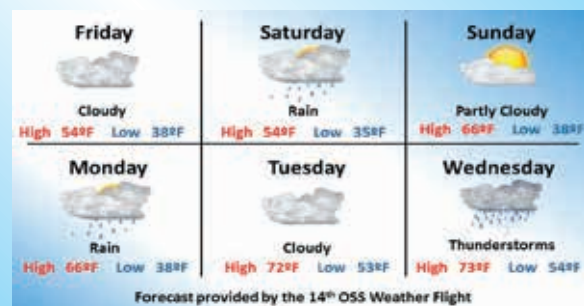


Weather



News Briefs

South Gate detour

Beginning at 8 a.m. March 30, the South Gate will be closed for repair team work. Follow the signs to use the alternate entrance will be available from Highway 373/ Capitol Housing.

Beginning April 1, the South Gate will resume normal operating hours and will close at 6 p.m. Normal South Gate hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed weekends and federal holidays.

Enlisted Promotions Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3:30 p.m. March 31 in the Columbus Club.

SUPT Class 15-07 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-07 is graduating at 10 a.m. April 3 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, Deputy Commander of U.S. Strategic Command.

Inside



Feature 8

The Dental flight is highlighted in this week's feature.

Team BLAZE gives back to AF families with AFAF

Maj. Nathan Preuss

49th Fighter Training Squadron

Columbus Air Force Base is holding its annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign March 23 to May 1, 2015.

The AFAF campaign was established with the purpose of providing financial assistance to charitable organizations that give support directly to Air Force members in need. This year's theme is Commitment to Caring.

The 14th Flying Training Wing's monetary goal for 2015 is \$30,387. If each member of Team BLAZE donates just \$1 per paycheck or \$2 per month, the base goal will be shattered.

Money raised during the AFAF campaign goes directly to four charitable organizations designed to benefit active-duty, reserve, guard, and retired Air Force personnel and their families. They are the Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation; Air Force Village Foundation; General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; and Air Force Aid Society.

The Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation was created to care for widows, widowers, and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel. The foundation acquired 379 housing units at two northwest Florida facilities. Here, widows of enlisted men live among peers and share memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities.

Since 1970, the Air Force Village Foundation has provided over \$10 million in assistance. It was founded to provide surviving spouses of career retired officers with cost-effective living.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides financial support to widows of all retired Air Force personnel, regardless of where they live. Its main source of income is from the AFAF campaign. All money used to support spouses is given with no strings attached.

Finally, the Air Force Aid Society is the official

See AFAF, Page 3



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Senior Airman Brittany Odum, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Specialist, shares her story with the audience at the Air Force Assistance Fund kick-off breakfast March 20 at the Columbus Club. The Air Force Assistance Fund started March 23 and will finish May 1.

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)	1.84 days	-1.82 days	Apr. 1	48th (15-07)	-0.54 days	-0.90 days	Apr. 3	49th (15-FBC)	0.47 days	1.91 days	Apr. 2	T-6	2,316	1,873	13,680
41st (16-01)	1.40 days	1.25 days	Apr. 23	50th (15-07)	-0.58 days	0.40 days	Apr. 3					T-1	1,012	564	4,968
												T-38	912	624	3,835
												IFF	294	273	1,772

The graduation speaker is Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command.

The Airman's Creed

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And a legacy of valor.
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My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman.
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 12 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Silver Wings

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
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Layout Designer

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
30 Mar 23-May 1 - AFAF Campaign	31 Enlisted Promotions, 3:30 p.m. @ Club	1 Whispering Pines Open House, 2 p.m. @ Golf Course	2 15-FBC IFF graduation, 4:49 p.m.	3 SUPT Class 15-07 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	4/5 5th - Easter Sunday Brunch, 10:30 a.m. @ Club	Apr. 14: Hunt Housing Town Hall Meeting Apr. 20: Mentors in Violence Prevention Apr. 23: Hearts Apart Apr. 28: First Quarterly Awards Ceremony Apr. 30: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony May 1: SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation May 2: Daedalians Spring Golf Tournament May 8: CCAF Graduation May 21: SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation May 21: Memorial Day Retreat May 22: AETC Family Day May 25: Memorial Day
6 6th-18th - 75th Annual Spring Pilgrimage	7	8	9 14th OSS Change of Command, 9:14 a.m. @ Fire Station	10 King Faisal Air Academy Saudi Arabia Base visit	11/12 11th-12th - Tyndall AFB Gulf Coast Salute Airshow	

AFAF

(Continued from page 1)

charity of the Air Force and was chartered to assist in relieving financial emergencies faced by active-duty members and their families. This organization provides interest-free loans or grants during personal and family emergencies, as well as education grants for children and spouses of active-duty personnel.

In 2014, the Society dedicated roughly \$16.9 million in monetary assistance to over 61,000 people.

Locally, the AFAS funds the Heart Link/Spouse Welcome, Bundles of Joy, and Give Parents a Break which is a free daycare program for families in need. Columbus AFB personnel received more than \$37,000 in assistance from the AFAS in 2014. That included 33 individuals who received personal assistance through grants and interest-free loans, and more than 400 people who utilized our community programs for new Air Force spouses, new or expectant parents, childcare programs, and the car care program.

The goal of the AFAF campaign drive is to raise money so these charities may thrive and prosper in their missions to help the greater Air Force family. Ultimately, the campaign comes down to Air Force people helping Air Force people, meaning it's purely voluntary.

If you'd like to donate to the AFAF campaign, contact your group or squadron representative to fill out a contribution form. All donations are given directly to the AFAF campaign. For further information, please visit the AFAF website at afassistancefund.org or contact your group POC.

Team BLAZE AFAF campaign POCs:

14th Flying Training Wing
Master Sgt. Shane Seelnacht, x2417

14th Comptroller Squadron
Senior Airman Juliana White, x2715

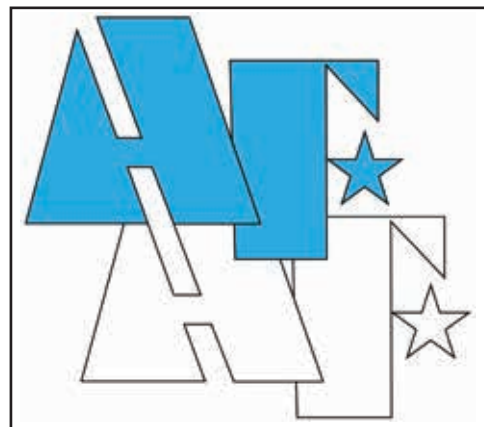
14th Operations Group staff
1st Lt. Marcus Moore, x7718

14th Operations Support Squadron
1st Lt. Kevin Wood, x3531

14th Student Squadron
Capt. D.L. Booker, x7863

37th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Marc Penninga, x7660

41st Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Jason Williams, x1522



48th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Eddie Miller, x7526

49th Flying Training Squadron
Capt. Matt Stauber, x1665

50th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. William Reams, x7712

14th Medical Group staff
Master Sgt. Jeremy Davis, x2250

14th Medical Operations Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hoffman, x2781

14th Medical Support Squadron
Senior Airman Shar Williams, x2124

14th Mission Support Group staff
Master Sgt. Angela Schlosser, x2033

14th Civil Engineer Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Warner, x2262

14th Communications Squadron
Airman 1st Class Jason Rodriguez, x3394

14th Contracting Squadron
Airman 1st Class Tyler Wilson, x7762
Senior Airman Greg Hovlan, x7774

14th Force Support Squadron
Senior Airman Patrick Caffrey, x2608
Staff Sgt. Adrian Galcik, x3557

14th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Senior Airman Steven McCray, x7097
Senior Airman Henry Schultz, x3605

14th Security Forces Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Miguel Stewart, x7128

43rd Flying Training Squadron
Maj. R. Brian Adams, x7387

Golf tournament benefits Happy Fund

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

George Irby putts a ball during the Happy Fund Golf Tournament March 20 at the Whispering Pines Golf Course on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The Happy Fund was started in 1952 by George "Happy" Irby as a fundraiser to purchase necessities for underprivileged children in and around the city of Columbus.

Lt. Gen. Kowalski to speak at SUPT 15-07 graduation

Team BLAZE welcomes back Lt. Gen. James Kowalski as the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-07's graduation.

Kowalski assumed duties as deputy commander of U.S. Strategic Command in October 2013.

Kowalski entered active duty in 1980 through the ROTC program at the University of Cincinnati. He has held a variety of operational commands, including a bomb squadron, an operations group, a bomb wing, an air control wing, and an Air Force Major Command.

His contingency and war-time experience include command of the 2nd Operations Group when they deployed B-52s for combat during operations Noble Anvil and Allied Force, and command of the 28th Bomb Wing when they deployed B-1Bs for Operation Iraqi Freedom. From January 2003 to May 2003, Kowalski commanded the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia where he led a combined wing of B-1Bs, E-3s and KC-135s to provide strike, battle management, and air refueling for operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch. His previous staff assignments include Headquarters Air Combat Command, Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command.

ASSIGNMENTS

April 1980 - April 1981, student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
May 1981 - October 1982, B-52D pilot, 2nd Bombardment Squadron, March AFB, California
November 1982 - September 1986, aircraft commander, instructor pilot and wing tactics officer, 524th Bombardment Squadron, Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan
October 1986 - October 1987, Air Staff Training Program, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.
October 1987 - November 1989, B-1B instructor pilot and Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 384th Bombardment Wing, McConnell AFB, Kansas



November 1989 - August 1992, B-1B instructor pilot and Chief of Wing Standardization and Evaluation, 96th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas

August 1992 - June 1993, student, College of Naval Command and Staff, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

June 1993 - July 1994, Chief, Long-Range Attack Planning and Programming, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

July 1994 - August 1996, Commander, 28th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas

August 1996 - June 1997, Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow, McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace, St. Louis, Missouri

June 1997 - April 1999, Chief, Forces Assignment Branch, Directorate of Force Structure (J8), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

May 1999 - December 2000, Commander, 2nd Operations Group, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

December 2000 - April 2002, Assistant Director of Aerospace Operations, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Virginia

April 2002 - February 2004, Commander, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota (January 2003 - May 2003, Commander, 405th Air Expeditionary Wing, Southwest Asia)

July 2004 - October 2005, Deputy Director, Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

November 2005 - May 2007, Commander, 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

June 2007 - January 2009, Deputy Director for Global Operations (J39), Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

January 2009 - August 2009, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command (Provisional), Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.

August 2009 - January 2011, Vice Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

January 2011 - October 2013, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

October 2013 - present, Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Nebraska

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April 3, 10, 17 & 24

Time:
1200-1300

Location:
AFRC

"The greatest strength of our Air Force is our Airmen. The greatest strength of our Airmen is their diversity!" -Gen. Welsh, AF Chief of Staff

Interested in learning a new language? Here's your chance to learn TAGALOG, the national language of the Philippines. In these four basic sessions, you will learn the alphabet, numbers, and commonly used words and phrases. Open to all military personnel and their families. Only 10 seats available. Attendance in all four sessions is recommended. First come, first served. To sign up, e-mail MSgt Rodel Sy at rodel.sy@us.af.mil. Deadline to sign up is March 31, 2015.

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.



Upcoming Events

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." The concert is free but a ticket is required for entry. Tickets available Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome Center located at 300



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Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 1-5pm

Main Street, and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau, 117 3rd Street South.

March 28-29:

Keesler Air Show/Open House: Gates open at 9 a.m. at Keesler Air Force Base with shows starting at approximately 9:45 a.m. For more information visit Keesler.af.mil.

Tuscaloosa Regional Airshow: Gates open at 10 a.m. at the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport. General admission tickets are \$7.15 with fees. For more information go to tuscaloosaregional-airshow.com.

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: King size pillow top mattress and box spring for sale, very

clean, \$300. For more information call 574-4128.

Transportation

For Sale: 2012 Toyota Rav4 SUV. Price reduced, one owner with only 24,000 miles in excellent condition. \$18,900 or best offer. Please call 327-1205 for more information.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

An A-10 from the 75th Fighter Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., sits on the Columbus Air Force Base flightline March 17 while the pilots debrief. The A-10s came to Columbus Air Force Base March 16 and 17 to conduct air-to-air exercises with Columbus AFB aircraft.

A-10s conduct training with 49th at CAFB

Airman Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Some 75th Fighter Squadron A-10s from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, came to Columbus AFB, Mississippi, to conduct air-to-air training exercises with the 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilots.

In addition to training student pilots in Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, the 49th FTS is responsible for keeping the base's rated fighter pilots qualified and ready for combat.

"Our primary mission of Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals is to train the students here, but our secondary mission is to provide a realistic training platform with the Combat Air Force," said Lt. Col. Daniel Radulski, 49th FTS Assistant Director of Operations. "This is the first step and hopefully we will do it more in the future. For this week, the training was only three days. Monday and Tuesday they flew to us and Wednesday we flew to them."

The 75th Fighter Squadron is one of Moody's two combat-ready A-10C Thunderbolt II squadrons.

The squadron's nearly 35 pilots are dedicated to carrying out the close air support mission through the A-10.

"We're doing air combat training against Columbus AFB's T-38s," said Maj. Richard Wilson, 75th FS A-10 Pilot. "The next time we go downrange we may face an air-to-air threat that we weren't planning on, so we're training to be ready for anything."

Fighter pilots never know what combat scenarios they may face while deployed or when they will be deployed, so they always maintain their qualifications in case



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

A 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilot in a T-38 Talon engages an A-10 from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., during an air-to-air exercise March 17 near Columbus AFB, Miss. All of the instructor pilots at the 49th FTS are seasoned fighter pilots, however it is important for them to continue improving their skills and abilities along with other fully-trained fighter pilots.

they are quickly sent downrange.

"As instructors we are requalifying each other in basically two missions — air combat maneuvering, which is a two versus one scenario, and air combat training, which is two versus four, similar to a Red Flag scenario," Radulski said.

All of the instructor pilots at the 49th FTS are seasoned fighter pilots, however it is important for

them to continue improving their skills and abilities along with other fully-trained fighter pilots.

"All of the instructors in IFF are previous Combat Air Force pilots, and there is a skill with our flying experience that is applicable to training the students here," Radulski said. "But allowing us to go 'play' with A-10s, F-16s and F-15s is more of a challenging mission for us. It basically keeps us sharper."



**To advertise in Silver Wings,
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Deli, bakery contract sought for 22 more stores

Rick Brink
DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Deli and bakery services in 22 commissaries in 12 states face temporary suspension today as the Defense Commissary Agency seeks a new contractor. Six of the 22 commissaries have sushi bars that will also be temporarily suspended.

Today's announcement comes because the agency terminated two deli/bakery service contracts held by Nayyarsons Corporation, a food service company headquartered in New Hyde Park, N.Y. Last month DeCA did not renew another deli/bakery services contract held by Nayyarsons, an action that impacted 22 other commissaries in nine Midwestern states.

Nayyarsons serves no other commissaries, and DeCA now has nine deli/bakery service contracts with various other vendors serving 112 commissaries.

DeCA's decision to terminate its two remaining contracts with Nayyarsons for its Great Lakes and Gulf Coast areas was made for the convenience of the commissary customer, said Defense Commissary Agency Director and



CEO Joseph H. Jeu.

"It was a decision made in the best interest of our customers," Jeu said. "I want our customers to know that we're working diligently to get services back to normal."

Consistent with earlier actions, DeCA is looking at both long-term and interim solutions to offer the valued deli and bakery services for the affected commissaries. An expedited contracting process will be used, and the agency expects to have a new contract in place and operations fully restored by early June.

As an interim solution, to avoid disruption of services, the agency is pursuing the hiring of the outgoing contractor's eligible workforce on a temporary basis to deliver limited services until a new contractor is brought on board. If a break in deli/bakery services occurs, customers can purchase cold cuts, potato and macaroni sal-

ad, fruit and vegetable trays, and similar items in their commissary grocery and produce aisles. Store management has increased product quantities and will bring in new items to help fill in any short-term void.

The 22 commissaries impacted are:

Alabama: Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base Annex, Maxwell Air Force Base, Redstone Arsenal, Fort Rucker

Arkansas: Little Rock Air Force Base

Illinois: Scott Air Force Base, Naval Station Great Lakes

Indiana: Harrison Village

Kentucky: Fort Campbell, Fort Knox

Louisiana: Barksdale Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Fort Polk

Michigan: Selfridge Air National Guard Base

Mississippi: Columbus Air Force Base, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Keesler Air Force Base

Missouri: Fort Leonard Wood, Whiteman Air Force Base

Ohio: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh Area

Tennessee: Naval Support Activity Mid-South (Memphis)



Dollars & \$ense: Permanent Change of Station Advance Pays

Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs
14th Comptroller Squadron
Financial Services Flight Chief

Permanent Change of Station advance payments are payments only provided to members who have extraordinary expenses directly related to a government ordered relocation.

The purpose of advance payments is to assist members with out-of-pocket expenses that are not reimbursable via travel claims, covered under another allowance, and are not

typical day-to-day military living expenses.

The amount that is payable for these advances is computed based on basic pay minus deductions (note: allotments are not factored into the equation). The maximum amount of pay, which you can receive, is three months. You will have from 30 days prior to the PCS from your old duty location to 180 day days after arrival at your new duty station to apply for advance payment.

Specific requirements are required based on the amount and length of repayment period requested. For example,

Airmen E4 and under will require commander's approval.

Please feel free to contact your 14th Comptroller Squadron anytime Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to verify or address any PCS pay concerns or any other finance related matters. Finance can be reached via email at 14CPTS.FCS@us.af.mil, at DSN 742-2705, or at the finance office. The finance customer service desk can be found in the main lobby of the 14th Mission Support Group building.

Reference used: AFMAN 65-116 Vol 1, Chapter 35; AFMAN 65-116 Vol 2, Chapter 6

SEQUESTRATION

(Continued from page 14)

"There is no excess. There is no bench. Everything is committed. America needs a force ready for a full spectrum of operations."

Walters cited all efforts by the Air Force within the last year, from humanitarian aid to support in the Middle East, "All of that has showed just how unpredictable world conditions can be."

With an unforeseen future, the Air Force will need to win in complex battlespaces such as: rapidly changing technological breakthroughs, geopolitical instability, a wide range of operating environments, and an increasingly important and vulnerable global commons, the service leaders explained.

"Our Air Force remains the most globally engaged Air Force on the planet and we continue to do our best to deliver global vigilance, global reach and global power for America every day," said Lt. Gen. James M. "Mike" Holmes, the deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs for Headquarters Air Force. "However, after more than 24 years of sustained combat operations, and years of constrained budgets, it has become more and more difficult to achieve our mission."

In order to defeat advancing threats, the Air Force must continue investments in top recapitalization and key modernization programs, and gain and maintain full-spectrum readiness, senior leaders stated in their written testimony.

"With the three years of reduced budgets we had planned in 2012, to the base line of where we are at now, we have lost \$25 to \$30 billion worth of buying power," Holmes said. "Because of that, it leaves a hole in our ability to modernize the forces we have and our ability to maintain our readiness and our ability to plan for the future."

The senior leaders testified the Air Force's sister services and allies expect it to provide critical warfighting and enabling capabilities. They remain focused on getting what is needed to provide the ability to deliver combat air power for America when and where it is needed.

iMatter site gives AETC Airmen voice to share innovations

Capt. Jennifer Richard
AETC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Education and Training Command launched the iMatter website March 23, giving all command Total Force Airmen access to an AETC-specific tool for sharing innovations and improvement ideas.

The concept took hold based on Gen. Robin Rand, AETC commander, hearing ideas directly from Airmen during his command site visits.

"Air Education and Training Command has great Airmen doing great things every day," said Rand. "I want every Airman in the command to know they have a voice to me - 24/7. In addition to my AETC Commander Facebook page and the AETC public website, iMatter helps accomplish this goal by offering a venue to post innovative suggestions or ideas."

iMatter allows AETC Airmen to post their suggestions for improving processes and procedures as well as their ideas on how to improve the command. Airmen provide their inputs via a simple, online form. Then, each submission is reviewed by the AETC Innovation and Transformation Office, which oversees the command's Air Force Smart Operations program. According to rules of engagement posted on the iMatter site, posts must be respectful and well-researched and not complaints or personal opinions.

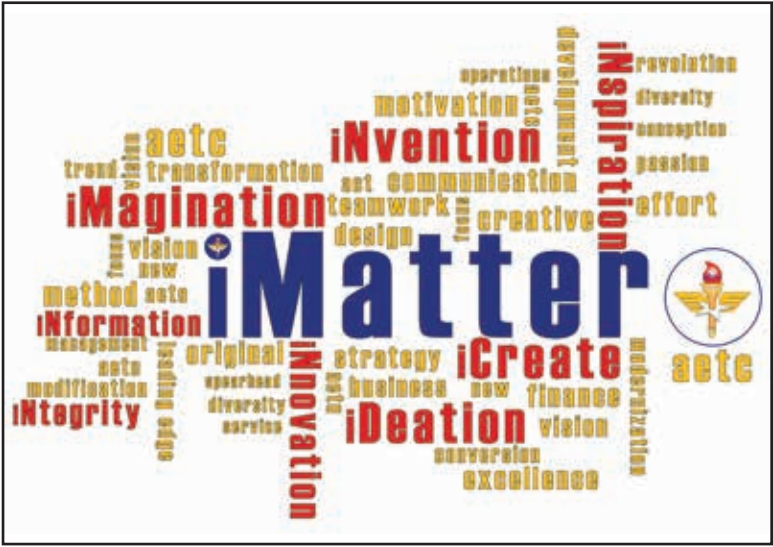
"No idea is off limits," said Charles Wyatt, master process owner for the AETC Air Force Smart Operations program, "but this is not the Inspector General Complaint System."

Once an idea is submitted, the ITO sends the idea to the appropriate functional area of responsibility to consider. Depending on the response from the functional, the ITO staff may see if there is an opportunity to apply their AFSO skills in ways such as conducting additional research or holding an AFSO event. For each idea, the exact process differs depending on the scope of the recommendation or problem.

"We really do try, as much as reasonably possible, to implement submitters' ideas, and we'd like to get the entire process - from beginning to end - completed as quickly as possible," said Wyatt. "And just about every step of the way, as a suggestion moves along the path, the submitter gets notified and informed about the status of the idea."

With iMatter now live, AETC leadership is looking to Airmen at all levels to begin using the site and submitting their ideas. AETC will conduct a cost-benefit analysis of iMatter around the July-August timeframe to measure the site's impact, according to Maj. Alan Haedge, chief of command policy and special programs for AETC, so now is the time for Airmen to make their voices heard.

"Think about the power that 62,000 Airmen across AETC can have," said Haedge. "There are tons of folks out there with great, innovative



Air Force mourns the loss of ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

Senior Master Sgt. Lee E. Hoover Jr.

Office of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

WASHINGTON — The ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker passed away March 21 in Calhoun, Ga.

Chief Binnicker was born in Orangeburg, S.C., on July 23, 1938. He was a leader and an Airman from the day he first joined the Civil Air Patrol as a high school freshman. His childhood dream was to become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, but in August 1957, after doctors discovered high-frequency hearing loss in his right ear, he decided to enlist in the personal equipment — later called life support — career field. As a young Airman he found himself on the flight line with B-52s, KC-135s and fellow Airmen who became mentors and role models and put him on the path that would lead to his selection as the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force in 1986.

“Chief Binnicker was an iconic Airman who truly elevated the status of our Senior NCOs,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. “He was an innovator and a leader who cared deeply about Airmen. His legacy lives on today and is carried forward by the professional enlisted force we have serving our nation. For that, and so much more, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He and his family are in our thoughts on this very sad day for our Air Force.”

“He was a leader in every room he entered,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. “That was the case during his time in uniform and well after he retired. We often speak of legends, those Airmen who have gone before us and built the platforms from which we stand and fight today...Chief Binnicker is a legend among those legends. His impact on our Air Force is everlasting and we will truly miss his leadership, counsel and friendship.”

Binnicker's Air Force career spanned 33 years and a variety of roles. By 1964 he had crossed-trained into air operations and was planning flights for missions going to Vietnam. He later deployed to the warzone and served in the 22d Tactical Air Support Squadron from 1968 to 1969. He quickly moved up the ranks and began serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, 12th Air Force and, later, Pacific Air Forces and Tactical Air Command.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter established the President's Commission on Military Compensation and, on the

“Chief Binnicker spent his lifetime serving our Nation and the Air Force he loved,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “From the first moment he stepped onto a flightline it was clear he was an Air Force leader and would become a tremendous spokesman and advocate for our enlisted force. He was a man of honor and commitment to things greater than himself. His passing is mourned by all Airmen, past and present, around the globe.”

recommendation of then Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Thomas Barnes, Binnicker became the sole enlisted member on the commission. However, following Binnicker's suggestion, the commission later added enlisted representatives from the other services.

Chief Binnicker served in the Air Force's top enlisted position from July 1, 1986 to July 31, 1990. During his tenure he led the transformation from the Airman Performance Report to the Enlisted Performance Report, and developed the performance feedback system. He also worked to have Master Sergeants admitted to the SNCO Academy and to increase the opportunities for minorities and women throughout the Air Force.

Chief Binnicker retired Aug. 1, 1990, but his heart never left the Air Force. He continued traveling around the world to speak with Airmen in different forums including professional military education courses. In 2000, he was selected as the CEO and President of the Air Force Enlisted Village in Shalimar, Fl., and spent the next 15 years working tirelessly to provide more than 400 residents a loving, secure place to



U.S. Air Force file photo

Ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker official photo

call home.

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Chief Binnicker was always proud to wear the enlisted chevrons. He firmly believed enlisted Airmen should be given more responsibility and have the freedom to voice their opinion and be involved in the decision process. When asked years ago how he would like to be remembered, he answered, “That I did my best. I would hope most people would say the same thing...and that's all you can do. That's all that the country can ask of you...that you do your best.”

Sequestration threatens America's airpower advantage

Senior Airman Hailey Haux

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leaders testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Airland March 19, and said with the return of seques-

tration-level funding, America's airpower advantage is increasingly at risk.

“We are the greatest Air Force in the world and remain so,” said Dr. William LaPlante, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition. “But, to be honest, many of us are growing concerned that we are losing our margin. The enemies, and potential adver-

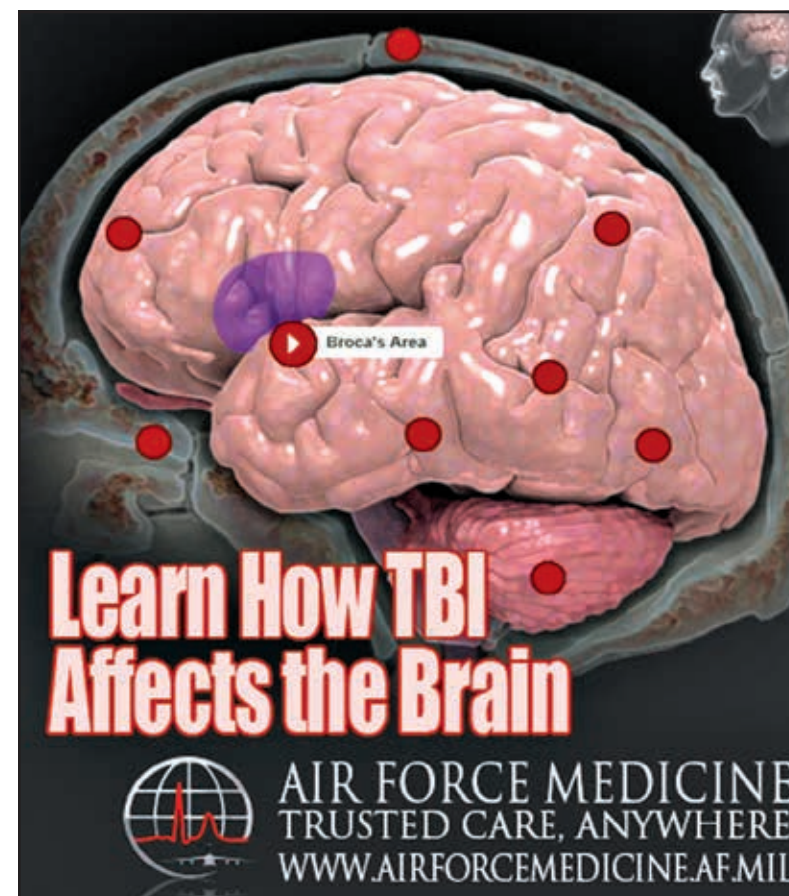
saries, have been watching us very carefully. They understand where our seams are. They understand how to apply asymmetries against us and it's very concerning.”

The written testimony stated a return to sequestration-level funding would result in a less ready, less capable, less viable Air Force that is unable to fully execute the defense

strategy.

“Less than half of our combat career squadrons are sufficiently ready for a high-end fight,” said Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters, the deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements for Headquarters Air Force.

See SEQUESTRATION, Page 15



Have You Seen TRICARE Online Lately?

Tricare Online

TRICARE Online is the Department of Defense online patient portal.

TOL offers secure access to military health care information and services including military hospital and clinic appointing, Blue Button personal health information, military hospital and clinic prescription refill services, and Service Separation information.

TOL has been working diligently over the past few years to provide TRICARE beneficiaries with the most efficient access to health care services and information possible. Many improvements have been made to the site including a faster, easier, and more secure log in process. TOL users can now logon with their Common Access Card, Defense Finance and Accounting Services myPay, and/or Premium DoD Self-Service Logon.

TOL allows authorized beneficiaries receiving care at a military hospital or clinic the ability to schedule, cancel, and view future appointments as well as to set email and text message appointment reminders for themselves and family members. Email and text message reminders are a great way to communicate medical appointments with family and/or caretakers. In January 2015 TOL released a redesigned appointing capability which will make more appointments available, allow patients to be notified of earlier appointments, provide access to past appointment history, and more.

The DoD Blue Button capability provides authorized beneficiaries access to their PHI, as stored in AHLTA, including medications, allergies, problem lists, encounters, lab results, radiology results, vital signs and immunizations. Users have the option to view their PHI, download the data as a PDF or text file, or share the data in a continuity of care document. Since its release, TOL users have accessed their Blue Button PHI over 10 million times actively seeking and downloading information needed to better manage their health and the health of their families. Instead of wading through



reams of paper for medical information, TOL users can view PHI online, anytime and anywhere. The amount of PHI available to individuals depends on where treatment occurs, with the most data available to those regularly treated at military hospitals and clinics.

TOL users can also refill prescriptions for themselves and authorized family members for military hospital or clinic pick up. TOL's Prescription Refill capability allows users to request up to 10 refills at a time, check prescription status, and access a convenient link to the TRICARE Pharmacy to schedule home delivery via the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.

As of November 2014, TOL now offers Service Separation information for scheduling and preparing for your Separation History and Physical Examination within the Military Health System. TOL also provides easy access to Service-specific Transition Assistance Program information along with Veterans Affairs information on how to file a pre-separation claim and schedule a VA managed separation exam.

These improvements are evidence of TOL's commitment to improving the user experience. TOL will continue expanding capabilities and redesigning existing capabilities to make the site more intuitive and user friendly. To provide feedback regarding your use of TOL or for more information about TOL please visit tricareonline.com.

Intramural Basketball

Standings as of March 25

1. 37th FTS/41st FTS	9-0	7. 14th CONS/WSA	4-5
2. 14th CS	6-3	8. 14th CES	4-5
3. 48th FTS	6-3	9. Rapcon	4-5
4. 14th MDG	6-3	10. Tower #1	3-5
5. 14th STUS	5-4	11. Tower #2	1-7
6. 14th SFS	5-4	12. L-3	0-9

Tie-Breakers will be determined in final standings

Intramural Bowling

Standings as of March 25

1. 14th OSS #2	6. 14th OSS #1
2. 14th STUS #1	7. 14th CS
3. 14th FSS	8. 48th FTS
4. 14th STUS #2	9. 14th CPTS
5. 37th FTS	

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

Earth Day in 1970s, beyond with Mike and Mike

Mike Blythe and Mike Jago
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Earth Day, held worldwide each year on April 22, is considered a key enabling factor of the environmental movement.

What started as protests against dangerous environmental practices and rampant pollution is now a celebration and an educational opportunity.

The first Earth Day was held in 1970, due to a culmination of events that began many years before and the increased awareness of those events due to faster and more comprehensive media coverage. As the U.S. became more and more industrialized after World War II, manufacturers pushed hard to keep up with demand. Due to a lack of understanding of the effects of their actions and the fact that environmental regulations were weak and not enforced, factories were allowed to release waste directly into streams, rivers, air, and dump trash in open pits or gullies.

The demand for quick production of goods and a lack of attention to environmental practices led to several significant environmental incidences. In 1952, smog from uncontrolled coal burning in London was so bad that 12,000 people died prematurely. In 1969, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire due to an oil spill on top of decades of industrial waste dumping. That same year, an oil rig near Santa Barbara, California, spilled over 80,000 barrels of crude oil into a channel and on local beaches. These incidences and others, coupled with increased awareness due to worldwide media coverage motivated people to act, and Earth Day was one of the outcomes.

Awareness of environmental issues in 1970 was not only a grass-roots effort, however. Addressing congress that year, President Richard Nixon asked for air quality standards, improvements to water treatment facilities, the cleanup of federal facilities, legislation against waste dumping, and safeguards against oil spills. He then established a regulatory body to oversee environmental regulations, and the Environmental Protection Agency was born.

The mission of the EPA was and still is fourfold. The Agency is to establish and enforce environmental protection standards,



conduct environmental research, provide assistance to combat environmental pollution, and recommend new policies for environmental protection.

Today, Earth Day and the EPA continue to generate the awareness that is so important to ensure actions are taken to protect the environment and human health. Great efforts were taken and are being taken to ensure environmental viability and clean up the past mistakes. Concert venues are built on former landfill sites, bald eagle populations are increasing, smart forestry practices enhance forest cover, and the Cuyahoga River in Ohio has an American Heritage River designation.

Closer to home, sections of the Buttahatchee River were removed from impaired river status due to management practices to support clean water. Bald eagles are seen regularly in Lowndes County. At Columbus Air Force Base, waste is reduced through recycling, energy is saved with updated heating and cooling systems, biodiesel reduces air pollution, Shuqualak creek erosion is being addressed, and wetlands are protected.

These are only a few of the environmental enhancements at the base. In the region, the U.S., and the world, many more actions are being taken through a better understanding of human interactions with the environment.

The purpose of Earth Day in 1970 and today is to raise awareness of environmental issues. The celebration of Earth Day is a culmination of recognizing how humanity can negatively affect the environment and thereby the health of humans. The good news is that Earth Day is now celebrated worldwide and is a catalyst for change.

This year, the Columbus AFB Environmental Element will celebrate Earth Day by inviting base personnel to participate in a streambed cleanup and other activities. Keep checking Silver Wings for more details on these activities as Earth Day approaches.

Blazin' Good Eats Food Exposition

April 4, 2015 • 10am-1pm*
BX Parking Lot (at Columbus Air Force Base)

Featuring Good Eats from:
Pop's BBQ
Willy's BBQ
Southern Elite
Zachary's
Thai Siam
Wings, Fish & More
Hawaiian Shave Ice
D&T Concessions
*Food will be available at 11am. Cash only.

Join us for family-friendly fun featuring a bounce house, Polynesian performance & free samples from GNC!
No federal endorsement of sponsor(s) intended.

FOOD FAMILY FUN!

2015 Air Show Performers & schedule

10:00 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">AIR SHOW GATES OPEN & GROUND ACTIVITIES BEGIN	12:32 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS B-25 "PANCHITO" DEMONSTRATION	2:08 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">DOUG MATTHEWS A-4 SKYHAWK OR F-86 SABRE DEMONSTRATION
11:45 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">OPENING CEREMONIES	12:46 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">USMC MV-22 OSPREY DEMONSTRATION	2:18 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">USAF F-22 RAPTOR DEMONSTRATION
11:48 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">NATIONAL ANTHEM FLAG JUMP WITH MIKE WISKUS CIRCLING JUMPERS	1:03 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">MATT YOUNKIN BEECH 18 AEROBATIC DEMONSTRATION	2:33 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">USAF HERITAGE FLIGHT (F-22 & P-51)
11:53 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">MIKE WISKUS LUCAS OIL PITTS TEASER	1:18 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">TEAM AERODYNAMICS	2:43 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">ROB HOLLAND & GARY WARD 2-SHIP AEROBATIC DEMONSTRATION
11:58 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">ROB HOLLAND WINDOWS WORLD MXS TEASER	1:39 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">ROB HOLLAND WINDOWS WORLD MXS AEROBATIC DEMONSTRATION	3:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">USMC BLUE ANGELS C-130 DEMONSTRATIONS
12:03 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">SKY SOLDIERS COBRA DEMONSTRATION (2-SHIP)	1:54 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">LUCAS OIL SKYDIVERS WITH MIKE WISKUS AEROBATICS	3:10 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">USN BLUE ANGELS
12:18 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">GARY WARD MXS AEROBATICS		5:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">AIR SHOW/TFR ENDS, AIRPORT/AIRSPACE RE-OPENS

Schedule is subject to change.

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.)

Hearts Apart Social

The Hearts Apart Social program is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty personnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided. This month the social will be from 5 to 7 p.m. March 28. Please call 434-2790 in advance to register.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief, held 8 a.m. to noon March 31, is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, held from 1 to 2 p.m. March 31, 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 receive more information please call 434-2790.

Resume and Cover Letter workshop

This workshop, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. April 1, gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and Cover Letters. To sign up, call 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6-10. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop For Senior Leadership, is for entrance at the corporate level based on education, and/or experience. It is reserved for officers and senior NCOs. It has seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance 8 – 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register for TAP, call 434-2839.

Enlisted dorm Airmen treated to home-cooked dinner



Airman 1st Class Donald Porter, 14th Communications Squadron Specialist, receives food from Lt. Col. Brian Murphy, 14th Operations Support Squadron Commander, during a dorm dinner March 19 at the base chapel on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Organizations host these dinners once every two months to provide free, home-cooked food to Airmen living in the dorms.

Smooth Move

This class, 10 to 11:30 a.m. April 8, 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, Tricare, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop, from 10:30 a.m. to noon April 8, is an informational workshop for members pursuing or interested in a teaching career after the military. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief, from 8 a.m. to noon April 14, is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle, 1-2 p.m. April 14, is a workshop that 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.

Capstone

This class, scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon April 16, is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/have not met their Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing

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

Pre, 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 (662) 434-2720.

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

Fridays during Lent - Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m. Followed by catfish and fellowship.

Sunday:

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

Tuesday:

11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass

Protestant Community

Sunday:

9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

Tuesday:

5 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)

Wednesday:

4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

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 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.

Community Service Project

The Youth Center is collecting donations for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen of Columbus, Mississippi. Drop off any type of dried beans or rice to the Youth Center by March 31. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Baseball, T-Ball, and Girls Softball Registration

Register at the Youth Center from March 2 - 27 for ages 3 – 18. The cost is \$35 for ages 3 – 4; \$40 ages 5 -18. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Air Force Club Scholarship

Club Membership has its rewards. Submit your essay online March 2 – May 1 for a chance to win a \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship. Open to Air Force Club members and their eligible dependents. For more information, rules and instructions, visit: MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs.

Egg Hunt and Information Fair

The Youth Center is offering a free egg hunt and information fair from 9 – 11 a.m. March 28. Register from 9 – 9:30 a.m. at Freedom Park. Event includes information fair, food, games, parent/child contest, and lots of fun. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Boys and Girls Club Week

The Youth Center is celebrating Boys and Girls Club Week March 29 – April 4. Special programs and activities will be offered daily. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Golf Course Open House

The Golf Course is offering an Open House from 2 – 6 p.m. April 1. Enjoy free green fees, \$5 per person golf cart rental (must share) and hot dog, chips, or a drink for only 50 cents each. Sign up for the Annual Green Fees Program no later than April 1 and receive a 10 percent discount on annual green fees. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Tales of the Crypt Family Trip

The Youth Center is offering a Month of the Military Child family trip from 7 – 10 p.m. April 3. This is a family-oriented (non-scary) historical bus trip to Friendship Cemetery to see the award winning Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students perform as historic characters from the past. Tickets purchased at the cemetery; \$5 for adults and \$3 for students K-12. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Easter Brunch at the Columbus Club

The Columbus Club is offering an Easter Brunch April 5. Seating begins at 10:30 a.m. with additional seating times every 30 minutes until 1:30 p.m. Reservations required by April 2. Menu includes pork loin, roast beef, fried chicken, bacon, sausage, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, turnip greens, cabbage, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed peas, biscuits, rolls, cornbread, sausage gravy, dessert table, waffle station, omelet station, and drink station with Champagne mimosa. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Wine Pairing

The Golf Course is offering a wine pairing event at 6 p.m. April 9. The cost is only \$22.50 per person; includes a sampling of

YOU ARE INVITED

OPEN HOUSE

Whispering Pines Golf Course

Wednesday, April 1

2 pm - 6 pm

SPECIALS

FREE Green Fees
\$5 per person for golf cart
50 cent Specials
Hot Dog or Chips or Drink

Sign up for our Annual Green Fees Program by 1 April and receive a 10% discount on your annual green fees.

For More Information, 434-7932

Whispering Pines
Columbus AFB

at least four wines with heavy hors d' oeuvres with each pairing. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Golf Buddy Demo Day

The Golf Course is offering Golf Buddy Demo Day from 8 a.m. – noon April 11. Golf Buddy features dynamic green view technology and verifies distances on foot for greater accuracy. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Summer Day Camp Registration

The Youth Center is offering summer day camp May 26 – Aug. 5. Registration is open until all slots are filled; first come basis. The cost is based on total family income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Italian Lunch Buffet

The Columbus Club is offering Italian lunch buffet from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. April 14. Menu includes: homemade lasagna, Italian grilled chicken, penne pasta with Alfredo, Caesar salad with garlic bread, penne pasta with marinara sauce. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Pitch In

The Youth Center is offering a community service project to clean up Happy Irby Parkway at 8:30 a.m. April 18. Permission slips are required. For more information, contact 434-2504.

British Soccer Camp

The Youth Center is offering British soccer camp June 8 – 12 for ages 3 – 18. The cost varies according to age. Stop by the Youth Center or call 434-2504 for more information or register online at challengersports.com.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Fri-

day 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.

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.

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 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 Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

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 \$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.

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.



iPhone
QR code



Android
QR code

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

Airman Diversity: An organizational force multiplier

Col. Allen Kidd

14th Medical Group Commander



A theme that has re-occurred over and over throughout my career, and one I'm reminded of nearly every day in my family and at work, is the value of diversity.

It seems everywhere I look these days, diversity jumps out as not just a fact of life, but a beneficial ingredient of the most effective groups.

My wife, Suzy, and I have discussed many times how very different our three kids are, though they are quite close in age and life experiences. Our daughter and two sons are each two years apart in age, were part of the same Air Force family, lived in the same houses, had the same dog, and went to the same schools and churches, but they are as different as night and day. While they are similar in some ways, each has their own perspectives, talents, strengths and weaknesses that contribute greatly to the richness and effective functioning of our family.

Diversity in the workplace, with all the same benefits as seen in families, has been highlighted over the last few weeks here at Columbus Air Force Base with the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Black History Month and, most recently, Women's History Month. During these celebrations, we heard about the incredible contributions these unique individuals and groups have made to our nation and world.

When thinking about the 14th Medical Group, the theme of diverse individuals coming together to make remarkable contributions most definitely applies. Much of the medical group's strength lies in its diversity; young (and some not-so-young) Airmen from different ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds, with a wide variety of education, talents, strengths and weaknesses that make the group function on a

daily basis.

So what exactly is diversity, what are its advantages, and what should we as leaders do about it? Diversity simply refers to differences among people, within organizations, in age, gender, race, religion, ethnic heritage, national origin, economic status, education, rank and a number of other qualities. It's easy to recognize some of these traits at first glance within our organizations, but others, such as religion and education levels might not be so obvious.

Properly managing and embracing diversity has numerous advantages, to include greater organizational innovation and productivity (force multiplier), reduced conflict and increased employee satisfaction. In short, diversity offers better functioning organizations. Former Secretary of Defense Les Aspin was once quoted in 1994 as saying, "Our nation's security and prosperity depend on our ability to develop and employ the talents of our diverse population ... [which is] ... not just the right thing to do; it is also a military and economic necessity."

So what should we as leaders do about this resource called diversity? Clearly, we need to embrace it. We need to let our Airmen know, regardless of how different they are from us, that we are highly interested in them and value their differing viewpoints, unique talents and perspectives and we are willing to listen and use their talents to solve organizational problems.

Who remembers the story recently told of the young deployed Airman who suggested watering the ground around buried electrical grounding cables to improve conductivity and prevent power outages? It worked, and it was a young Airman who had the solution. In other words, we need to leverage the vast pool of diverse talent that resides in all of our organizations, listen to others' input and not shut people out because they're young, of another race or gender, or possess some other differentiation. Your unit will be better for it.

While you're enjoying your time at Columbus AFB, take time to empower and say thanks to the incredible, diverse workforce we're blessed with in the world's greatest Air Force.

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U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
Airman 1st Class Emily Miller, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Assistant, applies fluoride varnish to a patient's teeth March 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The dental flight takes care of general dentistry, oral surgery, preventative dentistry and several dental lab cases for active-duty personnel.



Staff Sgt. Maria Schinella, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Technician, works on a patient's dental mold March 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Dental lab technicians work on some dental aids that measure less than one millimeter in thickness. They must be precise in their work because the smallest mistake could cause a patient discomfort or pain.

Dental flight keeps Team BLAZE smiling

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

In the midst of pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, many Team BLAZE members may be working with smiling faces and healthy teeth throughout their day. This may be the direct effect of a visit with the 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Flight. With a mission of serving the dentistry needs of active-duty personnel both on base and in the local area, the dental flight has many varying responsibilities, according to Lt. Col. Marie-Antonette Brancato, 14th Medical Operations Group Dental

Flight Commander. "We do general dentistry, oral surgery, preventive dentistry and several dental lab cases," Brancato said. They are also responsible for the dental health of deployable 14th Flying Training Wing Airmen. "We classify our patients from Class 1 to 4, with Class 3 and 4 being non-deployable," the commander said. "It can be difficult sometimes to get treatment when you are in a deployed location." Ensuring service members are deployable takes more than just "cleaning teeth." Many things go on behind the scenes that are not often noticed by dental patients, such as sterilization of instruments, fabri-

cating crowns and sometimes something as simple as set-up and tear-down of a treatment room. "A normal day for me is pretty much I come in, set up, see a patient, tear down, repeat," said Airman 1st Class Emily Miller, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Assistant. "It's fairly simple but it can be a bit of a rush at times with more patients. We each will normally see about six to eight patients a day, which is why infection control is very important. The last thing we want to do is place a contaminated instrument inside a patient's mouth. We must also ensure we have the correct patient record for the room they are in."

Although the job has its differences, the flight operates in the same manner as an off-base establishment. "We do the same things as a civilian office, unless it is beyond the scope of our care," Brancato said. "In that case we will send the active-duty personnel downtown to see a specialist. We have eight enlisted and three officers working here including myself and our dental lab technician who fabricates crowns, bridges and sports guards for patients."

Brancato said the dental flight has achieved many accomplishments, and she attributed them to the flight's camaraderie. "I have a great flight here. Everyone works well together and I am very proud of them," she said. "Although we are a small clinic, for the past two years we have been number one in the Air Force for oral health because of the diligent work each Airman does here. Patient satisfaction is very important to us. We want our patients to feel comfortable and I believe our team does a great job with that." According to Brancato, the dental flight will be moving to a new location in the 14th Medical Group Koritz Clinic this summer. Stay tuned to Silverwings to find out more.

For more information on the dental flight and its services or to make an appointment, call 434-2250.



Tech. Sgt. William Lodge, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Flight Chief, greets a patient and checks her in for an appointment March 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. For more information on the dental flight and its services or to make an appointment, call 434-2250.



Capt. Christopher Loftin, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dentist, assisted by Senior Airman Robert Woods III, 14th MDOS Dental Assistant, checks a patient's teeth March 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The dental flight serves active-duty personnel from both the base and local area.



Senior Airman Nathaniel Farinas, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Instrument Processing Manager, checks dental instruments for rust and contaminants March 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The instruments go through a three-step process to ensure they are completely sterilized.