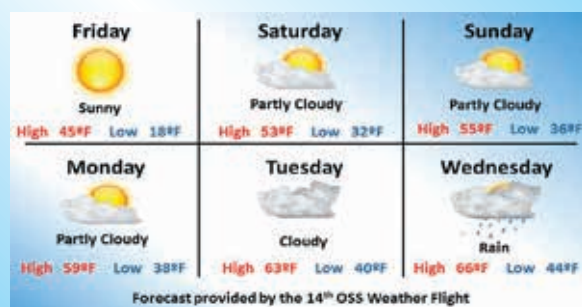


Weather



News Briefs

Daylight Saving Time

Remember to spring forward an hour March 8 in observance of Daylight Saving Time.

SUPT Class 15-06 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-06 is graduating at 10 a.m. March 13 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is retired Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, former 14th Flying Training Wing Commander.

AFAF begins

The Air Force Assistance Fund will begin March 23. The fund is an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to our Air Force family in need. To donate, please contact your group point of contact.

Inside



Feature 8

The Commissary Value Brand is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Lt. Col. Wayne Chitmon, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Assistant Director of Operations, speaks with Uzbekistan Air Force members about their the 14th Flying Training Wing Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals training program in the 49th FTS March 5. The Uzbekistan troops came here to get a first-hand experience in how they could structure their own pilot training program.

Uzbekistan AF members visit CAFB

Airman Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Six of Uzbekistan's Air Force members visited Columbus Air Force Base March 3 - 5 to see the 14th Flying Training Wing mission firsthand.

The Uzbekistan airmen came here to learn how they could

structure their own pilot training program.

"Uzbekistan is currently going through a restructuring of their Air Force where they are moving to an all-volunteer force," said Capt. Franklin Baker, 14th Operations Group International Military Student Officer. "They are visiting var-

See **UZBEKISTAN**, Page 2

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 (15-15)	4.01 days	0.41 days	Apr. 1	48th (15-06)	-1.85 days	-3.28 days	Mar. 13	49th (15-EBC)	-1.63 days	0.35 days	Mar. 4	T-6	252	83	11,462
41st (15-14)	0.38 days	1.71 days	Mar. 9	50th (15-06)	-0.90 days	-0.22 days	Mar. 13					T-1	138	88	4,059
The graduation speaker is Retired Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, former 14th Flying Training Wing Commander												T-38	110	37	3,373
												IFF	48	37	1,536



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 13 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

UZBEKISTAN

(Continued from page 1)

ious countries trying to figure out how they want to model their Air Force. So they worked with our government to arrange this three-day tour at Columbus Air Force Base and see how we train pilots."

Columbus AFB was chosen to be one of the locations for the Uzbekistan troops to visit not only because of our pilot training program but because Mississippi is Uzbekistan's National Guard State Partnership Programs partner country.

"They came to Columbus Air Force Base specifically because they want to be able to produce their pilots, as well as Mississippi is the guard partner state for Uzbekistan," said Capt. John McDaniel, 14th OG Commander's Action Group. "So they are also visiting an Army National Guard base to see their helicopters and a Jackson Air National Guard base to see their C-17s."

Their visit included most aspects Columbus AFB has that directly contribute to producing pilots, including the tower and Radar Approach Control, aerospace physiology and the flying squadrons.

"Tours like this are important because

"They came to Columbus Air Force Base specifically because they want to be able to produce their pilots, as well as Mississippi is the guard partner state for Uzbekistan," said Capt. John McDaniel, 14th OG Commander's Action Group. "So they are also visiting an Army National Guard base to see their helicopters and a Jackson Air National Guard base to see their C-17s."

they establish good relations with different countries," Baker said. "If they are going to structure their Air Force like our countries it's going to foster a continuing relationship to build both countries' air forces."

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
9 Columbus and Lowndes County Schools Spring Break 9th-13th: Spring Break Camp, @ Youth Center	10 Movie Night, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. @ Club	11 Summer Employment USA-Jobs Workshop, 9 a.m. or 2 p.m. @ A&FRC	12 Wine Pairing, 6 p.m. @ Golf Course Family 3 Point Shootout, 5:30 p.m. @ Youth Center Daedalians Meeting, 6 p.m. @ 48th	13 SUPT Class 15-06 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	14/15	Mar. 23-30: UEI Mar. 23-May 1: AFAF Campaign Mar. 26-27: Maj. Gen. Keltz and Chief Boyer visit Mar. 26: ALS Graduation Mar. 27: BCC Luncheon Mar. 28-29: Keesler AFB Airshow Mar. 28: Powder puff football tournament Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotions Apr. 3: SUPT Class 15-07 Graduation Apr. 5: Easter Sunday Apr. 6-18: 75th Annual Spring Pilgrimage Apr. 7: 14th OSS Change of Command Apr. 23: Hearts Apart Apr. 28: First Quarterly Awards Ceremony Apr. 30: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony May 1: SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation May 21: SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation
16	17 St. Patrick's Day lunch buffet, 11 a.m. @ Club Women's History Month luncheon, 11:30 a.m. @ Club	18 Kick butts day, 4 p.m. @ Youth Center	19	20 Fitness Run, 7 a.m. @ Gym Happy Irby Fund Golf Tournament SUPT Class 15-07 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	21/22 22nd-Whispering Pines Open House, 1 p.m. @ Golf Course	

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.

Transportation

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, 15 inches long by 17 inches wide by 1.75 inches deep, with a sliding glass window. Black felt background to create a stunning display for pins, medals, buttons, etc. Also has hooks for hanging vertically or horizontally. New in box. \$29.95 Call 327-1205.

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Express yourself with ICE

Rebecca Smith

14th Force Support Squadron

As the resources continue to shrink for support services in the military, the breadth of programs many seasoned military families grew up accustomed to having on military bases will not be the norm – particularly at smaller bases like Columbus AFB.

Our limited resources will increasingly need to focus on a smaller number of high-use, high-impact service activities. Receiving feedback is critical as we make important decisions on what services to keep, which ones we can do without, and which ones we can improve.

The Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, system allows you the means to give that essential feedback. The original program was created in 1998 to provide a more effective and timely way of providing improvement efforts rather than just through annual assessment surveys. A redesign of the ICE program in 2001 was extended globally and Columbus AFB began using it in 2006.

The Force Support Squadron has been the predominant user of the program since its inception, but with the new Web site, www.columbusafbliving.com, comment lines to ALL the services on Base are now available. If you click on the ICE logo on the new Web site, you will be taken to the ICE comment Service Provider page. If the service provider you would like to provide feedback on is not listed, you will be directed to the ICE organization manager who will then forward on your comment to the appropriate POC.

When you click on a provider, an electronic comment card will pop up. There are some specific prompted questions to answer

but there is also a free text area where you can type whatever you like. You can talk about a specific person, service, event or function. For instance, maybe someone provided you excellent service and you want to mention that person by name or perhaps a facility had a special event and you wanted to talk about how great it was. This block is your area to type what is on your mind, good or bad.

Personal contact information is optional, so you can always leave anonymous ICE comments if you wish. However, if you wish to receive a response then contact information is required. Please understand that the only people who will see your comments are the ICE Program Administrator and the POC of the area you comment on.

There are no repercussions for sending in a comment. We want to know what you think! In addition, if you do provide your contact information with your ICE comment you could be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25 gift card that can be redeemed at one of the many 14FSS facilities. Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Benjamin Shipley from the 14th Student Squadron, who was February's ICE Comment submission winner!

In addition to the ICE Comment Icon & links available on the website, many facilities are also adopting the use of QR barcodes. You can easily download the QR Barcode Scanner app for your mobile device, scan the code at the facility you're visiting, and go directly to the ICE comment card for that facility. Both options allow for on-the-spot comments.

We can only improve if we find out what we're doing wrong, and we can only get better if we know what we're doing right. Express yourself on ICE!



U.S. Air Force photo/Clara Whitley

Eleven of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony Feb. 27 at the Columbus Club.

Eleven enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Eleven of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony Feb. 27 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the month of February were:

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Arce, 14th Operations Support Squadron
Staff Sgt. Corey Miller, 14th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Joseph Zorumski, 14th SFS
Senior Airman Stacey Barnes, 14th CES
Senior Airman Mariel Constantino Rodriguez, 14th SFS
Senior Airman Braxton Crismore, 14th CES
Senior Airman Nathan Deline, 14th CES
Senior Airman Brandon Harrison, 14th CES
Senior Airman Darren Hussey, 14th OSS
Senior Airman Austin Kroeger, 14th CES
Airman 1st Class Colin Hileman, 14th CS

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.

Poe named RAO director for Columbus AFB

Maj. Stephen Duran

14th Mission Support Group
Commander's Action Group

James Poe has been selected to assist Columbus Air Force Base with building and maintaining a closer working relationship with its important retiree community.

The announcement was made official at a recent Mission Support Group staff meeting.

Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th MSG Commander, said he was excited about what the new appointment would mean for the base.

"This is a very critical position for the base, one we are delighted to have filled," Kayser said. "We are very excited about what can be accomplished working hand-in-hand with our retirees and their families."

The Retiree Activities Office Director is a volunteer position which has been vacant for a few years.

Poe, a retired Airman, was assigned to Columbus AFB as an active-duty Air Traffic Controller and First Sergeant for nine years. He retired in the Columbus area specifically for the base.

"I decided to retire here years ago when I left Richards-Gebaur AFB in Kansas City before it closed," Poe said. "I'm a Mississippi native, so when I got assigned here, I knew then that I would retire here. Contrary to what some may say about Mississippi, it is a great place to work, live, and raise a family. After all the base has done for me, volunteering for this position is the least I can do to give back."

Poe's job is to provide a conduit of information helpful to retirees and back to the base. Poe said it's a job he will take great pride in doing.

"Columbus Air Force Base does a great deal for not just our retiree community, but the community as a whole, pumping millions of dollars into the local economy," Poe said. "As a retiree in the area, I reap those benefits, so it gives me great pride to direct the Retiree Activities Office at Columbus Air Force Base."

Poe will staff the Retire Activities Office Monday and Tuesday initially between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Anyone requiring retiree assistance should call Poe at 434-3120/3121 or email the RAO office at 14FTW.RAO.columbus@us.af.mil. Also, check out <http://www.columbusafbiving.com> and click on the retirement activities link under



Courtesy photo

James Poe, Retiree Activities Office Director, interviews retired Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Fogelsong on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Poe will provide information and assistance to over 4,000 local retirees and to the base.

Family/Support. Poe is seeking more volunteers to help staff the office Monday-Friday. He is also soliciting retiree's for other base functions.

49th FTS graduates IFF Class 15-EBC

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron graduated Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 15-EBC March 4.

Seven members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the Combat Air Forces of the United States and Japanese Air Self-Defense Force.

The 49th FTS is responsible for active-duty, guard, reserve, and international flying training in the T-38C IFF aircraft. The 49th FTS provides training to fighter pilots and weapon system officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the F-16, F-15C, F-15E, F-22, and A-10C.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and weapon system operators to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, de-

fensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Wingmen bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to basic surface attack and surface attack tactics phases, learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these wingmen will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!

Lt. Col. Michael Dunyak	T-38A
1st Lt. Yoshiaki Fujii	JASDF
1st Lt. Hiroto Ozono	JASDF
2nd Lt. Zach Horrocks	F-15E
2nd Lt. Sky Lesh	A-10C
2nd Lt. Vivek Shah	F-15E
2nd Lt. Alexander Gulick	F-22

Daughter reflects on life of retired commissary accountant

Sheila A.B. Honeycutt

14th Force Support Squadron

Annie Willetta Young Brown, a 30-year Columbus Air Force Base civilian employee, passed away Feb. 27.

When you met Ann, Annie Willette, Annie Willetta, Mrs. Brown, Grandma Brown, The Mayor of Dean Acres, Dean Acres Sheriff or Mama, you did not meet a stranger. Instead, you were embraced by her in her own way. What you saw was what you got ... no need to wonder.

Ann was the real deal! She made an impression on your life that was everlasting. God gifted her with the knack to draw people from all walks of life. She willingly accepted and fulfilled this charge with open arms.

Ann graduated from R.E. Hunt High School. She continued her education at Mississippi University for Women Pasadena City College and University California, Los Angeles (UCLA), studying Business Administration and Math.

In 1966, Annie Willette was hired as the first black accountant for the Columbus Air Force Base Commissary. During her employment of 30 years on the base, one of the many accolades received was in the form of the certificate presented to her by President Jimmie Carter for her suggestion that saved the government multimillion dollars regard-



Annie Willetta Young Brown

ing how mail was handled. She was also a member of Leanna Griffin Temple #1128, Educational Department Order of Eastern Star, Columbus, Mississippi, as well as serving in the capacity of bailiff of the Election Commission, District 4.

Upcoming Events

March 13-22:

Starkville Restaurant Week: Every time you eat at a participating restaurant in Starkville during Starkville Restaurant Week, you can cast a ballot for which charity out of the Top 3 Charity Finalists will receive \$5,000. The Top 3 charities are The Salvation Army, Starkville Habitat for Humanity and The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic.

March 17-24:

Art Rocks Tupelo: A fantastic weekend of arts, film, mu-

sic, theatre, shows and more, "Celebrating the Arts." Event will take place in multiple venues around Tupelo. For more information please call 690-4011 or visit artrockstupelo.com.

March 28:

Chronicles of the Blue and the Gray: Held at 7 p.m. March 28 in the Rent Auditorium at the W, 1100 College Street. Music by John Purifoy based on the poem by Francis Miles Finch. As part of Columbus' 75th annual Spring Pilgrimage, the Columbus Choral Society, together with the Starkville Symphony and many other area choirs, will be performing John Purifoy's work, "Chronicles of Blue and Gray."



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REMEMBERING

(Continued from page 11)

women might not be able to do," Olson said. "But technically or academically, we are the same. The Air Force offers everyone the same opportunities. That's the best part about being in the military — no one has to worry about whether or not a woman will be able to accomplish a task."

Individuals like Col. Linda McTague, the first female fighter squadron commander and the Honorable Sheila Widnall, the first appointed secretary of the Air Force, have led by example and proven women can perform in non-traditional jobs.

Technical careers, equal pay and voting rights were merely dreams for women in the past, but now those dreams are constitutional rights.

"If you're a technical sergeant, you get paid as a technical sergeant. If you want to make chief master sergeant during your career, with hard work, you are eligible to make chief," Olson said.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, more than 58,000 women serve in the U.S. Air Force. They have the opportunity to ensure the empowerment given to them is carried on to the next generation.

"In an ideal world, people wouldn't focus on our gender, rather how we can be better together," Westfall said. "We go through the same training as men. If I'm wearing a duty badge on my uniform, you should know without hesitation that I belong. We are strong women who fought to be here and we aren't going anywhere."



**Cycle safe,
wear a helmet**

AF leaders seek relief from sequestration-level funding

Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III discussed the damaging effects of sequestration with members of the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations’ Defense Subcommittee Feb. 27.

“Your Air Force is working hard to meet the combatant commanders’ most urgent needs,” James said. “But a budget trajectory that results in sequestration simply will not allow us to sustain this pace. We will either break or we won’t be able to execute the Defense Strategic Guidance. We cannot do it.”

Sequestration-level funding will force the service to divest fleets of aircraft, to include the KC-10 Extender. Total force flying hours will be cut, as well as weapons systems sustainment, ranges, simulators and high-end training exercises like Red and Green Flags.

To avoid some of these cuts, the Air Force has proposed a fiscal year 2016 budget that is about \$10 billion more than current funding levels, which will allow the Air Force to meet combatant commander requirements while investing in the service’s top priorities.

“Even if we get that (additional funding), it doesn’t solve every ill,” James said. “There’s a lot of good in our budget, but there’s also hard choices.”

Some of those hard choices include divesting the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet, slowing the growth of compensation and requesting another round of Defense Base Realignments and Closures.

“The most pressing issue of all (is) more than half of our combat Air Force is not sufficiently ready for a high-end fight,” she said.

To balance the readiness of today with the modernization of tomorrow, the Air Force’s proposed budget requests an increase in end strength to 492,000 active-duty, guard and reserve Airmen. The extra dollars will also be invested in mission-critical infrastructure; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; vital space programs; cyber teams; the nuclear enterprise; the KC-46 Pegasus, F-35 Lightning II and the Long-Range Strike Bomber.

“My pride in this Air Force and the Air-



Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testify before the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations’ Defense Subcommittee, Feb. 27, 2015, in Washington, D.C. The two leaders met with the House members to discuss the Air Force’s Fiscal Year 2016 President’s Budget Request.

men who give it life hasn’t changed,” Welsh said. “My concern has. The capability gap that separates our Air Force from others is narrowing, and as it does the asymmetric advantage that airpower provides the United States military is shrinking.”

The general explained modernization isn’t an option – it must be done, and he and the secretary asked Congress to help by lifting sequestration.

“Our short-term readiness recovery will stall; our long-term infrastructure investment will remain a dream; we’ll be forced to recommend dramatic fleet reductions, and modernization will be further delayed, allowing our adversaries to be able to further close that capability gap,” he said. “You understand it’s an ugly picture – we just want to

make it clear.”

The Air Force recognizes the financial strain on the U.S. government, and has cost savings throughout the proposed budget to alleviate the strain.

“We get it in the United States Air Force that we have to treat the American taxpayers’ money as precious and we can’t afford to waste a single dollar of it,” James said. “We’re working hard to make every dollar count.”

The Air Force is driving steadily toward auditability, and it’s taken a 20 percent reduction in funding at headquarters levels. The Airmen Powered by Innovation initiative has also turned up savings, and the Air Force is still looking for the best ideas from Airmen who do the job every day.

“We understand that we must be part of

the nation’s solution to the debt problem and we’re ready to do that,” Welsh said. “We need your help in some areas — so that we can be ready for today’s fight and still be able to win in 2025 and beyond.”

Both James and Welsh agree America’s Airmen are what makes the Air Force what it is today, and they have been performing to the highest level, but they are being spread too thin. The operations tempo, coupled with decrease to critical infrastructure that gets Airmen and units combat ready, have taken their toll on Airmen and their families.

“If sequestration remains the law of the land, it will get worse,” James said. “Sequestration needs to be lifted permanently for the whole of government.”

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight



U.S. Air Force Photo/Sharon Ybarra

Airman 1st Class Jason Rodriguez, 14th Communications Squadron, receives a Top 3 Spotlight award certificate from Master Sgt. Samuel Gutierrez, Top 3 President, March 4 at the 14th Communications Squadron. One top performing Airman from Columbus Air Force Base is chosen monthly for the Top 3 Spotlight award.

Nominee Name/Grade:
Airman 1st Class Jason Rodriguez

Unit: 14th Communications Squadron



Information:

- 1. Home Town:** Bronx, New York
- 2. Time in the Air Force:** Two years
- 3. Time at Columbus AFB:** One year six months
- 4. Career Short Term Goals:** Continue to climb up the ranks and be a dedicated Airman. Pursue an Exercise and Physiology degree.
- 5. Career Long Term Goals:** Retire from the Air Force and open a gym to help young inspiring athletes.
- 6. Nominated by:** Master Sgt. Sarah Heideman
- 7. Nomination reason:** Rodriguez was hand selected as the Columbus AFB media group communications support member where his superb webpage knowledge gave the base a one-stop-shop to all Columbus AFB activities and info. He continued to use his SharePoint skills to create a 14th Medical Group Commanders Action line, streamlined 14th Operations Support Squadron aircraft maintenance slide collaboration, and created a publications tracker for real-time updates on all current/overdue publications on base. Lastly, he helped consolidate 14th Force Support Squadron’s 17 file plans down to five; which directly enhanced their filing system and saved valuable Airmen’s time.

Maj. Gen. Catton to speak at 15-06 graduation

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing’s “BLAZE” motto was coined in the fall of 1997 during a wing-wide contest by then wing commander Col. Jack Catton Jr., known affectionately now as “the father of BLAZE.”

Now retired Maj. Gen. Catton, he is returning to Columbus AFB to be the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-06 March 13.

Catton was the Director of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. As director, he was responsible for all functions relating to the acquisition of weapons systems for combat air forces, to include new systems and modifications to existing systems.

The general graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976. A graduate of the F-15 Fighter Weapons School, he has served operationally as an instructor pilot, wing weapons and tactics officer, operations officer, squadron commander and operations group commander. He commanded the 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, and later commanded the 53rd Wing at Eglin AFB, Florida, where he was responsible for 1,800 military and civilian personnel at 18 U.S. locations, conducting operational testing and evaluation of all U.S. Air Force combat aircraft, tactics development, and evaluation of electronic combat, armament, avionics and aircrew training devices.

Catton’s staff tours include an Air Staff tour as the Director of Operations advocate for the advanced tactical fighter; a NATO staff tour as Chief of Contingency Operations at NATO’s Interim Deployable Combined Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and a major command staff tour as the Inspector General for Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Prior to assuming his current position, he served on the Joint Staff as Deputy Director for Information Operations, and then as Director, Operational Plans and Joint Force Development, where he was responsible to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for all matters pertaining to transforming joint operational concepts, education, training, exercises and war plans.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1976 - July 1977, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams AFB, Arizona
2. July 1977 - June 1978, student, F-15 combat crew training, F-15 Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Arizona
3. June 1978 - December 1980, F-15 flight lead, mission commander and squadron tactics officer, 27th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia
4. January 1981 - January 1982, F-15 instructor pilot, 405th Tactical Training Wing, Luke AFB, Arizona
5. January 1982 - April 1982, student, U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada
6. April 1982 - May 1983, F-15 weapons and tactics officer, 426th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Luke AFB, Arizona
7. May 1983 - May 1986, F-15 mission commander, in-

structor pilot and Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan

8. June 1986 - June 1987, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

9. June 1987 - June 1990, action officer, Tactical Forces Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

10. June 1990 - July 1991, operations officer, 54th Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

11. July 1991 - September 1992, Commander, 43rd Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

12. September 1992 - July 1993, executive officer to the Commander, 11th Air Force, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

13. July 1993 - June 1994, graduate student, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

14. June 1994 - August 1995, Commander, 366th Operations Group, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

15. August 1995 - July 1997, Chief of Current Operations, Interim Combined Air Operations Center, NATO, Sembach Air Base, Germany, and Chief of Contingency Operations, Interim Deployable Combined Air Operations Center, NATO, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

16. July 1997 - July 1998, Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus AFB, Mississippi

17. July 1998 - June 2000, Inspector General, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

18. June 2000 - November 2001, Commander, 53rd Wing, Eglin AFB, Florida

19. November 2001 - August 2003, Deputy Director for Information Operations, Operations Directorate, the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

20. August 2003 - August 2005, Director, Operational Plans and Joint Force Development (J-7), the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

21. August 2005 - retirement, Director of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Virginia

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot
Flight hours: More than 2,650
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38, F-15A/B/C/D/E, F-16, B-1, B-2, B-52, KC-135 and HH-60



Air Force women push boundaries, change history

2nd Lt. Matthew Malek
14th Student Squadron

Once again, the President has declared the month of March "Women's History Month," an observance of the strides toward gender equality our nation has taken.

For those of us who serve, this observance comes at a poignant time.

At the end of this month, five women will participate in the first-ever co-ed Ranger School. These women have already made history by successfully completing Fort Benning's rigorous Ranger Training Assessment Course and are pushing against a Department of Defense prohibition on women in combat units.

In the military, women have a tradition of pushing the boundaries set for them. Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man, fought, and sustained two wounds in the Revolutionary War for a country that did not allow women to vote. Many women followed suit during the Civil War.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker volunteered as a surgeon for the Union Army and served through major battles. Con-

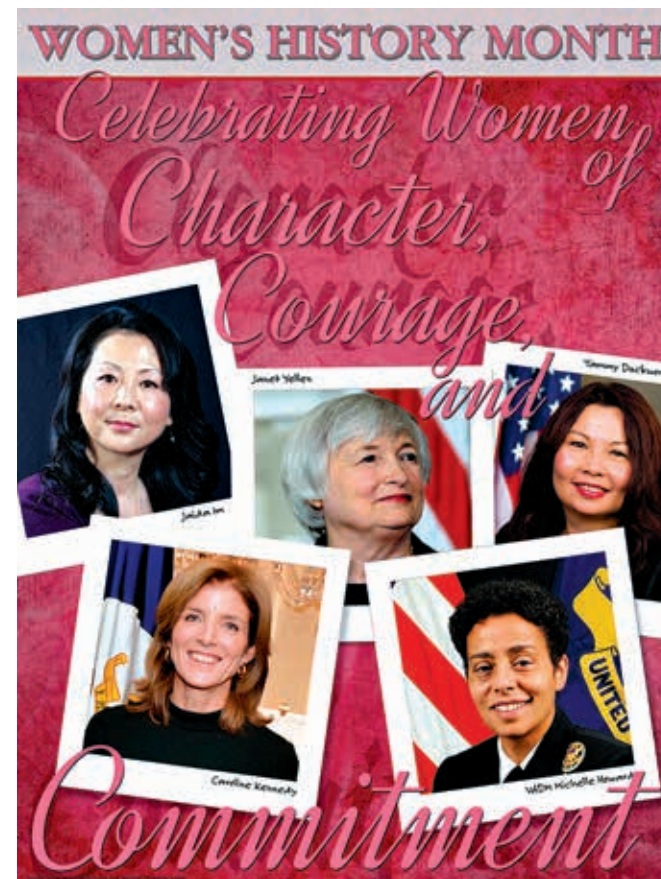
federate forces captured her and held her for months, and today she is still the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor.

Women pushed for a professional nurse corps following the Spanish-American War. The formation of the Army and Navy Nurses Corps was timely in the lead-up to World War I.

On the first minute of the first hour of the first day the Air Force authorized women to serve, Staff Sgt. Esther Blake enlisted. In spite of having a son shot down in a B-17 during World War II, Blake wanted to serve in the hope of freeing an Airman from clerical work to fight, a tradition women have continued and expanded.

There are too many incredible women in military service to name for this article to do any of them justice. However, the women mentioned above highlight that women in uniform push boundaries. More pertinently, by pushing boundaries, women in the Air Force push us all.

We all do our jobs better because women serving continue to establish higher standards. The Air Force is better for it, and our country is safer for it.



Walk-A-Thon held on Columbus AFB



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day

Volunteers from various 14th Flying Training Wing squadrons walk around the track on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Feb. 28, for the annual Walk-A-Thon. The Walk-A-Thon is a donation-based event to help raise funds for the Airman Activity Council and the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The event included free refreshments and music to volunteers walking around the track and those walking their pets.

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.

WWII pilot reunited with P-47 Thunderbolt

Senior Airman Jensen Stidham
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Sitting in a wheelchair with images of airplanes on his shirt and a U.S. Army Air Corps hat on his head, 92-year-old retired Air National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Hertel was reunited with the P-47 Thunderbolt during the Heritage Flight Training and Certification Course here Feb. 28.

After being wheeled out to the flightline, Hertel was greeted by Gen. Hawk Carlisle, the commander of Air Combat Command, Charles Hainline and Tom Gregory, both P-47 Thunderbolt Heritage Flight pilots.

Hertel flew the legendary Thunderbolt while stationed on Iwo Jima, Japan, during World War II and had not seen the aircraft since retiring from the military in the 1960's.

"When I found out it was going to be here I just had to bring him," said Hertel's daughter Peggy Hertel. "It's been his dream for so long to see one again."

Although he does not remember a lot of his past, there is one thing that has stayed clear in his memory.

"He has always remembered his airplanes," Peggy said. "I think he was thinking he was going to get in and fly it."

Hertel smiled and laughed as he was wheeled around the aircraft, stopping to reach out with his war-fought hands to touch his old friend.

Just as seeing the aircraft was exciting for the veteran, Carlisle and the P-47 pilots were in for a treat as well.

"I brought some of his pictures and log book, everybody wants to see the log book," Peggy said. "It shows some of the bombing flights that he went on and firefights and even has a couple of tourist tours that he flew. It's quite a bit of history to see."

The P-47 pilots ended WWII with 3,752 air-to-air kills while flying more than 423,000 sorties.

"Thanks for making us the greatest Air Force in the world," Carlisle told Hertel. "You are a part of our heritage. We wouldn't be where we are at if it wasn't for people like you that set us up for success."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jensen Stidham
Retired Air National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Hertel, laughs while sitting in front of a P-47 Thunderbolt during the Heritage Flight Training and Certification Course Feb. 28, 2015, at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Hertel, a 92-year-old World War II veteran, flew the aircraft while stationed in Iwo Jima, Japan.

Hertel left the aircraft with an ACC commander's coin, P-47 patch, and Heritage Flight memorabilia to remember the day he was finally reunited with his old pal.

"I am just really glad that I was able to bring him here and that everybody has been so kind with showing the plane and talking to him," Peggy said.

Women's History Month: Remembering the past, looking toward the future

Senior Airman Matthew Lotz
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — During the early 1900s, answering phone calls, maintaining records and providing minor health care were some of few roles women who served in the military were permitted to fill. Jobs left open because men left for war, gave women the opportunity to step up and volunteer on the home front.

A century later, women across the Department of Defense carry responsibilities from maintaining multi-million-dollar aircraft, leading troops through battlefields and serving in higher leadership positions.

"We celebrate Women's History Month to remember the struggles women went through to get the equalities we have today," said Chief Master Sgt. Dorothy Olson, the 31st Operations Group chief. "We have achieved what our ancestors worked so hard for."

Women's History Month honors the hard work and contributions made in the past and present.

"Those women paved the way for me to be able to serve as a United States Air Force firefighter," said Senior Airman Chelsea

Westfall, a 31st Civil Engineer firefighter. "Because of them, I can come to work and feel like I belong. Women are no longer seen as the outsiders."

Knowing the efforts of women in the past allow for today's women to prevail and make

their own history, not defined by their gender.

"We celebrate Women's History Month to remember the struggles women went through to get the equalities we have today," said Chief Master Sgt. Dorothy Olson, the 31st Operations Group chief. "We have achieved what our ancestors worked so hard for."

Today, in the U.S. military, there aren't many jobs women cannot volunteer for. Serving as a testament to this, John McHugh, the secretary of the Army, announced that women, for the first time, will be eligible to participate in U.S. Army Ranger School.

"Physically, there may be things that

See REMEMBERING, Page 13

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
March 10, 2015

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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.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile
A team of 150 workers including Commissary staff, industry partners and contractors worked diligently during a shelving upgrade Feb. 8 at the Columbus Air Force Base Commissary. Work began at 3 p.m. Feb. 8 and the team worked continuously until Feb. 11 to complete the store upgrade.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

More items added to Commissary Value Brand

Richard Brink
Defense Commissary Agency

With nearly 100 items recently added to the Commissary Value Brand program, military patrons will have even more opportunities to save, said Chief Master Sgt. Stuart Allison, the Defense Commissary Agency's senior enlisted advisor to the director.

"We recommend that patrons continue to monitor the orange 'Value' signs in the stores because they will see a larger offering of products," Allison said.

Since the middle of February, new products added to the program include several cheeses, condiments, canned and powdered milk, canned soup, dry pasta, honey, rice, laundry bleach and paper towels.

With the influx of new items, the Value Brand mix will boast nearly 400 products such as frozen vegetables, pizza and entrees; pet foods; health and beauty care; cereals; cleaning supplies; soft drinks; coffee; canned fruit, soup and fish; disposable lunch and storage bags; condiments and more.

The average savings for Value Brand is about 42 percent when compared to national brands and 25 percent against the store brand and private label items found in commercial retail stores. Patrons looking for these items will see orange "Value" tags. A list of items, FAQs and a video of the program are available at <http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/value-brand.cfm>.



Courtesy photo

Ciro Quaranta is the new Columbus Air Force Base Commissary Director. Quaranta became the new Commissary manager Jan. 25 after traveling here from Yokota AB, Japan. This is his second management assignment.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar

Shoppers browse the aisles of the Columbus Air Force Base Commissary March 3. Since the middle of February, new products have been added to the Commissary Value program to include several cheeses, condiments, canned and powdered milk, canned soup, dry pasta, honey, rice, laundry bleach and paper towels. The average savings for Value Brand is about 42 percent when compared to national brands and 25 percent against the store brand and private label items found in commercial retail stores.

The frozen and refrigerated food section in the Columbus AFB Commissary contains multiple items that are part of the Commissary Value Brand. The Value tags are on about 300 products in 33 categories.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile