

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

Vol. 36, Issue 28

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

July 13, 2012

## Weather



### Today

High: 89, Low: 70  
Scattered T-Storms



### Saturday

High: 89, Low: 71  
Scattered T-Storms



### Sunday

High: 91, Low: 71  
Scattered T-Storms



### Monday

High: 93, Low: 71  
Scattered T-Storms

## News Briefs

### Wing Retreat Ceremony

The 14th Flying Training Wing will hold a Wing Retreat Ceremony Monday, July 16 at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Smith Plaza.

### AF Ball Drawdown Tickets

Tickets are now being sold for the AF Birthday Ball Drawdown on July 20! For more information see page 4.

### 14th Medical Operations Squadron CoC

The 14th Medical Operations Squadron will hold its Change of Command ceremony at 3 p.m. in the Columbus Club on July 20.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick

Civil Air Patrol cadets listen closely as Rodney Williams, Dyncorp Senior Mechanic explains the parts of a J-85 engine on July 11 at the engine shop. The cadets spent July 6-14 learning about the many aspects of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The Command Chief Shadow Airman program is highlighted in this week's feature.

## CAP cadets receive weeklong SUPT experience

**Senior Airman Chase Hedrick**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

from around the country came here to Columbus Air Force Base July 6 to 14 to catch a glimpse of just what Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training is really like.

The weeklong camp, known as the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Program Familiarization Course, is an annual event that gives

Forty-six Civil Air Patrol Cadets

See CAP CADETS, Page 3

## 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 (13-06)	0.78 days	1.41 days	Aug. 10	48th (12-13)	3.16 days	0.05 days	Aug. 10	49th (12-JB)	1.38 days	1.73 days	July 25	T-6	766	627	24,935
41st (13-05)	1.82 days	-0.02 days	July 20	50th (12-13)	-3.59 days	-2.78 days	Aug. 10					T-1	284	277	8,140
												T-38	1,031	1,144	8,331
												IFF	91	82	2,599

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Burton Moore (USAF Ret.).

## Happy birthday USA



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

Team BLAZE and people from around the nation celebrated the 236th birthday of the independent United States of America this July 4th. Whether personal traditions for the 4th of July are to have a barbecue, shoot off fireworks or just enjoy a day off from work, the central meaning for the celebration of America's independence is a tradition that endures.

## Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, Academic papers, multi-media 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.

## SILVER WINGS

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NCOIC

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### Submission Deadline

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
16	17	18	19	20	21/22
Night Flying Week  Wing Retreat Ceremony, 4:30 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club  Class 13-11 PPW, @ Smackers		Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m @ Chapel Annex  Medical Group Closed, at noon for training	14th Medical Operations Squadron CoC, 3 p.m. @ Club Drawdown, 6 p.m. @ Club Class 13-05 Track Select, 9 a.m. @ Phillips Auditorium	
23	24	25	26	27	28/29
	Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 3:30 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	IFF Class 12-JBC Graduation Ceremony, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS		Class 12-12 SUPT Graduation, 10 am. @ Kaye Auditorium	BLAZE Formal, 6 p.m. @ Club

### Long Range Events

July 31: Enlisted Promotions  
Aug. 3: Class 12-13 Assignment Night  
Aug. 6: 14th CS AoC  
Aug 6-10: Night Flying Week  
Aug. 7: Newcomers Orientation  
Aug. 8: 13-12 PPW  
Aug. 10: Class 13-06 Track Select  
Aug. 11: TOPS IN BLUE!  
Aug. 13: ALS Begins  
Aug. 14: Hearts Apart

**CAP CADETS**

(Continued from Page 1)

select CAP cadets from a pool of all 50 states a chance to see what pilot training is like.

The CAP cadets who attended the course spent the week getting a firsthand look at the everyday life of a student pilot. The cadets studied basic aircraft knowledge and the parts of the one year course required to become an Air Force Pilot.

Not all training was done in a classroom. The CAP cadets toured some operations facilities such as the air traffic control facilities, flight medicine, aerospace physiology and the engine shop.

The course was more than military experience and academics for the CAP cadets. CAFB officers, many of whom are in current enrolled in Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training courses mentored the CAP cadets, providing valuable information.

CAP cadets were also able to visit the flight simulators to put their learned skills into practice with the safety of solid earth beneath them. T-1 Jayhawk

*The course was more than military experience and academics for the CAP cadets. CAFB officers, many of whom are in current enrolled in Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training courses mentored the CAP cadets, providing valuable information.*

incentive ride were available, and tests were given to the cadets to evaluate their academic performance decide the who were the deserving top performers.

Several events for fun and relaxation were also built into the SUPTFC. Cadets were also enjoyed pool parties and a bowling tournament against the CAP's senior staff.

**Clergy appreciation**

U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
Local clergy members inspect the display of Capt. Sam Kaye's uniform during Clergy Appreciation Day July 10 in the Kaye Auditorium. Clergy Appreciation Day invites local clergy members to tour Columbus Air Force Base and allows them to see aspects of the military and life on Columbus AFB.

**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.

**Summary Court Officer notice: Estate claims**

Col. Jim Sears, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, regretfully announces the death of Senior Airman Geoffrey Cullen, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate of Senior Airman Geoffrey Cullen should contact Capt. Jaclyn Sullivan, the Summary Court Officer at 434-7944 or (336) 757-6017.

**14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED**

As of press time, 68 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## MSG Immersion



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
Airman 1st Class Patrick Caffrey, 14th Force Support Squadron explains to Col. Jim Sears Jr., 14th Flying Training Wing Commander a function of the military personnel flight July 10. Sears has been participating in immersions with the base units to get acquainted with how the different groups operate and to meet the members.

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# AF Ball Drawdown

The Annual Ball Committee is putting on this year's Drawdown as a fundraiser in order to offset cost of the Columbus AFB 70th Anniversary Air Force Ball, with a portion of the proceeds going toward charity.

All base personnel, contract employees, and members of the community are invited to participate at the Columbus AFB Club July 20 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Never heard of a "drawdown"? The 2012 Drawdown is a raffle in reverse: Throughout the night drawdown tickets are pulled from the pile until only the winning tickets are left! There are only 400 tickets available. There are ten top prizes:

\$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, an XBOX360, a Wii, an e-reader, Lowes and Wal-Mart gift cards. DO NOT have to be present to win one of the top prizes. There will also be insurance available for an extra \$10. That gives a ticket immunity in the first round of drawings, putting it back in the pile for another shot at the prizes.

However at the drawdown even the losers are winners. In addition to a shot at door prizes a ticket will provides entry for the purchaser and one guest to the event, food and drinks for the evening. Music will be provided by Columbus AFB's own Russell Hempton. Dress will be casual. Beer will be included in the ticket price, but not mixed drinks.

# Trail BLAZE'r

**Name/unit:** Airman 1st Class Nicholas Mack 14th Medical Support Squadron

**Job title:** Medical Logistics Technician

**Time at Columbus AFB:** 13 months

**Time in Service:** 19 months

**Hometown:** Carrollton, Ga.

**Career goals:** Becoming Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

**Family members:** Mother: Tajuanna Mack, Father: Arthur Mack, Brother: Anthony Mack

**Favorite musician:** Daft Punk

**Favorite movie:** Transformers



**Biggest pet peeve:** Being talked down to.

**Favorite book:** Eyeshield 21

**Inspirations:** My father, Will

Smith and my mother  
**Personal motto:** "When you are doing what you want to do, life becomes wonderful."

# Sims aren't just for flying anymore

**Tech. Sgt. Robert Wollenberg**  
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Officials with the 337th Test and Evaluation Squadron here, through a cooperative program with the U.S. Air Force Academy, is developing a computer-based simulator program that will allow leaders to make more informed decisions regarding resource allocations.

The program allows a user to input changes in resources and manpower to project effects on the B-1 Lancer community, enabling better analysis for leaders.

“Our model allows us to adjust things and see how the B-1 community reacts to decisions, like the way we assign instructors to different squadrons or the amount of sorties we generate,” said Maj. Jeffrey Moffitt, the 337th TES assistant director of operations and project lead. “For example, you can vary the rate of aircraft available and run experiments to see how many people you need to put through the school now that you have fewer aircraft to fly.”

Second and third order effects are also a piece of the puzzle, Moffitt said.

“If I put fewer people through the formal training unit now, how many instructors do I need in the schoolhouse and how many do I need in the bomb squadrons?” he said. “If I put more people through the FTU, I may need more instructors at the FTU.”

As an example, he explained how the schoolhouse feeds into the 34th and 37th Bomb Squadrons at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and the 9th Bomb Squadron here.

“If you turn up the resources you allocate to the schoolhouse, you’ll get a big flow of people from the schoolhouse to the squadron,” he explained. “But if you’ve taken resources away from the squadron, they may stagnate there a little.”

The simulator allows different scenarios to be tested to see where the flows progress more smoothly. It lets you see the effects of today’s decisions a year, two or even three years down the road.

The development of the simulator was made possible through the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Summer Research Program.

Cadets work as members of test teams and gain exposure to operational testing processes, products and experiences while

*“In the short term, the simulator could be used to evaluate the impact of temporarily removing B-1 aircraft from the fleet to modify them for integrated battle station,” Moffitt said. “A long-term goal is to expand the simulator to where other airframes can tailor it to their situation and run scenarios. Hopefully we can get sponsorship for the project from the Air Force to develop the code and flush out the bugs.”*

accomplishing tasks as full-fledged members of operational test and evaluation teams. The cadets participate in the testing of major Air Force weapon systems and enhance test teams’ test design, execution and analysis by conducting research to solve complex problems.

Lt. Col. George Holland, the 337th TES commander, was contacted last fall regarding an opportunity to bring in an Air Force cadet to do summer research, and the idea was to help the B-1 community to solve a problem.

“Since we’re a test squadron that does flight tests on the B-1, I thought maybe we had something he could work on,” the commander said. “And at the same time, the B-1 community was concerned about manning because we were working on the congressionally mandated drawdown of the B-1 fleet and how to flow the proper amount of aviators into the community and out of the community to meet our combat and training requirements.”

Through the program, academy Cadet Tyler K. Meirose spent five weeks working side-by-side with Moffitt writing the code and developing the simulator.

“It was something I was really interested in,” said Meirose. “I wasn’t sure how we were going to attack modeling and solving it, but determining resource levels is something I’ve spent the last two years studying. And so when I heard about tracking people, sorties and instructor pilots through a complicated system, it was something I was really excited about getting down into the



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Damon Kasberg  
**U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Tyler Meirose works on the development of a computer-based simulator to help project short- and long-term effects of changes to manpower, equipment and more within the B-1 Lancer community at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, June 29, 2012. Through the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Summer Research Program, Meirose worked five weeks with the 337th TES to help develop the simulator.**

weeds and analyzing.”

According to Meirose, the cadet’s fields of study are generally directed more to the Air Force Materiel Command, working supply parts-type issues and moving materiel in the physical realm.

“But this was awesome because I got to work with guys who are more combat oriented and talking about people,” he said.

According to Holland, the 337th TES was fortunate to have had Meirose working with them.

“The top guys in each of their academic majors are nominated to go out and solve real-world problems for the Air Force,” Holland said. “Here, (the problem is) to solve B-1 manning problems that Dyess and Ellsworth deal with, having combat and operations units.”

Moffitt is an academy graduate from the class of ’99 and he’s an operations research major.

“So having that background, I was able to have him sponsor Cadet Meirose to guide through his summer research to solve the problem,” Holland said.

Moffitt said they’re at the point where they’re consulting with the Rand Corporation, who’s expressed interested in

developing the model.

“In the short term, the simulator could be used to evaluate the impact of temporarily removing B-1 aircraft from the fleet to modify them for integrated battle station,” Moffitt said. “A long-term goal is to expand the simulator to where other airframes can tailor it to their situation and run scenarios. Hopefully we can get sponsorship for the project from the Air Force to develop the code and flush out the bugs.”

The 337th TES is a tenant unit at Dyess Air Force Base and falls under the 53rd Test and Evaluation Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The 53rd TEG reports to the 53rd Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The 53rd Wing serves as the focal point for the Combat Air Forces in electronic warfare, armament and avionics, chemical defense, reconnaissance and aircrew training devices. The wing reports to the Air Warfare Center at Nellis AFB, a direct reporting unit to Headquarters Air Combat Command. The wing is also responsible for operational testing and evaluation of new equipment and systems proposed for use by these forces.

# Worth fighting for

**Col. Matt Isler**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

British Philosopher Stewart Mill famously wrote, “A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing which he cares more about than he does about his personal safety, is a miserable creature, who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.” Mill’s purpose in “The Contest in America” was to get England to support the North’s war for unification and to abolish the “tyrannical injustice” of slavery, but his words remain applicable to each of us today.

Now, we can take Mill’s challenge as a question, “for what should we be willing to fight?” and “is there really anything more important than our own personal safety?” Is there something so important that we should be willing to stand our ground, despite danger to ourselves and our fellow Airmen? “Fighting” for such a cause could mean building consensus to move forward on an internal unit issue, struggling with other units and leadership to deal with a command-wide problem, or engaging in physical combat when directed by lawful order. In each of these cases, it will take courage to identify the right thing to do, then to take the required level of risk to see that the mission is accomplished.

First, there are some things that are definitely NOT worth a fight. Some of these things not worth fighting for include getting credit, fame, or recognition for work accomplished; fighting for ideas or things that undermine our core values; or undertaking activities that undermine our country’s political leadership or the chain of command. Any energy that Airmen expend on these tasks comes at the cost of energy that could be used for other mission or Airman-related tasks.

The most fundamental thing

worth fighting for is our own integrity. Integrity is the basis of trust; it is the glue that holds our society together. In a combat force whose mission is to “fly, fight, and win” integrity is the foundation on which we build our combat effectiveness. Fighting for integrity demands that we take the “hard right” over the “easy out”; it means making your word and signature matter; it assures others that your work is your own and done correctly; and it shows our fellow Airmen that we can be counted-on, even when things are their worst. For leaders, it means walking in the shoes of our Airmen and leading by example, on the toughest shifts and the most challenging missions.



**Col. Matt Isler**

Another objective worth fighting for is the welfare of our Airmen and families. Fighting to “Care for Airmen and Families” means taking action to meet the legitimate needs of our Airmen and their families. The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review elevated “Taking Care of our People,” including families, to a strategic-level national defense objective. At our unit level, “Caring for our People” means balancing our mission and available resources to sustain the health, welfare, and safety of our Airmen. When the demands of the mission challenge our Airmen’s needs, we need to fight for a healthy, safe, and sustainable work environment, including an environment free from sexual assault and improper relationships between superiors and subordinates. I struggled with this balance between “mission and people” on a partnership-capacity building deployment to the Middle East, where we pushed hard to rapidly generate and fly F-15 training sorties, despite unsustainable living conditions in an improvised tent city. In hindsight, I needed to pause our mission-execution until our Airman-support functions like water, shower, and sewer could meet the legitimate needs of our Airmen.

*The most fundamental thing worth fighting for is our own integrity. Integrity is the basis of trust; it is the glue that holds our society together. In a combat force whose mission is to “fly, fight, and win” integrity is the foundation on which we build our combat effectiveness.*

Finally, one of the best-understood principles worth fighting for is our constitution. For all Airmen, our oaths of enlistment and commissioning call us to “support and defend the constitution of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” At home station, fighting for the Constitution may involve precisely executing our duties like protecting the base, training U.S. and partner nation pilots, or deploying medically-fit Airmen forward to the fight. At other times, such as when deployed to execute a mission directed by the Secretary of Defense Execution Order, it may involve building partner-nation capacity, enforcing a cease-fire, or executing complex kinetic operations as part of a coalition. To properly perform our mission in each of these cases, it is important that all Airmen understand and properly execute the Rules of Engagement, to include your ability and responsibility to defend yourself and your fellow Airmen according to the self-defense section of the ROE.

As Airmen we have a lot worth fighting for: A country and a constitution whose values we hold dear, our families, and our fellow Airmen. Sometimes, “fighting” means standing fast on our core values and speaking truth to power; other times it is answering our nation’s call to arms. In each case, our core values remain to guide our behavior as we fly, fight, and win.

# Integrity always

**Lt. Col. Michael Wulfestieg**  
21st Space Operations  
Squadron commander

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A lot has been written throughout the years about Air Force Core Values, and the importance of not only knowing, but living them. This is a popular topic of professional military education graduations, special events and commentary articles. However, continuous discussion of some foundational topics is important, especially when such repetition helps to highlight the many positive aspects of a value like “integrity,” as opposed to being lulled into thinking the all-too-frequent negative examples in daily life or widely reported in the media are the only “reality.”

George Washington highlighted his perspective in the comment, “I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.” Author Douglas Adams once said, “To give real service you must add something, which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity.”

That is precisely what we do, whether in uniform or civilian clothes, when we commit to supporting the Department of Defense we serve.

How important is having integrity as a part of that service? Some would argue it makes all the difference, between being interested and committed. Therefore, it is of little surprise that in the Air Force, we emphasize it as our core value, Integrity First, upon which all else is built.

So where do we look for role models and examples of this key trait? Hopefully, not too far. In

my experience, I have seen it when Airmen step up and admit that they may have made a poor decision, and now they need help in mitigating the damage or dealing with the consequences, instead of pretending it didn’t happen. Other times, it has been a supervisor who laid all the available facts out on the table, to include all the knowns and unknowns, and didn’t try to cover up any gaps in the information or didn’t share partial information to make the message more palatable. I personally like the anonymous quote, “It is far better to be trusted and respected than it is to be liked.”

Don’t limit your search for examples to your supervisors or fellow Airmen in your workplace. Take note of that little league parent who stands up to an unruly fan and reminds them to stop being rude to the officials and players. It might not be easy to confront that individual, especially one being loud and boisterous, but it is the right thing to do, for the rest of the fans and obviously for the players. Or how about that grocery clerk at the express lane who asks a customer to pick a different cashier because they have too many items? That definitely isn’t the simple choice, it probably isn’t the fastest choice, and it very likely leads to at least a couple of raised voices of frustration, but it is the right choice. As stated by World War II veteran Peter Scotese, “Integrity is not a 90 percent thing, not a 95 percent thing; either you have it or you don’t,” and based on his experience, along with a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts, I think he’s figured it out.

As for other instances in the work environment, daily situations are all around us. As a self-

See INTEGRITY, Page 13

# A wide variety of fun activities are offered to base families

## All Night DJ

The Columbus Club is having an all-night dance party July 20, 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. permitting participants to showcase their best moves in a free-style dance contest for a chance to win \$150. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Free refreshments and drink specials will be available. The "drunk bus" will be running, 1 - 4 a.m., to make sure you get home safe. For more information, call the Club at 434-2471.

## Let's Schlitterbahn!

Your Information, Ticket and Travel office now has discounted tickets for Schlitterbahn – the number one water attraction in America with locations in Galveston Island, South Padre Island and New Braunfels, Tex., as well as in Kansas City, Kan. Contact ITT at 434-2505 today for more information.

## Family Fun Day

The Columbus Club is having a special event for your entire family July 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fun will include pony rides, face painting, balloon toss, dunking tank, arts and crafts, three-legged race, bouncy castles, and MORE! Hot dogs, hamburgers, corn dogs, French fries, punch, tea and water will be served. The cost for adults is \$7 for members, \$9 for nonmembers. Kids (ages 5-11) are \$4 for members, \$6 for nonmembers. Children under 5 are free. For more information, contact the Club at 434-2419 or 434-2489.

## Get Moving!

Your Columbus AFB Fitness Center has two exciting programs to get in super shape this summer. The 444-Mile Summer Cardio Challenge is June 20 - Sept. 19 on the new LifeFitness Cardio Equipment. Imagine running the Natchez trace, where Native Americans, Kaintuck boatmen, post riders, government officials and soldiers moved along the trail tying the Mississippi Territory to the fledgling United States...all from the equipment at your fitness center. Log cards are available at the front desk at the Fitness Center, and participants who complete the challenge receive a commemorative T-shirt. Also, start training and run if you dare in the Friday the 13th 13K Warrior Run on

**Sunday Brunch at the Club**  
**July 22**  
**10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Adults**  
\$16.95 Member · \$18.95 Non-Member

**Kids (5-11)**  
\$5 Members · \$7 Non-Member  
Kids 5 and under - FREE

- fried catfish · roast NY strip
- fried chicken · bacon · sausage
- mashed potatoes · green beans
- corn · rice pilaf · turnip greens
- macaroni & cheese
- black eyed peas · grits · eggs
- biscuits · rolls · cornbread
- sausage gravy · salad bar
- dessert table
- waffle station · omelet station
- drink station with Champagne mimosa

Reservations required NLT July 19. Seating times are:  
10:30am-11am-11:30am-12pm-12:30pm-1pm & 1:30pm.  
FMI 434-2419.

July 13, 6 a.m. The first 13 participants to complete the 8.1-miles receive a t-shirt. A 5K route is available, and families are welcome to participate. Commander's trophy points will be awarded. For more information, call 434-2772.

## Don't Let Your Kids Get Bored

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.

## Pool Passes at Outdoor Rec

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.

## Summer Bowling Specials

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 Wed., June 20, 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.

## 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, Geysers Falls and more. Call 434-2505/7861 for more information.

## Need a Break from the Kids?

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

## 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](http://www.afclubs.net) for more information.

## Batting Cages Now Open

The new batting cages are now open for business. Get 12 balls for just \$1. Machines accept quarters only. The new machines and elevators have been installed behind the adult ball fields.

## 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.usaffitfamil.com](http://www.usaffitfamil.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.cafbfsrocks.com](http://www.cafbfsrocks.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 WORLD-WIDE...and they never go out of style. FSS gift cards can be purchased at Whispering Pines Golf Course, Strike Zone Lanes or at the Youth Center.

# 'First shirt' recycles OCPs for Bagram Airmen

## Capt. Raymond Geoffroy

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Every U.S. Air Force first sergeant is responsible for making sure their Airmen's uniforms are in good order, but one first sergeant here has taken this charge a step further.

Master Sgt. Nicholas Kollett, the first sergeant for the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, developed and manages a base-wide program that provides Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern uniforms to Airmen who have yet to receive the specialized outfits.

The uniform, commonly called the OCP, has become the iconic attire of coalition forces in Afghanistan for many reasons. According to officials, the uniforms are lightweight, flame retardant, and well-suited to blend with Afghanistan's terrain, which is why the U.S. Air Force this year made OCPs the official uniform of Airmen deployed to Afghanistan.

However, when the change took effect, the approximately 7,800 Airmen already in Afghanistan didn't have access to the uniforms. When Kollett, a native of Peabody, Mass., arrived at Bagram Airfield in April, he noted that the majority of 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group Airmen still wore airman battle uniforms.

"Many Airmen were in place when the mandatory OCP wear policy was implemented," Kollett said. "They were disappointed to not have the uniform that everyone else had. The ABU is a lot warmer than the OCP and isn't flame retardant."

Seeking a solution to this problem, Kollett set out looking for a way to acquire OCPs for Airmen. It wasn't long before he discovered a steady source of the uniforms.

"I found out that the Army was taking their old uniforms to be destroyed," Kollett said. "I saw this as ... an opportunity to put Airmen into safer and more comfortable uniforms."

Networking with the Army units responsible for clearing uniforms out of Bagram Airfield's amnesty bins, Kollett started collecting the used OCPs to give them new life.

"I originally received the uniforms and put them on a table in our work center for everyone to sort through," Kollett said. "For a while, we had a lot of uniforms sitting around. I then decided to put them on shelves and organized them by size to make it faster for Airmen to get the uniforms that they were looking for."

And with that, Bagram Airfield's "OCP Store" was born. To date, the store has reissued more than 1,000 OCP uniform sets, valued at more than \$250,000, to Airmen here at no cost, providing comfort from arid temperatures



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Raymond Geoffroy  
**Master Sgt. Nicholas Kollett folds an Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern uniform at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, July 7, 2012. Kollett developed and manages a base-wide program that provides free OCPs to Airmen who have yet to receive the specialized uniforms. Kollett is the first sergeant for the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.**

and facilitating a safer working environment.

The program was well received by the Airmen, who were quick to express their appreciation for the unique service.

"It was a huge morale boost having (Kollett) help us get into OCP uniforms," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Arias, a munitions systems specialist with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron. "It makes a big difference being in the correct and more comfortable uniforms."

"Master Sergeant Kollett has done incredible work for our team," said Lt. Col. Rudy Cardona, the 455th EAMXS commander. "He has directly impacted operations by pro-

viding more practical uniforms that are functional for this environment."

For Kollett, the greatest satisfaction comes from making Bagram Airfield Airmen's lives a little more conformable and safer.

"Taking care of Airmen is something that has always brought me a lot of joy," Kollett said. "I received many thanks from Airmen, but I didn't do this to receive thanks; I did it to take care of the Airmen."

Kollett will soon depart Afghanistan, but he can do so knowing he made a positive impact for his Airmen and all of Bagram Airfield.

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

# Little Rock gets iPads, saves paper, money

Staff Sgt. Jacob Barreiro  
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE, Ark. — Officials here received 721 iPad 2s for their C-130 Hercules fliers July 2 as part of Air Mobility Command's effort to reduce paper waste and costs by replacing flight bags, and the loads of paperwork they hold, with the electronic tablets.

The tablets were presented to begin a six-month trial period during which aircrew members will be able to store publications and other paperwork electronically on the devices, rather than carrying them on-board in a flight bag. The tablets are scheduled to become ubiquitous across the base by December and Air Force officials plan to save millions of dollars when they do.

"A publication bag can weigh anywhere from 60 to 80 pounds," said Master Sgt. Brandon Bowers, a 19th Operations Group evaluator flight engineer. "Just one of them costs more than an iPad. The tablets will give us more information with less weight, while saving money and conserving resources."

Every flier will eventually have one of these tablets for duty, if everything goes as planned, but right now the base is a leading unit for the testing phase of the plan, and unforeseen circumstances could impede progress.

The tablets were presented months after the Air Force was awarded a \$9.6 million contract, giving them the option to buy as many as 18,000 of the tablets.

Annual Mobility Air Forces savings estimates printing required flight documents and distribution are approximately \$5 million annually. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Air Force Materiel Command are responsible for printing and distribution of the required paper aeronautical documents needed by the Air Force's flying crews.

According to Letitia Long, the NGA director, the Air Force is the agency's largest account holder, with a total annual budget for flight paper of \$20-24 million. By moving to an electronic format, a significant annual savings for the Department of Defense Enterprise can be realized.

## Acting undersecretary of the Air Force appointed

WASHINGTON — On July 3, President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Jamie Morin to serve as the acting undersecretary of the Air Force.

He will serve in this capacity effective immediately and until such time as a new undersecretary is nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Morin said he welcomed the new responsibilities.

"I appreciate the opportunity to make a difference for the Air Force and our nation while also digging more deeply into critical issues like space programs, energy efficiency, (Department of Defense)

management reform, and the Air Force budget," he said. "It will be exciting to work even more closely with great professionals like Secretary Panetta, Deputy Secretary Carter, Secretary Donley, General Schwartz, General Breedlove and our outstanding Air Force leaders here on the Air Staff and around the globe."

Morin has served as the assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller since 2009.

Marilyn Thomas, the principal deputy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller,



President Barack Obama has appointed Dr. Jamie Morin as the Acting Under Secretary of the Air Force. He has served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller.

will perform Morin's duties in SAF/FM while he is serving as undersecretary, except those duties that require action by a Senate-confirmed presidential appointee.

## New options arise for many military homeowners

Scott Prater  
Schriever Sentinel

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Federal Housing Finance Agency recently announced changes to its short-sale policies that should make it easier for military homeowners with Fannie Mae- or Freddie Mac-backed mortgage loans to honor their financial commitments when they are required to move as part of their duty.

Under the new policy, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will not pursue deficiency judgments, cash contributions or promissory notes from members of the military with a change in duty station for any property purchased on or before June 30. Service members must have a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loan to be eligible.

According to FHFA records, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac together own or back more than half of the country's \$12 trillion in mortgages.

Christina Stump, an accredited financial counselor at Schriever Air Force Base's Airman and Family Readiness Center, said the FHFA announcement is good news because it creates additional options for homeowners who receive permanent change of station orders. However, she cautioned homeowners to investigate all options when it comes to selling or renting their property.

"This is one of the biggest concerns for military families right now," Stump said. "The housing industry still hasn't recovered from the (2008) credit crisis and the resulting decline in real estate values. Chances are if someone purchased a home in the past seven years, their home's value is less than the price they paid. So when they PCS, it's difficult to discover and decide on the best course of action."

The FHFA said its policy change resulted from analysis that showed PCS orders often require quick moves, which can create hardship for military homeowners who currently owe more on their mortgages than their home is worth and, therefore, cannot sell their home without taking a loss.

Edward J. DeMarco, FHFA's acting director, explained that previously, many service members felt their only option was either to maintain financial obligations on two residences or default on their mortgage.

"It is in everyone's interest for the men

and women serving in our armed forces to focus on the important job they are doing defending our country, rather than worry about the maintenance and leasing of a property in another jurisdiction," said DeMarco. "These Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac policy changes, in combination with related guidance last fall, should now provide military homeowners with access to the immediate and automatic full range of foreclosure alternatives."

Since Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are mortgage guarantor companies, not mortgage lenders, many military members may be unaware of their mortgage loan's connection to the agencies. Service members can check Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac websites to see if their loans are held by these government-sponsored enterprises or they can call hotlines for military homeowners at 1-877-MIL-4566 or 1-800-FREDDIE.

The recent news comes on the heels of additional FHFA policy changes regarding service members and the nature of military service. Last year, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac issued guidance to mortgage servicers confirming PCS orders as a qualifying hardship for forbearance and loan modifications.

Stump recommended that homeowners consider alternative housing assistance options before deciding on the option to short sell their home.

"A short sell is where an owner sells their home for less than the amount they paid," Stump said. "It's going to help people avoid foreclosure, but it's not the best option because people will lose the difference between their purchase and sell price."

Homeowners, for example, can choose to keep their current home and apply to refinance their loans.

"Refinancing and obtaining a better interest rate can help people lower their monthly payments in the long term," Stump said. "By renting their home, they can then offset their lower mortgage payment through rental contributions."

Forbearances and repayment plans are modifications made through mortgage lenders that allow homeowners who have missed payments to extend the length of their loan.

"The most important thing service member families need to understand is that they have a multitude of options available to them," Stump said.

## 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.

### Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic is open Tuesday/Thursdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. The Attic serves junior enlisted members (E-1 through E-5) with uniforms and basic household items at no cost. Donations of uniforms, household goods, family clothing, maternity, infant care items and furniture are welcomed. Please coordinate furniture or other large donations with the staff during business hours. The Attic is located in building 530, across from the Thrift Shop.

### 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 to 10:30 a.m. 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.

### Education Testing Center Closures

The Education Office will NOT conduct testing (PME, CDC, CLEP/DANTES) on Thursday, July 5 and Tuesday, Sept. 4. Please plan accordingly. Testing is held each Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 434-2562 434-2563 to schedule an exam.

### FREE Computerized CLEP Exams

Computerized CLEP testing is available at the Mississippi State University Assessment and Testing Center (<http://www.ats.msstate.edu/testing/>).

Military members will NOT be charged a fee for the first-time administration of any CLEP exam. However, retakes of CLEP exams must be paid for by the military member. DANTES (DSST) paper-based exams will continue to be administered in the CAFB Ed Office. Please call 434-2562 or 434-2563 for more information.

### 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.

### Mississippi Sales Tax Holiday

The annual Mississippi Sales Tax Holiday begins 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 27, 2012, and ends 12:00 midnight Saturday, July 28, 2012. The items exempt from sales tax during the Sales Tax Holiday are identical to those items exempt in prior years. Clothing and footwear items, meant to be worn next to the body and cost less than \$100 per item, are exempt from sales tax during this period. Accessories such as jewelry, handbags, wallets, watches, backpacks, and similar items do not qualify for the Sales Tax Holiday. Cleats and items worn in conjunction with an athletic or recreational activity are other sample items not eligible. School supplies and computers are not included. For additional information, go to: <http://www.dor.ms.gov/secondsaletaxholiday.html>

### Alabama Tax Free Holiday

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. (CST) on Friday August 3, 2012, and ending at twelve midnight on Sunday August 5, 2012, Alabama will hold its seventh annual sales tax holiday giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, and clothing free of state sales or use tax. For additional info, go to: <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/salestaxhol.htm>.

## 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).)*

### 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 members 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?"

### 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.

### Using the Internet for Job Search

July 18, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Using the Internet to Job Search, Transition, and employment applications. To register call 434-2790.

### 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.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic Community

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

### Protestant Community

**Sunday:**  
9 a.m. – Sunday School for Adults, Chapel Library  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Service  
**Tuesday:**  
5 p.m. – Lieutenants Bible Study, Chapel Library  
**Wednesday:**  
4:30 p.m. – Choir Practice, Sanctuary  
**Saturday:**  
7 a.m. – Men's Monthly Breakfast and Study—*Twelve Ordinary Men* (2nd Sat)

# Command Chief Shadow Airman Program offers unique view



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Staff Sgt. Markita Smith, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief Executive takes a moment to mentor Airman 1st Class Joshua Chambers, 14th Force Support Squadron about rank and career progression, goal-setting and how to reach personal goals. A large aspect of the Shadow Airman program focuses on mentoring junior enlisted Airmen to help them become the best that they can be.**

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

In order to develop and grow our Enlisted Force, non-commissioned officers at all levels have the responsibility to seek and provide mentoring opportunities for their Airmen. From conducting feedback sessions to providing career counseling to relating our Air Force experiences — good and bad, our Airmen thirst for mentorship. With that in mind, I believe the Command Chief Shadow Airman program is a “one-of-a-kind” initiative that pays huge dividends up and down the chain of command.

When I was a Staff Sergeant at Columbus AFB in the early 1990’s our wing Senior Enlisted Advisor (the predecessor to today’s Command Chief) mentored NCOs in a program similar to the one I conduct today. Until I “shadowed” the Chief, I truly did not know how broad and far-reaching his duties and responsibilities were in taking care of Airmen and families, while at the same time advising the Wing Commander on daily operations of the wing. I knew then, if I were ever to achieve such a level as our Senior Enlisted Advisor that I would want to reach out to Airmen and share this unique view.

The Command Chief Shadow Airman program offers Airmen the opportunity to see wing operations from the Command Chief perspective and serves two great purposes; it provides our Airmen insight into how the wing and Air Force operates, and provides me the opportunity to hear what is on the minds of our Airmen.

This program opens up the aperture for the Shadow Airman to see the multitude of processes and personnel that help us take care of the wing and our Airmen and their families and shows the Shadow Airman how his or her job affects our wing’s mission accomplishment.

The Shadow Airman participates in all my meetings and all Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training graduation events on my calendar for the day. The graduation events really give the Shadow Airman an understanding of our mission and the role that they play in producing pilots. Additionally, I bring the Airman to an area in the wing completely outside of their Air Force specialty. For example, our last Shadow Airman, SrA Joshua Chambers, who works in the Force Support Squadron, got to see what our Medical Operations Squadron Airmen in Aerospace and Operations Physiology do on a daily basis and experience some of the training that they provide our student pilots.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens  
**Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief poses for a photo in his office with Airman 1st Class Joshua Chambers, 14th Force Support Squadron and July 29 Shadow Chief on July 29. During the Shadow Airman program the chosen Airman gets a vague idea of what a normal day is like for the Command Chief.**

The Shadow Airman program also gives me the opportunity to have in-depth conversations with our Airmen. I get to hear what is on their mind, the concerns and issues that they face, and their perspectives on Air Force matters. As we discuss things, I have the chance to provide one-on-one mentorship, to offer guidance on their career and goals, share my views on some of the issues the Air Force is facing, and challenge them to see things from a different perspective.

Lastly, I want the Shadow Airman to see what it is like to

be a Wing Command Chief and get an idea of what their future may have in store for them.

Command Chief Shadow Airman program participants are selected by their unit and group leadership based on the whole-person concept. This includes the Airman’s job performance and leadership skills, education, and specific achievements. Supervisors interested in recommending personnel airman basic through technical sergeant should make nominations through their unit chain of command to their Group Superintendent.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief sits down with Airman 1st Class Joshua Chambers, 14th Force Support Squadron to debrief and mentor after a long day of following in the Chief’s footsteps. During the Shadow Airman program the chosen Airman gets a vague idea of what a normal day is like for the Command Chief.**



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief watches as Airman 1st Class Joshua Chambers, 14th Force Support Squadron experiences a Barany chair, a device that pilots use to overcome flight sickness at Aerospace and Physiology during the Shadow Airman program. The Shadow Airman program allows junior enlisted Airmen to experience aspects of the base that they would not see on their average work day.**



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Airman 1st Class Joshua Chambers, 14th Force Support Squadron and Chief Master Sgt. Vance Kondon, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief look on as Airman 1st Class Kyle Nason, Medical Operations Squadron and Senior Airman Rory Hayes, MDOS assist Airman 1st Class Nick Belcourt, MDOS in demonstrating the proper way to untangle a parachute while falling. Many different base areas and activities are visited during the Shadow Airman program that would not be seen by most Airmen.**