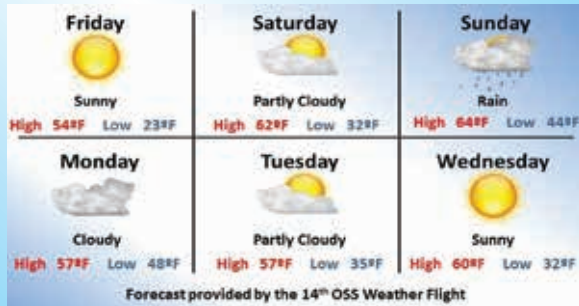


Weather



News Briefs

Basketball Tournament

The African American Heritage Committee is hosting a Black History Month basketball tournament Feb. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are five teams competing for a trophy. There will be music provided by DJ Odum.

Commissary Closed

The commissary is closing at 4 p.m. Feb. 8 to install new shelving. It will reopen at 10 a.m. Feb. 11.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The Wing Newcomers Orientation is now scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

George Washington's Birthday

Columbus AFB will observe George Washington's Birthday on Feb. 16. Most base organizations will be closed in observance of this day.

Inside



Feature 8

The Annual Awards Nominees are highlighted in this week's feature.

Harencak to speak at annual awards banquet

Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Every year, Airmen of Columbus Air Force Base strive to participate in the prestigious annual awards banquet which awards civilian, enlisted and officer Airmen for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

This year's banquet was visited by guest speaker Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Harencak is responsible to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for focus on Nuclear Deterrence Operations. He advocates for and oversees stewardship of Air Force nuclear weapon systems. In addition, he integrates the organizing, training and equipping of the Air Force's nuclear mission, and engages with joint and interagency partners for nuclear enterprise solutions.

Harencak entered the Air Force in 1983 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. His assignments include aircraft command of the B-52; instructor pilot and squadron command in the B-1B; and service as aide to the Commander of U.S. Central Command. He also directed the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Executive Secretariat, and served as Deputy Director of Requirements at Headquarters Air Combat Command. General Harencak commanded the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas, and the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Missouri.

Before his current assignment, he was the commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.



U.S. Air Force photo

Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

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)	1.48 days	0.32 days	Feb. 11	48th (15-05)	-0.98 days	-0.78 days	Feb. 13	49th (15-EBC)	1.74 days	0.91 days	Mar. 4	T-6	371	441	9,737
41st (15-14)	5.58 days	2.58 days	Mar. 9	50th (15-05)	0.47 days	1.38 days	Feb. 13					T-1	138	164	3,445
The graduation speaker for SUPT Class 15-05 is Gen. (Ret.) Robert "Doc" Foglesong, United States Air Force Retired.												T-38	105	113	2,711
												IFF	46	50	1,274



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 16 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



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
9	10 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ AFRC Maj. Gen. Keltz visit Mongolian BBQ, 5 p.m. @ Club	11	12 Mass with Most Reverend Bishop Neal Buckon, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S. Army, 5 p.m. @ Chapel	13 5K Fitness Run, 7 a.m. @ Fitness Center SUPT Class 15-05 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	14/15	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 Apr. 23: Heart Apart Apr. 28: First Quarterly Awards Ceremony Apr. 30: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony
16 George Washington's Birthday Holiday, most offices closed	17	18	19 Maj. Gen. Brown visit Movie Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	20 Black History Month Lunch, 11 a.m. @ Club	21/22	

2015 Tax Center hours

The Columbus Air Force Base Tax Center is now open through April 8 in building 926, room 105.

If you are an active-duty member, retiree, or dependent with a rank of E-5 and below or your combined family income is under \$58,000 then you may qualify for this free tax preparation service.

The hours of operation are:

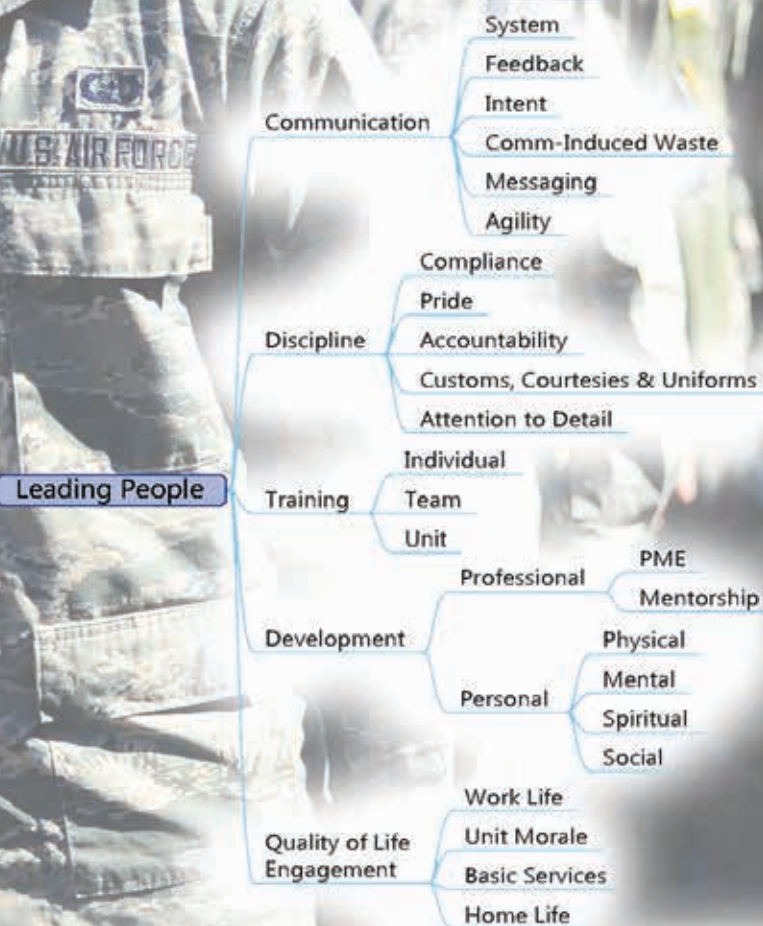
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday by Appointment only

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday by Appointment only

Walk-in hours are from 1 – 4 p.m. on Mondays for simple 1040 returns.

Starting this year a self-service kiosk will also be available in the Tax Center for Airmen to prepare and file your own taxes, for free. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Tax Center at (662) 434-7613.

Unit Effectiveness Inspection Major Graded Area 2



Lead People. Effectively leading people is the art of command. Commanders must maintain effective communication processes and ensure unit members are well disciplined, trained and developed. At all times, commanders must lead by personal example and pay judicious attention to the welfare and morale of their subordinates. Commanders will enforce the Air Force cultural standards on conduct, performance, and discipline outlined in AFI 1-1, Air Force Standards. Further, commanders will establish and maintain a healthy command climate which fosters good order and discipline, teamwork, cohesion and trust. A healthy climate ensures members are treated with dignity, respect, and inclusion, and does not tolerate harassment, assault, or unlawful discrimination of any kind.



U.S. Air Force photo/Clara Whitley

Eleven of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were recognized during the enlisted promotions ceremony Jan. 29 at the Columbus Club.

Eleven enlisted Airmen recognized at ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Eleven of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were recognized during the enlisted promotion ceremony Jan. 29 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the months of December and January were:

Senior Airman Derek Zembsch, 14th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Juliana White, 14th Comptroller Squadron

Senior Airman Nathan Fancher, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Cirrez Miller, 14th Medical Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Charmaine Berryhill, 14th Force Support Squadron

Senior Airman Nicholas Bahr, 14th OSS

Staff Sgt. Lloyd Krugman, 14th Contracting Squadron

Staff Sgt. Phillip Tomow, 14th FSS

Staff Sgt. Jared Perkins, 14th OSS

Staff Sgt. Anthony Hunt, 14th OSS

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Galcik, 14th CONS

Black History Month Facts

- Garrett Morgan (1877–1963) invented the gas mask. Morgan also invented the first traffic signal.

- Otis Boykin (1920–1982) invented the electronic control devices for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the pacemaker. Boykin invented 28 different electronic devices.

- March 7, 1942 - First Black cadets graduate from flying school at Tuskegee, Alabama. In June 1943, the first squadron of Black aviators, the 99th Pursuit Squadron, flew its first combat mission, strafing enemy positions on the Italian island of Pantelleria.

Professional development briefed at first Lunch and Learn

Airman John Day
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

An informational Lunch and Learn was held Jan. 30, 2015, at the Columbus Club.

Master Sgt. Joseph Arce, 14th Operation Support Squadron Chief Controller and the leader of professional development in the Top 3, hosted the event.

Many Airmen from the rank of senior airman to master sergeant gathered to attend the luncheon.

“My goal is to start hosting lunch sessions where you can spend a little of your time over lunch to learn something that you didn’t know at the end of the day,” Arce said.

He spoke at length on many topics relating to career progres-

sion and board evaluations. He first explained how to access records in the career data brief and to check it often for updates and to ensure all information is accurate.

“It is your responsibility to recognize an error,” Arce said. “The only person here who can do yourself an injustice is you.”

Arce encouraged Airmen not to stay in one job for too long, as diversity within your career field will help show the ability to lead more and more as a supervisor preparing for a management position.

“When you are in a one-deep-shop, where you deal with maybe one program, it’s not the same as the guy next to you taking care of five, 10 or 20 Airmen,” Arce said. “People get promoted based on what they are doing and how they are doing it.”

The next presentation involved preparing for meeting selection boards to reach the rank of master sergeant, senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant. He explained how the boards are scored, what constitutes a good score, what you need to do prior to submitting a package and who scores the boards and how they do it.

The board consists of two colonels and one chief master sergeant. If the three raters’ scores are not consistent within a half-point, then a general will review the package and make the final decision.

Arce emphasized staying consistent throughout your career by always trying your best, submitting packages for awards every quarter, applying for additional duties and education.

“If you can show examples of



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day
Master Sgt. Joseph Arce, 14th Operation Support Squadron Chief Controller and the leader of professional development in the Top 3, briefs the Lunch and Learn Jan. 30, 2015, at the Columbus Club. Arce briefed on topics relating to career progression, board evaluations and what Airmen need to be successful in achieving their next rank.

things you have put in for, that’s what they want to see: consistency,” Arce said.

The meeting ended with Arce talking about the next Lunch and

Learn, which will be centered around assignments including how to increase your chances of getting one and what could prevent you from getting one.

Top 3 hosts enlisted dorm dinner



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman John Day
Master Sgt. Jeanphilippe Guindon, 14th Communications Squadron Section Chief, serves food to Senior Airman Greg Hovland, 14th Contracting Squadron Contract Administrator, at the enlisted Airman Dorm Dinner Jan. 29. Organizations host these dinners once every two months to provide free, home-cooked food to Airmen living in the dorms.

Intramural Basketball

Standings as of 2/2/2015

1. 37/41st	3-0
1. 48th	3-0
1. MDG	3-0
4. STUS	2-1
5. CS	1-1
5. CONS	1-1
5. SFS	1-1
5. Tower	1-1
9. Tower #2	0-2
9. Rapcon	0-2
11. L3	0-3
12. CES	0-3

Intramural Bowling

Standings as of 1/21/2015

1. OSS #2
2. 48th
3. STUS #1
4. CPTS
5. FSS
6. OSS #1
7. 37th
8. STUS #2
9. CS

Games held every Wednesday night, except on Night Flying Weeks.

Cycle safe, wear a helmet

Thunderbirds fly over Super Bowl XLIX



Courtesy Photo/ United States Air Force Facebook
The Thunderbirds fly over the University of Phoenix Stadium for Super Bowl XLIX! Timing is everything. A small ground crew monitors communications at the stadium to ensure the formation passes over as the National Anthem concludes.

FEATURED HOMES



**250 Jack Wiggins Rd.
Caledonia**

Beautiful remodeled home situated on a private large lot approx 18 acres. 500 sq. ft. Secluded and private.

\$ 399,900



**1505 Dale Rd.
Caledonia**

Gorgeous family home in Caledonia, excellent location and large lot. Convenient drive to Columbus Air Force Base.

\$ 231,775



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News Around Town

Feb. 7

A free art class on Peruvian Indigenous/folk mask painting is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. To register for the class or for more information, please call 328-2787.

Feb. 10 and 12

An Incan Design Coiling class, offered by the Columbus Arts Council, is scheduled from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. To register for the class or for more information, please call 328-2787.

Feb. 16

A CVB Board Meeting is open to the public and is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Columbus Visitors Center located at 117 3rd Street South in Columbus.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters

building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Gateway 15.6-inch laptop computer with high-speed wi-fi, Windows 8.1, Intel Pentium Processor, 500GB hard drive, DVD SuperMulti 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 amber 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: Large oak-finish shadow box cabinet for sale; 15 x 17 inch x 1.75 inch deep, with sliding glass window. Black felt background to create a stunning display for pins, medals, button, and more. New in box, \$29.95. For more information please call 327-1205.

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

*If you have served in the armed forces,
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CALL TODAY TO JOIN!

Lounge Open to the Public
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Drink Specials
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with Eddie Hall
Every Saturday Night
at 8pm

Chrach saves lives, earns recognition

Staff Sgt. Timothy Boyer and Senior Airman James Hensley
56th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — “He has supported U.S. Secret Service missions for the president and vice president, as well as then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,” said Richard Harris, 56th Security Forces Squadron kennel master.

This would be an impressive resume for any Airman, but tack on identifying a couple of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and possibly saving the lives of a U.S. Army Special Forces detachment, and there is no question some recognition is in store.

Heroes are defined by their actions, but not limited by their species.

Military working dog Chrach (pronounced “Crash”) was recently awarded the 12th Annual Animal Hero Award at Luke Air Force Base for his service to the community and the country.

“Chrach had several finds during his last deployment, but the most prevalent was Jan. 26, 2012,” Harris said. “While conducting a joint patrol with the Afghan local police, their team was diverted to an IED explosion involving an Afghan police vehicle.”

Upon arriving at the explosion site, Tech. Sgt. Steven Bruner, then 56th SFS MWD handler, began a search of the area for secondary devices in the debris field.

“Chrach alerted handlers to a second IED located only four meters from the initial blast site,” Harris said. “It contained 50 pounds of homemade explosives. This discovery prevented any additional loss of life or injury while the recovery of the site was made.”

While this discovery saved lives and enabled safe movement for U.S., coalition, host nation and the local population, it is not Chrach’s only accomplishment.

“During his deployment, Chrach found 50 blasting caps that could be used to make IEDs, an AK-47 assault rifle and another IED with

“‘Chrach’ is the ‘Big Dog’ in the kennels,” Harris said. “I would trust him with my life...”

of a working dog,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Emmick, 56th SFS MWD trainer, and Chrach’s new partner. “To me Chrach means a great deal. I trust him with my life when called upon to be in dangerous situations due to his training and the flawless tests he has passed in his line of duty.”

The safety and security Chrach provides is echoed across the 56th SFS.

“Chrach’ is the “Big Dog” in the kennels,” Harris said. “I would trust him with my life, either finding explosives or if anyone tried to do harm to me.”

Military working dogs keep Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Sailors safe, and Chrach has an undeniable record of success in doing just that.

“He’s one of the world’s greatest dogs,” Emmick said. “I couldn’t be more grateful to have him as my partner.”



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Steven Bruner, 56th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Chrach, 56th SFS MWD, pose for a photo in Afghanistan during their 2012 deployment. Chrach was recently awarded the 12th Annual Animal Hero Award from the Arizona Friends of Animals Organization for his service to the community and deployment to Afghanistan.



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AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 provides that a Bargaining Unit Employee (BUE), upon request, has the right to Union representation during an investigation conducted by management, where the employee being questioned reasonably believes that the investigation may result in discipline. The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) also provides for this right in Article 15, Section 2 .This right is commonly referred to as an employee’s “Weingarten right”.

BUEs have the legal right to have a steward or other Union representative present if they find themselves in an investigation that could lead to disciplinary action. But, unlike Miranda rights, which police are supposed to tell criminal suspects about, employers do NOT have to tell employees about their Weingarten rights. Employees have to ask for them. This request can be made orally.

Here are some basic guidelines covering the use of Weingarten:

1. An employee must make a clear request for Union representation before or during the interview. The employee cannot be punished for making such a request.
2. The employer must either:
 - a. Grant the request and delay questioning until the Union arrives – our CBA states that a supervisor will reschedule the interview when a representative is available but not to exceed 24 hours later; or
 - b. Deny the request, but end the interview at once; or
 - c. Give the employee a choice of having the interview without representation (waive rights) or ending the interview.
3. An employer who denies the employee’s request for representation and continues to ask questions is committing an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP). The employee can legally refuse to answer questions in such circumstances.

If the supervisor grants the request and waits to continue the investigative interview, the following rules apply:

1. Once the Union rep is on the scene, the supervisor must inform him/her about the subject matter of the interview (the type of misconduct under discussion).
2. The Union rep and the employee should be allowed to talk privately before the questioning begins.
3. The Union rep can speak during the interview and, if necessary, ask that questions be clarified. The Union rep cannot bargain over the purpose of the interview and should not impede the investigation in any way.
4. The Union rep can advise the worker on how to answer any or all questions, can object to improper questions, and has the right, once the questioning has ended, to provide additional information.

Be careful that you don’t give Weingarten more power than it has. The rights do not extend to meetings where no questioning is involved, but rather just one-way communication from the supervisor to the employee (to include issuing notices of discipline where no discussion is involved), or a discussion about job performance. At the same time, remember that BUEs do have the right to call their Weingarten rights into play if they have any reasonable expectation that a disciplinary action may result from the meeting – even if the supervisor has no intention to take such action.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Weingarten rights:

Question: Do these rights also apply to interviews conducted by agents of the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), Security Police, or the Safety Office?

Answer: Yes. OSI, Security Police, and the Safety Office are all representatives of the Air Force. Under the law, if individuals from these offices are investigating a matter “which the employee reasonably believes... may result in disciplinary action against them”, then the same rules and guidance given to the supervisor applies to them.

Question: Can an employee be represented by their family lawyer or other personal representative of their own choosing in a Weingarten situation?

Answer: No. The right to be represented under the law applies to the Union. Only the Union can represent an employee in a Weingarten situation.

Question: Do Weingarten rights apply to performance rating discussions?

Answer: No. These rights do not apply to a performance rating discussion, discussion with an employee concerning his/her appraisal, or counseling sessions. Although these discussions may or may not lead to discipline, these discussions are not investigations.

14 FSS/SMC JAN 2013

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.



Ellen Staples

Columbus AFB mourns loss of CPTS civilian Airman

14th Comptroller Squadron

A civilian Airman assigned to Columbus Air Force Base passed away Jan. 27 at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Ellen Staples, 14th Comptroller Squadron’s Quality Assurance Manager, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday evening.

A memorial was held for Mrs. Staples Feb. 4 at the Base Chapel. Mrs. Staples proudly served for 22 years in the United States Air Force before retiring as a master sergeant in 1993. During her active-duty service, she received countless awards, medals, and also served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. After retirement, she continued her service by becoming a Team BLAZE civilian Airman. Since 1994, Ellen dedicated her efforts towards the 14th Flying Training Wing and proved herself as one of the most valued members of the Comptroller family.

Within the squadron, Mrs. Ellen was heavily relied upon to uphold the highest standards and maintain the finest quality of work in order to keep the CPTS audit-ready. As a Quality Assurance Manager her duties were always done meticulously and consistently which provided many opportunities for training and learning for all Airmen. Her dedication and willingness to provide honest and valuable feedback tied directly to our success as a squadron significantly impacting the squadron being named AETC’s Top FM Organization for the last two years.

Perhaps one of the most memorable parts of Mrs. Ellen was her signature “Candy Jar” that was constantly visited by members of the squadron yet it was never empty. We could always count on her to provide a smile and a quick treat. She also loved sharing pictures and updates of her kids and grandchildren. When you went to her office or simply walked by, her favorite country music radio stations were always playing while she worked tirelessly for our squadron. Team BLAZE can be proud and thankful for all of Mrs. Ellen’s significant contributions to our Wing. She was a loved and respected member within the CPTS family and she will be sorely missed.

Overcoming failures

Maj. Eric Tucker
509th Communications
Squadron commander

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — You will fail. The question is, how will you respond?

This reminds me of a parable of the carrot, egg and coffee.

A senior airman was distraught when he learned he did not make staff sergeant after his first time testing. His staff sergeant supervisor saw a teaching opportunity and the next day he filled three pots with water and placed each on a stove. After they came to a boil, he placed carrots in the first pot, eggs in the second and ground coffee in the last.

After 20 minutes, he fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then he ladled the coffee out into a cup. Turning to the senior airman, the staff sergeant asked, “Tell me, what do you see?”

“Carrots, eggs and coffee,” the senior airman replied.

Then he asked the senior airman to feel the carrots, which he did and noted they were soft and mushy.

The staff sergeant then asked the senior airman to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, the senior airman observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked the senior airman to sip the coffee. He smiled as he tasted the coffee with its rich aroma.

The senior airman said, “nice, but what does all of this mean?”

The staff sergeant laughed and explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity — boiling water — but each reacted differently.

“Which are you?” the staff sergeant asked, “are you a carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, becomes soft and loses strength? Are you the egg that appears not to change but whose heart is hardened?”

“Or, are you the coffee bean that changes the hot water, the very circumstances that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases its fragrance and flavor. If you are like the coffee bean, when things are at their worst, your very attitude will change your environment for the better, making it sweet and palatable.”

When you face failure, will you be the carrot, egg or coffee? I offer three suggestions when dealing with failure. First, own up to your failures. Don't explain failures away, instead deal with them head-on. Don't look around for other people to blame. That happens way too often today. Admit your failures and take accountability for them. Being accountable for your failures shows responsibility. Accepting your failure will give you the courage to apologize, if that's appropriate to the situation.

Taking ownership of your failures enables the second step, learning: FAIL (First Attempt In Learning). This is how you need to view failures — a lesson on what didn't work. While learning from your mistakes, don't expect a miracle recovery overnight. Take the time you need to learn the appropriate lessons. Don't short-circuit the process. Bouncing back is good, but you want to bounce back in a healthy way and not force it. Forcing it will only hinder your opportunity for growth. The beautiful thing about failure is it teaches you the resiliency needed to cope with future failures. Also, don't go in alone. Ask for help if you need it. I like this quote from B.F Skinner: “A failure is not always a mistake; it may simply be the best one can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying.”

Third, with the wisdom gained from growing through your failure — thrive. Life isn't about luck. Life is about hard work — hard work that is born from failure. Learning from failure and thriving from the growth you made will help reach your full potential in life.

We never try to fail on purpose. But at the same time if you stay so far away from failure, if you don't ever push yourself to where failure is a possibility, you're probably not pushing yourself enough. Failure presents opportunities for personal growth. It also teaches you about willpower, persistence, self-discipline and hard work. I encourage people to be empowered, take initiative and move out. Step out of your comfort zone and take a chance. There are very few “one strike and you're out” failures in the Air Force. Be adventurous and try something new. If you fail, own up to it, learn from it, change your circumstances and thrive!

Don't be a carrot or an egg.



Buckle up! It's the law.

MyMC2 app

Welcome to the My Military Communities information page. MyMC2 is the mobile application that centralizes all of your installation's community events, organizations and services right in your pocket.



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for “MyMC2”, or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



If you have any questions or need support please visit www.facebook.com/mymc2support

40 years of Red Flag at Nellis

Airman 1st Class Joshua Kleinholtz
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Some called them the “Iron Majors” though this group in particular went on to be known as the “Fighter Mafia.” Never mind the title, that was the last thing on their minds as the group of the Air Force's best and brightest young officers congregated in the little known depths of the Pentagon's basement offices.

Assigned to the Air Force Directorate of Operations tactics branch for showing consummate professionalism and ferocious pursuit of innovation, the officers of the early 1970s Fighter Mafia poured over a number of air combat studies conducted in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

“In Southeast Asia we were posting kill-loss ratios of around 2:1,” said retired Maj. Joel Reed, an F-4 Phantom electronic warfare officer and member of the original Red Flag staff. “It was pathetic compared to Korea where we had an overall average of 10:1 and in some periods 25:1.”

The Fighter Mafia was hungry to know why.

One of the most impactful studies was the Red Baron reports, which was presented to the group by Maj. Richard “Moody” Suter. The reports brought to his attention a disturbing trend of general inexperience and resulting fatalities, within our pilots' first ten combat sorties. The problem was apparent.

“The analysis exposed a costly lack of experience,” said Reed, who experienced the feeling of general disarray illustrated in the Red Baron reports during his first 10 combat sorties over the skies of Southeast Asia. “Our training was adequate to get us in the airplane, but once you got to combat it was a whole new deal; every day was an entirely new learning experience.”

Unfortunately for many U.S. aircrews involved in operations over Vietnam, war doesn't always allow for a learning curve. Losing aircrew at such a rate was deemed unacceptable by an Air Force aspiring to be the best in the world. Suter and company brewed some coffee and got to work.

Their proposal came in early 1975 in the form of Red Flag, an exercise that would pit student “Blue Forces” against dedicated aggressor piloted “Red Forces” in a series of combat scenarios over the vast Nellis Range in Nevada. The Fighter Mafia engaged in fiery debates over various aspects of the project, but the basic objective of exposing warfighters to those crucial first 10 combat sorties had the Mafia in mutual agreement.

Prior to the Red Flag project, students flew identical aircraft against each other, with class “top guns” assuming the aggressor role attempting to outfly their student counterparts.

“It was F-4 Phantom II against F-4, so all of your reactions and all of the training you employed was based on your understanding of that adversary in the same aircraft that you were flying,” said Reed, a contracted senior graphics analyst at Red Flag. “Then to be put up against something like a MiG 21 like we saw in Southeast Asia — then we had a whole new ballgame.”

Red Flag, as drawn up and articulated by Capt. John Vickery, the youngest of the Fighter Mafia on the Air Staff at the Pentagon, and briefed to leadership by the ever-ambitious Suter, would thrust students into simulated combat against legiti-



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

A flight of F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons Aggressors fly in formation over the Nevada Test and Training Ranges June 5, 2008. The proposal for Red Flag came in early 1975 as an exercise that would pit student “Blue Forces” against dedicated aggressor piloted “Red Forces” in a series of combat scenarios over the vast range north of Las Vegas.

mate air and ground threats.

In theory, aircrew would be “skipping” those deadly first ten combat sorties and ensuring that no matter what conflict might arise in the future, our aircrews were already ten sorties into the flow.

After hundreds of enthusiastic briefings and a series of stern rejections from the three-star general in charge of Air Force budgets, the Mafia was finally given orders to go fourth with Red Flag 75-1 on July 15, 1975, from Tactical Air Command boss, Gen. Robert A. Dixon, who was swayed by a persuasive Moody Suter brief.

A squadron of F-4 Phantoms from Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, arrived just five months later in December 1975 and Red Flag was born.

Retired Lt. Col. Jack Lefforge, a member of the original Red Flag staff as a white force analyst, now Red Flag Plans and Engineering Division deputy division chief, worked tirelessly with his colleagues in a makeshift office to lay the framework for the first exercise scenarios.

“We realized that just like any other unit, we'd only be as good as our foundation was,” said Lefforge, who along with other original Red Flag staffers adopted a ‘do what needs to be done’ mindset in rapidly establishing a brand new exercise from the ground up. “We knew we'd be the pedestal upon which the statue would be continually constructed.”

Red Flag continued to expand dramatically in the following years as word got around to the rest of the Air Force about the training innovations taking place at Nellis AFB. Simulated electronic threats like jammers, simulated surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery guns on the range grew more advanced; attack packages grew more complex with inclusion of different units and airframes from around the service; and debriefs became infinitely more fruitful with the addition of GPS tracking, advanced radar and digital video, among others.

“When the exercise first started, putting everything together in a debrief was left up to a person essentially standing in front of a chalk board, although very skilled at doing that, you lose some element of fidelity,” said Col. Jeff Weed, 414th

Combat Training Squadron commander. “Now because of the systems that the Nevada Test and Training Range is equipped to employ, we're narrowed down to tracking within the feet of where an airplane was, or a person or vehicle on the ground was, then play it all back in a thorough debrief so that everybody can see it at the same time.”

This kind of overwhelmingly thorough feedback is just one of the attributes that sets Red Flag apart from every other air, space and now cyber, exercise in the world 40 years later. Word of resounding Red Flag successes spread not only among all four U.S. military branches, but to 28 partner nations around the globe who have also sent units to participate.

“A lot of the lessons we learn during Red Flag are about communication,” said Weed, who participated in his first Nellis Red Flag in 1997. “We share, to some degree, certain tactics, we fly some of the same types of airplanes, and every nation has their own niche in what they bring to the fight. It's that kind of partnership that makes us stronger and that all starts with Red Flag.”

General Dixon, Moody Suter and the Fighter Mafia brought Red Flag to Nellis AFB at a time when Nevada's tallest hotel peaked at just three stories; the population of Las Vegas was just 149,000; and the single airstrip was an aging reminder of the Second World War

The Nellis Range made it a diamond in the rough that a few great minds refused to ignore.

As the scope, complexity and resulting logistical challenges have increased over the years, Nellis AFB and it's countless other units have expanded greatly to support the cause when needed.

The Combined Air Operations Center hosts hundreds of the world's finest cyber operators. The 99th Force Support Squadron guarantees food for the thousands of service members visiting the base temporarily for the exercise. And the 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron races to unload, offload and fuel the more than 120 aircraft involved in a modern Red Flag.

To Lt. Col. Erin Cluff, 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, a successful flag means putting together the ultimate base-wide effort.

“Red Flag allows our people to get training on a myriad of aircraft at a very fast pace that they would not get at their home station,” said Cluff. “So in addition to the amazing things happening on the cyber and aviation fronts, our support Airmen are getting very similar opportunities to practice skills inherent to our mission set.”

Red Flag 15-1, the first of four exercises scheduled for the year, is set to kick off Jan. 26 and will welcome an entirely new group of aircrew, maintainers and cyber warriors, among others, ready to get their taste of the “first ten.” For the folks of the 414th CTS, there will be little time to reflect on achievements of the past.

“It takes a year of planning to get Red Flag off the ground,” said Weed, crediting the men and women throughout the years who've worked tirelessly to maintain the Red Flag standard. “It's important to remember that it wasn't normal and natural in 1975; that it was during a time of difficult budgets; and it was a high amount of risk they were taking. But thank God they did because it's made all the difference when we've gone to war.”

NEW Force Support Squadron Website

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at www.columbusafbliving.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.

5K Fitness Run

The Fitness Center is offering a 5K fitness run at 7 a.m. Feb. 13. Bikes and strollers welcome. Commander's trophy points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Harlem Globetrotters Youth Trip

The Youth Center is offering a Harlem Globetrotters youth trip Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. Purchase your tickets online or upon arrival. Each person must pay a \$5 transportation fee per person. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Movie Night at the Club

The Columbus Club is offering a free movie and popcorn night Feb. 19. A family friendly movie "Disney Big Hero 6" shows at 5:30 p.m. and a teen/adult movie "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1" at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Youth Photography Competition

The Youth Center is offering a Photography Competition Feb. 19 at 3 p.m.; for youth ages 6 – 18. Categories include: Culture and Tradition, Surroundings, Portraits, and One of a Kind. Photograph must be less than one year old. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Spring Soccer Registration

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

Program Planning Session

If your child attends the Youth Center or School Age Program, you are invited to attend the program planning session at the Youth Center. The session will be held Feb. 24 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided; register by Feb. 18. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Nerf Games Lock-In

The Youth Center is offering a lock-in for ages 9 – 13 Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. until Feb. 28 at 7 a.m. The cost is \$30 if registered by Feb. 23. Heavy snacks and Nerf gear will be provided. Bring sleep gear. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Half Price Rentals

Outdoor Recreation is offering half price rental on jumpers and other select items during the month of February. This sale excludes tickets and tours. Rental must be used during month of February. For more information, contact 434-2505.




Introducing

COLUMBUS AFB LIVING

For events and other information about CAFB find us on Social Media

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 Find us on Twitter
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 Download the FREE My MC2 App

Find phone numbers, hours of operation, events, & MORE!

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.

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.)

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief, Feb. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon, is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, for more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, Feb. 10 from 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.

Heart Link For Spouses

This event, Feb. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, is for dependents new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. The event is held at the Columbus Club. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program filled with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus AFB. To register and for more information, call 434-2790.

Government Contracting for Small Business

This workshop, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m.-noon, is facilitated by Mississippi State University Small Business Development Center. It informs you on how to obtain a Government contract for your small business.

Smooth Move

This class, Feb. 18 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., 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, Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon, 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.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Members of Columbus Air Force Base gathered at the Columbus Club Feb. 1 to watch the Super Bowl. Along with being able to watch the big game, participants were able to win prizes that ranged from gift cards to a tablet.

Bundles of Joy w/Military Saves

This workshop, Feb. 24 from 1 - 3:30 p.m., is for active-duty families assigned to Columbus AFB who are expecting or have a child up to 4 months of age. This is an Air Force Aid Society program with informational presentations about topics such as Tri-Care, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, and Nutrition & Fitness during and after pregnancy, and Labor & Delivery. to register please call 434-2790.

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. 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 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 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 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.

Self-Paced Tutorials

Self-paced tutorials are available on MS Office 2007 Suites; Access; Excel; Outlook; PowerPoint; Word; and Windows Vista. Set your own learning pace at the A&FRC. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m., at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

Relocation Assistance

A Relocation Assistance workshop on programs, services and resources available through the Airman & Family Readiness Center is held every Wednesday from 9 - 10 a.m. at the A&FRC. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is now available. It can be found on the Military INSTALLATIONS homepage militaryinstallations.dod.mil, under "Are You A Sponsor?"

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
Thursday:
5 p.m.- Mass with Most Reverend Bishop Neal Buckon, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S. Army

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



C3 Flight of the Year



ADO Flight
14th Operations Group

Category I Civilian of the Year



Michael Bloom
14th Medical Group



Carla Wallace-Jenkins
Wing Staff Agency



Kevin Rodgers
14th Operations Group



Mike Nelson
14th Medical Group



Larry Caldwell
14th Mission Support Group



Lakezia Ham
Wing Staff Agency



Kristina M. Conwill
14th Operations Group

Category II Civilian of the Year

Airman of the Year



Staff Sgt. Stephen
Downey
14th Medical Group



Senior Airman Joshua
Chambers
14th Mission Support Group



Senior Airman Thomas
Ramirez
Wing Staff Agency



Senior Airman Nathan
Fancher
14th Operations Group

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Michele
Asberry
14th Medical Group



Tech. Sgt. Richard Dutka
14th Mission Support Group



Tech. Sgt. James Wells
Wing Staff Agency



Tech. Sgt. Brian Brantzeg
14th Operations Group

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year



Master Sgt. Janet Wilson
14th Medical Group



Master Sgt. Brian
Thornton
14th Mission Support Group



Senior Master Sgt. David
Sommers
Wing Staff Agency



Master Sgt. Ryan D.
Johnson
14th Operations Group

Field-Grade Officer of the Year



Maj. Michael Fleming
14th Medical Group



Maj. William Dye
14th Operations Group



Lt. Col. Andrew Wistrill
Wing Staff Agency

Company-Grade Officer of the Year



1st Lt. Jenifer Mouser
14th Medical Group



Capt. Nicholas Powers
Wing Staff Agency



1st Lt. Jacqueline
Littlefield
14th Mission Support Group



Capt. Braden Bawcom
14th Operations Group

Instructor Pilot of the Year



Capt. Andrew Powers
14th Operations Group



Capt. James Hickerson
14th Operations Group



Capt. Daniel Hann
14th Operations Group



Capt. Jason Ratcliff
14th Operations Group



Capt. Matthew
Greenspan
14th Operations Group



1st Lt. Patrick Teal
14th Operations Group



Maj. Brandon
Rasmussen
14th Operations Group

Volunteer of the Year

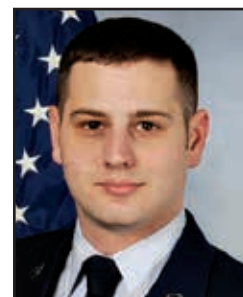


1st Lt. Lindamira
Arrey Mbi
14th Medical Group



Capt. Andrew Kline
14th Operations Group

Honor Guardsman of the Year



Staff Sgt. Joshua Soper
14th Medical Group



Senior Airman Ronnie
Smith
14th Operations Group

Flight Commander of the Year



Capt. Shailu Joshi
14th Medical Group



2nd Lt. John Oms
Wing Staff Agency



Capt. Brandon Ballard
14th Operations Group

First Sergeant of the Year



Master Sgt. Jeremy
Heideman
14th Mission Support Group



Master Sgt. Maria
Rodriguez
14th Operations Group

Flight Chief of the Year



Tony Clements
14th Operations Group

