

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 36, Issue 29

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

July 20, 2012

Weather



Today

High: 92, Low: 72
Scattered T-Storms



Saturday

High: 91, Low: 71
Scattered T-Storms



Sunday

High: 90, Low: 72
Scattered T-Storms



Monday

High: 90, Low: 72
Scattered T-Storms

News Briefs

53 Days until Birthday Ball

There are 53 days until the Sept. 14. Air Force Birthday Ball Celebration. The Annual Ball Committee Drawdown raffle will be held this Friday, July 20, 6 p.m. at the Columbus Club, Casual Attire. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Quarterly Awards Ceremony

Quarterly Awards Ceremony will be held Tuesday, July 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Kaye Auditorium.

Enlisted Promotions

Enlisted Promotions for the month of July will be held Tuesday, July 31 at 4 p.m. in the Columbus Club.



Maj. Gen. Mark Solo (right), 19th Air Force commander, passes the 19th AF flag to General Edward Rice Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, to relinquish command during the inactivation ceremony held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas July 12.

U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Peterson

19th Air Force inactivates, Maj. Gen. Solo retires

Bekah Clark

19th Air Force Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Nineteenth Air Force stood down in an inactivation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, yesterday after more than 19 years of managing flying training for all of Air Education and Training com-

mand.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, 19th AF commander, joined Gen. Edward Rice, AETC commander, in furling and casing the 19th Air Force flag, marking Solo's relinquishment of command.

Rice lauded Solo and the men and women of 19th Air Force for their role in ensuring a smooth transition of authorities

from 19th AF to AETC while still executing the daily mission.

“In the two years of General Solo's command, they've done much more than prepare for the inactivation,” Rice said. “Nineteenth Air Force led the stand up of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter school house and the Air Force's only undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft training program

See SOLO, Page 2

Inside



Feature 8

Night flying is highlighted in this week's feature.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (13-06)	0.65 days	1.11 days	Aug. 10
41st (13-05)	0.76 days	-0.99 days	July 20

PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (12-12)	-1.87 days	-0.62 days	July 27
50th (12-12)	-0.83 days	-2.54 days	July 27

IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (12-JB)	-0.42 days	0.42 days	July 25

WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	1,641	1,227	25,535
T-1	531	510	8,651
T-38	584	496	10,186
IFF	151	135	2,782

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

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 67 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.

SOLO

(Continued from Page 1)

for pilots and sensor operators. The unit also activated student squadrons, streamlining the administrative control of the nearly 1,400 student pilots who begin training each year.”

“The team did all this while maintaining its day-to-day flying training missions, which accounts for 47 percent of the Air Force’s total flying hour program,” Rice said.

Following his remarks, Rice presented Solo and 19th Air Force with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for their accomplishments between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2011.

Echoing Rice’s pride in 19th AF’s accomplishments, Solo said that what he was most proud of was that their mission of a successful stand down had been accomplished.

“When I took command of 19th Air Force two years ago, I knew that I was coming to Randolph with the goal of closing down the unit and ensuring a seamless transition of our many operations directly into AETC,” said Solo. “With careful planning, coordination, and herculean efforts from the men and women at the wings, 19th Air Force, and AETC, I am confident that we have achieved our goal.”

“Nothing pleases me more than knowing

that at each of our units, our Airmen will wake up tomorrow morning and go about their business as usual, training world-class aircrews, combat systems officers, and air battle managers to sustain the combat capability of the United States Air Force, our sister services, and our allies,” he said.

The stand down of 19th AF is a part of Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley’s 2011 call for the inactivation of three numbered air forces and the consolidation of their duties to other units. In addition to the inactivation of 19th Air Force, 13th Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii will inactivate in September. 17th Air Force at Ramstein Air Base, Germany inactivated earlier this year.

The inactivation also serves as Solo’s final Air Force career accomplishment; the general retires today after more than three decades of service.

“As I reflect back on over 33 years of service in our Air Force, I am reminded of the many dedicated Officers, NCOs, Airmen, and civilians who have molded my career and enriched our lives,” said Solo.

“I have watched our Air Force go through many changes over the years but the resilience and determination of our Airmen have sealed our reputation as the most respected Air Force in history,” he said.

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
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	28 - Mississippi Sales Tax Holiday
30	31	1	2	3	4/5
	Enlisted Promotions			Class 12-13 Assignment Night	4/5 - Alabama Sales Tax Holiday

Long Range Events
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
Aug. 17: Class 12-13 Graduation
Aug. 22: IFF Graduation

Columbus AFB Exchange celebrates 117 years with host of savings

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

In 1895, the War Department issued General Order 46 directing commanders to establish an Exchange at every post. Since then, Exchange associates have faithfully served alongside service members wherever they are called to serve. Today, whether at Bagram or Barksdale, troops and their families know the Exchange is there.

On July 25, Columbus AFB Exchange facilities will mark the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's 117th birthday with a host of savings and specials.

Shoppers using their Military Star® Card to fill up at the Express from July 25-27 will see a discount of 17-cents per gallon. The Military Star® Card will also pay

dividends at the food court on July 25 as diners can take 20 percent off orders at Exchange-operated restaurants such as Taco Bell and Subway. Also on the 25th, Express patrons can enjoy free 20- and 30-ounce fountain drinks and 20-ounce Fresh Java until 1:17 p.m.

The birthday savings even extend online where www.shopmyexchange.com will offer a one-day sale on hundreds of products including a 40" Sharp AQUOS 1080 LCD TV for \$717, up to 25 percent off name-brand watches and 66 percent off select fine jewelry.

"To say that this benefit has been around for 117 years is a testament to the loyalty of generations of military shoppers," said the Exchange's General Manager, Roberto Montalvo. "July 25th is our annual opportunity to celebrate and thank them for making the Exchange their first choice."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens
On July 25, Columbus AFB Exchange facilities will mark the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's 117th birthday with a host of savings and specials. AAFES began in 1895 when the War Department issued General Order 46.

Want to race?



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
Kerry Emmert drives a BMW 1 M through a timed course on the Strategic Air Command ramp here on July 14. For more information on how to get involved and race with the SCCA visit www.MSSCCA.org.

SUPT Class 13-11 welcomed at PPW



U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Frank Baranyai
Sonic Johnson, President of the Golden Triangle Chapter of the Air Force Association presents Dario Valmori, a student pilot from Italy with a T-6A Texan II cockpit poster at the Class 13-11 Pilot Partner Welcome with Smackers on July 17. The Golden Triangle Chapter of the Air Force Association partners with the Columbus Link to host community welcomes for every new SUPT class.



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

Juliana Kyzar, Airman's Attic Store Manager sorts through and folds some recent donations to the store. The Airman's Attic is a store that junior enlisted members can go to for clothes and household essentials free of charge.

Airman's Attic needs volunteers

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

Moving to a new area or trying to manage finances for the first time can be a daunting task, so the Airman's Attic gives junior enlisted members (ranks E-1 to E-5) as much support as possible, but it also needs support.

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman's Attic is operated by volunteers and is in dire need of more individuals to fold, sort, man, and of course to donate.

"We need volunteers to mainly help run the store," said Juliana Kyzar, Airman's Attic Store Manager. "Sort donations, put them out on the floor and man the store while it's open are all things we need help with."

Those who choose to volunteer at the Airman's Attic are not just giving back to Airmen and their families but to Team Blaze as a whole.

"I volunteer to help other families and service members get the things they need when they can't obtain them on their own," said Crystal Williams, an Airman's Attic volunteer and military spouse.

Not everyone has time or is able to dedicate themselves to volunteering, but there are

other ways to help support the Airman's Attic which is located in the left side of building 530.

"Anyone can donate household goods, clothes, baby care items, toys, books and pretty much anything else you need for your home," said Kyzar. "We accept donations during business hours and we also have an open donation on the side of building 530 that is open 24 hours."

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman's Attic houses dozens of racks of donated goods to help junior enlisted Airmen and their families start their lives on base without having to worry about buying all new items. The goods found there are free of charge with the idea of "pay it forward" once the Airman gets on their feet.

"Household items and uniforms are expensive and it really helps the Airmen out to have somewhere to come to get these items and not have to pay a lot of money," said Williams.

If anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities at the Airman's Attic, please contact Juliana Kyzar at 434-1614. Furniture and other large donations must be coordinated for drop-off during business hours which are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wing holds retreat ceremony



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

The Columbus Air Force Base honor guard and members of the 14th Flying Training Wing hold a wing retreat ceremony at Smith Plaza on July 16. The sounding of Retreat traditionally signals the end of the duty day.

Bengal Tigers raise the roof



Courtesy photo

37th Flying Training Squadron "Bengal Tigers" Capt. David Mahan, 1st Lt. Michael Langdon along with Zac Sparrow secure a ladder for Capt. Nick Philbrick, 37th FTS, at a local Habitat for Humanity home on July 14. As part of a squadron project sixteen members of the 37th FTS came together to shingle an entire roof from scratch as a gesture of community spirit and volunteerism.

Cost-cutting ideas sought through SAVE award

WASHINGTON — Acting Under Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Jamie Morin sends the following message to the Airmen of the U.S. Air Force:

The White House continues to challenge federal employees to identify areas where we can save scarce taxpayer dollars while improving the way the government works. President Obama believes the best ideas usually come from the front lines and back in 2009 launched the SAVE Award (Securing Americans Value and Efficiency) to seek ideas from federal employees about how we can make government more efficient and effective.

Over the past three years, federal employees have submitted

more than 75,000 cost-cutting ideas through the SAVE Award. Dozens of the most promising ideas have been included in the president's budget, including some noteworthy Air Force submissions. I thank the many Airmen who participated in prior years and encourage you to take time to consider and submit good ideas this year as well.

Please go to the Office of Management and Budget website (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/save-award>) by the July 24 deadline if you would like to submit an idea. You will see award criteria and prior year award winning ideas at the website. You can also encourage your co-workers to vote on your idea or submit their own. The winner gets to come to Washington to present

his or her idea to the president for possible inclusion in the next budget.

Our most valuable resource is our talented and innovative military and civilian workforce. At a time when the nation continues to face fiscal and economic challenges, it's all the more important that we work together to get the maximum combat capability out of each dollar the taxpayers entrust to us — every good idea matters!

Again, thank you in advance for your participation in this year's SAVE challenge, and for what each of you do every day to make our Air Force the best in the world.

Service members: Let's talk trash

Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — With no one in sight, a trash truck pulls up to one of the many orange dumpsters throughout the base. As the driver and his crew dismount to empty the dumpster, so does a crew of four Airmen. However, before the dumpster can be emptied, these Airmen jump into it and begin a process of what some might describe as a very dirty job.

"I found one" says an Airman. "BINGO!" says the other. "Two more security violations, A boarding pass with all the personal information on it and a customs form complete with his home mailing address."

The 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Escort Flight Tango Element is led by, Staff Sgt. Willard Hughes during the morning-shift and Staff Sgt. Anthony Espino during the night-shift. These gentlemen lead a team of 18 Airmen, whose primary duties are to dive into dumpsters in search of items containing information that could present a security risk to service members, their families and the base.

Tango Element members, sometimes referred as the "Dumpster Divers", recover an average of 400 operations security violations a week.

"Our mission is to look into the dumpsters looking for OPSEC —

critical information, maps, names, addresses and uniforms," Hughes said. "Once we find these items, they are logged into the system, verified, we notify the unit's first sergeant and create a weekly report which is sent to wing leadership."

In accordance with the Air Force Central 100 percent shred policy, outlined in the Air Force Instruction 10-701, Operations Security (OPSEC), the 379th ECES will oversee and conduct the wing's "dumpster dive" program. In total, the divers continuously inspect more than 150 dumpsters on a daily basis.

"Our job is to ensure the safety and security of not only our Air Force mission, but our coalition partners as well," Espino said. "There are a lot of personal and work-related items found that can potentially lead to credit card fraud, identify theft and impede our mission capabilities."

Master Sgt. Marcus Sidney, the 379th ECES Wing Escort Program manager, validates and categorizes all items recovered by Tango Element.

The three categories are uniforms, rules information and critical information. However, the biggest OPSEC category violation is the rules information that contains privacy act and personal information such as receipts, mailing labels, documents and pictures.

"During rotation season is when we see an influx," said the 18-year veteran. "As a base, there were more than 1,900 OPSEC violations for the month of June."



U.S. Air Force photo/ Staff Sgt. Sheila deVera
Members of the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Escort Flight - Tango Element sort through trash looking for operation security violations in Southwest Asia, on July 2, 2012. Last month alone, Tango Element members, also known as "Dumpster Divers" recovered more than 1,900 OPSEC violations.

This year alone, there have been more than 9,000 OPSEC violations. In 2011 there were more than 22,000 total violations.

"We protect everyone from themselves," said Airman 1st Class Othniel Lambert, who is assigned to the 379th ECES Escort Flight. "We're here as a safety net to catch any sensitive items before it goes into the wrong hands."

The job itself can be a very dirty job, but Tango Element members protect everyone by getting inside and inspecting the dumpster every day looking for information that may compromise the security and safety of personnel and the base.

Sergeant Walker's court-martial begins

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The general court-martial for Staff Sgt. Luis Walker, 737th Training Group, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, began July 16, 2012.

Sergeant Walker, a basic military training instructor (MTI) at JBASA-Lackland, faces 28 charges, including rape, adultery, obstruction, aggravated sexual contact, multiple counts of aggravated sexual assault and violating a lawful order regarding unprofessional relationships with trainees.

The charges stem from alleged incidents that took place between October 2010 and June 2011.

When the initial allegation was made, his commander immediately relieved him of duty and began an investigation. Walker is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Air Force will not tolerate criminal behavior and unprofessional relationships between instructors and trainees or students, which are specifically prohibited by Air Force Air Education and Training Command instructions," said Air Education and Training Command Commander, Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., in a recent address. "The vast majority of MTIs are great Americans who live up to the high standards we demand of those who are entrusted with the critically important and sensitive mission of turning ordinary citizens into

Airmen."

A comprehensive internal and external investigation was launched at Air Force basic military and technical training centers.

Air Education and Training Command will ensure any systematic issues involving maltreatment and sexual misconduct are identified and addressed, said Rice.

Since the command-directed investigation was launched, several members of the military training instructor corps have come forward with allegations of inappropriate behavior by other instructors at JBASA-Lackland.

"The fact that MTIs stepped forward to identify those suspected of misconduct cannot be overlooked," said Col. Polly Kenny, 2nd Air Force Staff Judge Advocate. "It demonstrates that these NCOs care about the integrity of the MTI Corps, and are not willing to tolerate behavior that will tarnish a hallowed Air Force institution."

The Air Force is currently adjusting measures designed to dissuade, deter, detect and prevent this type of behavior in the future and will continue to offer support and services to victims.

The CDI team has set up a 24-hour hotline for anyone who would like to report any maltreatment and or sexual misconduct which may have occurred while at BMT or in Tech Training. The reports can also be made anonymously.

The CDI Hotline number is (210) 652-4007 or DSN 487-4007.

Feed the fight



Courtesy photo
Capt. Thomas Moseder, deployed 48th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot, works with his coalition and joint team members to coordinate airfield operations at Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, which is the busiest single-runway airport in the world. 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

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.

New Tops in Blue show to visit Columbus

Gwendolyn Granderson
14th Force Support Squadron

Tops in Blue, the premier entertainment showcase of the U.S. Air Force, will perform a free, family-friendly show Saturday, August 11 at 6 p.m., at Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. for military ID holders and at 5:30 p.m. for the general public. There are no tickets for this event, so come early as seating is limited and cannot be reserved.

In February of this year, Columbus was the last stop on the 2011 tour titled "Rhythm Nation" The 2012 season kicks off with Columbus being at the start of the tour. The mission of Tops in Blue is to provide musical entertainment to service members worldwide and they perform approximately 130 shows during a ten-month period.

Tops in Blue is comprised of approximately 40 vocalists, musicians, dancers, audio and visual technicians from across the Air Force and is one of the most widely travelled groups of its kind. Each year, personnel from across the Air Force compete in a multilevel competition for the right to be selected in this esteemed performance group. Tops in Blue members are on permissive temporary duty orders during the span of their tour.

The 2012 tour, entitled "Listen!" invites the audience to listen to the music of life through the sounds we hear everyday. It features the dynamic rhythms of The Doobie Brothers, Earth, Wind and Fire, Whitney Houston, and Maroon 5. This year's tour also showcases the great country music of Darius Rucker, Carrie Underwood, Lady Antebellum, and The Zac Brown Band. Of course,



U.S. Air Force photo
1st Lt. Kandis Rich sings during a Tops in Blue 2012 World Tour performance on July 12, 2012. The tour, entitled "Listen," invites audiences to listen to the music of life through the sounds we hear every day.

no Tops in Blue show would be complete without the great patriotic music that honors our nation and its heroes. Add the high energy precision choreography and dazzling visual impact Tops in Blue is known for and every member of the audience will be singing along and dancing in their seats.

Local sponsors who make this and other events possible are Mississippi University for Women, WCBI, Pop's BBQ, Chick-Fil-A, Brown's Farm and Garden Supply and Studdard Law Firm. Coca-Cola is the national sponsor of this tour. No federal endorsement of sponsors is intended.

For more information, visit CAFB.FSS.Rocks.com Facebook or go online to www.cafbssrocks.com.

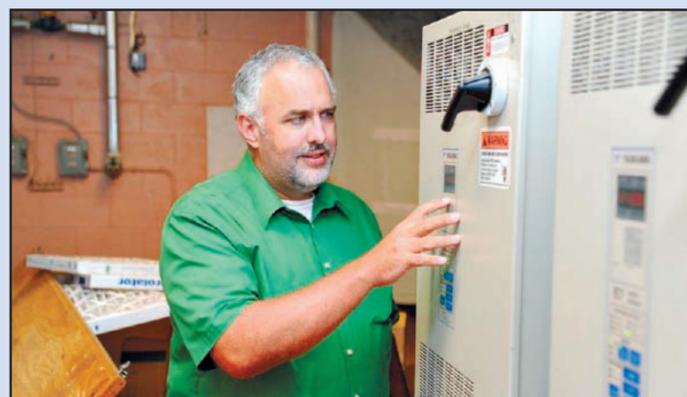
Trail BLAZE'r

Name: Dr. Carl James
Unit: 14th Civil Engineer Squadron
Job title: Base Energy Manager
Time at Columbus AFB: One year, 6 months
Time in Service: One year, 6 months
Hometown: Starkville, Miss.

Career goals: I simply want to work at a place where I enjoy my work, do it to the best of my abilities, know that the work I do makes a difference and be compensated fairly. I am so thankful to have achieved that here at CAFB.

Family members: Wife, Sharon; Daughters, Aubrey (23) and Adrienne (21)

Favorite musician: Enjoy various types of music depending on mood.
Biggest pet peeve: Institutional hubris



Favorite book: No particular favorite. Enjoy western novels by Lois L'Amour, history, rural/frontier heritage, leatherworking (and other lost arts) and biblical studies.

Inspirations: Being an engineer, I am inspired by the study of nature and how things work, "for since the creation of the world God's invi-

ble qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made ..." - Romans 1:20

Personal motto: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. - Colossians 3:23

Producing Pilots day...and night!

Chief Master Sgt. George Young
14th Operations Group
Superintendent

Earlier this summer my wife and I had the privilege of having both our daughter and son home awaiting their next college year to begin. As I imagine with most young adults, one of the things they were most looking forward to was not having to wake to the sounds of an alarm clock.

Little did they know that we at Columbus Air Force Base have our own alarm clock that cannot be silenced and does not have a snooze: The sound of T-6A Texan II's buzzing overhead at first daylight combined with the sweet sound of reveille at 7 a.m. It did not take long before my daughter (because my son can apparently sleep through anything) grew a "fond

There is no arguing that it takes an entire wing to produce pilots. However I am comforted by knowing that long after I have settled in for the night that there is a group of enlisted Airmen on duty not worried about the hands on a clock, but rather are focused on getting all our aircraft home safely.

appreciation" of the pilot curriculum requiring them to fly at night. I however knew how important night flying training was for the student pilots overhead and that some of the best Airmen my group has to offer were giving their all to make it happen safely.

Every three weeks when much of the base is closing their doors after a long day's work and the sound of retreat is echoing across the wing, a large group of enlisted

14th Operations Group Airmen are getting prepared to fill the night skies over Columbus with the familiar sound of producing pilots. This group consists of Airmen in Squadron Aviation Resource Management, Aircrew Flight Equipment, Weather and Air Traffic Control. For all of these Airmen duty hours are not determined by a clock but are tied to the start and end of flying operations, which often fluctuate day to day. During night opera-

tions their schedules must be adjusted from covering a 12 hour flying window to a 16 hour or longer flying window. The dedication and drive that these Airmen display is one reason why we don't just produce pilots, we produce the Air Force's best pilots.

There is no arguing that it takes an entire wing to produce pilots. However I am comforted by knowing that long after I have settled in for the night that there is a group of enlisted Airmen on duty not worried about the hands on a clock, but rather are focused on getting all our aircraft home safely. As we complete another week of night flying, even though my daughter has already returned to college, I hope all the children enjoyed their peaceful mornings.

Chief's Perspective: Analog leadership in digital times

**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force
James A. Roy**

WASHINGTON — The United States Air Force is the world's most advanced air, space and cyberspace force. Most of that can be attributed to you — our outstanding Airmen — but technology also plays a huge role. Advanced tools help us maintain an advantage over our adversaries. Technology has enabled our continuing success.

However, technology also threatens to cripple us.

As electronic communication becomes more widely used, our face-to-face interaction skills are beginning to suffer. We know how to text, Skype, and FaceTime, but some of us seem reluctant to engage in a meaningful face-to-face conversation.

We value technology because it saves us time, provides conveniences and helps us to be more efficient. But we must also recognize its potential to strip us of critical human connection skills.

This high-tech challenge has a low-tech solution.



U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.

We need to strike a balance; we must continue to emphasize the importance of technology — a resource we cannot and will not stop exploiting — and at the same time emphasize the importance and value of analog leadership.

Analog leadership means temporarily putting down the iPads and Android tablets, logging out of Facebook

and Twitter, and switching phones to airplane mode to stop the stream of texts coming in and out. It means shutting off the technology and talking to each other.

Face-to-face. One-on-one.

Real human interaction — yes, for some of us it may be awkward at first, but getting to know each other better is an investment that will yield incalculable returns. Stronger connections will create a foundation on which we can grow more meaningful relationships.

And then we can turn the devices back on and use them for their intended purpose: to augment and add value to our real-life relationships.

As Airmen, we have to understand how to use technology, because without it we are not as well-equipped to do our jobs. However, as human beings, we also have to understand how and when not to use technology, because when distracted by it we are not as well-equipped to relate to others.

Thank you for your service and your continued dedication to duty. I look forward to seeing you face-to-face as I travel around our great Air Force.

CSAF's 'fini flight' a ride of remembrance

Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.
919th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — When Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz climbed aboard the MC-130E Combat Talon I here July 12, for his last flight as an active duty officer, he immediately began to reminisce on his flying career with special operations and the C-130 Hercules community.

"This is more than a little sentimental for me to be back in this seat again," the general said. "It's a special privilege to complete my flying career on this aircraft."

During a visit to Hurlburt Field to meet with Airmen and Air Force Special Operations Command leadership, Schwartz joined an MC-130E crew on a local training sortie, which served as Schwartz's "fini flight" in the Air Force.

The MC-130E he flew, No. 64-0568, belongs to the 919th Special Operations Wing, an Air Force Reserve wing at Duke Field, Fla. Schwartz, who piloted No. 568 on a memorable but arduous mission in 1982, said the aircraft holds a special place in his heart. Before boarding, he stopped and saluted the aircraft, which along with the general is also scheduled for retirement.

Many of the flight crew for the mission had either flown with him or served under him during his special operations tours. The flight engineer, Chief Master Sgt. Tyler Outten, flew with him when he commanded the 36th Tactical Airlift Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in 1987.

"It's very special to have you here for this final flight, Tyler," Schwartz said over the radio before the takeoff. "It's amazing thinking about those fun times. Who would've thought we'd



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samuel King Jr.
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz flies an MC-130E Combat Talon I during his last flight as an active duty officer near Hurlburt Field, Fla., July 12, 2012. The MC-130E Combat Talon I crew conducted a local training sortie during the mission. It also served as Schwartz's "fini flight" in the Air Force.

have ended up the way we did?"

Outten said he was thrilled to engineer one more flight for his former commander.

"It was an honor and a privilege to fly the general's fini flight," Outten said. "I consider him one of the most respected men to wear the uniform. He has been an overarching influence to me and many other Airmen over the years. He's a class act."

Between an airdrop and an aerial refueling of a CV-22

Overseas extension incentives changes ahead

Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center

"Incentives are offered to all enlisted members who extend their overseas short tour by 12 months," Bill Warner, the AFPC Assignment Programs and Procedures Branch chief.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, TEXAS — Airmen stationed at overseas long tour locations who extend their tour Aug. 1 or later may be eligible for incentives, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Recent changes to the Overseas Tour Extension Incentive Program will affect members who make a "date eligible for return from overseas" decision Aug. 1 or later. Some Air Force specialty codes have been added to the eligibility list, while others have been removed, said Bill Warner, the AFPC Assignment Programs and Procedures Branch chief. The OTEIP exists to increase stability and decrease permanent change of station costs, he said.

"Incentives are offered to all enlisted members who extend their overseas short tour by 12 months," Warner said. Enlisted members in

specific career fields at overseas long tour locations are also eligible when they extend their overseas long tour by 12 months.

Eligible Air Force Specialty Codes are periodically reviewed and approved by the Secretary of the Air Force.

Airmen who accept OTEIP can opt for one of three incentives: \$2,000 special lump sum payment, 30 days of non-chargeable vacation time or 14 days of non-chargeable vacation time and funded travel (for the military member only) to the nearest stateside port and back.

These eligibility changes are the result of a June 2012 revalidation review, Warner

explained. During the review, various criteria were evaluated, such as critical manning levels and overseas/stateside balance, as well as such factors as operational tempo and resource availability.

"Under-manning at the 7-level is one reason a couple of career fields were added," Warner said. "Air traffic control is 63 percent manned at the 7-level and combat control is at 57 percent, so OTEIP offers incentives to keep those members in place an extra year."

Career fields were identified for removal from the incentive list for various reasons, including administrative and manning level

Osprey over the Gulf of Mexico, Schwartz and the crew shared stories and memories over the radio, remembering the "good ol' days." The general said jokingly that it had "been awhile" since he had seen that Combat Talon control panel he knew so well.

Lt. Col. Thomas Miller, the co-pilot for the flight, said Schwartz knocked the rust off quickly and got down to the mission at hand.

"In his early years, General Schwartz was highly regarded as an outstanding Combat Talon pilot, and he was able to regain those same flying skills within a matter of minutes," Miller said. "I was very impressed with his ability to adapt to mission changes. It was a true honor for all of us to share that last flight with him."

The training flight ended with three touch-and-goes before returning to the Hurlburt Field runway where Schwartz's wife Suzie and a group of well-wishers waited. Upon exiting the Combat Talon, Schwartz received the ceremonial "hose down" before greeting his old friends and colleagues, many of whom still live in the local area.

Even though he had just completed the last flight hours of his 39-year Air Force career, afterward the general was all smiles.

"To have the opportunity to join this outstanding crew on their training sortie, for one last flight while in the Air Force, was truly special," Schwartz said. "They are true professionals dedicated to their country, and like all our Airmen, I will always be proud to have served alongside them."

Schwartz's retirement ceremony will be held Aug. 10 at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

changes, Warner explained.

"The 1T191, or aircrew life support, field is no longer a valid career field, so removing it was an administrative decision. Other fields have seen overseas manning levels improve, so incentivizing someone to remain an additional year is no longer necessary," he said.

OTEIP changes are effective for Airmen currently assigned overseas at long tour locations who make a DEROS extension decision Aug. 1 or later. Airmen who have already requested and received an approved DEROS extension under OTEIP will not be affected, Warner said.

To see the list of added and removed career fields, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "OTEIP" in the search window. For more information about other assignment opportunities and personnel issues, visit myPers.

Base families are offered a wide variety of activities

Great Volunteer Opportunity with Tops in Blue!

Tops in Blue, the premier entertainment showcase of the U.S. Air Force, will perform a free, family-friendly show Saturday, August 11 at 6 p.m., at Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium. Volunteers are needed to assist with Unload and Set-up, Usher, Backstage, and Breakdown. Contact Jeri Peterson 434-3602 or jeryl.peterson@columbus.af.mil.

Full Moon Family Run

Celebrate the first annual Fitness Center Full Moon 5K Family Run at 7:30 p.m. on August 29. This 3.1 mile run is for all ages. A 1.5 mile course will be available, strollers are welcome. Commanders Trophy Points will be awarded, For more information, contact 434-2772.

All Night DJ

The Columbus Club is having an all-night dance party July 20, 9 p.m. to 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 to 4 a.m., to make sure you get home safe. For more information, call the Club at 434-2471.

Summer Reading Program drawing to a close

The Summer Reading Program at the Library is drawing to a close on July 26. The program will end with a Summer Reading Awards Ceremony. Stop by the Base Library today and choose from a variety of new books to complete your summer reading.

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.

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 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 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Deep Disney Discounts Extended

There's still time to get the kids to the Disney parks in Florida for a great price! Disney Military Salute has extended the deeply discounted ticket specials to Sept. 30, 2012, along with an increase in the number of tickets available at the special prices at Columbus AFB's ITT office. For more information about this and other fun, affordable vacation ideas, contact Outdoor Recreation/ITT at 434-2505/2507.

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 and Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 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/secondsalestaxholiday.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.)

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.

Sponsorship training

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan

One of the best feelings about retiring from the military Service is to know you are guaranteed a lifetime income as the result of a successful career. What about your spouse or dependent

children? If you die, what guarantees do they have? Enrolling in the SBP prior to retiring will ensure they will have guaranteed income after your death. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at 434-2720.

Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

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

Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move class will be held July 24, 10-11:30 a.m. at the A&FRC. The program will include updated information about relocating such as TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Lodging, Tri-Care, medical records and A&FRC. To register call 434-2790.

Creating a Healthy Marriage, MLFC workshop,

July 26, 11-noon. Learn the myths and stages of marriage. The keys to creating and maintaining a healthy marriage. Conducted by the MFLC, call 434-2790 for more information.

Resume Writing Workshop

August 1, 10-11 a.m., Fined ways to write an effective resume, to register call 434-2790.

Chapel Schedule

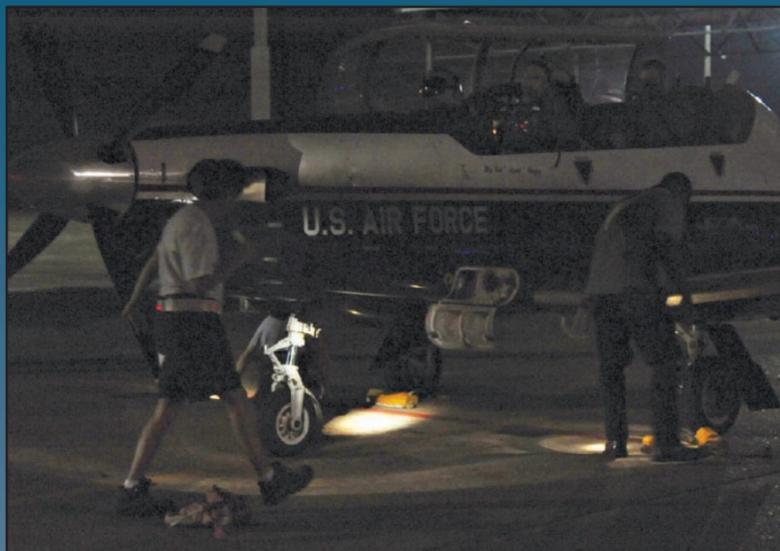
Catholic Community

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)

Producing pilots after dark



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
DynCorp contract crew chiefs recover a T-6A Texan II on the Columbus Air Force Base flightline June 26. Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students must have seven night hours in the T-6A Texan II and must take off, land and handle the spatial disorientation associated with night flying.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
Air traffic controllers and other flight operations personnel direct air traffic at the Columbus Air Force Base Air Traffic Control Tower on July 17. Night flying operations require the support of many Team BLAZE Airmen in the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron and 14th Operations Support Squadron.

Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Every three weeks at Columbus Air Force Base as the sun goes down aircraft go up.

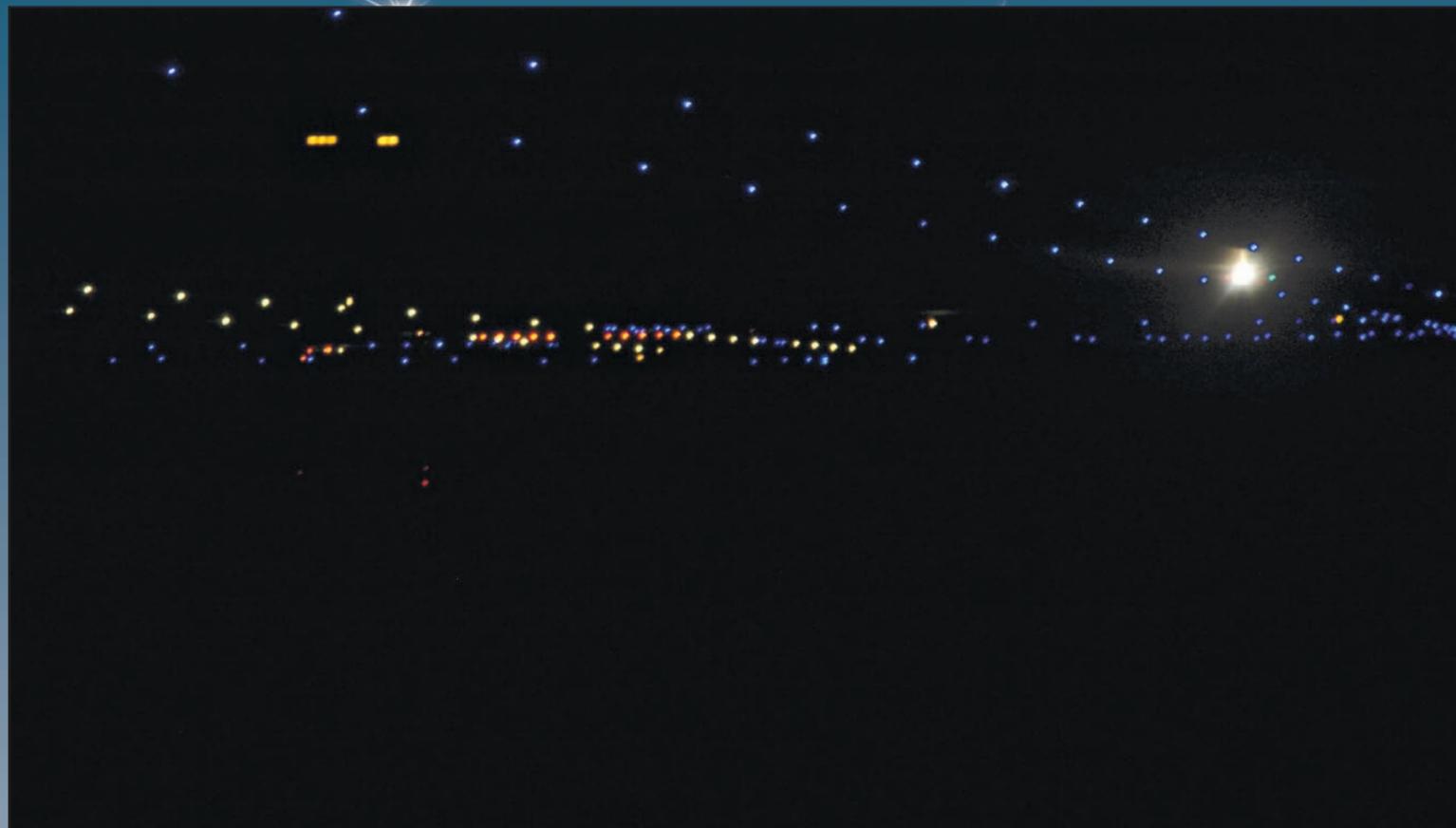
Airmen of the 14th Flying Training Wing know this as “night flying week” when flying operations are extended well towards the midnight hour to teach Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students how to fly at night.

“The students will only get an introduction to the night flying environment during their time here at pilot training, but the basics they will learn will follow them throughout their career in whatever aircraft they eventually fly,” said Maj. John Urso, 37th Flying Training Squadron Chief of Scheduling.

SUPT students must have a minimum of seven hours night flying in the T-6A Texan II according to the student syllabus said Urso. Within those seven hours students must take off, land and handle the spatial disorientation that comes with flying in the dark.

“The importance of night flying cannot be underestimated,” said Urso. “Flying at night is completely different and more dangerous than during the day for the obvious reasons that it is dark and you do not have the outside references that you have with daylight.”

Outside references provide aviators with immediate recognition of their surroundings, most importantly which way is up. Air Force Manual 11-217 gives other examples of visual illusions that can come with flying at night: Blending of earth and sky can cause confusion of ground lights with stars, visual auto-kinesis makes objects appear moving when stared at and black hole conditions can cause poorly lit ground to appear farther away than it is. These illusions can often be overcome with navigational instruments and training leaving an aviator with the many advantages that come



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
One of the objectives of night flying is to understand the unique optical illusions associated with night operations. One illusion is on clear nights confusing ground lights with the stars causing spatial disorientation. Turn the page over for a night view of the Columbus Air Force Base airfield.

with not being seen at night.

“Flying at night is even a bigger part of the student’s future. The fact is we use night as a USAF advantage in warfare,” said Lt. Col. Brad Hall, 48th Flying Training Squadron commander. “Specifically in Air Mobility Command we do huge amounts of night flying whether for tactical advantage or because air traffic is lighter at night.”

Making the mission happen

To teach students the skill of flying at night more than just the flying training squadrons must adjust their sched-

ule. Many members of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, 14th Operations Support Squadron and contracted maintenance change shifts to support the additional flying hours.

Some Airmen have requirements for crew rest to keep them alert and awake, barring any duty 12 hours before their last flight or shift. This can make fitting in additional requirements difficult, and change the meaning of “Close of Business.”

“The big thing is we can’t show up in official duty,” said Capt. Govea. “It’s big for the students too because between

that they’re trying to fit in academics and other flights during the day.”

Capt. Govea also said that because night flying is only held four out of the five days throughout week, weather can hold up a night week, crunching training sorties into a shorter length of time or pushing back student training up to three weeks.

Location, location location

Some of the smaller airfields near Columbus Air Force Base that support student flights close at night, but due to

local agreements low approaches at night in still support T-6 training said Capt. Govea.

Night flying for T-1A Jayhawks primarily involve “out-and-backs” according to Lt. Col. Mike O’Connor, 14th Operations Group deputy commander. These flights allows airlift or tanker track students to fly to more distant locations.

T-38 Talons require longer runways for their training, and several local airports support their operations.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick
Senior Airman Justin Rodriguez, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron quick-dons firefighting gear during a crash rescue drill on July 17. 14th CES firefighters provide 24 hours a day, seven day a week crash rescue operations at Columbus AFB plus coverage five days a week at the Gunshy Auxillary Airfield.