

Weather

Friday AM Rain High 76°F Low 64°F	Saturday PM Rain High 76°F Low 62°F	Sunday Partly Cloudy High 76°F Low 60°F
Monday Partly Cloudy High 75°F Low 58°F	Tuesday Partly Cloudy High 72°F Low 50°F	Wednesday Partly Cloudy High 77°F Low 52°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Mentors in violence prevention

Two Mentors in Violence Prevention briefings are scheduled Monday at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. April 20 in the Kaye auditorium.

Holocaust Remembrance Day museum

A museum is scheduled at 10 a.m. April 21 in the Columbus Club in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event honors the individuals and cultures that were imprisoned in a concentration camp, liberated a concentration camp, or in some way were affected by the Holocaust, by learning about their sacrifices.

AFAF Campaign

The Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign is scheduled to end in two weeks on May 1. Contact your group or unit POC to donate today or for more information.

Inside



Feature 8

Air Force Assistance Fund: Commitment to Caring is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day

Chris Murf, Hunt Housing Maintenance Director, briefs Columbus Air Force Base Housing residents during a Town Hall Meeting April 14 at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The meeting featured various briefers who spoke on the various projects in progress, safety concerns and methods to report issues with their es-tate; afterward, residents voiced their opinions on the state of their houses and asked questions pertaining to their homes.

Hunt Housing holds town hall

Airman Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

A town hall meeting for base residents was held April 14 at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

During the meeting, members and attendees discussed annual surveys, pest control, fire protection and prevention, how to fill out a work order — and armadillos in base housing.

"We have gone into base housing and done surveys to try to

find out how many armadillos there are, how much of a problem it is and try to determine the best solution," said Lt. Col. John Zohn, Chief of Wing Safety. "Right now we are evaluating trapping and netting, so if you see a plywood box sitting around please don't touch it; however it is completely safe to you and harmless to the animal."

Armadillos are sometimes a problem to base housing resi-

See **TOWN HALL**, 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 (16-02)	0.28 days	-1.02 days	May 15	48th (15-08)	-0.12 days	0.46 days	Apr. 23	49th (15-GBC)	3.61 days	2.72 days	May 4	T-6	1,421	829	14,588
41st (16-01)	0.23 days	-1.61 days	Apr. 23	50th (15-08)	-1.79 days	-0.84 days	Apr. 23					T-1	510	516	5,387
The graduation speaker is Col. Mark O'Laughlin, Vice Commander 325th Fighter Wing, Air Combat Command, Tyndall AFB, Florida.												T-38	406	352	4,368
												IFF	219	183	2,038



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 11 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

TOWN HALL

(Continued from page 1)

dents because they can dig into the yards and create holes. Insects and bugs can also be a problem to some housing residents and steps are being taken to resolve them.

"We started a new pest control program this year where we come out and spray the exterior of houses each quarter," said Kessler Cowans, Columbus AFB Community Director. "If a resident still needs the inside of their house treated they can fill out a work order."

In case residents were unaware of how to fill out a work order or how long work orders take to process, Cowans explained the form.

"As far as what would help us getting to your work order faster is that your information, phone number and email is up to date and if residents will fill out a permission to enter form," Cowans said. "If

we come to your house to work on a work order and we cannot get in touch with you we will not enter your house unless you have a permission to enter form filled out."

Scott Romero, Columbus AFB Fire Inspector, then informed the housing residents about the dangers of house fires.

"Three out of every five deaths in a house fire is due to a faulty smoke detector," Romero said. "Everyone has one in their house but you need to test them once a month. Another thing is fire extinguishers; you all have them in your house so make sure you talk with your family about how to use it. Please talk to your children and make a plan for what you are going to do in the event there is a fire."

The meeting concluded with answers to housing residents' questions. Base housing also distributes a survey once a year as well as at the town hall meeting to find areas where they can improve.

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
20 Apr. 20 - May 1: AFAP Campaign Mentors in Violence Prevention, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. @ Kaye	21 Holocaust Remembrance Day museum, 10 a.m. @ Club	22 Earth Day; Golf course stream cleanup, 10 a.m. start, meets and ends @ Freedom Park	23 MSU Aero Engineering tour, 8 a.m. Hearts Apart, 5 p.m.	24 19th AF/CC visit	25/26	May 4: Columbus Club closure until January 2016 May 5: 14th FSS Assumption of Command 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 June 5: 14th Comptroller Squadron Change of Command June 12: SUPT Class 15-10 graduation June 25: 14th Security Forces Squadron Change of Command July 1: SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation July 2: AETC Family Day July 3: Federal Holiday (Independence Day) July 4: Fireworks on the Water
27	28 Suicide Prevention - Mr. Kevin Hines, 9 a.m./1 p.m. @ Kaye First Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 3:30 p.m. @ Kaye	29	30 Enlisted Promotion Ceremony, 3:30 p.m. @ Club	1 SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation, 10 p.m. @ Kaye AFAP Campaign final day	2/3 2nd - Daedalians Spring Golf Tournament	

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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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.

April 18

Volunteers age 15 and up are needed from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. to help prepare the grounds for YMCA's Camp Pratt summer camps and Camp Rising Sun's camp for children with cancer. To volunteer or for more information, email lpeel@uwlc-ms.org or call 328-0943.

April 30

An East Mississippi Job Fair takes place from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle Campus Lyceum. Come learn what job opportunities are in our area and how volunteering can boost your resume!

May 1-2

20th Market Street Festival: The 20th Market Street Festival is scheduled to begin at historic downtown Columbus. Market Street Festival began in 1996 and has grown to

be the largest special event in the state. Market Street Festival is held the first weekend in May each year and encompasses 12 city blocks and the Riverwalk in historic downtown Columbus. A crowd of nearly 40,000 gathers each year to enjoy all the two-day festival has to offer including over 250 arts, crafts and food vendors, dozens of special events, musical acts, and activities throughout the festival.

May 2

20th Market Street Festival Splash of Color 5k: A Splash of Color 5k run is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. at Ruben's Parking Lot during the 20th Market Street Festival. Entry fees are \$20 before April 24 and \$25 after. Students and military members can enter with \$15 and children can join free of charge. For more information or to register call 328-6305 or go to racesonline.com.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is moon 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: 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.

Homes

For Sale: 1996 Waverlee 16-foot by 80-foot single-wide mobile home with three bedrooms and two full baths, \$18,000 (negotiable). Home must be moved by buyer, located at 1572 Spruill Rd., Caledonia, Mississippi. For more information, contact Chuck or Melissa Skelton 251-1786 or at work 434-7348/9.

Garage Sale

For Sale: Oakdale Park multi-family garage sale, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 18. For more information call 245-0987.



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Columbus AFB volunteers participate in Spring Pilgrimage

Senior Airman Stephanie Englar

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

From towering arches to beautiful magnolia trees, there is a lot of beauty to take in when the antebellum home owners of Columbus, Mississippi, open their homes to the public.

Every spring, thousands of people from all over the world travel to Columbus to take part in the annual Spring Pilgrimage event.

The event kicked off with a crawfish and shrimp boil April 6 at the Tennessee Williams Home Lawn. Other events included a half-marathon and 5K, Catfish in the Alley and the Mayor's Unity Picnic the following Saturday.

This year marks the Pilgrimage's 75th year, and over 90 volunteers from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, wanted to ensure it was memorable. Donning dresses and confederate uniforms from the time period, volunteers traveled to the homes to assist with the tours. The volunteers performed in a variety of roles; from hosting and talking about the history of the home to acting and telling a person's story.

"I have great pride in being able to be a part of this beautiful tradition in Columbus," said Allison Strouse, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Stephen Strouse, 14th Security Forces Squadron. "Being a hostess, I learned many stories about the Amzi Love house. But what sets the home apart from the others is it was built in 1848 and has the original furnishings from when Amzi Love built the house for his bride, Edith Wallace. The house is also connected by a beautiful garden with the Lincoln Home, which is a wonderful bed and breakfast."

From the tale of Miss Elizabeth Kennebrew (a young girl who stayed at Temple Heights forever) to the Colonnade gardens where visitors could enjoy a mint julep, all of the homes had a story or unique feature that set them apart from the rest.

"The history you can learn about these old homes is interesting, and I love giving back to my community," said Lindsay Clabaugh, spouse of 1st Lt. Donald Clabaugh, 14th Student Squadron. "The home owners are also awesome and it's fun to dive into the local traditions."

Lindsay volunteered at Bryn Bella and at Temple Heights. She guided visitors at Temple Heights but had a speaking role at Bryn Bella.

"Bryn Bella is not your typical 'fancy' Antebellum home because it's a working plantation," she said. "The story here is of a working family, and of a widow who had to support 11



Courtesy Photo/Allison Strouse

Allison Strouse, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Stephen Strouse, 14th Security Forces Squadron, and Lauren May, spouse of Staff Sgt. Charles May, 14th SFS, pose for a photo April 8 at the Amzi Love Home. Allison said that as a hostess, she learned many stories about the Amzi Love Home.

children on her own after her husband died. It's beautiful in its own way."

Lindsay said the experience was unique and educational. Melissa McArthur, wife of Col. Howard McArthur, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, was the person in charge of coordinating volunteers from Columbus AFB. She was unable to volunteer during last year's Pilgrimage but was determined to help with the 2015 event.

"I loved it," Melissa said. "I was shocked with the amount of volunteers we got from the base but it was so exciting to see!"

Melissa worked at Temple Heights five times playing the role of Elizabeth Winnifred Brownrigg. Her character and character's husband, General Richard T. Brownrigg, built the home in 1837 and were originally from North Carolina. She said she had Pilgrimage visitors from North Carolina as well as people from all different areas around the world and that really surprised her.

Men had a chance to wear clothing from the 19th century as well by contacting the Columbus-Lowndes Visitors Bu-



Courtesy photo/Dhang Nunan Ombao Sommers

Columbus Air Force Base volunteers pose for a photo outside of the Shadowlawn antebellum home April 7 in Columbus, Mississippi, during the 2015 Spring Pilgrimage. Over 90 volunteers from Columbus Air Force Base assisted at numerous homes during the two-week event.

reau. Capt. Mellette Hoffer, 48th Flying Training Squadron, volunteered at numerous locations while clothed in a confederate soldier uniform from the time period.

"My favorite part of the experience was seeing all of the homes and learning about their history," Hoffer said.

Holfer said he and his family all volunteered at the Colonnade gardens where they dressed up, had a picnic outside, and played pick-up sticks to entertain the children. He also volunteered at Shadowlawn in the gentleman's parlor, which is historically a place where men would retire after dinner to play cards and drink with their friends.

It is not too late to still take part in the festivities. The Pilgrimage runs through April 18.

"The best part of being a part of the military is the chance to live in new places and experience new things," Allison said. "This is something I will be able to look back at and say I was a part of during my time at Columbus AFB. Not only being able to have a rewarding experience but also meeting so many new friends, I would recommend this to anyone who is interested in volunteering."

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.

Military Personnel Section new hours

As of March 30, the Military Personnel Section is expanding its customer service hours.

The new hours are:

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesdays

7:30 a.m. - noon on Thursdays

The MPS also reminds Team BLAZE that in-processing is conducted at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Appointments are also available online. For more information contact the MPS at 434-2626.

Take action, be prepared for tornado season

2nd Lt. Christopher Valencia
14th Civil Engineering Squadron Readiness & Emergency Management Flight Commander

At the direction of President Obama, the Federal Emergency Management Agency created the America's PrepareAthon! campaign. The goal of this campaign is to provide opportunities for public and government employees to learn more about the immediate hazards that affect their bases and communities.

The goal of this endeavor is to increase the number of people who comprehend what emergencies could happen at Columbus, know what steps to take to ensure safety, and be able to take action to increase preparedness. Columbus Air Force Base and the surrounding community are in a very high risk area for tornadoes. In 2014 alone, our area experienced four tornadoes. In support of national preparedness month, we are going to give some information on being prepared and safe during tornado season.

Before
Buy a NOAA Weather Radio: This will provide warnings and give information on if a tornado is heading your way.

Tornado Watch vs Tornado Warning: A watch is issued when conditions are conducive to the formation of a tornado. A warning is issued when a tornado has touched down, or when weather radar has indicated tornadic activity.

Determine a Safe Spot: In your home it is the most interior room, with no windows, on the lowest floor. In a two story home, under the stairs is the best place. Your safest bet is always underground; however this is not always possible.

During
Tornado Watch: monitor local radio and T.V. for further develop-



ments. Be prepared to take cover.
Tornado Warning: take cover in your designated "safe spot."
Warning Sirens: long and continuous. Take immediate cover. Try and cover up with pillows, blankets, cushions or a mattress. Protect your head by covering it with your arms.
In an Open Building: Find a restroom or inner hallway and protect your head with your arms.
In an Automobile/Outside: Leave your vehicle and find shelter in a sturdy building. If no building is available, find an area lower (ditch or depression) than the road and cover your head. As a last resort,

stay in your car, with your seatbelt on, and lower your head below the windows. Do not seek shelter under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a ditch or depression.
Mobile Home: Leave immediately. Find a sturdy structure or a low lying area.
After
Do not enter damaged buildings, they have most likely been structurally compromised and are prone to collapse.
Watch out for downed power lines and other hazardous debris.
For more information on how to prepare, visit ready.gov/prepare.

2015 Earth Day

Columbus Air Force Base will celebrate Earth Day April 22.
This year Team BLAZE will clean the streams on the golf course. The event will run from 10 a.m. until completion and starts and ends at Freedom Park.
About eight to 10 volunteers are needed. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Work will involve being in the stream bed; wear water shoes or sneakers that can be dried out. Wearing sunscreen, a hat and warm-weather clothing is advised.
Please come out and join us and lunch will be provided at Freedom Park after the clean-up. Lunch will be a burger burn that AAFES has donated in appreciation of the volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Mike Blythe at 434-7353 or mike.blythe@columbus.af.mil.



Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use of both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when on sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- Roughly 2 out of 3 fire deaths happen in homes with no working smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.

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Ten seconds later, that picture still exists

Liz Jacobson
USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — There is a conversation many teenagers have had with their parents or friends, me included.
"Hey, don't worry! It'll be fine; all of the pictures I send disappear after ten seconds. That's how Snapchat works."
While many teenagers only share their silly, cross-eyed, quadruple-chinned faces with friends, there are a growing number of teenagers sending inappropriate content that "will disappear."
High school students all feel a certain level of anonymity or safety that does not exist while using the Internet and apps like Tinder, Omegle, Chat Roulette, Instagram, and Snapchat. Unfortunately, it is incredibly simple for the receiver to take advantage of the sent content, and through the picture may disappear after 10 seconds, it can actually last a lot longer than that. While these apps can easily be used inappropriately, the apps themselves are not bad, but should just be used responsibly.

It is easy to protect yourself from online predators, but it is rarely done. The most effective way to keep information secure is to lock any social media accounts and turn all privacy settings on. Many people spend their time clicking on pictures and profiles but it is impossible to know who is viewing your profile. It could be a friend from school or it could very easily be an online predator. Before friending or accepting anyone's

follow request, it is necessary to actually know who they are. Social media is a great tool for keeping in touch with friends, new or old, and family members, but it is important to use caution and be responsible.

I have many friends that pride themselves on the fact they have over one, two, or ten thousand followers. This is a dangerous because it is impossible to be safe with so many unknown people seeing so much of their lives.

That behavior and feeling of invincibility starts early. I remember during middle school that Omegle was the next best thing on the Internet. At sleepovers or on a Saturday afternoons, young girls and boys would sit around a laptop and pretend to be whomever they thought of, giving off silly answers and laughing at the accents they pretended their user to have. However, we all knew that unless you wanted to see the "gross stuff" you had to turn the camera off. Many of us have since moved on from this fear and feel that sending pornographic content over apps is okay.

This attitude towards sharing everything on the Internet has also lead to unfortunate, yet completely avoidable situations. Why do so many teenagers participate in an activity that can have so many bad repercussions?

Teenage girls reported to Dosomething.org and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy that there are three major reasons for their sending of nude photos: as a joke, to feel sexy, or because of peer pressures.

Sending inappropriate photos is not a joke nor will it boost

a person's confidence. While it may be a thrill at first, the psychological damage could deteriorate a girl's or boy's self-esteem. Peer pressure is a horrible, but a real-life thing. Everyone experiences peer pressure at some point or another in his or her lifetime, but your body, whether you are male or female, is yours.
For teenagers, Snapchat is the most common app where pictures are shared. Snapchat is available for anyone, regardless of age and it is based on the idea of pictures disappearing forever after 10 seconds. Despite this, it is easy to either screenshot the picture or use a third-party app that will save the picture automatically for you. These pictures can be used against the sender at the receiver's convenience.

Even two people that have a trusting relationship should not partake in this kind of activity for two reasons: First, it could be considered illegal. Second, it can easily be shared or shown to others that were not the intended audience.

According to Dosomething.org, 17 percent of "sexters" share the messages they receive with others, and 55 percent of those share them with more than one person. Everyone wants to believe that their friends would never betray them, but we have all seen the stories of a girl's pictures being spread around school as a prank or because she made someone mad.

The number of people sharing inappropriate pictures is increasing. Sources say that 1 in 5 teenagers are sharing provocative photos, but it may be even scarier that the senders are getting younger. It is hard to imagine that 7th and 8th grade students are sending such mature content, but it is happening.

Challenge coins: A tradition of excellence

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Airman 1st Class Deana Heitzman

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Throughout the time we spend in the military, we collect many things. Whether they are mementos, awards or habits, such items are kept to remember those special moments we never wish to forget. Challenge coins are an example of these memories, as they are a form of recognition of the hard work and excellence an individual has displayed.
From coins presented by the president, a chief master sergeant or a first sergeant, their value is determined by each individual, but the true history of the challenge coin dates back to World War I, when an American pilot was shot down and captured in Germany.

While escaping from the grasp of the Germans, the pilot made his way to France, where they believed he was a spy and sentenced him to be executed. To prove his identity and save his life, he revealed a bronze medallion with his flying squadron's emblem, confirming that he was an American pilot. The French spared his life and celebrated by giving him a bottle of wine instead.
After this incident, it became a tradition that all members of the squadron carried their

medallion, sparking challenge coins to become a trademark for military tradition and pride.

One of the more sought-after coins for Air Force enlisted is the Airman's coin. After the long weeks of basic military training, the Airman's coin ceremony officially marks the transition from a "trainee" to an Airman.

"When I received my first coins for graduating both basic training and financial services apprentice school, it meant I was a part of something," said Lt. Col. Michelle Libbey, the 31st Comptroller Squadron commander.

"Receiving a coin is a sense of pride and a form of identification," said Libbey, who enlisted in 1996 and later commissioned in 2001.

While most service members proudly display their coins for others to see, some seek to always carry their most important coin in their pocket in the event of a "coin check."

"Although coins have become less popular from when I joined the military, I still carry a coin in my pocket when I go to official functions," Libbey said. "Because if you do not have one, and someone else performs a coin check, you are responsible for buying everyone a round of refreshing beverages and that can get expensive."
The tradition of coin checking also began in Germany after World War I. American per-



sonnel who were stationed in Germany adopted the local ritual of "Pfenning" checks.
A Pfenning was the lowest denomination of German currency. If a service member did not have a Pfenning, they would have to buy the next round of drinks. This ritual carried over and became part of the challenge coin tradition.
Though the legacy of coin checking typically stayed within the enlisted ranks, Libbey explained how officers have their own traditions with challenge coins.
Known as a "first salute" coin or a "silver dollar" salute, a coin was presented to the first enlisted member who saluted the newly-commissioned officer. The 19th century phrase that encompassed this action was, "You have to buy your first salute and then earn every salute thereafter, through your performance and by gaining respect of your subordinates." This is to honor the enlisted personnel who help officers achieve their commission status.

"When I became a commander, creating a coin was one of the first things I wanted to do," Libbey said. "You want to have something that signifies excellence and to recognize the Airmen who are bringing more than average to the mission."
The challenge coin tradition that began in

The Airman's coin signifies the beginning of an enlisted member's career upon graduating basic military training. The original version of the Airman's coin featured an eagle clawing its way out of the coin with the words "Aerospace Power" under it. The most recent coin replaced the eagle with the new Air Force symbol.

World War I exhibits commendable service, a lively legacy and supports unit morale across the Air Force. Although all coins are different, they tell a story for each recipient and give a personal touch on recognition.
"The tradition definitely started in the enlisted ranks, but they are no less important to me as an officer," Libbey said. "When I look at my coins, they are like a tapestry to me. They paint a picture of where I have been throughout the past 19 years and they represent the incredible people I have met."

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.)

First Term Officers' PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop is required by AFI for all newly assigned personnel to their first station. The event will be 9-10 a.m. April 21. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

TAP Education Track

This transition event is held 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 21-22. The workshop prepares individuals for the college application process. It addresses topics such as identifying educational goals, funding, and researching and comparing institutions. Upon completing the Educational track, members will be prepared to submit an application to institution, schedule session with a counselor and connect with a Student Vet Org on campus.

Summer Employment USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is 4-5:15 p.m. April 22. This workshop will give young people information required to job search, navigate and apply through USAJobs for summer employment. The prerequisites are establishment of USAJobs account and profile prior to attending workshop. For additional information or to register 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 5-7 p.m. April 23. Please call 434-2790 in advance to register.

East MS Job Fair

A job fair is scheduled at East Mississippi Community College, GT Campus Mayhew, Mississippi, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 30. For a list of vendors go to jobfairs.ms.gov or for more information call 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. May 4-8. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has Seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, MS 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 call 434-2839.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lafayette JROTC get first-hand look at Columbus AFB



Courtesy photo/2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

Senior Airman Mario Jaquez, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, briefs students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps of Lafayette High School, Oxford, Mississippi, April 14 during a tour of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Along with the Fire Department, the students visited various areas around base including the simulators at the 14th Operations Group building and the Military Working Dog Kennels for a demonstration.

May 11-12. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants to make. To register and for more information call 434-2790.

Pre-separation Counseling

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

Pre, 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.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen, (both single and married) their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges, such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC call 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

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

Temporary Jobs for the Summer

Job opportunities include: Clerical, Life-guard, Recreation Aid, Computer Clerk, General Laborer and others. Posting on USA Jobs began March 9 at usajobs.gov.

Base Community Organizations

Learn How to Read Your LES

Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Well, Finance has you covered. If you would like for Finance to come to your next CC call or Profession Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Senior Airman Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

Chapel Schedule

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

Catholic Community

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

Protestant Community

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

Who is Melendez?

Airman 1st Class John Day
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the fourth article in a continuation of a 2014 series on the memorializations on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.)

The achievements of Airmen, Team BLAZE civilians and members of the local community are sometimes so great they are worthy of special recognition in the form of a dedication to a particular object, be it a facility, building, street, plaza, hall, room or otherwise.

Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez-Sanchez is one of those Airmen, worthy of honor and remembrance for his firm adherence to the core values and unwavering discipline.

Melendez is remembered at Columbus AFB with the naming of the Ground-to-Air Transmitter and Receiver site in his honor. The GATR site was named Melendez Radio Site April 9, 2009, and bears a small plaque emblazoned with his name, squadron, duty title and the words Leader, Follower, Mentor.

Melendez was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, on Nov. 8, 1972. He enlisted in the Air Force in October 1995. Sanchez was assigned to the 100th Communications Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, England, as a Ground Radio Maintenance Apprentice for the next five years, until December 2001 when he was reassigned to Columbus AFB, Mississippi, with the 14th Communications Squadron. It was here he made such an impact on the members of Team BLAZE by exhibiting leadership and his strong work ethic.

His next move was to Langley AFB, Virginia, in July of 2005, assigned to the 1st Communications Squadron, Combat Systems Flight, as the Combat Ground Radio Maintenance NCO in charge.

After completing training at Hurlburt Field, Florida, Melendez deployed to Djibouti, Africa, in support of Joint Task-Force Horn of Africa. While on a training mission in the Godoria Range, he and nine other Airmen and Marines died when the CH-53 helicopter he was aboard crashed into the Gulf of Aden, near Ras Siyyan in northern Djibouti, Feb. 17, 2006.

His military awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Crane, former 14th Communications Squadron Commander, spoke highly of Melendez and respected him greatly not only as an Airman, but as a role model and leader.

"If anyone deserves the respect and admiration of our country, it is Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez," Crane said. "His gentle grace and contagious grin made everyone love to serve with him. He believed in a fierce determination to do what is right and care for those in his charge. He diligently and patiently tracked and managed all the communications work on our airfields, which are some of busiest in the Air Force, while taking time to mentor and encourage other Airmen through periods of intense operations tempo. Despite exhausting days and nights at work, I admired his consistent presence at home and in church with [his wife and children]. This is the kind of person I hold up to my own children as the role model I hope they will follow."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day

The Ground-to-Air Transmitter and Receiver site on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, pays tribute to Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez-Sanchez, an Airman previously assigned to the 14th Communication Squadron, who died while deployed to Djibouti, Africa. The GATR site bears a small plaque emblazoned with his name, squadron, duty title and the words Leader, Follower, Mentor.

CAFB remembers Holocaust

Capt. Mark Hancock
48th Flying Training Squadron

It has been 70 years since the United States and its Allies liberated the concentration camps of the Jewish Holocaust, but we must never forget the horrors and atrocities that humans inflicted on other humans during this time.

Although Columbus, Mississippi, is a long way from Germany and Poland, we are choosing to remember and honor those individuals and cultures that were imprisoned in a concentration camp, liberated a concentration camp, or in some way were affected by the Holocaust, by learning about their sacrifices as we celebrate the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

On April 21, Columbus AFB will host a Holocaust Remembrance Day museum at 2 p.m. at the Columbus Club. The museum will consist of an exhibition that focuses on three concentration camps: Dachau, Buchenwald and Ravensbruck. While Auschwitz is the most recognizable and notorious camp, several other camps, such as the aforementioned, also housed thousands of Jewish prisoners, whose only crime was of being from Jewish descent. Our goal is to reflect upon and honor those who experienced the Holocaust, either as prisoners or liberators, by learning more about their experiences.

There is no more distinct event in the history of mankind that blatantly displays the evils humans can possess than the Holocaust. By brainwashing his countrymen with fantastic rhetoric and elaborate showmanship, Adolf Hitler led the greatest purge of a human

race by killing millions of Jews, from several different nationalities. These Jews were not killed because they were from a different country, had different political views, or even opposed Hitler, they were imprisoned and murdered merely because of their origin – in other words, they were completely innocent.

Today, hundreds of people are being killed in the Middle East and Africa because of their origin. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria known as ISIS, makes the news almost every day because they have discovered a new fanatical way to kill someone who was born differently than they were, or holds different views than they hold. How eerily similar this sounds to the Holocaust. Although the "Fourth Reich" has not formed and no concentration camps exist, what an important time to pause and reflect on human history and to notice how scary it can be that history can repeat itself.

The United States of America provides a stronghold for freedoms and liberties, but sometimes Americans become isolated both ideologically and geographically from the rest of the world. This isolation can provide a comfort that we cannot be touched by the rest of the world, but it can also hinder our motivation to become involved nationally and individually when we must act on the side of right. In World War II, we chose to act on the side of right, and in doing so liberated the concentration camps in partnership with our Allies. Use this day to honor those whose lives were endangered and affected by the Holocaust by educating yourself further on what these heroes endured.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

It has been 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp.

The 14th Flying Training Wing will observe this celebrated event with a Holocaust Museum at the Columbus Club Tuesday, April 21 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Please come out and share in this observation.



Patriot Award received for commitment to Guard, Reserve Airmen



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day

Emmett Shaffer, President, Gen4 Services LLC, accepts the Patriot Award from Jamie Mott, 14th Operation Support Squadron Parachute Shop Technician , who nominated Shaffer for the award, and Col. John Ascherl, Commander of the 286th Air Component Operation Squadron, a tenant unit of the 186th Air Refueling Wing Key Field, Mississippi, April 9 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts of Shaffer, and his company who diligently strive to support Guardsmen and Reservists like Mott to ensure both Guard and civilian contract performance requirements are fulfilled.

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight



Nominee
Name/Grade: Senior Airman Beret Proctor

Unit: 50th Flying Training Squadron

Information:


1. Home Town: Whiteville, North Carolina
2. Time in the Air Force: 3 years, 10 months
3. Time at Columbus AFB: 3.5 years
4. Career Short Term Goals: Retraining, finish degree.
5. Career Long Term Goals: “Stay as long as the AF will let me,” make Chief.
6. Nominated by: Senior Master Sgt. Gary Kimes
7. Nomination reason: Proctor is an amazing Airman who has an infectious “can-do” attitude that inspires those around him to be better.

The Doolittle Raiders - April 18, 1942

In one of WWII's first truly joint operations, 80 crewmembers of the U.S. Army Air Forces trained under the guidance of U.S. Navy pilots to master taking off in a fully-loaded B-25 Mitchell bomber from the deck of an aircraft carrier. Their efforts resulted in the first aerial attack of the Japanese home islands by U.S. bombers in World War II.

Led by then-Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, these pioneers of Global Strike brought the war to the enemy and, while not inflicting serious damage, the mission's impact upon American morale was incalculable. That, and the mission compelled the Japanese to reallocate some of their forces to assist in the homeland defense mission, thus removing valuable wartime assets from the fight.

The newly built aircraft carrier USS Hornet was chosen to carry Doolittle's B-25's to Japan.



The aircraft - North American B-25 Mitchell

More than 9,800 B-25's were built. The aircraft, loved by its crews, served in every combat theater of WWII.

The mission - Attack Japan's home islands

A B-25 Mitchell bomber leaves the deck of the USS Hornet on its way to attack Japan.

National Archives and Records Administration

The original plan called for the launch to take place about 250 miles from the coast of Japan. However, the armada was spotted by a Japanese patrol boat, Nitō Maru, which ruined the element of surprise. While the boat was quickly sunk by the task force ship USS Nashville, Japanese forces were alerted and Doolittle decided to launch much earlier than originally intended.

The crews flew an average of 2,250 miles, and were in the skies about 13 hours, which at the time was the longest B-25 mission ever. 15 of the 16 planes crash landed on or near the Chinese coast, while one flew north to the USSR, landing near Vladivostok.

The crews

14 of the 16 crews survived the mission, but two crewmen drowned after bailing out at sea. One crewman successfully bailed out, but fell off a cliff in the dark and was killed. Two crews (eight flyers) were captured by the Japanese (three were executed, one died in captivity) and the remainder were prisoners until their liberation in August 1945.

A joint operation

The concept for the mission was proposed by Capt. Francis Low, USN, a member of the Chief of Naval Operations staff, who worked closely with the Army Air Forces to turn his idea into reality.

Team Doolittle

The crews manned 16 aircraft which attacked five Japanese cities, then made their escape to the west in what became a legendary mission which continues to inspire Airmen to this day.

Training at Eglin Field, Fla., the crews mastered short takeoffs and proceeded to meet the aircraft carrier USS Hornet at Alameda Naval Station, Calif.

The 16 B-25s were craned aboard and fastened to the deck for the journey across the Pacific.

Length: 52 ft. 11 in
Height: 15 ft. 9 in
Max. speed: 300 mph
Range: 2,400 miles
Wingspan: 67 ft. 7 in
Engines: 2 x Wright 1,700 h.p.
Cruising speed: 230 mph
Service ceiling: 24,200 ft

SOURCES: U.S. Navy, USAF, NARA / Graphic by Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Sarracino

Car Club Autocross dates released

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
4th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Sports Car Club of America is hosting four two-day Autocross events on Columbus Air Force Base's SAC ramp in 2015 for Team BLAZE members.

The event occurs through the year on base and allows drivers to race their personal vehicles around a track, allowing them to hone their personal capabilities while driving while also competing against others for the best time.

The Autocross events have been a safe racing outlet for Airmen and other participants on Columbus AFB lasting for over 15 years. Autocross will use the full SAC ramp. See below the approved Autocross 2015 dates:

April TBD
June 13-14
Aug. 15-16
Oct. 3-4

For more information on the Autocross call 574-1410.

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.

New Hours of Operation for Library

Effective April 1, the new hours of operation for the Library are as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday closed; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday open 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Sunday open 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Air Force Club Scholarship

Club Membership has its rewards. Submit your essay online March 2 – May 1 for a chance to win a \$1000 or \$500 scholarship. Open to Air Force Club members and their eligible dependents. For more information, rules and instructions, visit: MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs.

New Lower Prices at Golf Course

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering new lower prices for club memberships and golf fees. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Supply Drive for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

The Youth Center needs your help with their Community Service Project. Paper, pens, markers, etc. can be dropped off at the Youth Center Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. April 1 – 30. For more information and a complete list of items needed, please contact 434-2504.

Independence Pool Opens

Purchase your pool passes now at Outdoor Recreation. The base pool will open for the pool season on May 22 at noon. For more information about swim times and lessons, contact 434-2505.

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.

Get Golf Ready

Learn the basics of golf with Whispering Pines Golf Course at 6 p.m. daily April 28 – May 1. Includes lessons on chipping, putting irons, woods, and specialty shots; once completed each participant receives a \$50 credit toward a set of clubs purchased thru the pro shop and two rounds of golf with a cart. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Disc Golf Tournament

The Fitness Center is offering a single round 18-hole disc golf tournament April 29 at 5 p.m. Commander's trophy points awarded. All equipment provided. Sign up at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Make a SPLASH at Independence Pool

at the Columbus Club

The Pool will open May 22 and will be open daily from Noon to 7 p.m.

Get your Pre-Season Pool Pass at Outdoor Recreation (434-2505) starting April 15.

	Non-Club Mbrs	Club Mbrs
One Person	\$3	\$2
Children 5 & under	No Charge	No Charge

FAMILY POOL PASS PRICE LIST

	Non-Club Mbrs	Club Mbrs
One Person	\$35	\$30
Couple	\$60	\$50
Three Person Family	\$80	\$70
Four Person Family	\$95	\$85

Summer Swim Lessons

Swim Lessons at the Pool are available throughout the summer. Classes are open to children and adults. Call Outdoor Recreation for information on dates and pricing.

Pool Party

Make a splash by booking your next event, birthday party and/or squadron activity at the pool!

FMI, 434-2491



Youth Basketball Registration

The Youth Center is offering youth basketball registration 4 – 21 May for ages 8 – 18. The cost is \$10 per player; register 4 – 8 May and save \$5 per player. All games played on base. Physicals required for registration. Play will begin in June. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

America's Kids Run

Join the Youth Center for this free event for kids of all ages May 16. Run begins at 8 a.m. at the Youth Center parking lot. Register online at americaskidsrun.org. 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 Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

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

Columbus Air Force Base 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.

Eagle Eyes promotes community’s involvement in security

Special Agent Frank Mosura
Air Force OSI Detachment 406
Special Agent in Charge

The 14th Security Forces Squadron is here to defend the base, but everyone can and should help ensure Columbus Air Force Base is safe and secure through the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Eagle Eyes program.

The Air Force OSI and Security Forces rely heavily on the eyes and ears of the entire community. Airmen and base citizens are in the best position daily to notice anything out of the “norm.”

Historically, the majority of terrorist attacks were preceded by several indicators, which if reported could have possibly prevented the attacks and saved lives. Below are some things you can watch for:

Surveillance: Recording or monitoring activities with or

without vision-enhancing devices, taking notes, photographs, drawing diagrams, etc.

Elicitation: Attempts to obtain information by social media (friend requests from strangers) mail, fax, telephone, or in person about military operations or personnel.

Tests of security: Attempts to provoke and measure security’s reaction time or base personnel’s alertness to identify strengths or weaknesses for exploitation.

Acquiring supplies: Stealing or purchasing explosives, weapons, ammo, uniforms, IDs, passes, or badges.

Suspicious persons/vehicles out of place: People who don’t seem to belong in the work center, neighborhood or place of business.

Dry run: The test run, when terrorists rehearse their plan, map out routes, and determine the timing and flow of their attack.



Deploying assets: People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

The top four indicators are the most common experienced here recently at Columbus AFB and we need your help to ensure the continued flow of potential threat information to stay a few steps ahead of our adversaries.

Take an active role in your base’s safety and security by reporting criminal and suspicious activity immediately to local law enforcement, base security forces and AFOSI Det 406 at 434-7128. More information regarding the Eagle Eyes program is available at osi.af.mil/eagleeyes.

If you prefer to remain anonymous, you can use the AFOSI anonymous tip line by visiting <https://www.tipsubmit.com> or download the TipSubmit Mobile application from your provider’s marketplace; just select “Federal/Military” and then “Air Force Office of Special Investigations” or text “AFOSI” plus your tip information to 274637 (CRIMES).

Preventing sexual assault in the Air Force is our enduring responsibility

Gen. Larry Spencer
Air Force Vice Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON — As we begin Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, clear signs point to the progress we have made in combating sexual assault. We can cite encouraging numbers in the areas of prevalence, reporting and convictions; however, this serves as only the beginning of an enduring effort. This effort must continue without pause and we must not lose sight of it for a moment.

Regrettably, in the few short years since we energized our efforts Air Force-wide to prevent sexual assault, echoes about shameful activities and behaviors from our past sometimes still resonate. Most recently, a special interest group criticized the Air Force for an issue involving inappropriate material containing offensive language that was addressed in 2012. Disciplinary action was taken against those involved in the incident.

Any activity that goes against our core values and does not treat our people with dignity and respect is unacceptable and does not represent the culture we expect from all Airmen today and going forward. Every Airman is aware of what the Air Force’s expectations are about sexual assault awareness and preventing sexual assault altogether. Leaders and Airmen at every level must foster a climate of mutual respect, dignity and inclusion for all Airmen.

In an effort to ensure the appropriate climate and culture, the Air Force Chief of Staff implemented a Health and Welfare Inspection in 2012. The goal of this inspection was to create a professional environment

for all Airmen. This inspection was part of a bigger effort to refocus our force and ensure commanders create and foster healthy and respectful work environments. In this area, we continue to see positive results and steady progress.

For instance, in less than a year’s time, the Air Force Office of Special Investigation has focused resources and efforts to reduce the time required to investigate instances of sexual assault from 179 days to a standard of 75 days today. AFOSI also developed advanced sexual assault investigations training and enhanced field evidence processing resources.

Additionally, more progress was made because of Department of Defense Instruction 5505.18. Organizations now initiate investigations on all rape, sexual assault, aggravated and abusive sexual contact allegations. These changes in law and policy resulted in an immediate increase in the number of sexual assault investigations conducted by AFOSI.

Over the past three years, the Air Force has had fewer sexual assault incidents and more victims reporting these crimes. In fact, approximately one in three victims reported crimes in fiscal year 2014 as compared to one in six in fiscal year 2012. Air Force surveys show Airmen are more comfortable coming forward and reporting incidents as an increased focus is placed on care and support for victims. We are going in the right direction, but we still have a lot of work to do.

It is important to note, the Air Force has made significant progress in both its sexual assault prevention and response efforts. Here are some examples since 2011:

- We have reinforced the commander’s role as central to preventing and responding

to sexual assaults in their unit.

- We have required commanders to be evaluated on their unit’s climate assessment and that these results are included in the commander’s annual performance report.

- We realigned and restructured the SAPR program by standing up a cross-functional directorate reporting directly to the Vice Chief of Staff which is led by a major general. The directorate includes a 34-person cross-functional team of experts in the Pentagon responsible for policy, operational guidance, force-wide training, and program development; all designed to help us operate an Air Force free from sexual assault.

- The Air Force funded an additional 32 sexual assault response coordinators and 91 full-time victim advocates at installations across the service to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force has reviewed and significantly revised the sexual assault response coordinator’s course to cover more content, update old content, and institute adult learning principals so that our SARCs can be more effective in the field. To maintain professional standards, all SARCs and full time victim advocates are now required to be nationally certified.

- The Air Force has trained an additional 75 sexual assault nurse examiners at medical facilities across the Air Force to strengthen our victim response capabilities.

- The Air Force stood-up a Special Victims’ Counsel Program that provides an attorney to advocate on behalf of sexual assault victims and enables judge advocates to assert their clients’ rights both in and out of court. The special victims’ counsel is the first of its kind to provide Airmen and their

family members who are victims of sexual assault with their own attorney. Additionally, improved AFOSI training along with establishing the Special Victims’ Counsel Program has led to a 90 percent increase in unrestricted reporting, allowing more thorough investigations.

- The Air Force established a special victims’ capability comprised of investigators, trial counsel, and victim witness assistance personnel and paralegals with specialized training in the unique dynamics of sexual assault cases. This team of professionals ensures the Air Force is appropriately holding alleged offenders accountable.

- In an effort to foster better synergy and provide better service to our Airmen reporting sexual assault and sexual harassment, in August of 2014, the Secretary of the Air Force directed new initiatives to harmonize our equal opportunity and sexual assault care for commanders and victims.

All of these actions represent significant strides we have made to enhance sexual assault awareness and now sexual assault prevention. Prevention is logically the next phase and only these efforts, when taken seriously at all levels in the Air Force, will further the cultural commitment we place on ensuring lasting change.

We share in common a profession of arms that holds us to a higher degree of commitment to institutional standards. This requires us to make the right choices for both ourselves and our fellow Airmen. Preventing sexual assault requires changing an atmosphere that enables such bad behaviors. This is simply because all Airmen deserve to serve our nation in an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Sexual assault survivor: One Airman’s story

By a Survivor

WASHINGTON — Sexual assault is a hot topic — one addressed in annual training and at commander’s calls throughout the Air Force — yet the details of victims’ stories are seldom mentioned. This is understandable. These crimes against service members are intensely personal. Also, as many survivors have learned, listeners don’t always know how to respond appropriately, which can make sharing one’s story awkward, even painful.

This is unfortunate. As humans we are drawn to stories. We reflect upon them and even internalize some of their values, ideas and attitudes. Stories communicate with extraordinary effectiveness, enabling us to learn not only from personal experience but also from others’ experiences. Are we missing out on a potentially powerful tool in the world of sexual assault prevention? Perhaps calling on survivors to bravely share their stories holds real potential for making those serving alongside them more aware of sexual assault and of ways they can prevent it in their spheres of influence. To that end, here is my story.

Like most men I know, I never really thought much about sexual assault. I saw the issue as predominately a female problem that only happened to males under highly unusual circumstances and in unusual settings, such as prison. So, each year I endured the Air Force’s mandatory sexual assault training but never examined people in my life for indicators of predatory behavior, or spent any time considering issues like stalking, grooming, or consent. Little did I know that, like many other victims of both genders, I was oblivious to the impending threat until it was too late.

Though the sexual assault I endured was not my fault, I failed to recognize the warning signs that escalated in the preceding months. Upon returning from a deployment, I found the girl I had been dating had unexpectedly moved most of her belongings into my house. I had left her a key to have her occasionally check on my house, but was nowhere near ready for her to move in. As our relationship had already become rocky during the deployment, her unilateral move forced me to break things off. I made certain to get back the key to my house, returned her belongings, and left the state on leave. That’s when the text messages started.

At first they came almost hourly, throughout the day and occasionally into the night. I read the first couple apologies and deleted the rest on sight. I tried to have the phone company block her, but at that time blocking texts required a restraining order from the court. Since my only other options were to get a new number or put up with it, I chose the latter.

When I returned from leave, the stalking escalated from text messages to showing up on my doorstep every few days. As she lived 45 minutes away, these were not visits of chance. I would ignore her, drive into my garage and shut the door. Before long, it was getting so bad that I remained locked in my house, except while I was at work, and only opened my door at night to get my mail. I discovered later on that she had purchased a house down the street from me. One day, I woke up to find every single window and door covered with post-it notes saying, “I’m sorry.” I didn’t even attempt to take the notes down for fear she’d come over while I removed them. The night before the sexual assault, I unlocked the door and checked my mail. Either I forgot to lock the deadbolt when I went inside or she made a copy of my key, but the outcome

was the same: she had access to me inside my house.

I remember waking up to her sitting beside me on the bed with her mouth and hands on me. I completely froze, unsure of what to do or how to react. At some point, she noticed that I was awake and said something, but I have no idea what that was. I was tremendously conflicted because my body was responding to something that I knew was completely wrong. She moved from oral sex to anal intercourse, which was far beyond anything we had engaged in physically during our relationship. I remember the pain and disgust from that but little else. When she finished, she tried to converse some more and attempted to cuddle, but I just lay there. Eventually she gave up and left, so I locked the door to the house and took a shower. I remember washing repeatedly, playing the events in my head over and over, unable to understand what had just happened. However, the thought that I had been sexually assaulted never even crossed my mind. I wrote it off as a horrible sexual encounter and tried not to think about it. There was no way I was ever going to tell anyone what had happened.

Over the next couple weeks my situation turned from bleak to completely despairing. Still reeling from the shock of the initial assault, I did nothing to stop her as she came over and assaulted me several more times. Each time I would try to wash off the shame from the events but felt powerless to stop them from happening. I had no will to resist doing what she wanted and felt completely broken and alone.

Many aspects of the assault made little sense to me. I knew that what had happened was wrong, but I blamed myself because my body had responded to the stimulation. In my mind, I paired the arousal with enjoyment and let my assailant continue. We also live in a society where males are expected to want sex all the time. To complain about having sex — no matter how wrong — would go against normal expectations of young men. Would I be seen as weak for not fighting back? Would I be seen as unmanly for not wanting to have sex with someone? If I ever got married, what would my wife think? My fears about how others would respond only drove me to further isolation. I was afraid of my assailant and let her do things to me that I never wanted to happen, but I couldn’t understand my fear, let alone explain it to someone else.

It wasn’t until weeks later, when I was talking with my sister, that I had the courage to describe what had taken place. She didn’t even hesitate to tell me that I had clearly been sexually assaulted. I argued that that was impossible. Only when she pointed out that I had been asleep and couldn’t possibly have given consent did I begin to realize the truth behind her assertion. I had seen the definition of sexual assault numerous times in Air Force briefings, but the lack of consent in my own case had never even dawned on me. With that newfound understanding, I gained the courage to file a police report. I don’t know what actions the police took, but I never saw my assailant again, and the text messages dwindled down but persisted until I finally changed my number. Eventually I notified the SARC on base and started down the road to recovery.

Through that process, I came to realize just how little I truly understood about sexual assault. A vast majority of sexual assaults occur between people with an existing association, be it through work, mutual friends or an intimate relationship. This goes for both males and females. I had always thought that fight or flight mechanisms were the only instinctive human responses

to danger. Think about when you hear a loud crash nearby: do you run toward it, run away immediately, or freeze and try to figure out what the sound is before taking either of the other two actions? I learned that many sexual assault victims never make it past the instinctive response of freezing. Additionally, many sexual predators groom their victims in order to decrease the likelihood of fighting back or fleeing. Some assailants use force or threats of force, but fear can be just as effective, as I learned through my situation. Control through fear is why many predators stalk their victims before, during or after sexual assaults. With cell phones and social media, stalking is becoming more prevalent and easier to engage in from a distance.

One of the final pieces I came to understand was the nature of control that impacted the events after the initial assault. For years, I blamed myself for everything that occurred after the initial incident. This changed when I heard how many sexual assault victims find themselves subjected to repeat assaults from the same perpetrator. Through grooming tactics, including manipulation and progressively undermining resistance, predators can more easily bypass normal defensive reactions and boundaries. Once those barriers have been removed, assailants use despair, shame, or fear to trap their victims and perpetuate the sexual abuse. This is particularly true within the first couple weeks, while the victim is suffering from the shock and trauma of the initial assault. Only upon hearing this did I begin to perceive that I had been assaulted — not once, but multiple times — and was not to blame for any of it.

Even still, it took me a long time to be comfortable with sharing my experiences. That all changed, due to some tremendous words of encouragement from a former wing command chief. I witnessed as he confidently stood in front of over 100 people and plainly laid out how he had been sexually assaulted as a young man. Unashamed, he proclaimed that while he had been victimized, sexual assault does not define him. Rather, he is defined by who he chooses to be: a chief, a leader, an Airman. That single moment affected a complete paradigm shift in my thinking. My sexual assault does not define me. Sure, it impacted my life, but it does not make me who I am. From that realization, I found the courage to begin telling my story. With each person I told, the fear of ostracism diminished and I truly came to understand the value behind the chief’s words. My hope is that those words will ring true for other victims of sexual assault. Victimization of males has no correlation to strength, manliness, or sexual orientation. The simple fact is that they are victims of a terrible crime.

My story is just one of thousands from the lives of our Airmen. You may not personally identify with my experience, and if not I’m glad. But I do hope you will consider how you can take an active role in prevention. This calls for conscious commitment, and, I realize, you may have to challenge yourself in some areas. Will you be able to recognize situations where inappropriate control could lead to a sexual assault? Will you remain vigilant for stalking, grooming and other predatory behaviors in order to intervene before matters escalate? Will you stay attuned to signs of distress, including isolation, and significant behavioral or performance changes? Will you reach out to those within your sphere of influence and offer support without judgment or retribution? Only you can answer, and committing to these actions will cost you time and attention. Yet the Airmen we serve alongside are worth your effort. So, if you listen to our stories, I urge you — take them to heart.

Since 1942, the Air Force Aid Society has helped Airmen and their families in times of need. It may be for an everyday expense like a utility bill, something far more unexpected like the need to fly home for a family funeral, or a request for a special piece of medical equipment to improve the quality of life for a disabled child. Whether your emergency is big or small, AFAS is here to help, just like we did in 2014 when we provided over 18,000 emergency assists totaling \$9.6 million.

Help us to continue the AFAS tradition of "Airman helping Airmen" with your donation to the Air Force Assistance Fund. You can be confident that every dollar supports a fellow Airman. Thank you for your support.



The Air Force Enlisted Village mission is simple: to provide a home. No one should be homeless or living in less than desirable conditions, yet it sometimes happens to our enlisted Air Force widows. When the surviving spouses of retired enlisted Air Force members come to us in need, we offer the hand of kindness and the gift of a home.

Through your generous support, we give over \$1.1 million annually in aid to these widows to live in a safe, dignified, caring community. AFEV provides support not just once, but for the life of our residents. Spouses are our priority, but we serve the entire Air Force family. AFEV offers a home to moms of active-duty and retired military members and provides temporary housing to surviving spouses of enlisted members who die while on active duty or to active-duty members when tragedy strikes. 100 percent of your gift will help our Air Force family members in times of need or for the rest of their lives.

Since 1975, AFEV has provided a safe, comfortable home to thousands of military widows. Amenities and conveniences such as transportation, prescription pick up service, fitness activities, social events and more are available to ensure the health and well-being of all residents.



Air Force Assistance Fund: Commitment to Caring

Maj. Nathan Preuss
14th Flying Training Wing Air Force
Assistance Fund Installation
Project Officer

"Commitment to Caring." That's the theme for the Air Force Assistance Fund 2015 campaign.

This phrase distinguishes the Air Force from other civilian occupations because this isn't just a job. By joining, we've chosen a profession of commitment, dedication, and sacrifice. Most of us don't display these just in uniform; we live them out all day, every day.

Over the past several years, Team BLAZE has demonstrated our commitment to caring through AFAF. We've consistently exceeded the average per capita contribution of other U.S. Air Force bases. This year, we're well on our way to beating our goals again.

It's always inspiring to hear how Airmen help fellow Airmen. Today, we'd like you to meet Tech. Sgt. Damon Snead. His story will give you a glimpse into the kind of impact your contributions to AFAF have made in the life of just one individual.

How did the AFAF support you when you needed it most?

In 2006, I was a young staff sergeant stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, when my grandmother suddenly passed away. I needed to get to Birmingham, Alabama, for her funeral,

but the ticket was \$1,500. I didn't have a credit card or that kind of money in savings, so my supervisor told me to see the Airman and Family Readiness Center. That same day, they cut me a check for the cost of the ticket. I paid it back over time, but would have missed her funeral if it wasn't for the Air Force Aid Society.

What kind of impact did that make on you personally and professionally?

Personally, it played a huge part in why I made the Air Force a career. When things are at their worst, the Air Force is always there for you. Professionally, I gained experience as a supervisor. If the

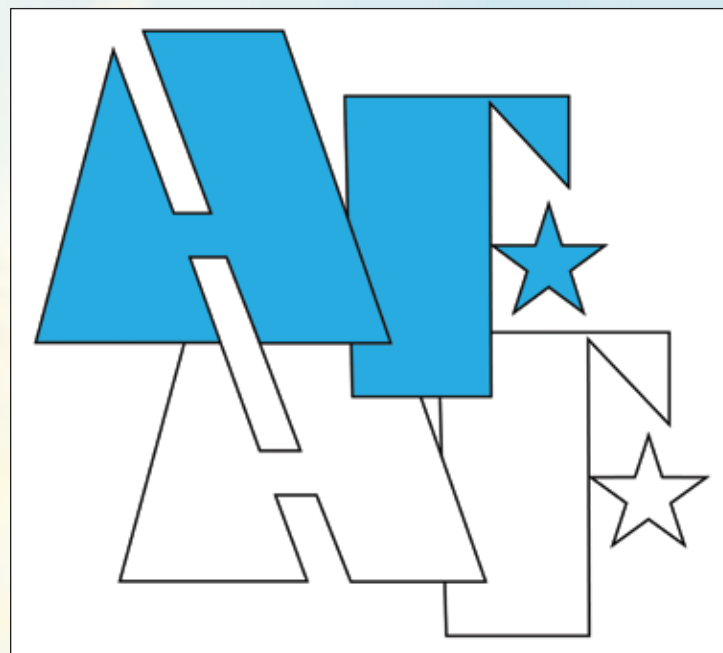
situation ever arises when one of my subordinates may need assistance, I know where to send them.

How has your experience inspired you to give back to the AFAF?

I donate each year because it helped me, but I would have donated anyway had I been more informed about what this does

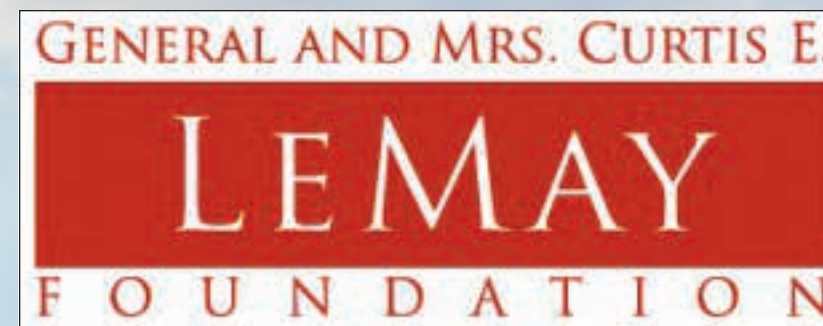
for our Airmen. It's great that there are resources out there in times of need. There aren't many jobs or careers that are available to help their people. Happiness comes from assisting others and that's what the AFAF does.

If you'd like to learn more about the AFAF or to contribute, contact your unit POC, or the Installation Project Officers: Maj. Nathan Preuss at 434-1665 or Tech. Sgt. Damon Snead at 434-2992.



The LeMay Foundation awards grants to enlisted and officer retirees' surviving spouses. Our primary beneficiaries are stalwart widows who supported their families and active-duty spouses. In 2013, we gave over \$426,302 in assistance that benefited widows with monthly grants to augment incomes that fall below the poverty line and provided one-time grants to assist with needs like hearing aids, dental care, and minor home repairs. We continue to give our recipients gifts of \$100 at Christmas, \$50 for Thanksgiving and a \$100 gift for each widow in honor of their spouse for Memorial Day. In addition, we give a monetary gift for their birthday. Our grants are awarded without fanfare, like a gift to a beloved family member.

When we can help a spouse stay at home, near their church and neighbors, we stay true to the vision of our founders, General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay. When you give to the Air Force Assistance Fund, in whatever amount you are able, your sacrifice helps those who sacrificed themselves for our freedom.



Air Force Village opened its doors in San Antonio, Texas, in 1970 with a core charitable mission to care for retired Air Force Officers' widowed spouses who need financial assistance.

This meaningful cause benefits an average of more than 50 individuals annually at a cost of over \$1 million per year. Air Force Villages Charitable

Foundation honors these spouses for the sacrifices they made while serving their country, side by side with their loved ones. We provide a safe, comfortable environment where surviving spouses are surrounded by friends in a home they cannot provide for themselves.

Since 1970, with generous support from active duty and retired military, more than \$17.5 million has been applied to the confidential assistance and care of surviving spouses. Often catastrophic illness depleted their savings or they outlived the money put aside for retirement.

When you give to AFAF, you build a safety net for the widowed spouses of real American heroes and fulfill the vision of the women and men who founded the Air Force Village 50 years ago to "take care of our own." We can proudly say 100 percent of Air Force Assistance Fund gifts to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation support this mission.

