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Vol. 39, Issue 1

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”
Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

January 9, 2015

2014 A year in review



AETC, Columbus websites undergoing extreme makeover

**Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs**

Air Education and Training Command websites have begun migration to a new standard design.

During the migration process, AETC pages may experience minor errors or page redirects if a user attempts to access certain links.

The migration process for Headquarters AETC's website is expected to be completed by Jan. 9 while Columbus Air Force Base will follow soon after. The web page will resemble the Air Force's main site, also known as Air Force Link. The changeover will create a more uniformed experience among Air Force web pages in both form and function.

All 12 AETC installation and 23 wing websites will be converted to the standard design throughout 2015.



U.S. Air Force graphic by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang
Headquarters AETC's website migration is expected to be completed by Jan. 9, 2015. After completion, it will resemble Air Force Link.

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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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
12	13	14	15	16	17/18	Jan. 30: Enlisted Promotions Feb. 6: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 10: Wing Newcomers Orientation Feb. 13: SUPT Class 15-05 Graduation Feb. 16: President's Day Holiday Feb. 27: Enlisted Promotions Mar. 8: Daylight Savings Time begins Mar. 9-13: Lowndes County Schools Spring Break Mar. 13: SUPT Class 15-06 Graduation Mar. 23-30: UEI Mar. 28-29: Keesler AFB Airshow Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotions Apr. 3: SUPT Class 15-07 Graduation Apr. 5: Easter Sunday Apr. 6-18: 75th Annual Spring Pilgrimage
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday	20 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	21	22 AETC/CC visit	23 SUPT Class 15-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	24/25	

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

er, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Transportation

For Sale: 1989 Harley Davidson FXRP, 98,000 miles, \$4,300 or best offer. For more information call 574-8549.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: 10-year-old Janome 300E Monogram Sewing Machine with accessories and assorted threads in excellent condition; paid over \$1,500,

asking \$650, negotiable. Please call 574-5915 if interested.

For Sale: Gateway 15.6 inch laptop computer with high-speed wi-fi, Windows 8.1, Intel Pentium Processor, 500GB hard drive, DVD Super-Multi DL Drive, 4GB DDR3 memory, Norton Internet Security, webcam with integrated microphone plus numerous other features and programs. Laptop is in excellent condition, \$245 or best offer. For more information call 327-1205.

For Sale: Fifty-six piece lot of Pfaltzgraff Village stoneware in excellent condition, plus eight am-

ber water glasses and 10 matching amber juice glasses. This set contains a complete eight place setting plus extras, \$295. For more information call 327-1205.

For Sale: Terra cotta wood-burning chimney outdoor fireplace with stand, \$195 or best offer. For more information call 327-1205.

Pets

Free Pet: Free one-year-old Guinea Pig with free large cage. For more information call 574-7988.

BRIDGE

(Continued from page 9)

would cost a fortune to helicopter (supplies and equipment) in to the range. This bridge hardly costs anything and doesn't affect the environment either."

However, getting to the completion point is quite the process. Kelly said the challenges really come when the mercury dips to minus 50 degrees, but the advantages make up for it.

"Ice is easy to make when it's that cold, but keeping pumps and other equipment running or started is extremely tough," he said. "The opposite challenge is when it's 7 degrees like it has been and we have a (snow) flurry, the water doesn't freeze well and the snow insulates its warmth."

To overcome the overwhelming cold on the engines and machinery, they are started prior to leaving Eielson AFB, more than 30 miles away, and are ran the entire day. After being in the damp environment, air filters are cleaned daily and everything is lubricated using high-grade grease.

Second to the fluctuating freezing temperatures, the few hours of daylight are often accompanied by ice fog, which can make visibility next to nothing. Reflective "refrigerator suits" are worn to help keep the Airmen warm and offer some form of visibility; but with no landmarks on the open ice to keep track of the trail, the teams employ one simple trick to help guide them home.

"Flags — simple orange (flags) where we drill holes mark he path," Kelly said. "It can be clear as day or pitch dark with a great view of the



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Shawn Nickel

Senior Airman Jerry Mitchell uses a water pump Nov. 20, 2014, while constructing an ice bridge in Fairbanks, Alaska. The bridge must be constructed every other year to provide access to the \$20 million range complex used to train pilots from around the world during Red Flag-Alaska exercises. Mitchell is a heavy equipment operator with the 354th Civil Engineer Squadron on Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Northern Lights one minute then pea soup the next. Getting lost out here could mean not making it home at all."

The mixed unit of civilians and Airmen is one of the only teams able to build an ice bridge. Seasoned retired enlisted members who have stayed in Alaska offer knowledge to the newer service members who often endure the process for the first time. Generally, most enlisted members will build three bridges throughout their interior Alaskan tour.

"There are so many tricks, tips and processes to get this job done safely — these guys definitely know what's going on," Dray said. "Even if it's something they haven't seen before or we have a suggestion, we all put our heads together to get it

done and improve processes." Because building the bridge is so unconventional, equipment is sometimes fashioned or improved by hand to overcome the arctic environment. This year, sleds were used to carry pumps and augers across chunks of ice that were miles wide. As the equipment was dragged, the snow and ice were flattened and compacted.

"When we are on land we leave a layer of snow so we can reduce impact on soil and foliage, but when spring comes and the ice melts, the entire process is washed down the river," Kelly said. "Next time we start again the river will be all different, the island's trees will be bigger and the weather will bring all new challenges."

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Upcoming Events

free and open to the public.

Jan. 13

"Savoring African American History through Stories and Poetry" with Barbara Jones Clark is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Omnova Theater; sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. The program is

Jan. 15

Guitar Music Of Spain and Latin America David Burgess in Concert will be held at 7 p.m. at the Omnova Theater. Tickets for the performance are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, if available.

American Legion
308 Chubby Drive ★ Columbus, MS
662-329-4130

If you have served in the armed forces, you are eligible for membership!
Army ★ Navy ★ Air Force ★ Marines
CALL TODAY TO JOIN!

Lounge Open to the Public

Open Monday-Thursday @ 2pm. Friday-Sunday @ 1pm
Must be 21 for lounge admittance

BINGO Every Monday & Friday Night!
Sales start at 6pm. Must be 14 or older to play, minors must be accompanied by adult

VLC Machines 7 Days a Week
Drink Specials
Pool Tables
No Cover Charge

Karaoke with Eddie Hall
Every Saturday Night at 8pm

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Weather

Friday Partly Cloudy High 39°F Low 21°F	Saturday Partly Cloudy High 38°F Low 19°F	Sunday Rain High 46°F Low 29°F
Monday Rain High 51°F Low 37°F	Tuesday Cloudy High 51°F Low 40°F	Wednesday Cloudy High 48°F Low 38°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Dorm Dinner

A Dorm Dinner is scheduled for enlisted Airmen living in the dorms Jan. 15, 5 p.m. at the Chapel Annex.

81st FS Activation Ceremony

The newest member of the Team BLAZE family, the 81st Fighter Squadron, is scheduled for an activation ceremony Jan. 15 at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

Most base organizations will be closed Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Inside



Feature S-1 – S-4

The year in review is highlighted in this week's feature.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 25 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Melissa Doublin

The 2014 fourth quarterly awards winners or their representatives pause for a photo on stage at Kaye Auditorium Jan. 7. The ceremony honored the wing's outstanding professionals for the months of Oct. through Dec. 2014 whose drive, determination and dedication have earned them this recognition.

Quarterly awards ceremony distinguishes great performers

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing's best of the best were showcased during the fourth quarter awards ceremony of 2014 Jan. 7 at the Kaye Auditorium.

The Team BLAZE fourth quarter award winners are:
Airman of the Quarter: Airman 1st Class Darren Hussey, 14th Operations Group
NCO of the Quarter: Staff Sgt. Lloyd Kimble, 14th Medical Group
SNCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Nesha Willis, Wing Staff Agency
CGO of the Quarter: Capt. Gregory Ulrich, 14th OG

(Assigned to the 81st FTS, Moody AFB, GA)
FGO of the Quarter: Maj. Isaac Hipple, WSA
Honor Guard of the Quarter: Airman 1st Class Andres Perez, 14 Operations Support Squadron
Flight Commander of the Quarter: 2nd Lt. John Oms, WSA
IP of the Quarter: 1st Lt. Shawn Delmez, 37th Flying Training Squadron
Cat. 1 Civilian of the Quarter: Carla Wallace, 14th WSA
Cat. 2 Civilian of the Quarter: Laura Rodella, 14th Mission Support Group
Volunteer of the Quarter: Carly Lasher, 14th OG
C3 Airman of the Quarter: Maj. Craig Augustino, 14th OG

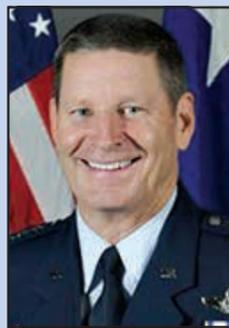
COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

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 (15-13)	-2.26 days	-2.80 days	Feb. 12	48th (15-04)	4.92 days	-1.18 days	Jan. 23	49th (15-DBC)	3.74 days	1.59 days	Jan. 30	T-6	321	355	7,332
41st (15-12)	3.12 days	-0.09 days	Jan. 16	50st (15-04)	-2.59 days	0.37 days	Jan. 23					T-1	217	131	2,622
												T-38	65	79	2,101
												IFF	50	48	1,005

The graduation speaker is Gen. Robin Rand, Commander Air Education and Training Command.

Team BLAZE welcomes back Gen. Rand, Chief Tapia

Team BLAZE welcomes back to Columbus Air Force Base Gen. Robin Rand, Commander of Air Education and Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, Command Chief Master Sergeant, Headquarters AETC, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.



Gen. Robin Rand

Rand is responsible for the recruiting, training and education of Air Force personnel. His command includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces and Air University. The command operates nearly 1,370 trainer, fighter and mobility aircraft, 23 wings, 12 bases and five geographically separated groups. It trains more than 293,000 students per year with approximately 62,000 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, civilian and contractor personnel.

Rand was commissioned in 1979 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He's had multiple flying tours; served as an air liaison officer with the U.S. Army; and has had staff tours on the Joint Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense and Air Staff. Rand's previous commands include the 36th Fighter Squadron, USAF Weapons School, 8th Fighter Wing, 56th Fighter Wing, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq, and prior to this assignment 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

Rand is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours, including more than 470 combat hours.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1979 - July 1980, student pilot, undergraduate pilot training, Williams AFB, Arizona
2. August 1980 - December 1980, T-37 pilot, pilot instructor training, Randolph AFB, Texas
3. January 1981 - May 1984, T-37 instructor pilot, 82nd Flying Training Wing, Williams AFB, Arizona
4. May 1984 - July 1984, AT-38 pilot, fighter lead-in training, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
5. August 1984 - January 1985, F-16 pilot, F-16 training, 63rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, MacDill AFB, Florida
6. February 1985 - December 1986, F-16 pilot, 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Torrejon AB, Spain
7. December 1986 - June 1988, air liaison officer, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division, Bamberg, West Germany
8. July 1988 - October 1988, F-16 pilot, F-16 training, 311th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona
9. October 1988 - December 1989, F-16 flight examiner, 432nd Tactical Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan
10. January 1990 - April 1990, F-16 pilot, USAF Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nevada
11. April 1990 - July 1992, F-16 weapons officer, 13th Fighter Squadron; and weapons and tactics flight commander, 432nd Operations Support Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan
12. August 1992 - September 1994, F-16 operations officer, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada

13. September 1994 - July 1997, operations officer and Commander, 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, South Korea

14. August 1997 - June 1998, student, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

15. June 1998 - May 2000, policy planner, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy (J5), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

16. May 2000 - March 2001, Deputy Commander, 56th Operations Group, Luke AFB, Arizona

17. April 2001 - April 2003, Commandant, USAF Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada

18. May 2003 - May 2004, Commander, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, South Korea

19. June 2004 - June 2006, Commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Arizona

20. July 2006 - July 2007, Commander, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq

21. August 2007 - August 2009, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

22. August 2009 - November 2011, Director, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force; and Special Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

23. December 2011 - September 2013, Commander, 12th Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Commander, Air Forces Southern, U.S. Southern Command, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona

24. October 2013 - present, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1998 - May 2000, policy planner, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy (J5), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a lieutenant colonel
2. July 2006 - July 2007, Commander, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq, as a brigadier general
3. August 2007 - August 2009, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general and major general
4. December 2011 - September 2013, Commander, Air Forces Southern, U.S. Southern Command, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, as a lieutenant general.

Chief Tapia advises AETC commanders, directors and staff on the current and future training and educational methods used by the more than 600,000 total force Airmen. The chief is a key advisor to the command's corporate structure for budgeting, transformation and execution of the AETC mission.

Tapia graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in El Paso, Texas. He entered the Air Force for basic training in April 1985,

and then attended the Basic Personnel Course at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. His background includes various duties in personnel management at base level, major command, the Air Force Personnel Center and a joint duty assignment with Headquarters Alaskan Command. Before assuming his current position, Tapia served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Apr 1985 - May 1985, trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. May - Jul 1985 student, Basic Personnel Course (Honor Graduate), Keesler AFB, Mississippi
3. Aug 1985 - May 1987, APR/OPR specialist, 60th Air Base Group, Travis AFB, California
4. June 1987 - January 1989, Accessions Clerk, 3507th Airman Classification Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
5. February 1989 - September 1990, NCOIC Quality Review, 3507th Airman Classification Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
6. October 1990 - July 1992, Assistant NCOIC Career Assistance, 3507th Airman Classification Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
7. August 1992 - July 1994, NCOIC, Basic Military Training Graduate Assignments, 3507th Airman Classification Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas
8. July 1994 - May 1996, Recruiter Resource Manager, NCOIC Heavy Aircraft Maintenance Assignments, HQ AETC, Randolph AFB, Texas
9. May 1996 - August 1999, NCOIC, Joint Personnel Branch, Personnel and Manpower Directorate, HQ Alaskan Command, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
10. August 1999 - March 2003, Chief, Assignment Issues and Procedures, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas
11. March 2003 - July 2004, Chief, Base Closures and Force Structure Assignments, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas
12. July 2004 - April 2008, Special Assistant to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
13. April 2008 - August 2008, Superintendent, Military Personnel Element, U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
14. August 2008 - November 2009, Superintendent, 10th Force Support Squadron, U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado (June 2009 - October 2009, PERSCO Chief, 451st Air Expeditionary Wing, Kandahar, Afghanistan)
15. December 2009 - November 2011, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 49th Wing, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
16. November 2011 - January 2013, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern), Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
17. January 2013 - present, Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas



Chief Gerardo Tapia

Fight against ISIL: Ammo troops keep up with tempo

Senior Master Sgt. Carrie Hinson
U.S. Air Forces Central Command
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — There's nothing more exciting than watching a fighter jet loaded with munitions roar down the flight line headed off to take out the bad guy.

Since hitting the ground, ammo troops assigned to an expeditionary maintenance squadron in Southwest, Asia have worked nonstop building bombs to support the war against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

What used to be standard training missions and guarding of munitions for many ammo troops has now turned into building bombs to support everyday, real-world combat missions.

"This time it's nothing but the real deal," said Master Sgt. Adam, the NCO in charge of conventional maintenance. "This is what you're trained to do; this is what you train for at your home station when you go through exercises. We're really going after it this time around and I like it."

With a 40 to 50 percent increase in the amount of bombs ammo troops are building, and over 500 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) GBU-38s and GBU-54s already dropped since their arrival, ammo troops are looking to break new records with the amount of bombs they continue to build each month.



Master Sgt. Adam, middle, preps the KMU-572 fins for assembly onto the MK-82 munition Dec. 21, 2014, in Southwest Asia. Adam is the NCO in charge of conventional maintenance and is deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

"We're only halfway through our deployment," said Master Sgt. Adam. "A lot of these guys are pretty green and they haven't really gotten to do something of this magnitude. This is even big for me."

Senior Airman Adam, a munitions crew chief, knew he would be supporting an ac-

tive mission here but had little knowledge of what he would be walking into with his first deployment as an ammo troop.

"I had no idea how high tempo the mission was going to be or how many munitions we would be building," said the senior airman. "In the last three months we have

already built over nine times the amount of munitions than the last rotation did in their entire six (months)."

As the U.S. and coalition forces continue to target specific capabilities to project combat power on the enemy, this leaves ammo with no choice but to ensure their Airmen are trained and proficient in every aspect of their job to keep operations running smoothly.

"Our job is to ensure that when each warhead is dropped that it will find its target and detonate as designed, so that each mission is always a success," said Senior Airman Adam.

Ammo's efforts have directly contributed to Air Force aircraft conducting more than 60 percent of all airstrikes and flying more than 60 percent of all sorties supporting operations in Iraq and Syria since Aug. 8, 2014.

As the Air Force continues to support the Defense Department's long-term campaign to destroy ISIL, you can be sure that Ammo troops are behind the scenes making it all possible.

"It is a really nice feeling like we're tip of the spear," said Master Sgt. Adam. "The (Air Force) can work on jets all day and send pilots out all across the AOR (area of responsibility), but if they don't have any munitions, they're not going to be able to do much."

(Editor's note: Due to safety and security reasons, last names and unit designators were removed.)

Ice bridge closes gap to range complex

Staff Sgt. Shawn Nickel
354th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — From the first day the Tanana River in Alaska is frozen enough to walk on, Airmen from the Eielson Air Force Base's 354th Civil Engineer Squadro's range maintenance shop drill holes, pump water and let it freeze, layer after layer.

It's a constant game of hop scotch across sand bars, islands, sloughs, creeks and goliath spans of the main river, to build an ice bridge that connects civilization to the Blair Lakes Bomb Range that is 33 miles away through the wilderness.

"We don't always know what we have for ice, so it's a little sketchy going across at first," said Shawn Kelly, the 354th CES range maintenance foreman. "Our first day out we had about 14 inches of ice all the way across. Our goal is to end up with 5 feet of ice, but after two weeks we were running between 24 and 30 inches."

With the bridge completed, more than 190,000 gallons of fuel, thousands of cubic yards of lumber, and other heavy materials will be delivered, which otherwise couldn't have been moved by helicopter. The bridge has to be constructed every other year to provide access to the nearly \$20 million

range complex used to train pilots from around the world during Red Flag-Alaska exercises.

A water use permit is obtained from the state and no foreign materials are used during the construction, so as the weather warms long after the New Year, time washes away any tractor marks and snow berms used to form the ice.

"One of the best parts of this job is being out here, where hardly anyone will ever go, and getting to build something that will have a huge impact," said Senior Airmen Tyler Dray, a 354th CES range maintenance structures journeyman. "Two years of fuel alone

See BRIDGE, Page 10



Senior Airmen Tyler Dray and Jerry Mitchell use an ice auger Nov. 20, 2014, while constructing an ice bridge in Fairbanks, Alaska. The bridge must be constructed every other year to provide access to the \$20 million range complex used to train pilots from around the world during Red Flag-Alaska exercises. Dray is a range maintenance structures journeyman and Mitchell is a heavy equipment operator with the 354th Civil Engineer Squadron on Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

CAFB FSS Rocks

Join our Facebook page at CAFB FSS Rocks, Twitter at @CAFBFSS, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at cafbfssrocks.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

100 Ton Club

The Fitness Center is offering an opportunity for you to become a member of the 100 Ton Club for males or 50 Ton Club for females. Stop by the Fitness Center on Jan. 16 during normal business hours and track your weights throughout the day; turn the log in at the front desk. For more information, contact 434-2772.

5K Fitness Run

The Fitness Center is offering a 5K fitness run Jan. 16 at 7 a.m. Bikes and strollers welcome. Commander's trophy points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Celebrate an American Icon

Join the Youth Center for a free program celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2504.

National Civil Rights Museum Trip

The Youth Center is offering a National Civil Rights Museum trip Jan. 17; depart Columbus at 7 a.m. and return 5 p.m. The cost is \$20; includes tickets and transportation (free for ages under three, but must pay transportation fee). Sign up no later than Jan. 12. For more information, call 434-2504.

Ice Skating Trip

The Youth Center is offering an ice skating trip Jan. 24 for ages 10 - 18. Depart Columbus 11 a.m. and return 5 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person; includes transportation. Sign up by Jan. 20. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Spring Soccer Registration

Are you ready to get outdoors and enjoy soccer? Sign up Jan. 26 – Feb. 20 for Youth Spring Soccer. The cost is \$35 for ages 3 – 4; \$40 for ages 5 – 18. Save \$5 off registration if registered by Jan. 30. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Family 3-Point Shootout

The Youth Center is offering a Family 3-point Shootout and Hotspot Competition Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. An adult must compete with each child; ages 6 – 18. Register no later than Jan. 20. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Youth Super Bowl Party

The Youth Center is offering a Super Bowl party for youth/teens Feb. 1 at 4:30 p.m. The cost is only \$10 for one, \$15 for two, or \$20 for three or more. Register no later than Jan. 27. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Xbox 360 Madden 15 Football Tournament

Sign up and play a full season as your favorite team at the Youth Center. Participants must be a Youth Center Member age 12 – 18. Championship game played the week of the Super Bowl.

For start date and to sign up, contact 434-2504.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Horseback Riding Lessons

Check us out, learn a new sport, start riding again, or enhance your riding skills. Lessons are available at the Columbus Air Force Base stables for ages five and up in the ways of English and western riding. For more information, contact (610) 248-4824.

Wood Shop Self Help

Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

“Beach Body” Body Blast Fitness

“If it’s Burning, It’s Growing.” The class is Monday – Friday at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Brandy at 434-2772.

Hot Hula Fitness Class

Polynesian dance workout is an easy to follow, low impact exercise that strengthens arms, abs, and legs. Classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. at the Fitness Center. For more

information, contact 434-2772.

Events at the Club

Schedule your next event (big or small) at the Columbus Club. Event planning, preparation, tours, and payments are made by appointment only Tuesday- Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call the club caterer at 434-2489 to schedule your event.

RV Storage Lot

Don’t clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

Earn Free Lunch at the Columbus Club

Pick up your blaze lunch punch card today at the Columbus Club. Purchase just 10 lunches at the Columbus Club and receive the 11th free. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Green Plate Special

The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at CAFB FSS Rocks or Twitter @CAFBFSS!

Feeling Lucky?

Outdoor Recreation offers monthly casino trips the last Saturday of each month. With more than 5,000 slot machines, 115 table games and 14 poker tables including the wildly popular Texas Hold’em. Join the fun for only \$25 which includes transportation and receive \$20 in bonus bets. Contact 434-2505 for more information.

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Fitness on Request

CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

Ride in Style

If you don’t want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Transportation one way is \$225 for Memphis, \$175 for Birmingham, and \$50 for Columbus. Call 434-2505 for more information.

Hot and Easy to Use

Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style.

New DOD Policy on Allotments

14th Comptroller Squadron

Statement on Allotment Policy Change

In June 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel directed the Comptroller to form an interagency team in response to a major enforcement action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The team assessed changes in our military allotment system to prevent unscrupulous businesses from taking advantage of service members.

Getting service members to buy things they may not be able to afford is attractive to unscrupulous companies because payments made by allotment are virtually guaranteed. The Secretary of Defense approved changes to the allotment system on Sept. 29, 2014, that were recommended by the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) following collaboration with an interagency team.

The Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation will be amended to prohibit the use of allotments to purchase, lease or rent personal property. The effective date for this change is Jan. 1, 2015.

The policy change prohibits starting new allotments to purchase, lease, or rent personal property. Existing allotments are not affected. It does not prohibit allotments made to: savings accounts, support for dependents, insurance premiums, mortgage or rent payments or investments. This policy change does not apply to military retirees or DOD civilians.

The Secretary wanted to preserve the ease of use and the flexibility of the system for service members while eliminating the aspects most likely to be abused by commercial lenders. Ultimately, this change will significantly improve service member protections while not significantly reducing the flexibility to use allotments for a number of useful purposes. This policy change affords additional protection to all active duty service members and their families.

Q&A:

Q1. What type of allotments will be prohibited by the policy change? What types of allotments are allowed currently?

A1. The DOD FMR will list the allotments that are prohibited, to include but not limited to, allotments for payments for or to, or deposits to:

- Vehicles (e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, boats);
- Appliances or household goods (e.g., washer, dryer, furniture);
- Electronics (e.g., laptop, iPad, cell phone, television); or
- Other consumer items that are tangible and movable.

Allotments that remain authorized for service members include payments to dependents and relatives, payment of premiums for insurance, repayment of indebtedness to

the U.S. Government, mortgages, and savings account deposits (for other than prohibited purposes described above) and for Combined Federal Campaign charitable contributions.

Q2. When will the change go into effect?

A2. The update is effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Q3. Will Congress need to approve the changes?

A3. No. This is a change to a DOD regulation. The Secretary has the authority to make these changes to the allotment system through changes to the DOD Financial Management Regulation (DoD 7000.14-R, Volume 7A, Chapters 40 and 42). No action by Congress is required. However, notification will be made to members who have expressed interest in the allotment abuses.

Q4. Who made up the “interagency team?”

A4. The interagency team consisted of DOD representatives from the USD (Comptroller), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), USD (Personnel and Readiness), and General Counsel offices within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, along with the Joint Staff. Non-DOD participants included representatives from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Consumer Financial and Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Federal Reserve Board (FRB), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

Lile Outdoors: Duck hunting tips, strategy

Airman Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

(Editor’s note: This is the eighth article in a series about hunting.)

One of the unique advantages to being stationed at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is the abundance of hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities.

One popular type of hunting around Columbus is duck hunting. However being this far south it can be challenging.

“If you’re duck hunting in Mississippi it’s your best bet to not take more than six decoys,” said Airman 1st Class Cory Scribner, 14th Operations Support Squadron Air Traffic Control Apprentice and avid hunter. “The reason for that is because by the time the northern ducks get here they have seen every decoy spread and heard every duck call. They have been shot at a bunch of times and we are so far south the ducks are going to be shy.”

Duck hunters can try to hide their decoys by throwing them underneath timber



or near tree branches where ducks can see them but they are not too visible, Scribner said.

Decoy layouts are always a huge topic of conversation for duck hunters; having the ability to adjust hunting styles to the local area is key for success while hunting.

“You have to adjust to where you’re

duck hunting, and being this far south, it gets complicated,” Scribner said. “If you just have a big pile of duck decoys sitting out there in the open, they’re going to know it’s not real and flare away (not land).”

A hunter also wants lots of motion with the decoy, Scribner added. They can use jerk strings and kick the water around.

Duck hunters take whatever means possible to conceal themselves so the ducks do not see them.

“Always keep your eyes on the water and never look up at the ducks circling,” Scribner said. “Ducks can see the whites of your eyes when they’re flying over. Make sure your face is covered, use face paint or a mask, but everything needs to be camouflaged.”

“I go to the extent to [even] paint my hands,” he continued. “I go all out; you cannot see me while I’m duck hunting.”

Duck hunters construct hunting blinds as another way to camouflage themselves from ducks flying over-head.

“I like just grabbing a bunch of weeds, tall grass and cattails and building a blind,” said

Staff Sgt. Cody Howk, 14th OSS Weather Forecaster and avid hunter. “It looks more natural and ducks are going to think it’s just a normal patch of grass.”

Duck hunting blinds are usually constructed tall so hunters can sit comfortably and be able to shoot from inside them.

Scouting to find where ducks land before the season starts can be the difference between a successful and an unsuccessful hunt.

“Scout before the season opens, and remember where you hunted last year,” Howk said. “Before the season opens, just go out and sit by ponds or where you want to hunt and just watch to see where ducks are landing. You have to go where the ducks want to go; not where you want them to go.”

Watching ducks come down to land and fall is a sight that can bring adrenaline and excitement to most waterfowl hunters.

“I will always be a deer hunter, but there is just something about duck hunting that gets your blood pumping,” Howk said. “I love watching them cuff their wings and fly into land. It’s just a blast, figuratively and literally.”

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

BLAZEing into 2015

Col. John Nichols

14th Flying Training Wing Commander

Team BLAZE---
Welcome back from a highly successful 2014 and Happy New Year to all as we begin another busy year at Columbus Air Force Base. We started 2015 with a great news story---every member of our Team returned to duty following the Holidays with zero injuries and zero DUIs. Our 100 percent safe return is a direct reflection of committed front line supervision and smart personal decision making. Thank you for your engagement, for serving as Wingmen to others, and for your personal commitment to our core values.



office hosted our annual January Challenge were we re-caged our safety gyros by reviewing how we did in Fiscal Year 2014 and the steps we are taking to do better in FY15. In FY14, the cost of our Class A through E mishap events totaled \$2.7M with the cost of bird strikes alone exceeding \$2M. Our Safety office is taking extraordinary steps to combat bird strikes on and off Columbus. Bottom line is Columbus AFB executed its mission successfully while maintaining a high level of safety both on and off duty. However, there is room for improvement and we can do better.

What we need from each and every member of Team BLAZE is to continually maintain a safety mindset and internalize safety processes. Our responsibility is to continually identify risks and hazards, mitigate them to the max extent possible, and then re-assess the remaining risk as acceptable or not in accomplishing our mission. If the risk is too great, then we are all empowered to call a "knock it off" and find a better way. A safety mindset that balances mission accomplishment against the inherent risks of our profession will help us to continually improve our operations.



Although the 234 aircraft on the Columbus ramp and their associated flying hours are important, the number one asset in the 14th FTW is you---the members of Team BLAZE that fuel our mission. One cost we cannot afford is the loss of any individual due to preventable poor decisions. As such, I am issuing a challenge---zero DUIs in 2015! This is a lofty goal, but one that we can achieve. We can do it; you can do it. Smart, safety-minded and disciplined personal decisions and sincere, effective front line supervision are keys to our success. Let's make 2015 an even better, safer year as we crush the mission in the world's greatest Air Force! I am honored to serve alongside each of you.

Blaze I

Commander's Action Line 434-1414

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 434-1414. 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.



Squadron Bowling League begins



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

Team BLAZE members practice bowling Jan. 7 at the bowling center here before beginning the intramural Squadron Bowling League. Seven teams will compete for 10 weeks to become the Columbus AFB intramural bowling champions.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(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.)

Career Technical Track Workshop

This transition event is held Jan. 12-13, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days' notification and must have a minimum of 8 participants to make. To register and for more information call 434-2790.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is Jan. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

TAP Education Track

This transition event is held Jan. 14-15, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The workshop prepares individuals for the college application process. It addresses topics as identifying educational goals, funding, and researching and comparing institutions. Upon completing the Educational track, members will be prepared to submit an application to institution, schedule session with a counselor and connect with a Student Vet Org on campus. Members will be able to meet with educational counselors for individualized preparation. Call 434-2790 to register.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is Jan. 20, 8 a.m. - noon, and is mandatory for newly-arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, Jan. 20, 1-2 p.m., allows the VA contractors to explain to service members, whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held, Jan. 21-22, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register and for more information call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

This class is Jan. 22, 10 - 11:30 a.m. This is a

class that provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Capstone

This class is scheduled for Jan. 22, 8 a.m. - noon. The Capstone is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/have not met their Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC,

434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors 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. Counselors 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 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift

Store the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

Base Community Organizations

DRMO

Recycle first by using the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office as your facility's source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply.

Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

Catholic Community

Sunday:
3:15 p.m. - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Chapel Annex)
3:45 p.m. - Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)
4 p.m. - Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. - Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. - Mass w/Children's Church
Tuesday:
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass

Protestant Community

Sunday:
9 a.m. - Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service
Tuesday:
5 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesday:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

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.

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REVIEW

(Continued from page S-1)

mander, visited Columbus AFB along with Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC Command Chief Master Sergeant, on his tour of AETC bases.

On April 5 and 6, Columbus Air Force Base held a Wings over Columbus Heritage to Horizons Open House and Air Show, which hosted base Airmen and the general public. It was the first air show Columbus hosted in four years.

Staff Sgt. Alexander Gordy, Airman 1st Class Kyle Carpenter, Senior Airman Ryan Werner and Staff Sgt. Joshua Keith, 14th Operations Support Squadron Airmen who worked at the Radar Approach Control tower, demonstrated the Air Force Core Value of Service Before Self by saving a drowning man May 26. The incident happened at the Buttahatchee River in Caledonia, Mississippi.

On July 22, Team BLAZE personnel received a visit from Col. Steve Schaick, Command Chaplain Air Education and Training Command. Four days later, on July 26, when 2nd Lt. Matthew LeCraw graduated Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, he became the fourth generation of officers and pilots. C. Veazey LeCraw stood with his son retired Lt. Col. Chris LeCraw and his grandson 2nd Lt. Matthew LeCraw at Columbus Air Force Base Smith Plaza.

Team BLAZE honored six of its newest Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officers at the SNCO Induction Ceremony held Aug. 7 at the Columbus Club. The Induction Ceremony is a time honored tradition that recognizes Airmen who will make the transition from non-commissioned officer to senior non-commissioned officer.

On Sept. 4-6, seven former wing commanders and two former vice commanders returned to Columbus Air Force Base to help celebrate Class 14-14's graduation. During this period, on Sept. 5, Gen. Mark Welsh, Air Force Joint Chief of Staff, visited and the wing held the Air Force Birthday Ball at Malloy Hangar on Columbus Air Force Base.

On Sept. 10, Team BLAZE recognized Lt. Col. Douglas Jantzen, 14th Flying Training Wing Chief of Aircraft Maintenance, as the most senior lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. His familiarization flight aboard a T-6 Texan II, took place on the 40th anniversary of Jantzen's enlistment into the United States Air Force.

On Sept. 24, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Cody and his wife, retired Chief Master Sergeant Athena Cody, visited the Airmen and families of Columbus Air Force Base. The wing also accepted an additional pilot training mission on Sept. 26, with the assignment of the 81st Fight Squadron which is located at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, but assigned to the wing's 14th Operation Group.

Columbus AFB held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 2 which marked the completion of Phase I of a two-phase renovation of the 14th Medical Group's Koritz Clinic. The clinic was chosen for renovation to increase efficiency and improve sections of the facility which included the Family Medicine Clinic, Flight Medicine Clinic, Pharmacy, Immunizations and Laboratory.

On Nov. 25, the 14th Force Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight received special recognition when the team earned the No. 1 ranking for Personnel Action Reports at the Air Force level in fiscal 2014. The evaluated areas included form discrepancies, evaluation timeliness, evaluation error rates and Permanent Change of Station error rates.

Dec. 11 marked the activation and Assumption of Command of the 14th Logistic Readiness Squadron. During the ceremony, Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, passed the 14th Logistic Readiness Squadron guidon to Maj. Antonio V. Salazar, who assumed command of the newly activated squadron.

The Honorable Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force, arrived at Columbus Air Force Base Dec. 17 for a two-day visit. During her stay, she toured several squadrons and organizations and met with Airmen and learned their unique capabilities, key initiatives,



**14TH Flying Training Wing
2015 Upcoming Events**

January 15:
81st FS Activation Ceremony

January 22-23:
Senior Leadership Visit:
Gen. Robin Rand, AETC/CC and Mrs. Rand
Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC/CCC

February 6:
14th FTW Annual Awards Banquet
Guest Speaker: Lt. Gen. Garrett Harencak

February 13:
Former Wing Commander Retired General Robert "Doc" Foglesong
Guest Speaker for Class 15-05 Graduation

February 19-20:
Black History Month Luncheon
Guest Speaker: Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, 2nd AF/CC

March 13:
Former Wing Commander Retired Maj. Gen. Jack Catton Jr.
Guest Speaker for Class 15-06 Graduation

March 23-30:
14 FTW UEI

April 6-18:
Columbus Spring Pilgrimage
Half-Marathon and 5k run- April 11
Catfish in the Alley- April 11

July 4:
Fireworks on the Water
The premier pilot training wing and community developing the world's best Airmen

attributes and missions.

Toward the end of December, the base Chaplain and staff hosted a traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which took place outside of the wing's headquarters building Dec. 5. Meanwhile, others volunteered to participate in a local outreach program sponsored by the Happy Irby Foundation, a thriving private organization which benefits thousands of adults and children. The Happy Irby Christmas Fund

provides clothing and supplies to children in the local schools and community.

Even more, personnel attended Christmas parties and luncheons, finished administrative requirements and made plans to spend some well-deserved time with family and friends.

While December brings to bear the passing of another 12-month period, let us all remember those BLAZE Team members who are no

longer with us on Earth. We must also pause and think of those Airmen serving in deployed locations around the world, and reflect upon our many accomplishments which contributed to fulfilling the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight.

As we journey forward into 2015, I wish our BLAZE Team a most fulfilling and prosperous New Year.

A Year in Review: 2014

14TH Flying Training Wing
2014 First Quarter Events

Col. Jim Sears, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, speaks to a group of about 150 community and base members at the Commanders New Year's Reception Jan. 4 at the Columbus Club. Sears, and his wife Vikki hosted the reception to personally greet community members and usher in the new year. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)



The group of 21 Airmen pause for a photo by the memorial for Bob Hope Jan. 25 in the Air Force Enlisted Village. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)



Maj. Michael Fisher, pilot of Thunderbird 8, circles the F-16 Feb. 13 for a visual inspection on Columbus AFB. Thunderbird 8 came to Columbus AFB for a sight survey visit for the upcoming airshow this summer. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)



Col. James Sears, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, swears in new inspector generals in the Kaye Auditorium at Columbus Air Force Base on Feb. 27, 2014. An Inspector General is vital to the success of the mission at Columbus AFB by ensuring Air Force standards continue to be met and even succeed above standards. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)



Senior Airman Christopher Tarantino, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, reads a Dr. Seuss story to elementary school students Feb. 28 at West Lowndes Elementary School. Several Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base volunteered to dress up and read to the students of multiple classes. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Stephanie Englar)



Columbus Air Force Base Airmen run during a 5K, here, March 7, 2014. The 5K was one of many events during the month of March in support of Colon Cancer Awareness. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)



Airman Leadership School Class 14-03 participates in a traditional volleyball game against the Columbus Air Force Base chief master sergeants March 17 at the fitness center. Though a well-played match, the chiefs came out victorious overall. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lil)

Dr. Doris Crusoe

14th Flying Training Wing Historian

During 2014, the 14th Flying Training Wing BLAZE Team members at Columbus Air Force Base experienced many notable achievements as well as a few challenges.

That said the wing accomplished its primary mission to produce military pilots, during fiscal 2014, as reflected in the successful graduation of 308 Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students, 15 Aviation Leadership Program students, 22 internationals, and 87 Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals pilots.

As part of the team's mission to Advance Airmen, the First Term Airman Center held seven classes which resulted in 64 graduates, while 30 members completed Airman Leadership School. Additionally, Team BLAZE fed the fight, when the wing successfully deployed 83 personnel to various overseas and stateside assignments, as opposed to 108 the previous year.

Several groups and squadrons welcomed new commanders as the wing also bid farewell to Col. James R. Sears, Jr., and hailed Col. John J. Nichols as the new wing commander. Meanwhile, Command Chief Master Sergeant Rita F. Felton became the wing's newest senior enlisted leader.

On Jan. 14, 2014, the widow of fallen U.S. Air Force reservist instructor pilot, Maj. Blair Faulkner, donated a 1994 Pontiac Firebird to the base. The major died in a T-38 crash while assigned to Columbus AFB. Faulkner donated the car in honor of her late husband's dream to have a vehicle available for those who needed temporary transportation. Local and community members contributed their time and resources to create the vehicle in honor of Major Faulkner.

Later, Columbus Air Force Base closed on Feb. 11 due to a forecast of inclement weather and potentially hazardous road conditions. Then, on Feb. 14, the base community learned that Columbus became the first base in Air Education and Training Command to implement commercial mobile tablets into Department of Defense training. The base was selected as a Beta test site to determine the long-term viability of a mobile tablet based Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training curriculum.

More than a week later, the 14th Security Forces Squadron hosted a law enforcement training seminar which included participation from local law enforcement agencies. The Defenders designed four training scenarios as a means to aid law enforcement personnel in perfecting their usage of weapons, communication and other security tactics.

During the following month, on March 14, retired Lt. Col. Richard "Gene" Smith, a former Vietnam Prisoner of War, spoke with fellow Columbus Air Force Base Wingman Mark Alexander at the Memorial Wall named in Smith's honor at Columbus AFB. Smith, a POW for five and a half years, was recognized during the graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 14-06. The graduation ceremony marked the 41st anniversary of Smith's repatriation.

On March 26 and 27, Gen. Robin Rand, AETC com-

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14TH Flying Training Wing 2014 Second Quarter Events



A T-1A Jayhawk leads a dissimilar formation of all types of aircraft down at Columbus Air Force Base including the T-38 Talon and T-6 Texan II during a practice flight in preparation for the Wings Over Columbus Open House Air Show. With the event just around the corner, Columbus AFB is prepared and proud to show off its history and heritage. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile)



Frontline U.S. Air Force combat and training aircraft and vintage Warbirds are on display during the Wings Over Columbus Open House and Airshow at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., April 5, 2014. An estimation of over 45,000 people attended the two-day weekend festivities which included 10 aerial acts featuring the Air Force Thunderbirds and 30 ground exhibits. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Powers Facebook)



The jet turbines and propellers were silenced on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., setting aside time for the entire wing to focus on sexual assault prevention April 24. All Airmen passed the display of 36 chairs set up at the entrance of Kaye Auditorium to attend one of the four Commander's Calls held today. The chairs represent the number of reported incidents since 2005 at Columbus AFB. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Sonic Johnson)



Frank Lockhart, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, Lt. Col. David Meissen, Commander, 14 CES and 4th-graders from the local community schools plant a tree for Arbor Day at Columbus Air Force Base April 24. Arbor Day was first celebrated when Julius Morton proposed that the state of Nebraska would plant trees to increase awareness of the importance of tree planting. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Exercise participants and 14th Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management personnel donned Level-A fully encapsulated suits, complete with BG4 self-rebreathing systems, and carefully cleared a building room-by-room in search of simulated hazardous material during a Civil Support Team exercise May 14 in Starkville, Miss. Using a detector they carefully scanned doorways for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive substances. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar)



Honor Guardmen Airman 1st Class John Whittaker and Panagiotis Chaniotakis fold the U.S. flag while Airman 1st Class Juliana White salutes during a Memorial Day retreat ceremony at Columbus Air Force Base Smith Plaza, May 22. Decoration Day originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who had died and has its roots in Columbus. Since then, Memorial Day has become a day to remember all military members who have fallen in the line of duty. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra)



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Thompson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain assistant, right, breaks a bat held by Jacob Reeves, Relentless Grappling and MMA coach, left, and a volunteer during the Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month Taste of Asia event, Wednesday, May 28. Thompson showed and explained to attendees some of the culture and power behind Muay Thai during his demonstration. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Caleb Snay)



Retired Gen. Noreen Schwartz, Former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, congratulates 2nd Lt. Patrick Whelan, 11th Student Squadron, at the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 14-10 June 13, at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base. Whelan is the godson of Schwartz's wife, Suzie. (U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)

14TH Flying Training Wing 2014 Third Quarter Events



Maj. Gen. Michael Keltz, Air Education and Training Command Director of Intelligence, Operations and Nuclear Integration, hands the 14th Flying Training Wing Guidon to Col. John Nichols during a change of command ceremony at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi July 11, 2014. Before assuming command of the 14 FTW, Nichols was Chief of the Combat Plans Division, 609th Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. (U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Columbus Air Force Base Airmen stand in formation during a memorial service Sept. 19 at Smith Plaza. The service was dedicated to remembering Maj. Richard Schafer, 49th Fighter Trainer Squadron, who passed away Aug. 31 along with his brother after a personal plane crash in Abilene, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson)



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, addresses Columbus Air Force Base Airmen at a wing All-Call Sept. 3 during Welsh's visit to the base. The visit was prompted by an invitation from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 14-14 to be the keynote speaker at their graduation. Welsh also took the time to address and answer questions from the Airmen of Columbus AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, Air Force Global Strike Command Commander, cuts the cake with Airman 1st Class Christian Pivarro, 14th Operations Support Squadron, during the Air Force Ball Sept. 5 at the Mallory Hangar on Columbus Air Force Base. The Air Force Birthday Ball has been a tradition for over 70 years, originating with the Army Air Corps. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



Lt. Col. Douglas Jantzen, 14th Flying Training Wing Chief of Aircraft Maintenance, pauses next to a T-6 Texan II after his familiarization flight Sept. 10 on the Columbus Air Force Base flightline. The flight occurred on the 40th anniversary of Jantzen's enlistment into the United States Air Force, making him the most senior lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)



Senior NCO inductees stand with Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th FTW Command Chief, during the SNCO Induction Ceremony Aug. 7 at the Columbus Club. The Induction Ceremony is a time honored tradition that recognizes Airmen who will make the transition from NCO to SNCO. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra)



Former Columbus Air Force Base wing and vice wing commanders pose for a photo during a tour of the RAPCON and tower Sept. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base. The former commanders returned to Columbus to attend the events of Heritage Week. (U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody speaks with 14th Flying Training Wing enlisted Airmen at an All-Call Sept. 24 during his visit to Columbus Air Force Base, Sept. 24-25. "The reason for all these visits, the primary reason, is to look our Airmen in the face, spend as much time as we can with them, and to earnestly let them know how much we appreciate what they do every day," Cody said. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)

14TH Flying Training Wing 2014 Fourth Quarter Events



Mark Brightwell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager, Col. Allan Kidd, 14th Medical Group Commander, Col. Howard McArthur, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, and Craig Stearns, JE Dunn Construction lead contractor, cut the ribbon for the opening of the 14th MDC Koritz Clinic, Oct. 2. The ribbon cutting marked the completion of Phase 1 of a two-phase renovation of the Koritz Clinic. (U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Senior Airman Andrew Vasarotko and Airman 1st Class David Patterson, both firefighters with the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, work together to put out a fire during a live controlled burn demonstration at the Fire Prevention Week Open House Oct. 4 at the Fire Station. The live controlled burn demonstrates the fire department's skills and capabilities in putting out fires.



Senior Airman Jeremiah Barnes, Tops In Blue vocalist, performs his solo during the closing act of the Tops In Blue performance Oct. 14 at the Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall. Tops In Blue has been performing for 60 years to boost morale of Airmen and their families. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens)



A formation of Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base marches toward the Lowndes County Courthouse during the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 8 in downtown Columbus, Mississippi. The formation was led by Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, and Senior Master Sgt. David Sommers, 14th Flying Training Wing Staff Agencies Superintendent. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day)



Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, serves turkey to Airman 1st Class Samuel Chavez, 14th Communication Squadron Client Service Technician, at the November dorm dinner Nov. 20 in the chapel annex. Served at Dormgiving were turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, pumpkin pie and many other foods often served at Thanksgiving. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day)



Columbus Air Force Base pilots display the T-38C Talon and the T-6A Texan II to Gen. Harukazu Saitoh, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff, and JASDF staff during their base tour Dec. 2 on the Columbus Air Force Base flightline. The JASDF's pilot training in the U.S. Air Force began in 1991. Since then, over 200 JASDF pilots have completed the training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander (front cockpit), Command Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th FTW Command Chief (rear cockpit), Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hogan, 81st Fighter Squadron Commander and Senior Master Sgt. Dexter Wallace, 81st FS Superintendent, pose with one of the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft at Moody AFB, Ga., during a site visit Dec. 4. The 81st Fighter Squadron will reactivate Jan. 15, 2015, under the 14th Operations Group, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., with the mission of training up to 30 international pilots and 90 maintainers on the A-29 aircraft. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Sonic Johnson)



Members of the 14th Medical Group meet Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James outside of the Koritz Clinic Dec. 17 during her visit to Columbus Air Force Base. Along with touring some of the base facilities, James sat down with groups of Airmen to answer questions, and learn more about their daily mission. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens)