

"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 36, Issue 31

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

August 3, 2012

CI Countdown



184

Days until
the CI

News Briefs

Tops in Blue

The free world tour event "Listen!" from the Air Force's premier entertainment show will visit Columbus at the Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium on Saturday, Aug. 11. Doors open at 5:15 for military ID card holders and at 5:30 for the general public.

14th CS AoC

Maj. Ingemar Westphall will take command of the 14th Communication Squadron during an assumption of Command ceremony Aug. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Columbus Club.

BCC Luncheon

The Base Community Council will convene for a luncheon on Aug. 16 at 11:30 a.m. Gen. Paul Selva, Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces will speak at the event. An Italian Lunch Buffet will be served, cost is \$12 per person. Call 434-7068 to RSVP.

Inside



Feature **8**

Back to school tips from CAFB's SLO are highlighted in this week's feature.



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

Retired Maj. Gen. Burton Moore gives a speech with his piece of the Berlin Wall to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training graduating Class 12-12 July 27 in Kaye Auditorium. Moore carries the rock with him to all of his speeches as somewhat of a good luck charm.

Moore advises SUPT Class 12-12

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

Retired Maj. Gen. Burton Moore spoke to the Air Force's newest pilots during the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-12 graduation July 27 in Kaye Auditorium.

Moore advised the pilots during the graduation to cherish the position that they hold, understand how lucky they are and to put thought into self biographies.

"There are about 20 million people in your age groups and only 24 of you here, so with a little inventive math and rounding errors, you guys and gals really are one in a million," said Moore.

Moore continued by saying that very few people in the country are willing to dedicate their lives to the military, so the people of the armed forces should be proud of themselves.

"It gives me great hope and courage for the future of our country knowing that you all are stepping in where others are

See MOORE, 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)	2.45 days	1.26 days	Aug. 10	48th (12-13)	0.04 days	0.55 days	Aug. 17	49th (12-KB)	-4.72 days	-0.99 days	Aug. 22	T-6	126	112	26,899
41st (13-07)	1.18 days	1.11 days	Sep. 4	50th (12-13)	-1.04 days	-4.06 days	Aug. 17					T-1	50	45	8,861
												T-38	51	47	9,484
												IFF	20	20	2,816

The graduation speaker is Lt. Gen. Paul Selva, Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces.

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.



Thirty on CAFB selected for staff sergeant

Selected are:

Senior Airman Brently Abilez, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Dajuantaye Brown, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman William Bryan, 14th CES

Senior Airman John Cox, 14th CES

Senior Airman Michael Durkin, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Eric Gonzalez, 14th Contracting Squadron

Senior Airman Michael Gray, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Cody Howk, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Lawrence Justice, 50th Flying Training Squadron

Senior Airman Vincent Kinard, 14th CES

Senior Airman Kyle Malczewski,

14th OSS

Senior Airman Adam Mcgehee, 14th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman David Murphy, 14th Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Alexander Nevsky, 14th Medical Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Laaron Odum, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Christina Ortiz, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Shakeema Patterson, 14th Medical Support Squadron

Senior Airman Andres Punto, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Justin Rodriguez, 14th CES

Senior Airman Brandon Smith, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Matthew Spiegle, 14th MDOS

Senior Airman Michaela Spiegle,

14th MDOS

Senior Airman John Suarez, 14th CS

Senior Airman Antonio Tanksley, 37th Flying Training Squadron

Senior Airman Thai Vanover, 14th MDOS

Senior Airman Demenica Vick, 14th SFS

Senior Airman Shayna Vickery, 14th MDSS

Senior Airman Tamarah Williams, 14th SFS

Senior Airman Terrance Williams, 14th SFS

Senior Airman Brooke Wood, 14th MDOS

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
6	7	8	9	10	11/12
Night Flying Week 14th CS AoC, 10 a.m. @ the Club	Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ the Club Class 13-12 PPW, 6:30 p.m.			Class 13-06 track Select, 9 a.m. @ Phillips Luau, 5 p.m. @ Club	11th - Tops in Blue, 6 p.m. @ Rent Auditorium, MUW campus
13	14	15	16	17	18/19
Base Housing Utility Billing Town Hall, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	Hearts Apart, 4:30 p.m. @ AFRC		BCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. @ Club PACAF/CV Perspective, 4 p.m. @ Kaye	Class 12-13 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	

Long Range Events

Aug. 20: ALS Begins
Aug. 22: IFF Class 12-KBC Graduation
Aug. 23: OG CoC
Aug. 24: BCC Luncheon
Aug. 24: Class 12-14 Assignment Night
Aug. 28: Newcomers Orientation
Aug. 28: Class 13-13 PPW
Sept. 3: Labor Day
Sept. 4: Class 13-07 Track Select
Sept. 6: Class 73-03 Reunion
Sept. 7: Class 12-14 Graduation

MOORE

(Continued from Page 1)

stepping out," said Moore.

Moore also told a story about a book that he read which told of a pilot, retired Brig. Gen. Robin Olds, with amazing skills and a great history. The story concluded saying that the famous World War II Triple Ace had been preserved in a glass case, gear and all, with a sign that said, "In case of war, break glass."

"Will you be the one they will want to break the glass for if war breaks out?" Moore asked the audience.

While striving for excellence to be the one in the glass box, Moore also advised the pilots to put real thought into their own biographies.

"Have a bio that you will be proud of, something you might want to share with your grandchildren or something you might want to get published," said Moore. "You are starting to write a formal Air Force biography for your career, but you need to have a personal biography about yourself."

Aside from tips for biographies, Moore also gave the pilots words of advice for when they reach their next aircraft.

"Just because you have your wings today does not mean you know everything about your next airplane tomorrow; in fact, that means you know very little," said Moore. "Always be alert when you're flying because the sky can get you in a minute."

Trail BLAZE'r

Name: Staff Sgt. Brandon Harris, Sr.

Unit: 14th Comptroller Squadron?

Job title: NCOIC Milpay/Travel Pay

Time at Columbus AFB: Seven months

Time in Service: Eight years

Hometown: Arkoma, Okla.

Career goals: Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force or JAG Lawyer

Family members: Wife Trista;

sons Elijah and Brandon Jr.; daughter Alyssa.

Favorite musician: Carrie Underwood

Favorite movies: Dark Knight Rises and How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

Biggest pet peeve: Laziness

Favorite book: "God Chasers" by Tommy Tenney

Inspirations: Jesus, Mom

Personal motto: Do your Best and forget the Rest

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, **64 TEAM BLAZE members** are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Seven sew on next stripe at promotion ceremony**14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs**

Seven of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen tacked on their next stripe during the enlisted promotion ceremony on July 31 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted are:

Airman Charmaine Berryhill,
14th Force Support Squadron

Senior Airman Kiefer Luth, 14th
Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Blake Wright,
14th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Andrew Vasvari-
Toke, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Michael
Cappelletti, 14th Communications
Squadron

Tech Sgt. Douglas Beddies, 14th
OSS

Tech Sgt. Lakina Rena Hill, 14th
Medical Group



U.S. Air Force photo/Tammi Baudoin

Seven of Team BLAZE's newly promoted enlisted Airmen were promoted at the enlisted promotions ceremony at the Columbus Club on May 31.

Veterans eligible to return to active duty**Sonic Johnson**

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Enlisted veterans who have been honorably discharged over the last few years or are currently serving in a National Guard or the Air Force Reserves may be eligible to return to active duty.

The Air Force, through its prior service recruiting program, is seeking 250 highly qualified prior service applicants to fill a variety of jobs from recruiter to contractor and many others depending on past experience.

"I have had many veterans in the past ask me if they could come back," said Tech Sgt. Gregory Hite, local Air Force Recruiter. "This new program will allow interested and eligible veterans to return to the active duty Air Force."

This program is open to prior service members of

all branches who have successfully completed Basic Training and been separated for at least 90 days. Guard and Reserve applicants will need a conditional release from their commander. The process can take anywhere from 1 to 4 months and applicants may be required to retake their physical and ASVAB test. All applicants will fill out a base of preference worksheet for assignment and pay grade will be determined by current Air Force Instruction.

"This is a win-win program; many servicemembers get out to pursue another passion and realize how much they miss the Air Force," said Hite. "The Air Force wins with the member's experience being returned to the active duty and in most cases, can send an Airman right to a gaining unit."

Please contact Hite at 241-5811 as additional qualifications for the program may apply.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Tops in Blue coming Aug. 11

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, Aug. 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.

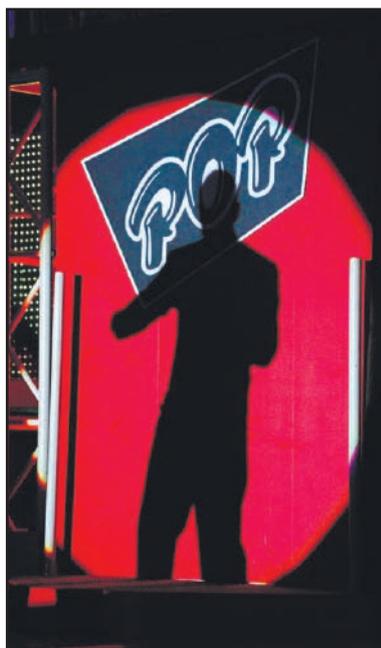
In February of this year, Columbus was the last stop on the 2011 tour titled "Rhythm Nation". The 2012 season kicks off with Columbus being at the start of the tour. The mission of Tops in Blue is to provide musical entertainment to service members worldwide and they perform approximately 130 shows during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



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

The 2011 Tops in Blue cast and crew performed "Rhythm Nation" for Columbus earlier this year. Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. the 2012 Tops in Blue cast and crew will bring a new performance entitled "Listen!" to the Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium.

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



feds feed families

Children and families are in great need of donated food this summer.

Starting June 1, 2012, Federal employees will join together to collect food nationwide for local food banks.

Please bring non-perishable food items and place them into a designated collection box located in your Federal workplace.

Boxes will be picked up:

June 27, 2012

July 25, 2012

August 29, 2012



FedsFeedFamilies@opm.gov • www.FedsFeedFamilies.gov

To witness the generosity of Federal employees, follow the campaign on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



Feds Feed Families www.facebook.com/fedsfeedfamilies



@FedFoodDrive www.twitter.com/fedfooddrive

Help feed America's hungry and the Air Force reach its goal of supplying 348,000 pounds of canned foods, hygiene products, paper products and more. The local recipients of the donations will be the Lowndes County Salvation Army and Lowndes County Loaves and Fishes Pantry. To help, please place your donations in the box in front of the Finance Customer Service Counter inside the Mission Support Group building between June 1 and Aug. 29.

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.

Ball tickets available Aug. 13

Come celebrate the founding of the greatest air power on earth at the 2012 Air Force Birthday Ball Sept. 18, 2012. Tickets will be available on Aug. 13 for \$25 per person, Checks should be payable to "AF Ball Committee". Child care for non-school age children will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Contact your ticket POC for more information:

WSA - Master Sgt. Alexius Reid
WSA - Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Grolla
14th OG - Capt. Tyler West
14th OSS - Capt. Will Brown
14th STURON - Capt. Jimmy Baker
37 FTS - 1st Lt. Erik Hillard

41 FTS - Capt. Jason Ward
48 FTS - 1st Lt. Benjamin Oatley
49 FTS - Staff Sgt. Brenna Wiley
50 FTS - 1st Lt. Daniel Hann
43 FTS - Maj Esther McElhinney
14th MDG - Staff Sgt. Charles Ball
14th Dyncorp - Laura Dunser
14th MSG - 2nd Lt. Fredrick Poole
14th LGR - Senior Airman Rikki Wash
14th FSS - Capt. Jennifer Fillmore
14th CES - Senior Airman Jerod Trainor
14th CS - 2nd Lt. Justin Davison
14th SFS - Jessica Romero
14th CONS - Airman 1st Class Bradford Erdmann



U.S. Air Force photo/Michael J. Pausic

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley congratulates Gen. Larry Spencer and his wife Ora on his promotion following a ceremony at the Pentagon, July 27, 2012. Spencer will become the new Air Force Vice Chief of Staff.

Spencer pins on 4th star, named next vice chief

WASHINGTON — and was named the next Air Force vice chief of staff during a ceremony officiated by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz at the Pentagon on July 27.

Spencer had been assigned as the director of force structure, resources and assessment with the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. In that capacity, Spencer

developed capabilities and conducted studies, analysis and assessment for the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

A 1979 graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Spencer was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC program in 1980. He was the first Air Force officer to serve as the assistant chief of staff in the White House military office.

AF implements hiring tool 7 weeks ahead of schedule

Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, Texas — Bringing new Air Force civilian employees on board is more efficient and timely now following full-implementation of the USA Staffing Onboarding Manager tool, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

In April, AFPC initiated a phased implementation strategy to replace the civilian virtual onboarding tool with the OM tool, starting with new hires at the Air Force Reserve Command, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Arnold AFB, Tenn.; and Eglin AFB, Fla.; with a planned phased deployment to replace cVIP Air Force-wide.

“We expected full implementation to take until the end of August, but some hard work at every level — base, major commands, and AFPC — resulted in final deployment seven weeks ahead of schedule,” said Nancy Tackett, the AFPC Human Resources Technical Operations Branch.

The tool helps reduce the average amount of time it takes to inprocess

new civilians before they enter on duty, Tackett said.

“It is one of several continuing efforts to move the service closer to an 80-day civilian hiring process,” she explained.

In addition to simplifying and speeding up the onboarding process, the OM tool brings Air Force hiring in line with the Office of Personnel Management Enterprise Human Resources Integration requirements, Tackett said. It “speaks” to the electronic official personnel folder, enabling onboarding information to flow to the eOPF, reducing the number of documents that must be manually processed.

“OM is one of many process improvements we have been working to implement to increase efficiencies, save time and money, and ultimately get the right people in the right place to accomplish the Air Force mission,” Tackett said.

For more information about civilian hiring reform initiatives and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <http://mypers.af.mil>. For more information about Air Force civilian career opportunities, go to www.afciviliancareers.com.

Cybercom chief: U.S. unprepared for serious cyber attacks

Claudette Roulo
American Forces Press Service

ASPEN, Colo. — The United States is not adequately prepared for a serious cyber attack, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command told the audience at the Aspen Institute's annual security forum today.

Army Gen. Keith Alexander, who also serves as the director of the National Security Agency and the chief of the Central Security Service, said that, in terms of preparation for a cyber attack on a critical part of its network infrastructure, the U.S. is at a three on a scale of one to ten.

The problem of defending the nation from a cyber attack is complicated, Alexander said. It's not just a question of preparing the Department of Defense or federal networks. Private industry also has to be defended.

“Industry has a variety of capabilities,” Alexander said. While networks serving the financial community are well-defended, others sectors need help.

Key to developing a strong cyber security infrastructure is educating its users, Alexander said.

“We have a great program, it's jointly run by [the National Security Agency] and [the Department of Homeland Security] working with over 100 different colleges and universities to set up an information assurance/cyber security portfolio,” he said. Ensuring people who didn't grow up in the Internet age are

security-aware is one of the major challenges facing those who secure the network, Alexander said.

The number of exploits of mobile technology has almost doubled over the past year, he said, and many people don't realize that phones are tied into the same digital network infrastructure as computers.

Alexander defined exploits as the means that a hacker uses to penetrate a system, including mobile phones or tablets, to potentially steal files and credentials or jump to another computer.

“The attack surfaces for adversaries to get on the internet now include all those mobile devices,” Alexander said. See **CYBERCOM**, Page 13

Flashbacks of War: Remembering Red Sand

Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace
100th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — Like many, I was prepared to lay down my life for my country each time I shipped off to war. There were a few times when I genuinely believed the cost would be my life, but, sadly it's turned out to be much more.

The sacrifices paid in combat can't be quantified in dollars or time, but are counted in tears shed by those who love and support us while we're downrange or healing back at home.

I'm an Air Force Wounded Warrior, a purple heart recipient, and not ashamed to admit it.

On the outside I look just like any other Airman and relish in that. However, something nearly always feels different. I'm typically withdrawn and emotionally numb.

I've adapted and am learning to live like that.

A respected colleague of mine and someone I consider a friend advised me to try to put my feelings down into words — to share this experience.

So taking the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs Functional Manager Chief Master Sgt. Tyler Foster's advice, I've done just that and will recount one particular mission, as I remember Operation Red Sand.

A group of scouts, their medic, a Navy combat cameraman and I set out by foot April 2, 2011 into areas far north in the Bala Murghab (BMG) Valley, Badghis Province, Afghanistan.

We ventured further than coalition forces had ever gone, and spent the night reconning villages, plotting locations and fighting positions both for ourselves, and anticipating enemy locations and contact.

It was a rough night, but paled in comparison with what was soon to follow.

The next night the same scouts from Red Platoon, Bulldog Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, Navy dog handler Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Lee, his bomb dog 'Valdo,' a handful of Afghan National Army soldiers, Petty Officer 1st Class John Pearl and I returned.

This time we took to secure an area of ruins central in the location where we could operate patrols in known insurgent areas, and egress by riverbed if needed.

After securing the ruins in a field just outside Kamisari Village, we dug in fighting posi-



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace

BALA MURGHAB, Afghanistan — Pfc. Ben Bradley (left), a Bulldog Troop, Red Platoon scout from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, ducks away from insurgent machine gun fire, as fellow scout Sgt. Jeff Sheppard, launches a M-203 grenade at the enemy's position, during a combat engagement in northern Bala Murghab Valley, Badghis Province, Afghanistan April 4, 2011. Bradley, Sheppard, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kevin Wallace, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Lee and his military working dog 'Valdo' were wounded by a rocket propelled grenade blast in the engagement. This photo was originally released April 7, 2011.

tions and fortified the eroded walls and doorways with sandbags, all under the cover of darkness. We also patrolled the nearby Kamisari and Joy Gange Villages, looking for evidence of mines, improvised explosive devices or booby traps.

At day break and without rest, we launched a patrol into a known insurgent hotbed and tried to convince locals to not support the insurgency and start supporting their governments, with promises that a better life and development being made possible.

Army 1st Lt. Joe Law, Red Platoon leader, assured the men that if they worked with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, they would see bazaars and progress like that seen in central BMG.

Unaccepting to Law's offers, the village elders became argumentative and accused our team wrongdoing and trespassing. Tension grew in the air in the villagers became visually upset, spitting and behaving in a way you rarely see in people who typically put a lot of stock into saving face and respect.

Law ordered our team to move out.

As we headed out of the village, around a dozen fighting-age men began to line rooftops,

and we knew a battle would soon ensue.

We headed back to our fortified ruins and dug our heels in for the inevitable battle that would find us.

The ruins we established as Observation Post Reaper was eroded and roofless, and was basically a dilapidated, old three-room mud hut.

I was in the western-most part of the ruins with scouts Sgt. Jeff Sheppard and Pfc. Ben Bradley. Pearl, Lee and Valdo were also in that room.

The center room housed an ANA soldier, his platoon sergeant, our interpreter, Law, scout Sgt. Peter Nalesnik and Maj. Jonathan Lauer, an advisor from the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, who was along for the mission.

Three ANA soldiers, scout Spc. William Newland, medic Spc. Kellen West, and forward observer Spc. Dwayne Sims-Sparks were all in the eastern room.

Soon we began to take small-arms fire and started to locate where they were attacking from, and returned fire. Pearl was documenting the fight with video and I with still photos.

From where I stood, I noticed Sheppard

and Bradley immediately engage the Taliban and lay down suppressive fire. Most of the incoming fire was originating from a compound several hundred meters to our north. Insurgents were also using canals to our east and west to flank us.

They were able to maneuver up and down the canals, spraying rounds at us at will from a wide array of cover locations. Almost immediately the fighting reached a level of intensity that forced me to lay down my camera and volley rounds back at the insurgents.

A few minutes into the firefight, I watched in awe as, while my co-worker Pearl was shooting video, an insurgent hit three rounds near his head, walking each round closer than the next.

I could hear several whizzing bullets passing very near to my face and body, and their sound is unforgettable. At a distance, they sounded like pops; near my position, they sounded more like loud cracks; and when they passed within inches of my ears, they sounded like a high-speed bullet train roaring by.

The Taliban were bombarding us with AK-47 and a barrage of heavy machine gun (PKM) fire.

As we fought, I could literally see the mud walls of our ruins being cut down by the incoming PKM fire.

Sheppard called out to Pearl that he'd better move. At that point, Pearl grabbed his video camera and moved into the next room. Our room was the smallest of them all, not well fortified and we were taking one hell of a beating.

The firefight continued for a few hours and we were literally pinned down and under attack from the compound and both canals.

We needed a mortar mission or close-air support desperately as we were severely out-gunned, had minimal cover in the ruins and field, and the insurgent force attacking us was growing very quickly.

Italian Army soldiers from Forward Operating Base Todd began laying mortar fire into the field west of where most the insurgents were attacking. The first mortar hit about 25 meters from my position.

Each falling mortar shook the ground like an enormous bass drum, rattling my bones and soul. The first mortar stunned me for a moment, then coming out of the haze I joined Sheppard and Bradley, calling out mortar positions to Law. Under Sims-Spark's directions, mortars moved closer and closer to the target.

The enemy assault grew in intensity and I

REMEMBERING

(Continued from Page 1)

recall wondering if we'd make it out alive. Our 15-man team seemed doomed.

Still, Law kept working the CAS mission and, despite the dangerously close proximity to which bullets were impacting, I could see Sheppard and Bradley keep fighting. It was inspiring!

Law was calling on someone to verify no insurgents were approaching from our south. I remember thinking that in order to see over the southern wall, I would have to run through a hail of enemy AK and PKM fire, jump up to grapple the top of the wall and peer over.

Shaking and petrified, I garnered the courage and ran through the barrage of bullets and verified, indeed we didn't have any surprises coming to attack us from the rear.

When I raced back to the front of the room and returned scanning the western canal, Sheppard shouted at me to stay down. I knew any dumb move would burden my team in that they'd have to carry my mangled body off that field. Still, keeping insurgents off our rear was worth the risk.

Through panic and impending doom, the scout team kept their focus and wits about their necks, and we all continued to fight our hardest.

Law called out to check the south again. This time, without giving it too much thought, I checked the rear.

With each dash to the southern wall, my heart skipped beats and rounds bounced near my body and face. I could taste their proximity as dirt peppered my face.

The fighting went on and continued to intensify. Sheppard was keeping the insurgents out of the river beds by launching grenades and one of our ANA soldiers hit the compound center mass with a precisely aimed RPG.

No matter how hard we fought, they were growing in mass and their attacks were intensifying. It was clear they did not want us to set up a fire base in their backyard.

Our room continued getting pounded and we soon found ourselves taking three RPGs back to back, nearly destroying our northern defenses. Sheppard knew it was time to move and planned to lay down squad-automatic weapon fire to cover movement to the next room and he'd soon follow.

Before he had the chance to do so, the insurgents shot an RPG straight through the makeshift doorway in the front of our ruins, and I watched, as if in slow motion, as the grenade went straight over Bradley's head, skimmed within inches of my face and impact-

ed the ground a few feet behind me.

When the grenade exploded I was thrown into the front wall and saw nothing but sharp white light. I couldn't smell, feel, see, and couldn't comprehend what was going on for moments ... then I heard clear as day, Sheppard screaming, "Medic! Medic! Medic! We need a medic! Get down here, West!"

I stumbled and regained my footing and found that I had all extremities and knowing Lee was dead, shuttered to look back. When I did, I learned he was alive, but Valdo was in really bad shape.

The RPG struck right behind Valdo and the heroic dog took most of the blast. Lee seemed extremely concerned for his wounded shipmate Valdo, Sheppard had shrapnel to the front of his arm, Bradley had shrapnel in his leg, and I caught some in my upper back and also had a concussion.

But we were all alive and while Lee and the West tended to Valdo, the rest of us continued to fight.

Knowing the insurgents were dialed in on our position and that another direct RPG hit would kill the four of us, Law called for more mortar fire and CAS.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon soon shrieked low and over head, popping flares to scare the insurgents. A remote piloted vehicle pounded the compound with 30 mm cannons, and we egressed towards the canal.

I didn't know it at the time, but soon learned that Nalesnik, Lauer and an ANA soldier were already in that canal, clearing our path forward.

During the fog of the battle, I really only saw what was before me and around me. I knew Sheppard and Bradley were in the fight, I knew Law was leading us forward and calling in fire missions, I knew Lee was struggling with Valdo and that West was tending to wounds, but I had little knowledge of the vital parts the rest of the team was playing in the fight.

I learned later that at one point, the ANA sergeant bravely tossed Newland down and covered him with his own body, to protect the young specialist from a barrage of PKM rounds. That's the type of heroism you see on movies but rarely witness first hand.

Meanwhile, we battled our way into the canal and for two kilometers, we fought our way through sporadic small-arms fire.

Pearl carried Valdo, our wounded shipmate, on his shoulders.

I was behind Pearl in the canal and could see Valdo had a hole about the size of a Pepsi can in his intestine. Pearl was soaked in vomit and feces, but kept pushing forward, determined to get Valdo to the medevac site.

Once we made it to a clearing, we found

two Mine Resistant Ambush Protected all-Terrain Vehicles (Cougars) waiting for us, which Law had already coordinated.

Even coming out of the canal was intense as we had to climb up about 9 feet, while the roots we grabbed would break away. I had about 200 of the 550 rounds I left with still on me, plus an AT-4 (anti-tank weapon), 9mm handgun, four grenades, camera gear, back-up camera gear, food, water and supplies — it was hard as hell to climb out of that canal.

Once I got to the top, I quickly saw that the Cougars were under attack and were rocketing their crew-serve automatic weapons at distant insurgents.

We quickly crammed as many as we could inside the Cougars, others jumped in back, and we moved our wounded to Combat Outpost Metro for a medical air evacuation.

Once we reached COP Metro, we found the COP was under attack and all our comrades who stayed behind during the mission were up on the walls engaging. West cared for Valdo and the rest of us, while more MRAPs arrived for a mounted re-assault toward Joy Gange Village.

We got Valdo, Lee and Sheppard airborne, and West then treated Bradley and I.

After being patched up, I was horrified to find that the mounted counter offensive left without me. I jumped in the back of an unarmored ANA Ranger about to ride back north but their movement was cancelled, so I hauled butt to the walls of COP Metro to man a sniper rifle, and provided over watch.

I was pleasantly surprised to find Pearl already up there on a machine gun. He and I had been through much together on that deployment and for all my life, I'll truly consider him my brother.

Bulldog Troop's first sergeant, 1st Sgt. David Dempsey, led a quick-reaction force and joined Red Platoon, and continued with mounted and foot patrols in the nearby villages, capturing and killing insurgents, destroying known compounds, capturing IED-making materials and destroying an IED-making facility.

No further coalition forces were wounded in the engagement.

An Air Force B-1 dropped four 38GBU bombs and Army CAS assisted with hellfire missiles and 30mm cannon support from the air.

Italian Army soldiers supported with eight mortars from FOB Todd, and provided observation support from COP Chroma, which overlooked the engagement, and allowed them to accurately advise Army scouts on insurgent locations.

In the end, we were all fine and ready for duty within days. Valdo was sent to a Role-2

hospital at Camp Arena, Herat, where he was stabilized by a team of doctors. Once stable, he was transferred to Kandahar Air Field, where a veterinarian could treat him.

Until then, it had been an Army field medic, doctors and nurses who strayed from their 'human expertise' and did their best to patch up the canine.

I'm not sure what became of Valdo and often wonder. As for the rest of the team, I keep in contact with nearly all of the Americans who fought at Operation Red Sand. I'm told the Army Combat Studies Institute will release part two of their Vanguard of Valor Book in the coming months, and that an entire chapter will be dedicated to Red Sand.

Have I suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?

Perhaps.

Though I know I'll continue to keep in touch with my team, I direly wish I could meet some of the insurgents whom we fought against at Red Sand. If I could, I'd plainly tell them this:

You should have aimed your shots better, you should have fired your RPG with precision ... you should have pierced our hearts, but you didn't.

No, your attempt on our lives failed. Our hearts still beat and they beat for your people, the people of the Murghab Valley whom you carelessly toss aside and grow fat from, as they continue to go without food, water or a peaceful existence.

As you attacked us on that field, I watched Afghan women and children take cover behind trees on the western side. As your men attacked us from within those families, we never once returned fire in their direction.

Why do we care more about your families than you? Why can't you see that your cause is futile? Here's my sincere recommendation to you:

Lay down your arms and join the reintegration process. You should stop terrorizing your people and start assisting your government in rebuilding and development.

If you do this, someday you will see an Afghanistan you've never imagined possible. Perhaps someday your grandkids and mine could play in the park together, or tour some of Herat City's spectacular sites on the same tour bus.

If you don't, more will needlessly suffer at your hands. And rest assured, there are many scouts from Red Platoon whom remember your faces as we met in the village prior to your assault.

Just join reintegration.

But, above all, I forgive you.

Through Airmen's eyes: Combat medic shares story about 'just doing his job'

Staff Sgt. Sara Csuriilla and Airman Tara A. Williamson
18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — (This feature is part of the "Through Airmen's Eyes" series on AF.mil. These stories focus on a single Airman, highlighting their Air Force story.)

Even though it was only one of more than 300 combat missions he was a part of while deployed last year, it was a day he will never forget. On that day, he could have lost everything.

"We were used to getting hit," said Staff Sgt. Warren Williamson Jr., a medic with the 18th Medical Operations Squadron. "But that day ... that day was different."

For his year-long day deployment to Afghanistan, he was sent to a forward operating base located in the Laghman Province of Afghanistan to be the sole medic for a group of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, Bravo Company.

"I was the primary doctor, the sole provider there," said the Chesapeake, Va., native. "Dismounted elements wouldn't leave the truck without the doc, without me. I escorted all dismounted missions away from the convoy."

Williamson said the day began like any other.

"That morning we headed out on a mounted combat patrol to a 'green' district, meaning there wasn't a whole lot of Taliban activity," he recalled.

The team's mission was to provide security for a few civil engineer officers checking out a courthouse in a local district that had been rocketed by the Taliban.

"At the same time, I was to meet with the district hospital medical provider there and discuss some medical issues," Williamson said.

The courthouse mission lasted two hours. His team parked the convoy and dismounted. The engineers walked and measured the perimeter of the district, ending the fairly smooth mission, without incidents, around 10 a.m.

"We were getting ready to mount back up and continue on for my mission to meet the doctor," he said. "But first we had to maneuver our trucks so that they weren't blocking traffic. Although some Soldiers were in the trucks,

most were still on foot, guiding the trucks and pulling security."

By maneuvering, the group became vulnerable.

"As we were prepping to move the trucks, we were caught off-guard," he continued. "Before we knew what was happening, an Afghan had gotten on his motorcycle, rode right through our formation and detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, instantly killing himself, injuring my guys and killing a bunch of his (own people)."

More than 10 people were killed that day.

"We were knocked unconscious. I'm not sure how many of us were on the ground, to be honest, but when I looked up, it was just ... chaos. I can't describe it any other way."

Williamson and his team were no strangers to getting attacked. But he knew this time was different. It was the worst they've experienced in the six months they had already been deployed.

"When I came to, the dust hadn't even settled yet and all I could hear were screams and a group of my guys dragging one of the Soldiers closer to me screaming 'Doc, doc!'," explained the medic, who spent two years training with Air Force pararescuemen. "As they got closer, I got to my feet and helped get that Soldier to the safest place I could, to treat his wounds, because at that point we had started taking small-arms fire as well."

Behind a small dirt wall, shielded from incoming fire, Williamson did everything he could to keep his Soldiers alive.

"I used gauze and bandages, gave him drugs and fluid, and right after I applied a tourniquet to his arm, when," he paused, this time taking a deep breath. "When I heard them calling for me again."

While one victim was stable for the moment, Williamson's job was far from over.

"I ran over to my first sergeant, who I thought was dead," he recalled. "I didn't see him breathing, I didn't see him yelling or screaming. I just saw huge holes in him. He was laid out."

Williamson knew he had to take action quickly. But as his team started taking fire once again, Williamson did the only thing he could and hurled his body over his first sergeant, knowing he had to protect him.

"I didn't know where the attack was com-



Courtesy photo
Staff Sgt. Warren Williamson Jr., and Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, Bravo Company, pose for a photo during their deployment in Afghanistan last year. Williamson received NCO Association Vanguard Award during the NCO Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nev., July 12, 2012, for his heroic actions during his deployment. Williamson is a medic with the 18th Medical Operations Squadron.

ing from and it was just my first reaction," Williamson said. "It's my job to keep those guys healthy."

"But we found a way to move my first sergeant to a safe place and I got to work, trying to save this man's life," he continued. "I used everything I had; QuikClot, tourniquets, bandages, drugs, and every last drop of the fluids I had. All I could think was 'Stop the bleeding, save this person's life.'"

"Gosh, it's been just over a year ago now, and I've only ever told that story once," he said.

Williamson said, that while the firefight only lasted 10 minutes, when he looks back on this event it feels like he's watching an "old slow-motion movie reel." But at the time it seemed like mere seconds.

Thanks to Williamson's quick thinking, dedication and selflessness, every Soldier survived that day, they survived every mission even, and returned home to their families.

His actions that day have earned him the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and as a result, the NCO Association Vanguard Award, an award that recognizes NCOs who have performed a heroic act, on or off duty, saving lives or preventing further injury.

"It's kind of weird that somebody submitted me for an award that involves saving a life, when that's really what my job is (about)," the 10-year veteran said. "They did their job, keeping me safe, so I just kind of returned the

favor, I think."

He and four other winners of the Vanguard Award, one from each branch of service, were recognized by Lee Greenwood, a country music singer, at the NCO Association's annual convention in Las Vegas, July 12.

For Williamson, the highlight of the night was reuniting with an old friend, the first sergeant he helped save.

"I was honored to be at the Vanguard ceremony when Staff Sgt. Williamson received the award," said Army Master Sgt. Chris Demars, with the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry, and first sergeant of Williamson's deployed team. "Monday before the award ceremony was the first time I was able to see Staff Sgt. Williamson since the day he saved my life on the battlefield."

The meeting was an emotional moment for both men.

"From an outsider perspective, seeing two grown men hugging with tears in their eyes might have seemed unorthodox," Williamson said. "But for us, in that moment, it was a perfectly normal response."

Seeing Demars now healthy, Williamson said, conjured up emotions he didn't think he'd ever feel before. He said he feels lucky to have spent four days with him and his family.

"Master Sgt. Demars was and always will be a mentor, and more than anything, a friend for life," Williamson said.

Base families offered a wide variety of activities

Sunday Lunch N Bowl

Lunch N Bowl on Sundays in August, for each adult combo purchased at the Bowling Center receive 2 free games of bowling, must pay for shoe rental. For more information contact 434-3426.

Time to Luau

Luau at the Club Friday, August 10 from 5-11 p.m. Drink specials, exciting activities, authentic dancers, tons of food and family fun! Adult member \$10, non-member \$12; child member \$5, non-member \$6. For more information 434-2419.

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, Aug. 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 Aug. 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, FMI 434-2772.

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.

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

Friday August 10 5 - 11 p.m. at the Columbus Club

Drink Specials Exciting Activities

Authentic Dancers with fire & knives

\$250 CASH PRIZE DRAWING

Adult	Children
\$10 - Member	\$5 - Member
\$12 - Non-Member	\$6 - Non-Member

Under 5 free to members and non-members
FMI 434-2419

Menu

- Whole Pig Kabobs
- Sweet & Sour Rice
- Sweet & Sour Chicken
- White Rice

Bowling Center is back for just \$1 per card. 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.

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

Get off the Couch and Play!

Columbus AFB has an 18-hole disc golf course across the street from the Fitness Center. The course's layout includes par threes, fours and fives plus lots of trees making it great for beginners or pros alike. So grab your friends or family and a disc and have some fun! Disc sets are available for check out at the Fitness Center.

It's Like FREE Money!

Single Airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive up to \$500 in special discounts and rewards through participating FSS facilities and programs. Get discounted trips at Information Tickets and Travel, rent equipment from Outdoor Recreation, play a round of golf, participate in a golf clinic, or go bowling with a friend. These are just some of the offerings through the PLAYpass program. To find out if you are eligible for a PLAYpass card, visit www.MyAirForceLife.com or call the AFRC at 434-2790.

Base News

Retiree Affairs Coordinator Needed

Volunteer needed 2 to 3 days per week to assist with advising military retirees on benefits are provided The Retiree Affairs office is established to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, reserve or guard base through command channels that will assist retirees with myriad actions. These actions include: serving as information center for space-available travel, Tricare, base services, etc.; offering referrals for financial-assistance and pay matters; counseling active duty Airmen nearing retirement; and providing literature on retirement issues. Another major activity involves working with base agencies to conduct Retiree Activity Day events. If interested, contact Linda Dodson at 434-2314 or linda.dodson@columbus.af.mil

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 Tuesdays/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.

Education Testing Center Closures

The Education Office will NOT conduct testing (PME, CDC, CLEP/DANTES) on 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.

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.

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.

Spouse welcome

For new personnel assigned to CAFB held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Magnolia Inn lobby. Local information is presented.

Sponsorship training

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan

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

Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

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

Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Wing Newcomers Orientation

Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For newly arrived Active Duty and Civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

Hearts Apart Social

Social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel, information, refreshments, and activities. Aug. 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP when invitations

are received. Headcount of attendance prior to event is critical for planning and preparation. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

Spouse Deployment Briefing

Information on deployment delivered to spouses of military members who may or may not already be tasked to deploy. Military sponsors are welcome to attend with their spouses! Aug. 15, 9-11:30. Please arrange care for your children during this adult class time. For more information call 434-2790.

Creating a Healthy Marriage, MLFC workshop

Learn the myths and stages of marriage. The keys to creating and maintaining a healthy marriage. Aug. 16, 11 a.m.-noon Conducted by the MFLC, call 434-2790 for more information.

Smooth Move,

A class that provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. Learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and AFRC. Aug. 21, 10-11:30 a.m. For more information call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

For newly arrived Active Duty and Civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

Heart Link

For spouses new to CAFB or military lifestyle. Fun-filled spouse orientation program filled with info protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. Aug. 30, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Great way to meet others new Columbus AFB, to register and more information 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)

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2012-2013 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Mississippi Department of Education State Tests Indicated in Red

AUGUST 2012						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BEGIN 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

1-3 Aug -Teacher Work Days

6 - Aug- **First Day of School**

3 Sep - Labor Day Holiday

6 Sep - Progress Reports

12,17-21 Sep -SATP2 Re-Testing (CHS)

LABOR DAY SEP 3RD

5 Oct - End of 1st 9-Weeks

8 Oct - Columbus Day/Fall Break Holiday

9 Oct- Parent/Teacher Conference Day

11 Oct - Report Cards Issued

COLUMBUS DAY OCT 8TH

6 Nov - Election Day

8 Nov - Progress Reports Issued

11 Nov - Veterans Day

14 Nov - American Education Week Program

19-23 Nov - Thanksgiving Holidays

29 Nov - Eng II Retest (CHS)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING NOV 19-23RD

10-14 Dec -SATP2 Retesting (CHS)

19 Dec - FULL SCHOOL DAY

20 - Dec - End of 2nd 9-Weeks - 60% Day

21-31 Dec - Christmas Holidays

25 - Dec - Christmas Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS DEC 21-JAN 3RD

1 New Year's Day

1-3 Jan - Christmas Holiday

4 - Jan - Teacher Work Day

7 - Jan - School Resumes

10 - Jan - Report Cards Issued

21 - M.L. King Day Holiday

MLK HOLIDAY JAN 21ST

7 - Feb - Progress Reports Issued

18 - Feb - Presidents' Day (Weather Make-up Day, if needed)

28- Feb - **MS Writing Assessment** (Gr 4 & 7)

PRESIDENT'S DAY FEB 18TH

6,18-22 Mar - SATP Re-Test (CHS)

8 Mar - End of 3rd 9-Weeks

11-15 Mar - Spring Break Holiday

21 - Mar - Report Cards Issued

29 - Mar - Good Friday Holiday

SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-15TH

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29TH

1 Apr - Easter Monday Holiday (Inclment Weather Make-up Day, if needed)

18 Apr - Progress Reports Issued

EASTER BREAK APRIL 1ST

1- May - MS Science Asst. (Gr. 5)

7-10 May - SATP2 State Test (CHS)

14-17 May - MCT2 Testing (Gr. 3-8)

18 - May - **GRADUATION**

22- May **Last Day of School** -60% Day

23-24 May - Teacher Work Days

27 - May - Memorial Day

1,8,15 May - FULL SCHOOL DAYS

ENJOY SUMMER BREAK

- **Achievement Tips:**
- Read Everyday
- Visit the Library
- Limit TV Time
- Eat Healthy & Exercise Daily
- Enjoy Mississippi Parks & Museums
- Visit Educational Websites
- Play Sports & Games
- Spend Time with Family & Friends

FEBRUARY 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

STUDENT DAYS: 1st Semester: 91, 2nd Semester: 82, Total: 180

TEACHER DAYS: 1st Semester: 95, 2nd Semester: 82, Total: 187

Tips from CAFB's School Liaison Office

E.J. Griffis Jr.
School Liaison Officer

Wow...where did the summer go? It seems like just yesterday when school ended and all our students began their summer break...and here we are now, about to start another school year! As always, the first day of school brings with it plenty of angst and anxiety, by both parents and students alike; and the School Liaison Office is here to assist!

Whether your student attends public or private school, or is taught in a home school, the SLO provides essential information and guidance on K-12

education issues ranging from Academics to Zoology! While the SLO may not have the answer, he knows where to go and get it. The SLO works closely with all public and private schools in the area to assist all BLAZE students.

- A few points to success:
- Be familiar with the school's student handbook
 - Be involved in your student's school
 - Communicate early on to the schools regarding any concerns
 - Speak to your student regarding proper bus/bus stop activities

On the safety front...Please be extra careful around bus stops and be alert for the busses as you travel about the local area.

As all schools face a myriad of challenges, to include budget and staffing concerns, implementing Common Core Curriculum Standards, standardized testing, and so on; rest assured they are all committed to provide the best possible education possible for our students.

Questions/concerns, please contact your SLO at 434-2792, or via email at slo@columbus.af.mil. In addition, you may follow the Columbus School Liaison Office on Facebook.

CAFB bus schedules

Schedule of Stops for Bus 13-18 (Bat) Driver: Linda Harris

Area/Stop	Street / Bus Stop	Arrival-AM
1) Capital Village	Capital Ave #1	6:40
2) Capital Village	Capital Ave #2	6:43
3) State Village	South State #3	6:48
4) State Village	North State #4	6:50
5) State Village	Mississippi #5	6:56
6) Land Road	Hwy 373 to Downs Road	7:05
7) Land Road	Airbase Road to Hwy. 45	7:10
Area/Stop	Street / Bus Stop	Dropoff-PM (Wed)
1) Land Road	Hwy. 45 to Airbase Road	3:30 1:45
2) Land Road	Downs Road to Hwy. 373	3:35 1:50
3) State Village	South State #3	3:42 1:58
4) State Village	North State #4	3:46 2:00
5) State Village	Mississippi #5	3:50 2:05
6) Capital Village	Capital Ave #1	3:56 2:10
7) Capital Village	Capital Ave #2	3:58 2:12

Schedule of Stops for Bus 13-19 (Dinosaur) Driver: Keith Knight

Area	Street / Bus Stop	Arrival-AM
1) State/Mag. Village	North Columbus Circle #9	6:45
2) State/Mag. Village	South Columbus Circle #8	6:50
Area	Street / Bus Stop	Dropoff-PM (Wed)
1) State/Mag. Village	North Columbus Circle #9	3:35 1:50
2) State/Mag. Village	South Columbus Circle #8	3:40 1:55

Schedule of Stops for Bus 13-14 (Owl) Driver: Gayden Johnson

Area	Street / Bus Stop	Arrival-AM
1) Magnolia Village	South Hamilton Ave #6	6:45
2) Magnolia Village	North Hamilton Ave #7	6:48
Area	Street / Bus Stop	Dropoff-PM (Wed)
1) Magnolia Village	South Hamilton Ave #6	3:35 1:50
2) Magnolia Village	North Hamilton Ave #7	3:40 1:55

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus and here at Columbus Air Force Base, we have fewer than 200 students on any given day riding our school buses. As the beginning of the school year approaches, please take the time to familiarize your student with the Rules of Conduct for bus riders. The Student Handbook from each of our school districts contains specific guidance and a code of conduct students are to follow. Bus transportation is a privilege extended only to students who display good conduct while preparing to ride, riding or leaving the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be denied transportation. Improper conduct of family members which occurs off the school bus will be addressed by installation officials. Additionally, parents should exercise proper judgment when they observe or it is reported to them by their students, whenever improper behavior has occurred on the bus or at the bus stops. Parents should: contact the parents of the child (ren) involved, school authorities and/or the Columbus School Liaison Officer. Parents should not address grievances directly to the other children involved, unless there is an immediate, life-threatening situation. An overview of the proper Rules of Conduct is provided below. Take a moment to review it and convey the contents to your children. Any questions, please contact the School Liaison Officer, at 434-2792 or via email at: slo@columbus.af.mil

RULES OF CONDUCT

- Be orderly, quiet and considerate of people and their property in the vicinity of bus stops.
- Be ready when the bus arrives. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before moving toward the bus.
- Bus drivers have the authority to assign seats, give directions, and implement rules for the safe and orderly conduct of students and will report any violations.
- Acceptable public behavior will be expected of all bus riders.
- Pass in front rather than behind the bus when crossing the street to or from a bus.
- Do not enter or leave the bus when it is in motion.
- Heads or arms must not be extended from bus windows.
- Avoid eating/drinking on the bus and help keep the bus neat.
- Shouting, fighting, offensive language, or smoking will result in loss of bus privileges.
- Remain seated until the bus stops at your destination.
- Students are required to have parental permission in writing of any changes in regular transportation arrangements.
- Video technology is installed on all buses to assist with the security and safety of all.
- Students who violate the regulations can have their bus privileges revoked.
- Unauthorized persons are not permitted on the buses — this includes parents.
- Parents should develop a plan in the event your student misses the bus or the bus fails to show, especially in the case where parent(s) depart the home before the bus arrives.
- Parents who choose to wait with their children (in their vehicles) MUST park opposite of the school bus stop, in order to allow for a direct, unimpeded route to the stop.

LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2012-2013 ACADEMIC CALENDAR (187 DAYS)

	M	T	W	Th	F
AUG 2012			1	2	3
T-23	6	7	8	9	10
S-20	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	22	24
	27	28	29	30	31

	M	T	W	Th	F
SEP 2012	3	4	5	6	7
T-19	10	11	12	13	14
S-19	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28

	1	2	3	4	5
OCT 2012					
T-21	8	9	10	11	12
S-21	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30	31		

	5	6	7	8	9
NOV 2012					
T-17	12	13	14	15	16
S-17	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30

	3	4	5	6	7
DEC 2012					
T-12	10	11	12	13	14
S-12	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31				

	7	8	9	10	11
JAN 2013					
T-21	14	15	16	17	18
S-20	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	

	4	5	6	7	8
FEB 2013					
T-19	11	12	13	14	15
S-19	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	

	4	5	6	7	8
MAR 2013					
T-15	11	12	13	14	15
S-15	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29

	1	2	3	4	5
APR 2013					
T-22	8	9	10	11	12
S-22	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30			

	6	7	8	9	10
MAY 2013					
T-18	13	14	15	16	17
S-16	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31

Statewide Test Dates

Teacher Work Day (student holidays)

School Holiday

Aug. 1, 2, 3- Teacher Work Days/Staff Development

Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29 - Early Release/Staff Development

Aug. 6 - Students' First Day

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Early Release/Staff Development

Sept. 3 - Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 6 - Progress Reports

Sept. 12 - SATP English II and English II Writing Retests

Sept. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 - SATP2 Retests (Online/PP)

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Early Release/Staff Development

Oct. 5 - End of 1st Nine Weeks (K-12)

Oct. 8, 9 - Fall Break

Oct. 11 - Grade reports issued (K-12)

Nov. 7, 14, 28 - Early Release/Staff Development

Nov. 13 & 29 - MS Writing Assessment Retest

Nov. 8 - Progress Reports

Nov. 19 - 23 - Thanksgiving Holidays (All schools)

Dec. 10, 11, 12, 13 - SATP2 Retests

Dec. 5, 12 - Early Release /Staff Development

Dec. 18 - End of 2nd nine weeks (K-12)

Dec. 18 - End of 1st Sem (All schools-60% day)

Dec. 19 - Dec. 31 - Christmas Holidays (All schools)

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Holiday

Jan. 2 - Professional Development/Student Holiday

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 - Early Release/Staff Development

Jan. 3 - Students Return

Jan. 3 - Grade reports issued (K-12)

Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King Holiday (Weather Day if Needed)

Feb. 7 - Progress Reports

Feb. 18 - President's Day Holiday (Weather Day if Needed)

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Early Release/Staff Development

Feb. 28 - MS Writing Assessment, Grades 4 & 7

Mar. 6 - Early Release/Staff Development

Mar. 6 - SATP Eng. II Writing Retest

Mar. 8 - End of 3rd Nine Weeks (K-12)

Mar. 11 - 15 - Spring Break (All schools)

Mar. 20 - SATP Eng II Writing and Retest (FULL DAY)

Mar. 21 - Grade reports issued (K-12)

Mar. 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 - SATP 2 Retests

March 29 - Good Friday Holiday

Apr. 1 - 30 - English Language Proficiency (TBD)

Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24 - Early Release/Staff Development

Apr. 18 - Progress Reports

Apr. 8 - 26 - MS-CPAS2 (TBA)

May 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - SATP (Eng. II, US History, Alg. I, Eng. II, Bio. I)

May 1 - Mississippi Science Test (Grades 5 & 8)

May 14, 15, 16 - MCT2, Grades 3-8 (Reading, Writing, Math)

May 1, 8 and 15 - FULL DAYS

May 6 - 17 Advanced Placement Exams

May 22 - End of 4th Nine Weeks (K-12)

May 22 - Last Day of School (60% Day)

May 22 - (or later, by school notification) Grade Reports Issued

May 17 - 19 - Graduation

May 23, 24 - Teacher Work Days

May 24 - Last Day for Teachers

May 27 - Memorial Day Holiday

STUDENT DAYS: 1st Semester: 89, 2nd Semester: 92, Total: 181

TEACHER DAYS: 1st Semester: 92, 2nd Semester: 95, Total: 187

Grading Periods & # Days
August 3 -- October 5 (44)
October 10 -- December 18 (45)
January 3 -- March 8 (45)
March 18 -- May 22 (47)

"Challenge all students to attain their greatest potential."