

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 36, Issue 22

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

June 1, 2012

Weather



Today

High: 79, Low: 53
Isolated T-Storms



Saturday

High: 85, Low: 62
Mostly Sunny



Sunday

High: 90, Low: 68
Partly Cloudy



Monday

High: 94, Low: 68
Partly Cloudy

News Briefs

Medical Group Closed

The 14th Medical Group will be closed Friday, June 8 for a base-wide exercise.

Enlisted Calls

Enlisted Calls will be held Tuesday, June 12 in the Kaye Auditorium. Times are as follows: Jr. Enlisted Call: 8:30 a.m. NCO Call: 10 a.m. and SNCO Call: 11:30 a.m.

Class 13-03 Track Select

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 13-03 will hold its track select Wednesday, June 6, at 11 a.m. in the Phillips Auditorium.

Inside



Feature 8

Private organizations are highlighted in this week's feature.



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

Senior Airman Parrish Cox, 14th Medical Operations Squadron plays the role of Airman Doe in a safety day briefing May 24 in the Kaye Auditorium. The briefing hosted a skit that showed the struggle of Airman Doe dealing with alcohol dependence and the steps taken to break the habit.

Safety day arms Airmen for summer survival

Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base conducted a Safety Day May 24 to help members of Team BLAZE understand the risks of the effects of alcohol in lifestyles and prepare

them for the upcoming summer months.

"Colonel Seguin's expectation is for all Columbus Air Force Base Airmen to return safely at the end of the 2012 Critical Days of Summer ready to do the mission," said Col. Matt Isler, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.

During the summer months people get out and participate in dangerous activities that do not occur during the winter months, which cause injuries and fatalities, said Maj. Tom Collins, 14th FTW Safety Office.

See SAFETY, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (13-04)	0.27 days	2.14 days	Jun 28	48th (12-10)	1.65 days	1.33 days	Jun 15	49th (12-1B)	3.03 days	2.17 days	Jun 27	T-6	2,809	2,904	21,244
41st (13-03)	1.94 days	1.03 days	Jun 6	50th (12-10)	-0.87 days	-3.01 days	Jun 15					T-1	919	897	6,740
												T-38	1,002	1,203	7,128
												IFF	270	324	2,201

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Frank Padilla, SAF/IG.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 57 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

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.

SAFETY

(Continued from Page 1)

Unit and wing-level briefings were held throughout the day to promote Safety Day and included a skit and briefing to show and explain the long-term effects of alcohol.

The skit showed that excess alcohol usage causes trouble. During the skit an Airman fails an unannounced room inspection because of empty alcohol containers littering their room and gets sent to the first sergeant because of the failed room inspection and a decline in work performance. After an evaluation by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment office he gets diagnosed with alcohol dependence.

Alcohol dependence, or alcoholism, can lead to a deficiency is needed vitamins and minerals and malnutrition which can make the body more susceptible to infection, liver disease, brain damage and other serious conditions. One episode of deep intoxication can cause irreversible brain damage, said

Oliviell gave tips to ensure responsible drinking: having a plan is before beginning drinking, limiting the number of drinks consumed to three drinks in one day and knowing what personal limits are.

Master Sgt. Renee Oliviell, 14th Medical Operations Squadron.

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To keep up to date with Air Force safety tips during the 2012 Critical Days of Summer follow <http://www.afsec.af.mil/critical-daysofsummer/>.

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
4	5	6	7	8	9/10
Night Flying Week Vacation Bible School, @ the Chapel	Class 12-10 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ Trinity Place	Class 13-03 Track Select, 11 a.m. @ Phillips Aud.		Medical Group Closed All Day Wing Exercise	
11	12	13	14	15	16/17
	Enlisted Calls, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. @ Kaye Hearts Apart, 11 a.m. @ DeWayne Hayes Recreation Area		Flag Day Class 12-11 Assignment Night, 5 p.m.	Class 12-10 SUPT Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	Father's Day (17th)

Long Range Events
June 19: Newcomers Orientation
June 19: 41st FTS CoC
June 21: Medical Group Closed
June 21: MDSS CoC
June 22: Base-wide Wing/CC Farewell Picnic
June 22: 14th CES AoC
June 25: IFF Graduation
June 25: Night Flying Week
June 27: 14th FTW CoC
June 28: 13-04 Track Select
June 28: 49th FTS CoC
June 29: Class 12-11 SUPT Graduation
June 29: Enlisted Promotions

14th FTW announces change of command

Sonic Johnson

14th Flying Training Wing
Chief of Public Affairs

The 19th Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, will return to Columbus Air Force Base to preside over the 14th Flying Training Wing Change of Command ceremony here on June 27 at 10 a.m.

After two years leading the 14th FTW, Col. Barre Seguin will pass command to Col. Jim Sears, currently the commander of the 20th Operations Group, Shaw AFB, S.C. at a ceremony in the new Aircraft Fuels Maintenance Hangar. Colonel Sears, a com-

mand pilot with over 3,100 hours in the C-130, F-16 and T-38 aircraft, was commissioned in 1991 after receiving his degree in Political Science from the United States Air Force Academy.

As Columbus AFB celebrates its 70th

"I thank all members of Team BLAZE and our local community for their support and generous hospitality Nancy, our children and me during our nearly two-year assignment," said Seguin. "We have forged lifelong friendships both inside and outside the gate."

anniversary this year, Colonel Sears will become the 37th commander of the military installation and the 22nd commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing.

Colonel Seguin will be assigned to Headquarters Air Force, The Pentagon, as

the Executive Officer for the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

"I thank all members of Team BLAZE and our local community for their support and generous hospitality Nancy, our children and me during our nearly two-year assignment," said Seguin. "We have forged lifelong friendships both inside and outside the gate."

All Team BLAZE members are invited to participate in the formal change of command ceremony; event parking signs will direct visitors to parking. Colonel Sears will host a reception following the ceremony at the Columbus Club.

Feed the fight



Courtesy photo
Tech Sgt. Dante Arcenal is currently deployed from the 14th Force Support Squadron to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan where he assists with Personnel Support for Contingency Operations. Arcenal was recently one of the 14th Flying Training Wing members selected for the rank of master sergeant. If you have a photo of a currently deployed Team BLAZE Airman you would like featured in Feed the Fight, send it to SilverWings@Columbus.af.mil.

Active shooter terms reminder

Lockdown

- Columbus AFB is under emergency lockdown due to an Active Shooter on base...TAKE COVER.
- If indoors: Move to the nearest office; Lock/barricade doors; Take adequate cover under/behind furniture; Stay calm, quiet and out of sight; DO NOT attempt to move wounded personnel.
- If driving: Park off roadway; Lock doors; Keep out of sight.
- If outside: Get down; Keep out of sight.

Stay Put

- Authorities believe the Gunman has been subdued however stay where you are.
- Do NOT leave your facility unless directed. It is permissible to move inside your present facility, remain clear of exterior windows.
- Recovery personnel (Fire/medical) will be in your area to assist. Members of recovery teams expect recall.

All Clear

- Gunman has been subdued and base is secure, emergency/recovery actions are completed. It is now safe to move outside your facility.

Columbus AFB Top 3 Spotlight



Category: Airman

Nominee Name
Grade: Senior
Airman Levar Weston

Unit: 14th Security Forces Squadron

Date: May 31, 2012

Information:

1. Home Town: Maywood, Ill.
2. Time in the Air Force: 3.5 years
3. Time at Columbus AFB: 3.5 years
4. Career Short Term Goals: To receive CCAF degree in Criminal Justice within the next year and be promoted to the rank of staff sergeant.
5. Career Long Term Goals: To make the military a career and serve more than 20 years honorably and to retire as a successful chief master sergeant in the United States Air Force.
6. Nominated by: Senior Master Sgt. Veronica Spears



7. Nomination reason: Senior Airman Weston is an outstanding Airman. He is an Installation Patrolman who ensures the protection of 239 training aircraft, equipment and resources valued at over \$3.2 billion dollars. He provides safety and protection for 4, 500 personnel and ensures Columbus AFB streets are kept safe. Senior Airman Weston has completed two courses for a total of six credit hours toward his CCAF degree; He also starred in the inaugural Shoot, Move, and Communicate training video where he showcased Security Forces techniques, tactics and procedures. The video is an AETC 1st ever, with a command buy pending. Senior Airman Weston is the type of Airman you want on your team, and one who each of us should be proud to serve with!

IFF 12-HBC Graduates

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron graduated Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 12-HBC on May 31. These seven 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 International flying training in the T-38C IFF 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 newest fighter wingmen!



Capt. Ben Hoffman
F-15E



1st Lt. Matthew Fair
F-15E



1st Lt. David Garcia
F-15E



1st Lt. Seth Rumbarger
F-15E



2nd Lt. Jeffrey Batterman
F-15E



2nd Lt. Brandon Stout
F-15E



2nd Lt. Christopher Leonard
F-15E

Trail BLAZE'r

Name: Staff Sgt. Brenna Wiley

Unit: 49th Flying Training Squadron

Job title: NCOIC 49th FTS SARM

Time at Columbus AFB: Eight months

Time in Service: Eleven years

Hometown: Cleveland, Okla.

Career goals: Finish nursing degree and get commissioned.

Family members: Chad - Husband, and Cadence - Daughter

Favorite musician: Queen

Favorite movie: The Labyrinth

Biggest pet peeve: Laziness

Inspirations: My mom

Personal motto: Try anything once!

Critical Days of Summer - Be good wingmen, watch out for each other

Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr.
Commander, Air Education and Training Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Critical Days of Summer campaign kicks off today and marks, for many people, the start of the summer season with its warmer weather, increased opportunities for outdoor activities, and leave time with family and friends.

Taking leave to unwind increases our individual resiliency and keeps us in balance with our hectic military lifestyle. But this time of year also increases the dangers we're exposed

to through recreational mishaps, heat-related incidents, and drunk driving — presumably not yours — but potentially someone else's.

Wingmen are critical during this time. By being there to get someone home safely or to be the voice of reason when someone says, "watch this ...," two words that are almost never followed by anything good. It's during these times, we can be glad to be good wingmen.

Even with clear summer skies, highway safety becomes a major concern for people driving cars and riding motorcycles. Simply put, there are more cars on the road in the summer. The lure of a long holiday weekend

entices people to hit the road and we must be especially aware of what's happening on the highway around us.

Distracted drivers are a prime danger on today's highways. People talk on cell phones, text and yes, people even read books while driving.

Since 2000, Air Education and Training Command has lost 34 members during the Critical Days of Summer. Half of those — 17 men and women — were killed in automobile accidents. Our most recent losses occurred last year when one person was not wearing a seat belt and another was using a cell phone.

Only once in the command's history have

we seen a fatality-free Critical Days of Summer - 2010. It can be done and we need to take precautions and use our wingmen and our common sense to do it again.

We accomplish our mission as a team. We are committed to our core values and to each other and we all have families, friends, and co-workers who are important in our lives. Be a wingman and commit to take care of each other.

This summer take time to be with your family and enjoy the weather and the leisure opportunities available to you. Be safe and help others remain safe as well.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Large great room with gas logs, formal living and dining rooms. Large laundry room with two pantries. Newly upgraded kitchen and bathrooms. Ceramic tile and carpet throughout. Fenced-in backyard with two storage buildings. Covered patio. 93 Azalea Drive in Columbus. \$142,900. Shown by appointment. Call 243-1443 or (256) 453-2300

Washer, dryer, fridge and all other major appliances included. \$750 per month. 408 24th Ave N, Columbus. Call 435-3120.

For sale: IBM Lenovo Thinkpad SL500 laptop, dual core 1.8 ghz processor, 120gb hard drive, 3gb RAM, CD-RW/DVD, 15.4 inch LCD, firewall port, wifi, three USB ports, HDMI and SD reader port, good battery, Windows XP, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe, PhotoSuite, new travel bag. Great cosmetic and working condition, asking \$285. Call 386-698.

For sale: New kitchen sink faucet, chrome/brass with flex hoses, \$36; white porcelain kitchen sink, two bowls with one drain, \$45; Bassons character, raccoon on a tree limb, bought in England in 1980, looks like new, \$34; woodpecker feeding babies character, \$35; water buffalo and elephant wooden figures, bought in Africa in the 1980's, \$12 each; ten different "Play me" brass pencil sharpeners, bought in Spain, still in boxes, \$10 each; tripod jack, \$10. Call 328-4374.

Homes

For sale: Three bedroom, two bathroom, two-car garage, storage room.

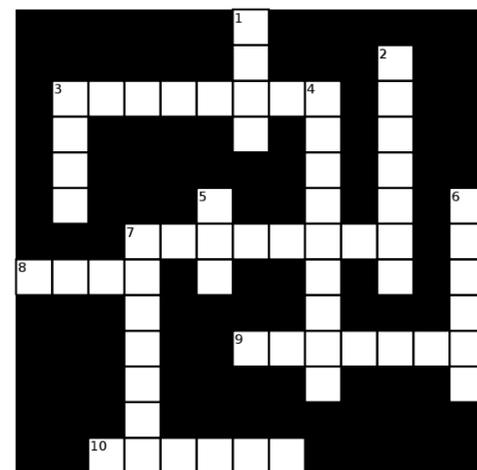
For rent: Three bedroom, two bathroom, 10 minutes from Columbus Air Force Base near the hospital, newly remodeled with new bedroom carpet, patio area, large fenced-in back yard.

Miscellaneous

For sale: IBM Lenovo Thinkpad SL500 laptop, dual core 1.8 ghz processor, 120gb hard drive, 3gb RAM, CD-RW/DVD, 15.4 inch LCD, firewall port, wifi, three USB ports, HDMI and SD reader port, good battery, Windows XP, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe, PhotoSuite, new travel bag. Great cosmetic and working condition, asking \$285. Call 386-698.

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POW/MIA



- 1 Across The Central Identification Laboratory, which is used for identifying the remains of missing Americans, is the largest anthropology laboratory in the world.
- 2 Down Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States was taken as a prisoner of war when he was _____ years old.
- 3 The U.S. has _____ service members MIA from Operation Desert Storm.
- 4 SERE stands for Survival, _____, Resistance, Escape.
- 5 POW/MIA recognition day is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National _____ of Families' POW/MIA flag.

- 1 Down POW/MIA bracelets traditionally are only inscribed with the person's name, rank, and date of _____.
- 2 The USAF Thunderbirds were the first military aerobatics unit to ever perform the _____ man formation.
- 3 The POW/MIA _____ was designed by Newt Heisley.
- 4 The first POW/MIA recognition day was held on July 18, 1979 at the National _____, Washington, D.C.
- 5 The POW Code of Conduct contains _____ articles.
- 6 Vietnam veteran John Devitt created a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial named The _____ Wall in 1984 which has since visited hundreds of U.S. towns and cities.
- 7 During a forced 1966 North Vietnamese television interview now retired Navy Rear Adm. Jeremiah Denton spelled out the word _____ in morse code by blinking.

101 Critical Days of Summer

Last week's answers



New, lighter ABU available in June

Tech. Sgt. Jess Harvey
Air Force Public
Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — The new, Rip-stop Airman Battle Uniform (RABU), featuring a lighter nylon-cotton blend, will be available to Airmen at 16 U.S. bases and through AAFES online starting in June.

The wear policy for the light-weight RABUs will be exactly the same as for the ABUs. The only difference between the ABU and the RABU is the material.

The new material may be familiar to Airmen who remember the old summer-weight battle dress uniform or are familiar with the Army's combat uniforms, said Senior Master Sgt. Kecia Uyeno, Air Force Uniform Programs and Policies superintendent. That's because it is the same material.

The change to the new material will make the RABU lighter and cooler, but it's also treated with a wrinkle-resistant finish, she said.

The RABU will completely replace the old, heavier ABU.

"All industrial resources are now producing only the light-weight ABUs with no plans to go back and produce the heavy weight ABUs," said Uyeno.

The shift in production and distribution plans will enable Airmen to purchase the uniforms more quickly than in the past.

Instead of stockpiling them until there was enough stock to line shelves world-wide before they were shipped, "The inventory will be available to Airmen next month through AAFES on-line sales at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/> and at various state-side locations," according to Uyeno.

"As a result, Airmen will be

"All industrial resources are now producing only the light-weight ABUs with no plans to go back and produce the heavy weight ABUs," said Senior Master Sgt. Kecia Uyeno.

able to order and receive them during the summer months when they need them the most," said Uyeno.

In-store priority was given to state-side bases based on their climates, mission and number of Airmen by the Uniform Executive Working Group, according to Uyeno. The group is made up of representatives from various agencies and receives input from the chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

The clothing sales locations to receive the uniforms first are: Cannon AFB, N.M.; Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; Goodfellow AFB, Texas; Holloman AFB, N.M.; Joint Base Andrews, Md.; Joint Base Charleston, S.C.; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Kirtland AFB, N.M.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Moody AFB, Ga.; Nellis, AFB, Nev.; Patrick AFB, Fla.; Tinker AFB, Okla.

"The plan for world-wide distribution is currently in development," said Uyeno.

Navy, Air Force develop engine modification that may save billions

Rob Koon
Program Executive Office
Tactical Aircraft Programs
Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. — The Navy and Air Force stand to save more than \$2 billion after jointly developing an engine modification that will keep critically important aircraft flying for years.

The two services and industry worked together to develop and field a modification to CFM International's CFM56-2 (F108) engine, allowing them to restore exhaust gas temperature margins, increase fuel economy and extend their time between overhauls from 10 to 15 years.

The CFM56 engines are used on the Navy's E-6B Mercury command and control aircraft and the Air Force's KC-135 Stratotanker. CFM International, the engine's maker, is scheduled to receive the Federal Aviation Administration certification of the engine modifications by the end of May, Navy officials said.

"As incredible as these achievements are, both the Navy and the Air Force were struggling to reclaim lost engine efficiency," said Andy Noble, the Navy's CFM56 propulsion engineer. "In our case, only half of the engine life was being regained after the first overhaul. We could not gain back the performance we saw with the original engine build. Even with improved build techniques and test cell procedures, we would be doing well to recover half of the original time on wing between overhauls."

About four years ago, the Navy CFM56 engine team, having exhausted all known means to reclaim lost engine performance, asked CFM to make design improvements.

That effort paid off and resulted in Jeff Bauer, the CFM program manager, submitting a proposal in April 2009 for commercially proven design improvements used in newer models of the CFM56 engine family, Noble said.

"The recommendations proposed by CFM addressed the Navy and Air

"As incredible as these achievements are, both the Navy and the Air Force were struggling to reclaim lost engine efficiency," said Andy Noble, the Navy's CFM56 propulsion engineer. "In our case, only half of the engine life was being regained after the first overhaul. We could not gain back the performance we saw with the original engine build. Even with improved build techniques and test cell procedures, we would be doing well to recover half of the original time on wing between overhauls."

Force concerns of reclaiming lost engine efficiency, as well as introduced fuel efficiencies that would bring additional benefits," he said.

Realizing incorporating these improvements were too costly for the Navy to implement on its own, the E-6B CFM56-2A engine manager, Gerry Cronkrite, pursued a collaborative effort with Tim Misner, the Air Force's CFM56-2B (F108) engine lead program manager. Their coordination resulted in a plan that could be advantageous to both services.

Empowered with this information, the Navy's E-6B program manager here and the Air Force's Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., provided authorization to pursue the design improvements in early 2010. They then combined efforts to share the costs of flight and ground testing as well as gathering the necessary data required for FAA certification.

During the next few months, the updated engine would be tested, overhauled and tested again four times. This extensive barrage of ground testing helped reduce the amount of flight test time required and provided CFM engineers a controlled environment to capture FAA certification data. When the ground tests were complete, the engine was rebuilt and certified ready for flight tests by Navy and CFM engineering.

To help prepare for the upcoming flight testing, Navy Lt. Stephen

Haggard, a test pilot at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 20 (VX-20), recommended flying all test points in the Navy E-6 Level "D" flight simulator. Those simulated flights were done in August and September 2011.

In early December 2011, having met all the readiness review requirements, Cmdr. Jason Rider, VX-20 chief test pilot authorized flight testing to begin. Testing was conducted between Dec. 9, 2011 and Jan. 11, 2012 through the coordinated efforts of VX-20, Navy Propulsion Engineering and CFM Engineering.

"I was excited and fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of this joint service engine upgrade program that will provide both the Navy and Air Force huge cost savings over the life of the program," Haggard said.

"This was a unique test program for the E-6B test team, requiring the skills of professional test pilots, flight engineers and flight test engineers. The team used Crew Resource Management training to safely operate and maneuver this large multi-engine, multi-piloted aircraft to capture all the performance and operability data required to obtain FAA certification."

Cronkrite and Misner are coordinating acquisition and logistics for the effort, with the plan to incorporate design improvements into the engines at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center during depot-level overhauls for Navy and Air Force aircraft in fiscal 2013.

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 Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

Q: Why are the state flags at the main gate and commemorative U.S. Flags on Harpe Blvd no longer being flown full time?

A: Your Senior BLAZE Leadership Team recommended that based on cost, not to fly our flags full time. Due to the normal wear and tear the flags endure, we replace all flags twice a year at a total cost of between \$8,000-\$10,000. In today's cost-conscious culture, we can't afford this expenditure as a priority relative to other mission-related expenditures. State flags and commemorative U.S. flags will be flown every three weeks for SUPT graduations, commemorations and DV visits to the base, weather permitting. Our overarching goal is to ensure we are being good stewards of the limited resources we are given while continuing to make Columbus AFB the "Showplace of the South." Thank you for your interest in making Columbus AFB the pride of our Air Force.



Team BLAZE gives and gives and gives...



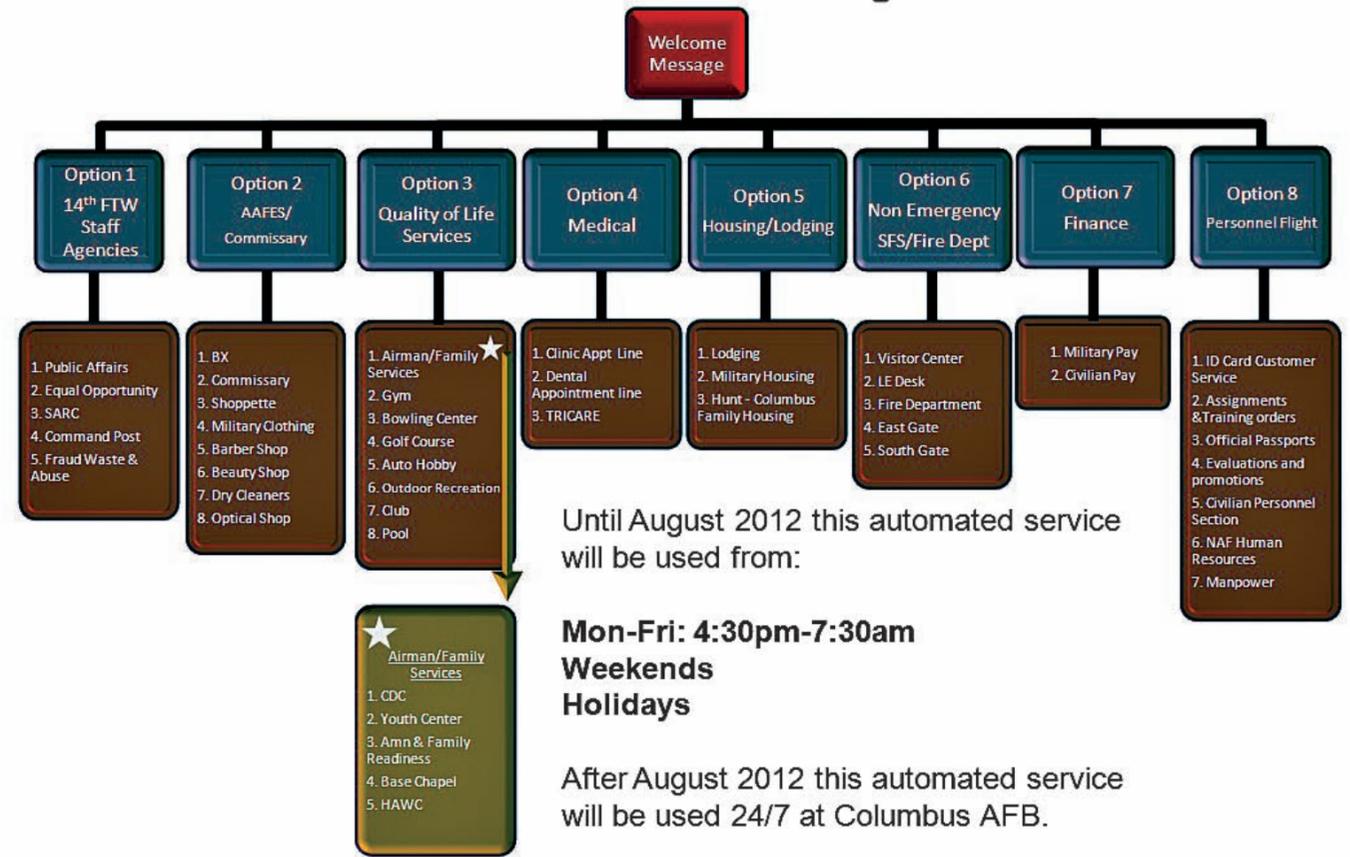
U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
Team BLAZE members fill all of the donation chairs during the Armed Forces Blood Program Memorial Day Blood Drive held at the Fitness Center on May 24. Blood donor volunteers overflowed during the drive to collect blood for service members downrange, and Team BLAZE managed to give 174 pints of blood, all of which will be in the AoR as of Friday, June 1.

APAH Luau wows Columbus Air Force Base



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
Members of Columbus Air Force Base shared Asian Pacific American culture through food, dance and martial arts during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Luau at the Golf Course on May 24. The event capstoned the heritage month for May.

Base Automated Telephone Tree



Until August 2012 this automated service will be used from:

Mon-Fri: 4:30pm-7:30am
Weekends
Holidays

After August 2012 this automated service will be used 24/7 at Columbus AFB.

The current schedule for the automated operator is: Monday through Friday 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Friday 4:30 p.m. to Monday 7:30 a.m. and holidays excluding AETC down days.

CAFB replaces telephone operator

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

As the U.S. Air Force becomes an increasingly cost-conscious organization, many changes are being made to keep up with current constraints.

Columbus Air Force Base made a change to the telephone operating system May 18 in compliance with Air Education and Training Command's order. During non-duty hours the telephone operator is now partially automated.

This is a necessary change in order to still be able to maintain other currently available services in full.

By Aug. 12 CAFB is slated to transition to a fully automated telephone operating system.

The current schedule for the automated operator is: Monday through Friday 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., Friday 4:30 p.m. to Monday 7:30 a.m. and holidays excluding AETC down days.

Base News

Hookin' Stan Last Show Tonight

Hookin' Stan will play it's last show with the current line up this Friday, June 1 at 9:30 pm. The concert will be at The Princess Theatre. Come say good-bye to guitarist, Ben Hoffman, as he will be leaving to fly the F-15E on Sunday.

Wood Shop Closed

The Columbus Air Force Base wood shop will be closed May 30 through June 4 for maintenance.

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 434-2273 to reserve your spot in the next Birth Control Counseling Class.

Sleep Enhancement Class

There is a new Sleep Enhancement Class at the Koritz Clinic held every other Friday. You are a good candidate for the Sleep Enhancement Class if you have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. Call 434-CARE (2273) to schedule.

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>.

LGR Mobility Individual Protective Equipment Element closed for Training

The 14th Logistics Division, Mobility and Individual Protective Equipment Element located in the Walker Center, building 1030 will close for training Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. beginning Thursday, May 10, 2012. All appointments must be scheduled around these days/times to avoid delays and inconveniences. Walk-ins are no longer accepted. All appointments must be scheduled in advance by calling 434-7305, 7306, 3363 or 3364. For more information, please call 434-7212 or 434-7306.

DRMO

Recycle first... by using DRMO as your facilities source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply. Please call: Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance available in the back of building 158.

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.)

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

MFLC consultants provide a non-medical counseling to help Airmen, (both single and married) their spouses and other family mem-

bers to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges, such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Consultants can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC call 251-8627.

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?"

Chapel Schedule

Catholic Community

Sunday:
4 p.m. – Choir Practice
4 p.m. – Confession
5 p.m. – Mass
Thursday:
4:15 p.m. – Choir Practice

Protestant Community

Sunday:
9 a.m. – Mother's Day Breakfast (free), Chapel Annex
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Service
Tuesday:
5 p.m. – Lieutenants Bible Study
Wednesday:
4:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

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.

Sewing Class

Starts June 5, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. End 10 July. Save money and express your creative side. Learn to sew or improve your skills. Class 1: Operating sewing machine Class 2: Fabric/pattern selection Class 3: Cut out/start to sew item Class 4: Tips for easier sewing Class 5: Finish project Class 6: Survival Sewing, Call 434-2790 for more information and to sign up, class size is limited.

Active duty U.S. military personnel offered free entrance to all national parks

To show appreciation for those who serve in the U.S. Military the National Park Service is now offering an annual pass good for free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty military members and their dependents.

Active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents can pick up their pass at the Arches and Canyonlands National Park entrance stations, and at the Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monument visitor centers. They must show a current active military identification card to obtain their pass. More information is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

This military version of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass also permits free entrance to sites managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The pass is also available at these locations.

"Through the years, military members, especially those far

Kate Cannon, Superintendent of the Southeast Utah Group of parks, expressed "We're grateful to the men and women of the armed forces who protect our country, and welcome them to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments."

from home in times of conflict, have found inspiration in America's patriotic icons and majestic landscapes, places like the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon that are cared for by the National Park Service and symbolize the nation that their sacrifices protect," said National Park Service

Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "This new pass is a way to thank military members and their families for their service and their sacrifices."

Kate Cannon, Superintendent of the Southeast Utah Group of parks, expressed "We're grateful to the men and women of the armed forces who protect our country, and welcome them to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments."

National parks and the military have strong ties going back to the establishment of Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872. The U.S. Cavalry watched over America's national parks and did double duty, serving as the first park rangers until the National Park Service was created 44 years later. During World War II, many parks were set aside for the training and care of military personnel. Today, dozens of national parks commemorate military battles and achievements.

A variety of activities are offered to base families

Nothing to do this summer?

The Youth Center has a variety of fun and exciting camps and trips (something for all ages, including adults). For a complete list of programs and for more information contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Comedy Night at the Club June 9

June 9 the Club will host Comedy Night featuring "The Fryman" as seen and heard on Sirius Satellite Radio, Comic View, and NBC; including, Steve Poggi as opening act and music by DJ Felix. Pick up your advanced tickets from the Club now; \$5 Members and \$7 Non-Members. Contact 434-2471 for more information.

Super Scramble

Dust off your clubs to participate in CAFB's largest golf tournament of the year. The Super Scramble will be held on Saturday, June 9. Register today by calling 434-7932.

Pool Open!!!

Independence Pool is now open daily; get your pool passes at Outdoor Recreation. These passes will NOT be sold at the pool or the Columbus Club, but only at ODR. Swim lessons are scheduled in two-week increments throughout the summer for all ages and all skill levels. Stop by or call ODR at 434-2505 for more information.

Youth Golf Camp

Youth Golf Camp will be held 19-21 June – 1 p.m. for 6-9 year olds and 2 p.m. for 10-14 year olds. Cost is \$99 per child and includes a youth set of clubs. If they have their own clubs it will be \$25. Contact 434-7932 for more information.

Summer Bowling Specials

Attention, Students! Strike Zone Lanes has an After Class Pack Special every Mon. – Fri., 2 – 5 p.m., throughout the summer. A game of bowling with shoes, hot dog and small soda is only \$5. Also, don't miss Dollar Days every Thursday, 2 p.m. – close, all month long. Enjoy bowling games, shoe rental, hot dogs, sodas and domestic drafts...all for just \$1 each. FAM-tastic Saturdays and Sundays offer family and friends and afternoon of Cosmic Bowling from 2 – 4 p.m. with unlimited games, a hot dog, small soda and shoe rental...all for just \$8 per person. Bowling punch cards are back on sale with 10 games for \$10, 25 games for \$20 and 50 games for \$40. Finally, Bingo at the Bowling Center is back for just \$1 per card. Dads, visit the Bowling facility on Wednesday, June 20th for the Father's Day Special; enjoy two free games of bowling and free shoe rental. Also, check out the Summer Sizzling Specials to win great prizes for your patronage. Call the Bowling Center at 434-3426 or 3577 for more information.

JUNE 9
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
SHOW STARTS AT
7:30PM

COMEDY NIGHT
AT THE CLUB

Featuring
THE FRYMAN
AS SEEN AND HEARD ON
NBC

Musical by
DJ Felix

with **Steve Poggi** as opening act

Advanced tickets
at the Club
\$5 Members
\$7 Non-Members

At the Door
\$7 Members
\$9 Non-Members

AIR FORCE SERVICES CLUBS
In Partnership with
COLUMBUS

Summer Reading at the Library with new books!

Stop by your Base Library today and ask about the Summer Reading Program, choose from a variety of new books including adult bestsellers and children's new favorites! Also, soon to arrive are new teen books and updates to the non-fiction collection.

Affordable Tickets at ITT

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

Child Development Center

Parents, contact the Child Development Center for information on the Parents Night Out/Give Parents A Break program, 434-2479.

Arts and Crafts

Visit Arts and Crafts for incredibly low prices on all framing and engraving needs. For more information, call framing and engraving at 434-7836. Please note that the woodshop will be closed 30 May through 4 June for maintenance.

Club Scholarships Up for Grabs!

Application packages for the \$1,000 scholarships are due at the Columbus Club or in the

Force Support Squadron front office (Bldg. 730, Rm. 231) by Mon., July 2, 2012. Air Force Club members in good standing and their family members who have been accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry for the Fall 2012 term as part-time or full-time students in either undergraduate or graduate programs are eligible. Entry forms with rules and full eligibility requirements are available at the Club, Library, Education Center and in the foyer of the MSG Building. Or go to www.afclubs.net for more information.

Massage Therapy is Back!

Massage therapy is available by appointment only at the Fitness Center. Swedish massage is just \$35 for 30 minutes, \$60 for 60 minutes and \$90 for 90 minutes. Therapeutic/deep tissue massage is \$45 for 30 minutes, \$70 for 60 minutes and \$100 for 90 minutes. Reflexology is \$35 for 30 minutes, and a chair massage is \$1 per minute. Call Terrance Bonner at 662-251-9255 for an appointment.

Living Fit for Families

USAF FitFamily has created a tool to help your family get into the best shape of your lives with a simple, easy-to-use weight loss program designed just for you. We know you're busy, and this program is sure to fit your lifestyle and needs. Just create a plan. Follow it. Lose weight. It's that simple. The program includes menu plans and other weight loss tools. Sign up today at www.usaffitamil.com.

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.cafbssrocks.com and click on the link to the Fitness page.

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 tools and equipment. 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.

Disc Golf tournament: The Fitness Center will host a 4-Person Team Tournament beginning June 25th; you can sign up before C.O.B on June 20th! Depending on the number of teams, the tournament style will be Round Robin and will be held over a few weeks to allow teams to fit the matches into their schedules. Each match will be chosen at random and teams will have one week to complete the match and turn in scorecards. The two teams with the best record at the end of the tournament will meet for a Best of Three series to declare the CAFB Champion. Call 434-2772 for more information.

A message to my sons: What Memorial Day means to the Nguyen family

Hoang Nguyen
375th Communications Group
deputy commander

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — To my sons, Michael and Alex: I have an important message to share with you — one that involves an important American holiday and why we, of Vietnamese heritage, should be especially thankful for the military men and women who made it possible for us to enjoy this holiday every year.

I speak of Memorial Day, which to you may just mean the official beginning of summer. Michael, you are 15 and focused on classes and school, and Alex, your boundless energy as a 3-year-old keeps us on our toes, so I can understand why you may not fully appreciate what Memorial Day means to me. My hope is that as I share its importance, you will come to appreciate it the same way I do.

You see, I came to the United States in 1975 as a refugee at the end of the Vietnam War with just the clothes on my back. In any other country, refugees-status is synonymous to second class citizens. Only in this great land of ours, the United States of America, could a fairy tale like mine unfold. Nowhere else in the world other than in the U.S.A. can a 13-year-old-refugee receive secondary education, be provided with an opportunity to go to college with government educational grants and, most importantly, be afforded the privilege to serve in the military. It's truly a testament to American exceptionalism.

I always felt it was my obligation to serve in the military to repay this country for what it has done for not only me and my family. I spent 20 years in the Air Force primarily as a communications officer with assignments in Europe and Asia, protecting our country from the threat of communism. My service to the Air Force continues to this day, though I no longer wear the uniform.

While serving in the Philippines, I was once again evacuated, but this time as the result of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. By now I had become a U.S. citizen, and I developed an even deeper appreciation for this country as I saw how America took care of its citizens by evacuating her military members and her non-combatant citizens out of harm's way.

Needless to say, it was a significant emotional event in my life and my career when the Berlin Wall came down in 1992, signifying the end of the very oppressive world regime I escaped from back in 1975. I was then, and continued to be, proud to be in the ranks of those bringing liberty (that we too often take for granted) to millions of people in Eastern Europe.

I viewed my service in the military as merely protecting my way of life, my family's way of life ... the American way of life. Only after my retirement from the military did I reflect on my life, to ponder over what those Vietnam veterans endured for my freedom. Little did these Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Soldiers know back then, they were not merely fighting to give the Vietnamese people freedom from communist oppres-



Hoang Nguyen shares his story with his two sons, Michael 15 and Alex 3.

Courtesy photograph

sion, they also held the line long enough for many of us to escape to this land of opportunity.

Had it not been for the U.S. military pushing back the Viet Cong (Vietnamese communists) during the Tet Offensive in 1968 followed by successful bombing campaigns, I would have been stuck in Vietnam. Given the famine following the war, I doubt if I would be alive today. And had I survived the famine, the exorbitant cost of secondary education as a result of limited educational opportunities in Vietnam would have precluded any chances of me finishing high school, let alone completing a graduate education. You also need to be mindful that if it weren't for the World War II veterans, neither Europe nor Japan would be the economic power houses they are today. By the same token, South Korea would not be the industrialized nation that it is today had it not been for the Korean War veterans.

After much introspection, I decided to make a point of thanking every Vietnam veteran I would cross paths with. To fully appreciate the sacrifice these Vietnam-era veterans made, allow me to paint the picture. Imagine yourself an 18-year-old young man from "main street America" receiving your draft notice to be plucked out of the comfort of home and get shipped out to a jungle in Southeast Asia. There you would fight a war you don't fully understand, only to come back to face rejection from your fellow citizens and neglect

from your government. There was no Transition Assistance Office for them like we have now! Afflicted with post-traumatic stress disorder, many of these veterans ended up becoming indigent and, in many instances, homeless.

While their contributions may have gone unnoticed for having served honorably in this unpopular war, this refugee fully appreciates their sacrifices. I would even go as far as to thank them on the behalf of my family and the thousands of Vietnamese refugees living in the free world today.

Sons, I can honestly say that I would not be here today had it not been for these unsung heroes. I often thought of how gauche it was for me to receive certificates of appreciation from a grateful nation for my service, for it is I who should be grateful, not only for my liberty but also the opportunity to serve in defending her.

This Memorial Day, let our family reflect on the sacrifices of the veterans of previous war eras and be mindful of how blessed we are to be part of this giving nation. My sons, next time you see a person in uniform, thank that individual. And if you happen to run into Vietnam veteran, express your gratitude by sharing with them the direct impact of their contributions on your dad's life and in your life as well. Remember that a grateful heart is the key to peace of mind and resiliency. I charge you to lead a life of service, for I believe that service is the rent we pay for the privilege of being a U.S. citizen.



Company Grade Officer Council

For: Company grade officers.
Elections: Will be held at the Columbus Club at July 6, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.
POC: President: 1st Lt. Caleb Daughhete: 434-2616.



Air Force Association

For: All military and civilians.
POC: President: Mr. Sonic Johnson: 434-7067.



Air Force Sergeants Association

For: Any military, or family of military. Active members are enlisted.
Meeting times: Every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. at the Columbus Club .
POC: President: Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bullock: 434-2115.



Order of Daedalians

For: Military pilots.
Next meeting: Sept. 6.
POC: Membership Chairman: 1st Lt. Nathan Gavic: 434-1529.

Why should each enlisted military member belong to a private organization?

Master Sgt. Andre Gaskin
14th Medical Group

Here at Columbus Air Force Base we have several unique enlisted private organizations that seek to improve the morale and general welfare of all active duty and retired members assigned to Columbus AFB. We also provide a forum where any policy, program or problem of interest to the enlisted force in general, may be discussed freely. Lastly, enlisted private organizations assist in maintaining a high state of unit morale and esprit de corps while encouraging the highest standards of appearance, bearing and behavior.

According to AFI36-2618, the enlisted force structure is comprised of three distinct and separate tiers, each correlating to increased levels of education, training, and experience which build increasing levels of proficiency in the institutional competencies. The three tiers also correlate to increased leadership and managerial responsibilities. These tiers are Junior Enlisted Airman, Noncommissioned Officer, and Senior Noncommissioned Officer.

In my opinion we build upon or grow professionally within each tier by belonging to an Enlisted Professional Private Organization. For the first time in my career, I've had the opportunity to really enrich myself within an enlisted private organization here at Columbus AFB. So you may ask yourself. What is an enlisted private professional organization? Enlisted professional private organizations encourage an attitude of unified purpose and set an example for all enlisted personnel according to the standards, traditions and customs of the United States Air Force.

Enlisted private organizations are more than just a group of enlisted members complaining about leadership or base facilities, but instead we are here to establish and maintain a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all three tiers of the enlisted force structure. Those organizations are the Columbus Top 3, Columbus First Shirts Council, Blaze 5/6 Council, Airmen Advisory Council and the Air Force Sergeants Association.

In all of my years serving this great Air Force, I've never been stationed at a base that truly meets the needs of all enlisted members at each rank tier professionally. Wow, what better way to enrich your career or networking then just getting to know your brothers and sisters in arms. I can easily answer that, by joining your local enlisted private organization.

Serving the greatest Air Force in the world and working alongside the smartest and brightest enlisted force, I personally ask you to inquire about your local enlisted organizations. We all work together here at Columbus for the common good of our military members, civilians, and local community.

In my opinion we build upon or grow professionally within each tier by belonging to an Enlisted Professional Private Organization. For the first time in my career, I've had the opportunity to really enrich myself within an enlisted private organization here at Columbus AFB. So you may ask yourself. What is an enlisted private professional organization? Enlisted professional private organizations encourage an attitude of unified purpose and set an example for all enlisted personnel according to the standards, traditions and customs of the United States Air Force.

Each enlisted private organization plays a vital role in several base and community volunteer opportunities. All organizations are involved with the Happy Irby parkway clean-up, dorm dinners, JROTC, ROTC, FTAC, NCOPE/SNCOPE courses, habitat for humanity, enlisted promotions, enlisted quarterly awards, annual awards, Boss and Buddies Night, and maintaining the cemetery here on base, just to name a few.

One of our largest contributions to all enlisted members here at Columbus, would be the Air Force Sergeants Association. Certainly, they have the greatest impact by lobbying daily on the House and Senate Floor. AFSA are continually lobbying for our active duty and retiree benefits.

Enlisted leaders, please encourage your personnel to get out and get involve here at Columbus, AFB. There are certainly more than enough enlisted private organizations to go around for everyone. If we all work together collectively we can establish an effective means of communication with all enlisted members stationed here at Columbus, AFB. What better way for base personnel to exchange ideas and keep in step to the changing attitudes on our installation. After all, we are all here to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and Feed the Fight.



Airmen Advisory Council

For: Junior enlisted Airmen.
Meeting times: Last Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. in the Montgomery Village.
POC: President: Senior Airman Shakeema Patterson: 434-2150.



Blaze 5/6

For: Enlisted noncommissioned officers.
Meeting times: Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Columbus Club.
POC's: President: Tech Sgt. Brandy Hite: 434-3750. Vice President: Staff Sgt. Kevin Callender: 434-3388



Columbus Top 3

For: Enlisted senior noncommissioned officers.
Meeting times: Meetings held on the third Friday of the month at 3 p.m. in the Columbus Club.
POC: President: Master Sgt. Andre Gaskin: 434-2256.