's going to take some time for things to be the same way they were before you left, but you will get there."

Ellis also encouraged the reservists and

their family members to have a support system in place.

"The Navy Seals have a saying that they never fight alone, and you shouldn't try to fight this battle alone," he said. "You need to have someone in your life you can tell anything to, someone who can help you deal with the emotions you are going to be feeling when you get home from your deployment or when your loved one gets home. And if you don't have someone like that, you need to know there are a lot of resources available right at your fingertips."

Like other Yellow Ribbon events held throughout the country each year, the event in San Diego was designed to let reservists and their family members know exactly what helping resources are at their disposal.

"Our main goal is to let our people know help is available and how to find it," said Mary Hill, the director of Air Force Reserve Command's Yellow Ribbon program. "We have chaplains, military family life consultants, psychological health advocates, (Veterans Administration) specialists and a host of other experts on hand at every Yellow Ribbon event to help reservists and their family members deal with any problems they may be experiencing."

"Things have changed quite a bit since Colonel Ellis came home from the Hanoi Hilton," she said. "We're doing a lot more to try and take care of those who serve and those who support."

Ellis was 24 years old and flying his 53rd combat mission over enemy territory when his F-4C was taken down by enemy fire. He spent the next 5 1/2 years in various prisons, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton. He spent his first year in a 6 1/2-by-7-foot cell with three other prisoners, surviving on a diet of either pumpkin or cabbage soup and bread.

"We had a strategy for resistance based on the power of honor," he said. That strategy revolved around being willing to take torture to resist; realizing that everyone can be broken; minimizing the enemy's net gain; bouncing back; and staying united through communications.

Ellis and his fellow POWs developed a tap code and a hand code so they could keep in touch with each other during long periods of separation.

"Communication was critical," he said. "Being able to communicate with the people in the adjoining cells helped us be more resilient and let us know we could get through most anything."

Ellis said another thing that helped tremendously during his confinement and in his reintegration into life back home was the fact that toward the end of his time as a POW he was moved into a large holding area with 55 other prisoners.

"During those last few months, the torture stopped, and we were grouped together," he said. "This gave us some time to decompress before we went home. Today, I don't think we get a lot of time to decompress, and it makes it a little harder to reintegrate into society."

After his return home from the Hanoi Hilton, Ellis went back to flying and assumed positions of leadership, including flying squadron commander. He was awarded two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with valor device, the Purple Heart and the POW Medal. He retired with 24 years of service.

Reservists who are facing a deployment or who have recently returned from a deployment are eligible to attend a Yellow Ribbon event. For more information, they should contact their unit's Yellow Ribbon representative.

**BARGAIN LINE**

**Homes**

**For sale:** Lakefront home. 2,480 sq. ft. Three bedrooms and three bathrooms, bath house, bonus room, two-car garage, fireplace, sun-room and back deck, one acre of waterfront property on Lake Pennington. Fishing lake 12 minutes south of base. Recent upgrades to house with all modern appliances. Includes pier with screened in porch, ing \$4,000 or best offer. Call 364-0831.

**Miscellaneous**

**For Sale:** 2008 Craftsman lawn tractor, 21hp, 42" cut. New battery, garage kept, great condition. \$700. Call 574-6172.

**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:** Entertainment center, oak veneer finish, approximately four-and-a-half feet tall by three feet wide. Holds a 32 inch television. Can be used in a corner or against a flat wall. Can send pictures. \$30. Please contact 386-1408.

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

**Transportation**

**For Sale:** White 2002 Lincoln LS, 88,000 miles. Valued at \$4,400 but ask-

**tent, 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.**

**The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on con-**

## 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.mya.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.

## 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?"

### Survivor-Benefit Plan

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

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

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

### Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at

the AFRC; Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m. and post-deployment at 1:30 p.m.

### 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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

March 27 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for newly arrived Active Duty and Civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

### Caring for People Forum

March 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Columbus Club. The Caring for People Forum provides installation commanders valuable and timely information on issues that directly impact the quality of life experienced by Airmen and their families. For more information contact your First Sergeant, Daisy Jones 434-1228, or HAWC 434-2236. All are welcome to participate, but registration is required.

### Resume Writing (Military and Military Family)

April 4 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Provides basic guidance and understanding of the fundamentals of resumes, to register, call 434-2790.

### Hearts Apart Social

April 10 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.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic Community

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

**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

### DRESSES

(Continued from Page 1)

Spring Pilgrimage in Columbus. Volunteers help alter and fit dresses, help host the antebellum homes throughout Columbus and fill in wherever else is necessary during the two-week long event.

This year things have changed a bit as the Columbus Spouse's Club has taken their operations to a whole new level. The CSC has begun making their own dresses in addition to altering and repairing other dresses that have been obtained through previous years or have been recently donated.

"All of the dresses have either been made from donations or have been revamped and reconstructed prom dresses that people have donated," said Chris Stater, honorary advisor of the Columbus Spouse's Club. "We have not outright purchased any dresses; all of them have been made by volunteers."

These new dresses have been made possible through donations of bed skirts, sheets, shower curtains and many other sources of nice fabric.

"If we have a prom dress that gets donated to us, we can take apart the seams and add a panel of fabric, add something here and there and put some lace on it," said Stater.

The process of creating and repairing these dresses is no quick and easy feat and requires significant preparation and planning.

"It takes us a month and a half before the Pilgrimage begins to get everything ready, make



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens

**Belki Padilla aides the Columbus Spouse's Club's preparation for the Columbus Spring Pilgrimage by helping to create a dress. The CSC has created eight dresses from donates materials.**

repairs, make any new dresses," said Stater.

This preparation is only made possible by the number of volunteers the CSC manages to get to help with the dress shop and the tours in Columbus.

"It takes about 100 people to volunteer in the homes and then another 15 to help us with the fitting and run the dress shop," said Stater.

The CSC has worked to create and maintain over 75 dresses and plans to be ready to help make the 72nd Spring Pilgrimage one to remember.

# Binger to speak at Class 12-06 Graduation

Brig Gen. William Binger, Commander, 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas is slated to be the guest speaker at the graduation of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-06 on March 16, 10 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium.

His command includes all fighter, bomber, special operations, rescue, airborne warning and control, flying training, combat air operations battle staff, remotely piloted aircraft, space and cyber units in the Air Force Reserve Command. When mobilized, or used in a full-time or part-time capacity, these units provide reserve combat capability to Air Combat Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Pacific Air Forces, Air Force Space Command, Air Force Global Strike Command, Air Education and Training Command and the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency.

Binger entered the Air Force on active duty in 1981. He earned his pilot wings in 1982 and graduated from fighter weapons school in 1988. He served on active duty from 1981 to 1996 and joined the Air Force Reserve in 1996 as an Active Guard Reserve member, and in 2007 he became an Air Reserve Technician. Throughout his career, General Binger has held several senior supervisory positions and has commanded at the group, wing



U.S. Air Force photo

### Brig Gen. William Binger

and center level.

Binger is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours in the F-16, including 40 combat missions over Iraq.

### BANQUET

(Continued from Page 1)

Class 42-C began training in what was then called Kaye Field on Feb. 9, 1942. Having completed primary and basic training, the cadets were to pass an examination at their local cadet board, and following three to five weeks of processing in the Army Air Forces Cadet Classification Center, the cadets were classified as pilots, bombardiers or navigators.

Those classified as pilots finished a nine-week preflight school before going on to a nine-week primary training course at civilian airports with contracted instructors. Cadets then moved on to nine more weeks of basic flight training which included night flights, cross country navigation and the use the radio. At basic school, cadets were classified for pursuits or bombers. Those classified for pursuits went to single-engine advanced school. Those classified for bombers went to twin-engine advanced schools, and then to flexible gunnery school. After graduation from advanced training, cadets were commissioned as second lieutenant or the newly created grade of flight officer to become second lieutenants at the completion of their training. They then progressed to combat schools for four and a half weeks before going to combat unit bombers.

The first graduation exercise was held at the new post theater on March 6, 1942. Maj. Gen. George Stratemeyer, command-

ing general of the Southeast Air Corps Training Center at Maxwell Field, Ala. delivered the graduation address.

"For you members of the graduating Class, it is a memorable day—never to be forgotten," he said." This day you receive your well-earned wings and commissions and enter upon your duties and responsibilities as pilot officers of the Army Air Forces."

All but four of the newly commissioned flying lieutenants from Class 42-C were assigned to Columbus as instructors of new classes of aviation cadets.

*Editor's note: Information for the article was taken from "A History of Columbus Air Force Base" by Connie Lisowski and Capt. Kenneth Lusignan*

**PROMOTIONS**

(Continued from Page 1)

Master Sgt. Brian Bailey, 14th Force Support Squadron  
Master Sgt. Andre Gaskin, 14th Medical Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Pamela Schultz, 14th Flying Training Wing

According to AFPC, those selected represent 13.78 percent of the 12,351 eligible, with an average score of 670.44, 4.12 years average time in grade, and 19.27 years time in service. The average score was based on the following point averages: 134.99 for enlisted performance reports, 20.66 for decorations, 70.62 for the Air Force supervisory exam and 392.56 board score.



**Ask Rufus: The Columbus Home Front 1942**

Rufus Ward

This week Columbus Air Force Base will be celebrating its 70 anniversary. The base follows in a 199 year tradition of military installations in the Columbus area. During the War of 1812/Creek Indian War there was the 1813-1814 Fort Smith at Plymouth Bluff. The Civil War turned Columbus into a major Confederate hospital and supply center. Payne Field, was a World War I Army pilot training base located at West Point. With the growing threat of war Columbus was selected in June 1941 as the site of one of the Army Air Corps' new flying training schools.

In September 1941 construction began on the new air field at Columbus. Army personal began arriving in late January 1942 and the base was named Kaye Field after noted World War I aviator captain Sam Kaye of Columbus. However because of confusion of the name with Key Field in Meridian the name was changed to Columbus Army Flying School and later to Columbus Army Air Field.

The people of the Columbus area had always supported and tried to provide a touch of home to military personal stationed here. In 1814 supplies mentioned as being provided at Ft. Smith included "whiskey". During the Civil War, homes in Columbus took in the overflow of wounded from the military hospitals and homes were opened for social events to entertain troops. During World War I, Payne Field pilots would fly to area farms and communities, landing in pastures, to go hunting or attend barbecues.

The community response was no different during World War II. World War II was a time of national unity. Communities poured out their support for the military. Support for Columbus Army Air Field came both from local citizens and an unexpected place.

There was an Aviation Cadet Club in downtown Columbus that was available for personal from the Air Base and T C Billups provided a servicemen's hang-out called the "Drop in Hanger" in the basement of Whitehall, an antebellum home on Southside. There were also dances held at the City Auditorium, now the Trotter Convention Center.

Parties were held at private homes and one of those events was even featured in Life Magazine and the London



Courtesy photo

**Air Corps personal at a 1943 dance in Columbus. Airmen who dated Columbus girls often gave them their insignias or wings and even "sweet-heart jewelry" such as this bracelet made from silver wings.**

Illustrated Magazine. However the party that was featured in Life Magazine was actually a staged event for the magazine. Many of the parties were at the Aviation Cadet Club which was in a house across from the present downtown location of Fred's. There were also many dances on base.

Often on Sunday afternoon there were dances at the base Officer's Club. Music at the dances would be performed by bands such as Don Taylor and his Biltmore Boys from the Tuwiler Hotel in Birmingham.

Churches also did their part to bring a taste of home to the base's personal. A good example was First Baptist Church, whose Camp Service Committee had semi-monthly parties that were "popular with the men at the local base and local people as well." One of the church's parties was described in the April 10, 1942, Commercial Dispatch. The account stated that "...many from the Columbus Army Flying school were present... The affair was in the form of a "Mother goose" party and all of the activities of the evening including games, stunts and decorations, featured mother goose ideas...The social opened at 7:30 with variations of the grand march."

The third Columbus Pilgrimage was held in April 1942 and many base family members participated in it. Mrs. L. C. Mallory the wife of base commander

Col. Mallory was featured on the front page of the Commercial Dispatch while serving at Whitehall. Maj. Joseph Duckwoth was residing in Magnolia Hill which was listed as a "Star Home".

Support for Columbus Army Air Field also came from an unexpected source. Columbus native Joshua Meador was supervisor of animation effects for Walt Disney Studios during the 1940s. 1943 saw the Disney Studio attempting to assist in the war effort. In an attempt to help servicemen and their families, Meador often would go to military hospitals where he would draw caricatures of patients that they could send home. Josh was also one of the animators for the feature Victory Through Air Power and he was the animator for several of informational shorts, such as Theory of the C-1 Autopilot part 1 basic Principles, which Disney produced for the Army.

Meador sent T C Billups five animation cells, including two from Victory Through Air Power that had been autographed, "Happy landings at Whitehall, Walt Disney". They were hung in the "Drop in Hanger" along with other memorabilia from across the country.

Seventy years ago the people of Columbus rallied around Columbus Army Air Field and continued a practice that had begun over a hundred years earlier.

**Base families offered a variety of activities**

**Teens...Tell Us What You Want!**

Youth Programs is asking Columbus AFB teens what they want in programming and events here on base. The 2012 Air Force Teen Survey will take place online at <http://AFTeen2012.questionpro.com> from Mar. 12 - Apr. 13. Local input will help us find better ways to reach and serve our teen populations. Hard copies of the survey are available at the Youth Center. For more information, call 434-2504.

**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!**

Join the Base Library in celebrating the famous author's birthday on Tues., Mar. 13, 4 p.m. This is a free event, and everyone is welcome to enjoy some of Dr. Seuss's best stories and birthday party. For more information, call 434-2934 or visit [www.cafbssrocks.com](http://www.cafbssrocks.com) for information on this and all other CAFB FSS events and activities.

**CAFB Youth Kick Butts!**

The Kick Butts Day Health Fair will be Wed., Mar. 21, 3 - 4:30 p.m., at the Youth Center. All base youth and parents are invited to attend this program to learn the dangers of tobacco use and other products harmful to our bodies. For more information, call Youth Programs at 434-2504.

**Mr. Kayline's Family Style Ribs Coming Soon!**

Youth Programs is offering family style rib lunch and dinner on Thurs., Mar. 22. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., and dinner from 5 - 6 p.m. The cost is \$8 per plate and includes Mr. Kayline's famous barbecue ribs, potato salad, coleslaw and a dinner roll. Preorders are strongly encouraged by Mar. 15. To order, call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

**NAF Open Sale Returns to ODR**

Outdoor Recreation will host a NAF open sale on Fri., Mar. 23. Items for sale may be viewed Mar. 20-22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Outdoor Rec. Sale times are as follows: active duty members, 7 - 8 a.m.; retired members, 8:15 - 9 a.m.; all others, to include NAF & APF employees, DoD contractors and other U.S. federal employees, 9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All patrons must show valid military identification or CAC card for purchase or entry into sale area. For more information, call 434-2505 or 2507.

**Celebrate Our Athletes!**

The annual sports awards celebration is set for Mon., Mar. 26, 6 p.m., at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Champions in all of the intramural sports from the past year eat free, and cost for guests is \$10. The meal this year is being catered by Hank's #1 BBQ and includes choice of pulled

pork or chicken quarter, baked beans, potato salad, bun or roll, and tea or water. Other beverages are available for purchase. Register with your unit sports representative or contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772/2775 by Mar. 19. Special thanks to our annual Fitness Program Sponsors who make this and other Fitness and Sports events 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.

**Get Your GIVE On with the CDC and Youth Programs!**

Giving is good...so the Child Development Center and Youth Programs has joined forces for a community wide service initiative. Throughout the month of March, they will be collecting paper, crayons, markers and other simple arts and craft items to comfort hospitalized children in our local community. Drop off any of these items at the CDC or Youth Center by Mar. 31. For more information, please call 434-2479 or 434-2504.

**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.

**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 and 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.cafbssrocks.com](http://www.cafbssrocks.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 engraves 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 best-sellers 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 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.

**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.

**TrailBLAZE'r**



**Name:** Maj. Brett Robinson  
**Unit:** 43rd Flying Training Squadron  
**Job Title:** Instructor Pilot  
**Time at Columbus:** 5.5 years  
**Time in Service:** 18 years  
**Hometown:** Huntsville, Ala.  
**Career Goals:** I've met them (almost)!  
**Family members:** Spouse - Liz, Son - Grant  
**Favorite musician:** Planetshakers  
**Favorite movie:** Forest Gump  
**Biggest Pet Peeve:** Using the left lane incorrectly.  
**Favorite Book:** New Living Translation  
**Inspirations:** Paul of Tarsus  
**Personal motto:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." Prov. 3:5-6

## Sign your work with excellence

Brig Gen Theresa Carter  
502nd Air Base Wing commander

*It's been said that every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Ding! We all know the sound ... new email has arrived! No matter what we're doing, we're tempted to look at the computer and see what it is.

You may think to yourselves, "Ugh, not another email," if you're sitting at work and already have nearly 100 unread messages. You may be excited if you're on your home computer and are waiting on news from a family member.

We all, more than likely, have friends who are "serial forwarders", those who regularly send us email with links to little known facts or photos of adorably cute puppies, which only serves to reinforce our belief that our own dog is the cutest in the world.

I received one such email last week and went through my standard routine, "Oh, another note from X. Should I click on that link? Is it really a phishing attempt?"

I've been through all of the information assurance training so I know the dangers that lurk in cyberspace. After a few more seconds of back and forth, weighing pros and cons, I clicked on the link. I landed on a web site called "The Simple Truths of Service" where Ken Blanchard and Barbara Glanz tell a story inspired by Johnny the Bagger. Glanz recounted how she told attendees at a customer service seminar they each could make a difference. They could create memories for their customers that would make them want to come back. They could do that by putting their personal signature on the job.

A few days later Glanz received a call from Johnny, a 19-year-old grocery store bagger with Down Syndrome. He said he enjoyed her presentation and initially didn't think he could do anything special for customers since, "After all, I'm just a bagger." He then came up with the idea to find a thought for the day. If he couldn't find a good saying he would make one up. His dad helped him print out multiple copies and he would sign his name on the back of each one. As he finished bagging groceries, he dropped his thought for the day into the bag and said, "Thanks for shopping with us."

A month later, the store manager called

Glanz. She told her she wouldn't believe what had happened. One day the manager noticed that Johnny's line was three times as long as all the others, stretching all the way down to the frozen food aisle. She quickly hustled more cashiers to the front and told patrons more lines were open, but nobody moved. As she asked each customer why, they all said the same thing, "I want to be in Johnny's lane; I want to get his thought for the day." One woman even said she used to come in only once a week to shop but now came in every day just to get Johnny's thought for the day.

A few months later, the manager called again saying Johnny transformed the store. The floral department started taking flowers with broken stems and creating small corsages that they gave to elderly women or young girls shopping in the store. A spirit of service was everywhere, all because Johnny chose to make a difference.

This story resonated with me because it speaks to one of my leadership — "sign your work with excellence." I usually explain the principle by sharing stories about service members who don't have a glamorous job — operating the sewage pumping truck for instance — but put their heart and soul into whatever they're asked to do. Through their example, they inspire those around them to elevate their own performance. That's exactly what Johnny did and that's what all of us can do at work, at home or in our community.

The principle applies regardless of the job we have or the role we play in our organization, our family or our community. In one way or another, we're all serving others, even if we don't think we are engaged in a customer-service job. In every interaction with coworkers, family or friends, we have an opportunity to make a positive difference simply by being fully engaged in the moment and putting forth our best effort.

It's been said that every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Make the most of every opportunity you have and create a masterpiece! How will you sign your work with excellence today?

## Innovation key to Air Force future

Col. Riz Ali  
Air Force Network  
Integration Center  
Commander

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Our nation is facing a number of challenges that affect our government. As a result, change is happening all around the Air Force.

The institution of the Air Force will survive, but there is no doubt we'll be operating differently. Over the past several years we have implemented a number of efficiency efforts to shape the force while maintaining ops tempo. Efficiency is important, but it is not enough.

Innovation is what will get the Air Force through these tough times. John Kotter, a recognized thought leader on leadership and change, and professor at Harvard University said, "Anything that is creating change outside a company adds a premium to innovation within the company." If this is the case, there has never been a better time for innovation in the Air Force.

When one thinks of a military organization, "creative" is not usually a word that comes to mind. We are trained to be regimented, by-the-book and disciplined. Good order and discipline are critical traits that contribute to our being the greatest Air Force in the world.

Creativity has its place though. There are always new ways of doing things or using an existing tool differently. Just because we have always done something one way doesn't mean it is still the best way. Our world is changing quickly and we must stay a step ahead. This requires a culture change and new way of thinking.

You may be familiar with Air Force Innovative Development through

*Innovation is what will get the Air Force through these tough times. John Kotter, a recognized thought leader on leadership and change, and professor at Harvard University said, "Anything that is creating change outside a company adds a premium to innovation within the company." If this is the case, there has never been a better time for innovation in the Air Force.*

Employee Awareness program. The IDEA program has been a catalyst for some remarkable process improvements and savings in our Air Force. Innovation is not just big, ground-breaking ideas though. It is about constantly assessing yourself, being adaptive, reinventing when needed and moving forward.

Innovation differs from invention because it looks at new ways to do things. It can be something as simple as finding a new use for product or tool. It can also be a change in strategy or processes that completely reinvents the way an organization functions. It is taking what you already have and doing it differently, better. James Dyson, founder of the Dyson Company, perhaps best described where innovation comes from when he said, "Where does the impetus for product innovation come from? Frustration!"

Think of the last time you were frustrated at work. Was it with a process? Bureaucracy? Perhaps another instance of trying to fit a square peg into a round hole? If you are frustrated with something, there has to be a way to do it better!

At the Air Force Network Integration Center, we are encouraging new ideas through our internal innovation program. Through this program, AFNIC personnel

can submit their ideas to improve center operations, the Air Force enterprise network, or both. An innovation committee made up of senior leaders reviews each proposal and the plan to achieve it. If approved, the submitter is given resources and time to bring their idea to life.

Of course, not every idea can be implemented, and that is okay. An innovative culture understands and accepts that not every idea will work. The goal is to get the ideas flowing. I encourage everyone to make a conscious effort to think innovatively every day. Start by identifying a specific challenge or something you are frustrated with. If you had the power to change it, what would you do?

If your organization doesn't have a program to bring ideas forward, maybe your first step can be to help initiate one. Now more than ever our Air Force needs your ideas and creative energy to make them happen. And I mean everyone, from the airman basic to our senior leaders.

While our Air Force navigates through this challenging time, we all have the opportunity to help shape the way we operate. I challenge you to bring your ideas forward. Innovation drives progress and is the key to our future.

## Columbus Exchange committed to offering best possible price on or offline

Columbus Exchange

According to a recent article by PC World, more than half of U.S. adult mobile phone owners used a handset for shopping assistance while in stores during the 2011 holiday season. Additionally, a quarter of these shoppers went online to see if they could find a better price for a product they were considering buying.

With smart phones becoming more prevalent as shopping tools, price matching is becoming increasingly popular. With this in mind, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's "We'll Match It!" program is ensuring military shoppers at Columbus AFB pay the lowest price possible.

Depending on the item, price matches can be done with or without a competitor's ad:

- A price difference of less than \$10 is matched on the spot.
- Pricing discrepancies greater than \$10 are matched with a current local competitor's ad.

Of course, in either scenario, products must be identical.

"We even offer a 14-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from the

*With smart phones becoming more prevalent as shopping tools, price matching is becoming increasingly popular.*

Exchange," said the Columbus Exchange's General Manager, Roberto Montalvo. "So, if an item is sold at a lower price by the Exchange, or any local competitor, the price can be matched up to two weeks after the purchase."

The Exchange Catalog and shopmyexchange.com also match lower prices (including shipping and handling) from other online retailers on identical items available for sale and delivery in the customer's area.

Complete details regarding the Exchange's price matching policy as well as exceptions can be found at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService/priceMatch.htm>.

### TOURNAMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

viding the supplies, clothes, and other basic items that they needed. In 1958 Happy began working at the Columbus Air Force Base Officers Club. His efforts eventually blossomed into what is known today as the Happy Fund.

Happy helped lay a foundation of trust and cooperation between the base and local community, and was selected as one of the initial Columbus Air Force Base Wingmen. His son, George Irby Jr. continues his father's legacy by leading the all-volunteer organization of the Happy Fund.

### PAST CC'S

(Continued from Page 1)

from September of 1991 to April of 1993. He led the 14th Flying Training Wing through reorganization into the objective wing structure with the group commanders reporting to the wing commander. He was also the wing commander during the 50th Anniversary of Columbus AFB.

Retired Col. Tom Quelly served as the wing commander from June of 2000 to August of 2002. Despite challenges with low instructor pilot manning across the flying training squadrons and low air traffic control manning, he led Columbus AFB to continue to produce pilots while preparing the base to replace T-37 Tweets with T-6 Texan II's, as well as upgrading other aspects of the base, to include TIMS installation.

Maj. Gen. Steve Wilson served as the wing commander from March of 2004 to June of 2006. He is currently the Commander, Eighth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

## Special duties briefed at Kaye



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Chief Master Sgt. Robert Frank, First Sergeant Special Duty Manager of the Air Force, speaks at the Non-Commissioned Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Call on March 7 at Kaye Auditorium. The NCO and SNCO Call discussed future opportunities for current NCO Airmen and how to become better leaders. A special duty team also visited and spoke to Columbus Enlisted Airmen about special duty opportunities in the Air Force. Those interested in special duties and how to apply or prepare for them can contact Master Sgt. Brian Bailey, Career Assistance Advisor, at 434-7004.**



Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



# Columbus Aircraft Through the Years



**A-29** – The A-29 Hudson was a twin-engine light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft built before World War II. The A-29s were initially assigned to U.S. coastal defense units. Some A-29s were assigned to antisubmarine patrol squadrons and at least one submarine was sunk in the summer of 1942.



**B-25** – The B-25 Mitchell is a twin-engine medium-sized bomber used during World War II. The B-25 was so desperately needed at the beginning of its service, no experimental or service test (XB-25 or YB-25) aircraft were built. Changes to the basic design were incorporated into aircraft on the production line and post-production or depot modification centers.



**T-34** – The T-34 Mentor is a single-engine propeller-driven training aircraft. The U.S. Air Force used the T-34A for primary flight training during the 1950s. The Mentor remained the standard USAF primary trainer until the introduction of the Cessna T-37 jet trainer in the late 1950s.



**AT-6** – The AT-6 Texan was a single-engine training aircraft used during World War II. This aircraft was also used as a forward air control during the Korean War. The T-6 was used in the movie Tora! Tora! Tora! and The Final Countdown.



**AT-8** – The Curtiss AT-8 was used as a twin-engine training aircraft during the early 1940's. Only 33 were made and it was replaced by AT-17 Bobcat. The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force says it was considered the Army Air Force's most difficult and tricky aircraft to fly. This aircraft was used to bridge the gap between single and twin-engine air combat.



**AT-9** – The AT-9 Jeep was used as a twin-engine training aircraft during World War II. The AT-9 was not easy to fly or land, making it particularly suitable for teaching new pilots to cope with the demanding flight characteristics of the then new generation of high performance, multi-engine aircraft such as the B-26 and P-38. This aircraft was used to bridge the gap between single and twin-engine air combat.



**AT-10** – The AT-10 Witchita was used as a twin-engine training aircraft during World War II. Because the airframe and fuel tanks were primarily built out of plywood in order to preserve metal for combat aircraft, many of the components were subcontracted to furniture makers and other firms. This aircraft was used to prepare students for multi-engine bombers.

**B-52** – The B-52 Stratofortress is a jet-powered strategic bomber developed for long-range bombings. The B-52 started out as an aircraft with six turboprop engines and later evolved to the current eight turbojet engines. The B-52 has set numerous records in its many years of service. On Jan. 18, 1957, three B-52Bs completed the first non-stop round-the-world flight by jet aircraft, lasting 45 hours and 19 minutes and requiring only three aerial refuelings. It was also a B-52 that made the first airborne hydrogen bomb drop over Bikini Atoll on May 21, 1956.



**KC-135** – The KC-135 Stratotanker is an aerial refueling military aircraft. The KC-135 was the Air Force's first jet-powered refueling tanker and replaced the KC-97 Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its 732-plane fleet. The first aircraft flew in August 1956 and the initial production Stratotanker was delivered to Castle Air Force Base, Calif., in June 1957. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965.



**PA-18** – The PA-18 Super Cub is a two-seated single-engine plane that was used for beginner pilot training. They can now be found in roles such as bush flying, banner towing and glider towing.



**T-38** – The T-38 is a twin-engine supersonic jet trainer and was the first supersonic trainer produced. Air Education and Training Command uses the T-38C to prepare pilots for front-line fighter and bomber aircraft such as the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15C Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-1B Lancer, A-10 Thunderbolt and F-22 Raptor.



**T-6** – The T-6 Texan II is a single-engine turboprop aircraft that is used for the United States Air Force's basic pilot training. The aircraft is fully aerobatic and features a pressurized cockpit with an anti-G system, ejection seat and an advanced avionics package with sunlight-readable liquid crystal displays.



**T-1** – The T-1 Jayhawk is a medium-range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of specialized undergraduate pilot training for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. It is also used to support navigator training for the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and international services. The T-1A is used in advanced training for students identified to go into airlift or tanker aircraft.



**T-37** – The T-37 Tweet is a small twin-engine training jet and was the primary training aircraft of the United States Air Force for decades, but was phased out by the T-6. The T-37C, with provisions for armament and extra fuel, was built for export. Both T-37Bs and -Cs serve the air forces of several Allied nations.