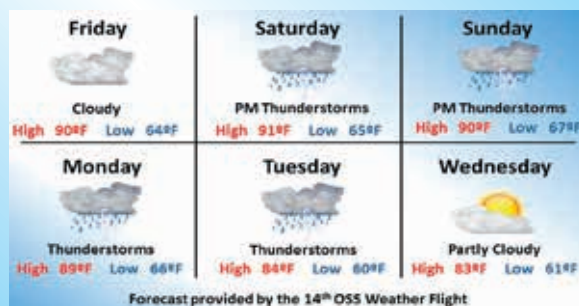


## Weather



## News Briefs

### Columbus-Lowndes Small Arms Range Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. May 8 at the Columbus-Lowndes Small Arms Range to celebrate its opening.

### SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-09 is graduating at 10 a.m. May 21 in the Kaye Auditorium.

### Memorial Day Retreat

A retreat ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. May 21 at Smith Plaza in observance of Memorial Day.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The Recycling Center is highlighted in this week's feature.

## Team BLAZE Airmen break AFAF goal

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund on Columbus Air Force Base officially ended May 1, and the numbers speak louder than words.

"Although final tally was still out at press time, preliminary numbers show Team BLAZE shattered [its] goal," said Maj. Nathan Preuss, AFAF campaign manager for Columbus AFB.

He said the base raised over \$44,000, representing 144 percent of its goal.

Columbus AFB raised the funds to benefit the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign. The money raised during the campaign goes directly to four charitable organizations designed to benefit active duty, reserve, guard and retired Air Force personnel and their families: The Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation, the Air Force Village Foundation, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

"The goal of this campaign is to raise money so that these charities may prosper," Preuss said. "Their mission is to help the greater Air Force family; Airmen helping Airmen."

The Air Force Aid Society is the official 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. On average, the AFAS gives approximately \$20 million to over 40,000 Airmen.

The Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation was created to care for widows, widowers and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel. To accomplish its mission, AFEV acquired 379 housing units at two comfortable northwest Florida facilities. Widows of enlisted men live there among

See AFAF, 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 (16-03)	10.19 days	10.45 days	June 8	48th (15-09)	0.74 days	0.11 days	May 21	49th (15-HBC)	2.61 days	0.46 days	June 2	T-6	675	656	16,883
41st (16-03)	-0.43 days	10.62 days	June 8	50th (15-09)	-0.96 days	0.64 days	May 21					T-1	200	211	6,147
The graduation speaker is Col. Max Marosko III, 325th Operations Group Commander, Tyndall AFB, Florida.												T-38	150	175	5,009
												IFF	79	93	2,337



## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 24 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

### AFAF

(Continued from page 1)

peers and share memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities.

The Air Force Village Foundation was founded to provide surviving spouses of career retired officers with cost-effective living. Since 1970, the foundation has provided over \$10 million in assistance, dedicating nearly \$1 million in 2009 alone.

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. In 2011 the foundation gave over \$398,000 in assistance that supported 71 windows whose income fell below the poverty line.

"This is no small feat, for several reasons," Preuss said. "Consider the economic pressures that our nation has experienced over the last several years. Consider last year was the first time the Air Force didn't meet its overall goal for the AFAF. Despite these factors, Team BLAZE has demonstrated an incredibly generous spirit. By contributing, you've helped ensure the AFAF affiliates continue to take care of our own, including active duty, retirees, reservists, guard, and dependents. Great job, Team BLAZE!"

## Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Retirees: Did you know that you have your very own golf course at Columbus AFB and green fees are at an all time low? For more information contact the Whispering Pines Golf Course at 434-7932 or the Retiree Activities Office at 434-3120/3121.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
11 Police Week	12 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Kaye	13	14 14th FTW/CV T-6 Fini-Flight	15 →	16/17
18	19	20	21 SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye  Memorial Day Retreat, 4 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	22 AETC Family Day	23/24

### Long Range Events

May 25: Memorial Day  
May 28: Enlisted Promotions  
May 30-31: Autocross  
June 4: 37th FTS Change of Command  
June 5: 14th CPTS Change of Command  
June 12: SUPT Class 15-10 graduation  
June 13-14: Autocross  
June 16: 50th FTS Change of Command  
June 19: 49th FTS Change of Command  
June 19: Enlisted Banquet  
June 20: Tops In Blue  
June 25: 14th SFS Change of Command  
June 26: Col. McArthur, 14 FTW/CV retirement  
July 1: SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation  
July 2: AETC Family Day  
July 3: Federal Holiday (Independence Day)  
July 4: Fireworks on the Water  
July 24: SUPT Class 15-12 Graduation  
July 28: Quarterly Awards Ceremony

## 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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RETIREDDiv>

(Continued from page 12)

Maj. Jose Lebron, the 10th SFS commander, said Sato has been a warrior defender his entire life. “He brought the fight to the enemy as an explosive and patrol dog,” he said. “Now he is engaging in a different fight, the fight to bring comfort and happiness to those in need. He performed honorably before, and now is performing even better is his new mission.” Every day, Sato heads to work with Umstead, a 10th SFS flight chief. She said everyone in the squadron knows him and looks forward to seeing the 72-pound care-free canine. “He’s a good asset to have here every day,” said Airman 1st Class Khari Berry, a 10th SFS entry controller. “He’s usually happy-go-lucky and a good stress reliever after a hard day.” Umstead said she receives phone calls and emails throughout the base requesting to see Sato and will bring him by when there is time in her schedule. Sato is currently an ambassador for a Colorado Springs group raising money for a War Dog Memorial in honor of all working dogs such as police K-9s, U.S. customs and border patrol dogs and search and rescue dogs. “It’s nice he’s so friendly because he can interact a lot with the public and other dogs,” Umstead said. According to Umstead, Sato has ticklish feet, loves squeaky toys and will let anyone pet him if she’s there. “He lightens up anybody’s day,” she said. Sato recently hung out with preschoolers for the first time. Umstead brought him to the child development center annex here where kids learned about Sato’s service and rubbed his belly. “It was his first time being around so many kids,” she said. “He did really well. Maybe we’ll work with them more often.” When Umstead arrived here in December 2012, she began working in the MWD section and became Sato’s handler. Sato served as a bomb dog, helping Umstead detect explosives and provided support for the Secret Service during one occasion. Due to a foot problem, Sato medically retired from the Air Force and Umstead took him home with her. “His issue is genetic,” she said. “His feet would hurt during sweeps because they didn’t develop calluses and he was unable to finish.” When Umstead deployed to Qatar, she said Sato was her closest companion. “I was away from my 6-month-old daughter,” she said. “Sato was like my counselor and best friend. I told him everything. He would sit with me and look at me like, ‘I love you.’” Sometimes a peaceful companionship is all people need during difficult times, Umstead said. “I enjoy seeing people forget their cares for a couple minutes when they’re with Sato,” she said. “Sato doesn’t judge. He doesn’t care what you’ve done or what you’re going to do, he just wants to spend that moment in time with you. That’s all he wants and all he has to do.”

Nichols inspires new aviators



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile  
**Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-08 during their graduation May 1 in the Kaye Auditorium. Nichols inspired the new aviators to reflect on their accomplishments, be ready for their service, moral obligations, being a team player and leadership.**

“Remember you are part of a larger team. We are the world’s greatest Air Force because Airmen have a bunch of good qualities,” the commander said.

said. “In our Air Force you earn the rank on your shoulder before the wings on your chest, and that’s no accident. The wings will give you opportunities and experiences many will never be able to have. Handle them responsibly and as you move through your careers treat others with dignity and respect.” Officers from the beginning of their careers are leaders, and Nichols encouraged the pilots to earn that leadership. “Never stop leading. Leadership is a gift given by those who follow, but you have to be worthy of it,” he said. “Your leadership must extend beyond your four-ship or your crew. As officers you are expected to lead Airmen, whatever their career fields are. Because it’s strength in the entire team that will define our success.” The commander concluded his speech by wishing the new pilots luck in their future endeavors. “You are pilots in the world’s greatest Air Force,” he said. “I wish you good luck and great hunting. May God bless our families; may God bless our friends; and because we won’t, may God have mercy on our enemies.”

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Nichols inspires new aviators

**Airman Daniel Lile**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-08 during their graduation May 1 in the Kaye Auditorium. Nichols began his speech by reflecting on the accomplishments of the new Air Force pilots. “This is about celebrating your accomplishments over the past 54 weeks with your friends, family, loved ones, classmates and soon to be fellow warriors,” the wing commander said. “It’s about recognizing what you have done, but it’s also about reflecting on what you are about to do for the United States Air Force.” Nichols continued to explain their country’s expectation and needs. “Be ready when you get the call because it is coming. We are a nation at war,” he said. “You may not hear about this on the evening news, but let there be no doubt the Air Force is a combat service flying combat missions continuously, 24/7 and 365 days a year around the globe.”

of you will likely be asked to make life and death decisions. Never underestimate the importance of what we ask you to do.” Nichols encouraged the pilots to keep the bigger picture in mind throughout their career. “Remember you are part of a larger team. We are the world’s greatest Air Force because Airmen have a bunch of good qualities,” the commander said. “They’re intelligent, inno-

vative, driven and they are so very capable. We are a team that looks toward new frontiers and although we are here to celebrate your accomplishments in becoming a pilot it’s never really about just you.” Nichols explained as officers it is really never about just themselves it is always about the team. “Sooner than before you think it’s going to be about the Airmen that work for you,” he

Enroll newborns in TRICARE within 60 days of birth

**Master Sgt. Carolyn Stewart**  
14th Medical Support Squadron

The 14th Medical Group is noticing an increased number of newborns not being enrolled in TRICARE within 60 days of birth or 120 days in overseas areas. When newborns are not enrolled within the first 60 days of birth this can cause claims processing issues and parents incur costly out-of-pockets expenses. Members who want their newborns to have TRICARE Prime coverage must call or send an enrollment form within 60 days of birth. Adopted or birth newborns born to a TRICARE Prime enrolled parent is automatically covered under TRICARE Prime for the first 60 days. Thereafter, if an enrollment form is not submitted by day 61 of birth, the newborn’s

coverage is converted to TRICARE Standard. Adding a family member in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System does not mean they are also enrolled in TRICARE. Newborns will continue to receive TRICARE Standard coverage for 365 days whether enrolled in DEERS or not. On day 366, newborns not enrolled in DEERS will no longer be eligible for TRICARE Standard. Coverage is different for families covered under TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve. Newborns are not automatically covered under TRS and TRR. A TRS and TRR application must be submitted within 60 days of birth to receive retroactive TRS and TRR coverage. If an application is sent after 60 days, coverage for the newborn will not be backdated and the family is responsible for the care the

newborn received in the first 60 days. Ensure you are submitting enrollment forms for all eligible family members for coverage and to eliminate costly out-of-pocket expenses. The 14th Medical Group realizes the birth of a child is a significant moment and is here to assist with the enrollment process. For DEERS registration sponsors will need a certificate of live birth from the hospital or birth certificate, and the child’s social security card. Contact the Military Personnel Section at 434-2626 for questions or concerns regarding DEERS registration. For more information on newborn or adopted child TRICARE Prime enrollment or any TRICARE coverage plan, please call 1-800-444-5445 or go to tricare.mil.

14

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NEWS AROUND TOWN

May 15

Applications are due this day for Volunteer Day Workers and Overnight counselors for Camp Rising Sun, a camp for children being treated for or who have been treated for cancer. To download an application online, go to camprisingsun-columbusms.org or call 327-8352. You must be age 18 or older to apply, and to

serve as overnight counselor you must be available for the entire week.  
June 4, 18

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series is scheduled from 7 – 9 p.m. Enjoy local musical entertainment at Riverwalk Park. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

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.

Transportation

For Sale: 1923 Ford T-Bucket, less than 1,500 miles on a new build, \$15,500. For more information call Mark at 434-7359 or 369-1771 after 5 p.m.

Miscellaneous

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U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

Six of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony April 30 at the Columbus Club on Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

# Six enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Andrew McAnally, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Even Narred, 14th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Sean Traynor, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Heather Schoenberger, 37th Flying Training Squadron

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

Six of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony April 30 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the month of April were:

Tech. Sgt. Joel Cortes, 14th Operations Support Squadron

## Visitor's Center Closure

The Visitor Control Center will be closed on the 3rd Thursday of the month for in-house training. Passes can still be received at Columbus Air Force Base main gate.



Be safe on the water,  
wear a life preserver

## Akeredolu assumes command of 14th FSS



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Col. Kurt Kayser hands the 14th Force Support Squadron guidon to Maj. Daniel Akeredolu, signifying his assumption of command during a ceremony May 5 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Akeredolu was most recently the chief, director's Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

## Police Week May 11-15 2015



May 11, 7 a.m. Reveille @ Base Flag Pole  
May 11, 9 a.m. - noon Police Displays and Demonstrations @Field Adjacent to Exchange Parking Lot  
May 13, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Children's Day @ Freedom Park  
May 15, 4 - 4:45 p.m. Police Parade Through Base and State/Magnolia Housing  
May 15, 5 p.m. Retreat @ Base Flag Pole

# Military child to AF leader

Senior Airman Holly Mansfield  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — As a self-proclaimed “military brat,” Brig. Gen. Patrick Higby was engulfed in the Air Force culture long before he put on the uniform.

From his cradle in a small village in western Germany to the position of the 81st Training Wing commander, Higby has learned the value of being a military child and the resources available to others who have grown up in the military life.

“I was born in an Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, and delivered by an Air Force doctor,” Higby said. “My dad was assigned to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters, which was at Lindsey Air Station at the time. USAFE headquarters then moved to Ramstein (Air Base) in the early 1970s, so we moved closer to Ramstein. We left the little town of Schlangenbad and headed south for Mehlbach, and I started going to Kaiserslautern Elementary School.

“We moved again to get a little closer to the base, so I ended up going to Ramstein Elementary School from fourth grade through ninth grade,” he continued. “When I was in 10th grade, there was no Ramstein High School yet, so we were bussed over the Kaiserslautern High School. My dad was a civil engineer and actually helped build Ramstein High School. I started going to Ramstein High School in 11th grade and ended up graduating from there.”

For 18 years, Higby grew up in Cold War Germany surrounded by two cultures very different from each other. Embracing the advantages of being a military child growing up in a country that was time zones away from most Americans, Higby dove into the European culture while still using the resources provided to him by the military.

“The best part about being a military child was being exposed to other cultures,” Higby said. “I was born into a European culture. Being able to travel around Western Europe as an eleventh-generation American who had never actually been to the U.S. was a really good experience.”

Higby and his family were able to use different support systems like the base exchange, commissary, fitness centers, rod and gun clubs, and Defense Department schools to make living in a different country easier.

“When I was growing up, the BX and the commissary were really good deals,” Higby said. “The cost of living in Germany is pretty

*“The biggest challenge of being a military child for me was being in the U.S. for the first time for my freshman year of college,” Higby said. “I was exposed to some American culture as part of the Kaiserslautern Military Community, the largest concentration of Americans outside the U.S., but being in Atlanta took a little getting used to.”*

high, and we were always thinking about the exchange rate. The biggest benefit of having those resources was getting U.S. prices on base even when the dollar was weak. That was a huge help for us.”

As a military child, Higby would spend time at different establishments run by the services squadron on base. During his high school years, Higby and his friends quickly claimed different spots on base ranging from Chicken Every Sundae, a popular restaurant, to different NATO-themed mini-BXs.

“We used those resources all of the time,” Higby recalled. “Even just to have a school for the American kids to attend was imperative for our military families living overseas.”

After graduating from Ramstein High School, Higby said he faced a new challenge — college. This challenge would take him from his home by Ramstein AB to Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

“The biggest challenge of being a military child for me was being in the U.S. for the first time for my freshman year of college,” Higby said. “I was exposed to some American culture as part of the Kaiserslautern Military Community, the largest concentration of Americans outside the U.S., but being in Atlanta took a little getting used to. In Germany, we didn’t have door knobs on interior doors, so it took me a while to figure out how to open my dorm room door with an armful of grocery bags. I also recall longing for German beer, bread, chocolate, and the Autobahn. I was definitely perplexed by driving in the U.S.; although 55 mph was the standard U.S. highway speed



U.S. Air Force photo/Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Patrick Higby, the 81st Training Wing commander, receives help from children from the child development center with planting a live oak tree outside of the CDC during an Arbor Day celebration Feb. 19, 2015, at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Higby, who grew up in Germany, appreciates the education and opportunities he had as a military child.

limit, I somehow felt safer driving that speed in downtown Paris or going double to triple that on the Autobahn.”

After graduating from college, Higby was commissioned into the Air Force and started his family. Now that he has children of his own, he is able to show them how to use the military resources available to them like he did when he was a child.

“In the military, especially for younger couples with children, it’s incredibly tough to balance things,” Higby said. “There aren’t always affordable options for them to choose from. Having the child development centers and youth centers available for after school programs and sports is huge. My children’s favorite thing to do here at Keesler is fishing or shrimping off of the back dock. They also just completed soccer through our youth program.”

Due to relentless cutbacks in funding, some programs for children are being curtailed. As a parent involved in his children’s activities, Higby encourages parents to volunteer to help with these programs to mitigate the budget cuts.

“We can’t always afford to pay for referees or coaches for the youth sports programs, but there are plenty of parents who are willing to volunteer to coach or help out with different things like a soccer team,” Higby said. “Like-

wise, maybe we can get parents to volunteer for a work detail to maintain the field. It’s a little unfair to ask that, because the whole reason to have those programs is to take care of those very busy military parents. Now I’m asking for them to do a little more, but learning to balance work and personal needs is essential to giving our kids what they need.

“Military brats have a reputation for being more resilient, and I think that is true,” Higby said. “My sense is that when children are younger, they don’t mind moving as much, but when you have more serious relationships, that makes moving really tough. I’ve known a lot of parents who try to strike a balance between where the Air Force is sending them and how that affects their children.

“I’m always encouraged when I see people struggling with that decision, because it tells me that their family, children and development are very important to them,” he continued. “It’s not just about the job or career. Having children in the military is not easy, but those who make it through end up being better citizens because of it and being exposed to different cultures, not just throughout the U.S., but around the world. It’s a phenomenal chance that most kids don’t get. Hopefully our military brats understand and take advantage of the opportunities they are offered. And yes, I’m proud to be called a military brat.”





U.S. Air Force photo/Amber Baillie  
Tech. Sgt. Ashley-Marie Umstead stands with therapy dog Sato, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois. Sato is a retired military working dog now serving as a therapy dog at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado. He previously served as a bomb dog for the 10th Security Forces Squadron.

## Retired military working dog relieves Airman's stress

**Amber Baillie**  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — When Tech. Sgt. Ashley-Marie Umstead adopted retired military working dog (MWD), Sato, she said the 5-year-old Belgian Malinois needed something constructive to do with his robust energy and instincts.

After serving as a bomb dog for the 10th Security Forces Squadron, Umstead said she knew Airmen and wounded warriors would enjoy spending time with him because of his easy-going temperament and military experience.

"He was too young to stay at home without eating my couch,"

she said. "He has a great personality and is super affectionate so I looked into having him certified as a therapy dog."

Umstead certified Sato through Therapy Dogs International. She said she hopes to connect with the Red Cross so Sato can comfort wounded warriors at Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson, Colorado.

"I'd like him to work with wounded warriors because I can tell them he was in the military, he deployed and is now medically retired," she said. "It gives them some rapport to connect and I think it makes the relationship more special."

See **RETIRED**, Page 14

## Brothers in arms fly together

**Senior Airman Taylor Curry**  
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Members of the U.S. military oftentimes have relatives that serve alongside them, and this is the case for the Allen brothers, they were recently reunited at exercise Max Thunder 15-1 in South Korea.

Marine Corps Capt. Jarrod Allen, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego and currently deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, and Air Force Capt. Jacob Allen, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot stationed at Kunsan Air Base, recently had the opportunity to fly and train together during the biannual air exercise at Gwangju AB, South Korea.

"Since we are in different services and fly different fighter aircraft, we haven't really had the chance to work with each other in this type of element yet, so we were glad to have this opportunity," Jarrod said.

The first night of Max Thunder would see the brothers training together in defensive counter air exercises. In that training scenario, Jacob was leading the first four-ship of allied jets, whose task was to defend the area from enemy aircraft. As their time on station neared completion, the second four-ship approached the airspace to take over responsibility. Jacob's brother, Jarrod, happened to be the lead of the second four-ship.

"The handoff of responsibility is based on timing, so it has to be precise," Jacob said. "When the second four-ship approached, I got to pass responsibility to my brother over the radio, who was then in charge of defending the area."

The brothers grew up as Navy brats, originally from the San Diego area. Their father was a naval



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Taylor Curry  
Marine Corps Capt. Jarrod Allen, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225 F/A-18 Hornet pilot, and Air Force Capt. Jacob Allen, a 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, pose for a photo together during exercise Max Thunder 15-1 at Gwangju Air Base, South Korea, April 17, 2015.

flight officer for the E-2 Hawkeye, which motivated them to follow in his footsteps.

"Our dad was a big inspiration to us," Jacob said. "As far back as I can remember, I always knew I wanted to fly, just like my father. We would always go to see airshows, and that was so exciting for us both."

Now as captains, Jarrod, known as "Bluto," and Jacob, known as "Apollo," fly different aircraft, but with similar missions.

Both brothers explained that they love their job primarily because in the end, what they do helps people.

"The F-16 provides close air support when troops on the ground call in, and we employ weapons as needed for them to achieve their mission objectives and most importantly, to survive," Jacob said.

The F/A-18 is also focused as a ground forces supporter, with the main goal looking out for Marines on the deck, Jarrod added.

"My current mission out at Kunsan flying the F-16 and working alongside ROKAF (Republic of Korea Air Force) pilots is a great opportunity," Jacob said. "It's sometimes challenging, but I love it because it keeps me sharp. If I'm ever called to do what I'm trained to do, I'll be ready."

Although they haven't been stationed together, the brothers occasionally bump into each other while on the job.

"Before this exercise, the last time we saw each other was in Jordan for a couple of hours," Jarrod said. "It wasn't long, but it's still good to see my brother any chance I get."

Max Thunder, the largest flying exercise held on the Korean Peninsula twice a year, is aimed at increasing U.S. and South Korea interoperability with dissimilar aircraft and enabling the two allies to be battle-ready for any potential situation in South Korea.

## Dollars & \$ense: Be sure to read your LES monthly

**2nd Lt. Harry Oms**  
14th Comptroller Squadron Financial  
Services Flight Commander

The Leave and Earning Statement is a comprehensive statement which shows the service member's leave and earnings for the month.

The most current pay, taxes, leave and status information is reflected on a member's LES.

The LES is divided into three major areas: Entitlement, Deductions and Allotments. Your pay is your responsibility. Air Force Instruction 1-1 section 2.8 states, "You are expected to review your leave and earnings statement on a regular

basis to ensure the accuracy of your pay and allowances."

You should be aware of which entitlements you are authorized and those that you are not. If you identify any discrepancies in your entitlements, deductions, or allotments, it's your responsibility to immediately contact the Financial Services Office to begin corrective action. Discrepancies in your LES can potentially lead to erroneous payments and possibly cause you financial hardship. Debts will be established to pay back any erroneous overpayments which you've received.

Remember, if you are overpaid, you don't get to keep the money and will be expected to pay the debt off in a timely manner.

**Bottom-line:** Be proactive, understand your LES, and know your entitlements.

### Helpful Links:

**MyPay:** <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

**Note:** Members are encouraged to contact the Financial Services Office to inquire about their pay and entitlements via questions email at [14CPTS.FCS@us.af.milm](mailto:14CPTS.FCS@us.af.milm), via telephone at 434-2705, or in person. We are located on the main floor of the Mission Support Group Building.

### Regulation References:

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 1-1 Para 2.8

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 65-116 Volume 1 Chapter 7

### The BOND

The amount requested in the Bond is \$44,000,000. Below is information on how that money will be invested throughout the district and what has already been done district-wide using available funds.

Did you know that it takes a 60% "YES" vote for a Bond to pass?

#### CAMPUS PLANS CALEDONIA

- Expand Caledonia Middle School into the K-1 Building
- Renovate portions of Caledonia Middle School
- Move 9<sup>th</sup> grade to the upper elementary building for a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy
- Demolish parts of the elementary building
- Additional parking and re-routing traffic flow within the campus
- Extend the bus loop
- 2 Biology Classrooms
- A new field house to replace the one built in 1980

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY AT CALEDONIA?

A new Caledonia Elementary School is currently under construction. This \$23,000,000 project is being funded through a lease purchase, note proceeds and district funds.

#### NEW HOPE

- Build a new high school near the football field allowing for the middle school to move in to the current high school building. This has been part of the master plan for well over a decade.
- Demolition of New Hope 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade building (built in 1958) and some of the current middle school.
- Re-routing traffic and repurposing existing parking

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY AT NEW HOPE?

A new field house is being constructed and is funded through district funds at a cost of \$2,000,000.

#### WEST LOWNDES

- Resurface all parking lots and add spaces
- Electrically operated bleachers in the Gym with more air conditioning
- Additional playground equipment
- Team Room and ticket booths for athletics
- Canopy extension for the new entrance

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY AT WEST LOWNDES?

4 classrooms added to the elementary building (2014) for 6<sup>th</sup> graders after the middle school was closed due to low enrollment (approx. 85 students). This addition included an office for the now full time assistant principal and a set of new bathrooms. The west half of the high school was totally remodeled (2014) with new offices, a new entrance and restrooms for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who moved from the middle school. This was funded through the district at a cost of @2,000,000.

## You can make it happen!

Support your belief in our students by voting **YES** on May 12, 2015

**Build Our Future Bond**  
**Lowndes County School District**





# BLAZIN' TRAILS

## Running Club

Saturday  
9 May 2015  
0800



### Group Run

Meet-up location: **Fitness Main Entrance**  
Distance: **12K/6K**  
Attire: **Running gear**

*The group run time and date will change weekly based on the schedule of the runners.*

POC TSgt Russell  
**434-2875**



# THERE'S NO EXCUSE

## ALWAYS USE FALL PROTECTION



It'll only take a second

It's a flat roof

It's not that high

This ladder's probably ok

It takes too long

This harness is too uncomfortable

Watch this!



## The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior.  
I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage.  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman.

Guardian of freedom and justice,  
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 and Airman behind.  
I will never falter,  
And I will not fail.

## 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.



### Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

#### Career Technical Training

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

#### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. May 12. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Kaye Auditorium, for more information call 434-2839.

#### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is 1-2 p.m. May 12. This workshop allows the VA contractors to explain to service members; whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

#### Heart Link For Spouses

This event is 8:30 a.m. - noon May 13. It is for dependents new to CAFB or the military lifestyle. The event is held at the Golf Course. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus AFB. For more information, please call 434-2790.

#### Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is 9-10:30 a.m. May 13. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs, Call 434-2790 to register.

#### Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon May 13. It 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.

#### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. May 14-15. The Entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business, to register and more information call 434-2790.

## SFS participates in Special Olympics Torch Run



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman Daniel Lile

**Airmen from the 14th Security Forces Squadron participate in the 2015 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics May 5 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, to honor the athletes of the Special Olympics. More than 97,000 law enforcement members in all 50 U.S. States, 12 Canadian provinces/territories and 44 other countries contribute annually as the Guardians of the Flame, ensuring the delivery of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, state/provincial games, and national/regional games.**

#### TAP Education Track

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. May 18-19 at the Education Center. 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.

#### First Term Officer's PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop is 9-10 a.m. May 19. It is required by AFI for all newly-assigned personnel to their first station. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

#### Smooth Move

This class is 10 - 11:30 a.m. May 20. It is a class that provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

#### Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. - noon May 21. The Capstone is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later

than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/have not met their Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

#### Pre-separation Counseling

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

#### Pre, 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.

### 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



### 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.

### Free Pool Passes

Independence Pool Passes are included with Whispering Pines Golf Membership. If you have an individual golf membership, you receive an individual pool pass and if you have a family golf membership, you receive a family pool pass. Visit Outdoor Recreation for your free pool pass today. For more information, contact 434-2505.

### 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.

### Youth Basketball Registration

The Youth Center is offering youth basketball registration May 4 – 21 for ages 8 – 18. The cost is \$10 per player; register May 4 – 8 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.

### Mother and Child Bingo

The Youth Center is offering free Mother and Child Bingo at 4:30 p.m. May 8. Register by May 7. For more information, contact 434-2504.

### Blazin' Trails Running Club Group Run

Blazin' Trails Running Club is offering a 12K/6K group run on at 8 a.m. May 9. Meet up at the Fitness Center main entrance. The group run time and date will change weekly based on the schedule of the runners. For more information, contact TSgt Russell at 434-2875.

### Players Championship Open Pick 3

The Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering Players Championship Open Pick 3 Tournament May 9. The cost is only \$10 plus green fees and cart. For more information, contact 434-7932.

### Moms Bowl Free

Moms bowl free May 9 in honor of Mother's Day at the Bowling Center. Free shoe rental included. For more information, contact 434-3426.

### 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 [www.americaskidsrun.org](http://www.americaskidsrun.org). For more information, contact 434-2504.

### Independence Pool Opens

Purchase your pool passes now at Outdoor Recreation. The base pool opens for the season May 22. 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.

### 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](http://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 Kimo-

no (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.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/mymc2support)

## Superhero lessons in diversity

### Lt. Col. Elizabeth Harwood

14th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander

What if Batman had been excluded from the Justice League of America because he has no superpowers?

What about Wonder Woman because she is a woman, or Martian Manhunter because he is from Mars?

If the Justice League of America were made up of seven Supermans, it would only take kryptonite to defeat it, but its strength lies in its diversity. Each superhero brings their own strengths, perspectives and capabilities, which makes the team greater than the sum of its parts.

In much the same way, diversity strengthens the Air Force. Diversity is necessary to the Air Force's ability to adapt in a rapidly changing operational environment; it enables innovative solutions to complex problems. We must recruit, develop and retain Airmen of differing experiences and abilities, because their unique perspectives strengthen the team.

The Air Force defines diversity in AFPD 36-70 as "a composite of individual characteristics, experiences and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. Air Force Diversity includes but is not limited to: personal life experiences, geographic background, socioeconomic background, cultural knowledge, educational background, work background, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical/spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity and gender."

The superheroes that make up the Justice League of America could not be more dissimilar. For example, Superman was raised in rural Kansas by two loving adoptive parents and possesses incredible superpowers including superhuman strength, speed, and the ability to fly. Batman came from a wealthy family, but was largely raised by his butler following the murder of his parents at a young age; he has no superpowers, but



*Justice League of America was initially formed out of necessity, but their partnership was formalized when the superheroes discovered their differences made a powerful team.*

has honed his physical fitness to Olympic standards and possesses a keen intellect. However, in spite of their differences, together with Aquaman, The Flash, Green Lantern, Martian Manhunter, and Wonder Woman they make an extraordinary team.

Justice League of America was initially formed out of necessity, but their partnership was formalized when the superheroes discovered their differences made a powerful team. When Appellaxian invaders battled for Earth, the superheroes initially fought the aliens individually, and while they each were victorious in one-on-one battles, it wasn't until they joined together that they were able to defeat the alien force. Their diversity, rooted in a common set of values, is a force multiplier that allows them to prevail against any villain.

We should take a page from the comic books and embrace diversity, it's more than demographics. Rather than view our differences as a weakness or point of opposition, see the superhero in every Airman. The broad range of talent and experience our Airmen bring to the Air Force is vital to its success now and in the future.

Gen. Mark Welsh III, Air Force Chief of Staff said, "The greatest strength of our Air Force is our Airmen. The greatest strength of our Airmen is their diversity. Each of them comes from a different background, a different family experience and a different social experience. Each brings a different set of skills and a unique perspective to the team. We don't just celebrate diversity, we embrace it!"

## 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.

## Cycle safe, wear a helmet

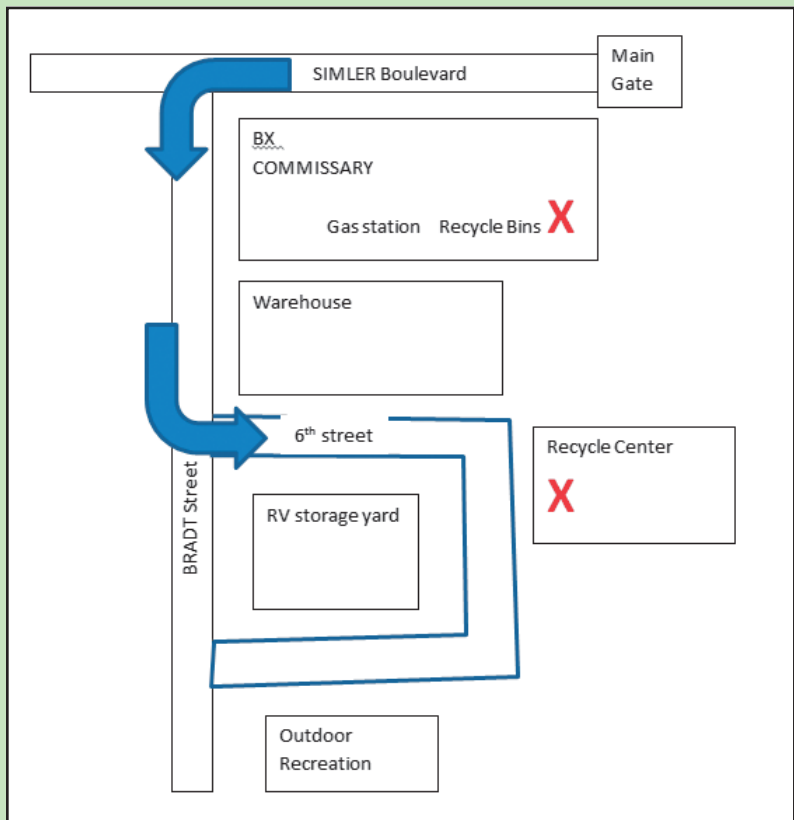
Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.





U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

**The Columbus Air Force Base Recycling Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, processes both plastic and glass bottles. Glass bottles are turned into crushed pellets suitable for aquarium use, drainage gravel or decorative gravel, and the pellets are free for the asking.**



**The Columbus AFB Recycling Facility is open from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily and is located behind the Exchange, beside Outdoor Recreation. Take the first left past the Exchange down Bradt Street, and the first left on 6th Street, look for the brown fence. Please do not place items there after hours. No military equipment of any kind is may be taken to the facility and instead must be turned in to DRMO.**

**Mike Blythe and Mike Jago**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

I can't believe I still have to say this 45 years after Earth Day was established, but here goes: recycling works.

I hope you are still not knocked out by that news, but honestly, I still get the questions, "Does it REALLY get recycled?" and "Does it matter?"

First, follow the money, as the investigators say. We have buyers of paper, metals, batteries, wood chip companies, used oil dealers and others. If it wasn't getting recycled, then why pay us for this seemingly useless stuff?

Does it matter? Yes, and for reasons you may not be aware of, so I will spill the secrets of recycling from the inside.

My first reason to recycle is it is the right thing to do. Even ancient civilizations saw value in recycling metals and glass. Not too many years ago, we made durable products that we now throw away after a few uses.

The idea of waste is offensive to me and I see it showing up as global warming, islands of plastic in all the oceans, and chemicals in our water. It matters, and it matters what I throw away. So I keep my waste pile small.

Recycling should matter to your budget, as money is the measure of the success of many things. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!" is still good advice today, as trash drives expenses.

The recycling message even applies to things like water use. California is facing a water crisis. Don't waste it with drips and leaks, use a wash machine, and use sink and bath water for plants and as toilet water. It's called grey water systems and has been in use for decades.

Water is 100 percent recyclable. Nature does it by evaporation, leaving all the contaminants on the surface, but California is going to do it with Pacific Ocean water, and even recycling sewer water back to drinking standards. It is going to happen and is happening in several U.S. cities already. Look up Cloudcroft New Mexico near Holloman Air Force Base as an example of water recycling.

"Mississippi has all the water it needs so this doesn't apply." Wrong. Water takes energy to pump, clean and store in towers. Wasting water through drips and leaks runs up septic utility pumping bills, as they have electric pumps to run, too. Mississippi is a flat-ish state, so waste water is often must be force pumped up grade. It is expensive and it shows up in your bill. Again, recycling is about money, my money and your money,

## If you want to be a super home recycler, here are some tips to reduce trash even further:

- Separate paper, glass, plastic and cans. Use shopping bags and tie them off when full. Rinse containers to ensure there is no liquid inside. This helps to cut down on the smell and to discourage pests like rats and roaches.
  - Flatten all cardboard. Recycle paper milk cartons and paper juice cartons too.
  - Cut the tops and bottoms out of cans, rinse and flatten. Recycle aerosol cans by puncturing them and flattening them. They must be empty to be recycled and flat.
  - Recycle all rechargeable batteries; lead, lithium, cadmium. The recycle center has plastic bags or they can be placed in plastic bags, use the cheapest bag possible without holes. Each battery needs to be bagged separately to keep the acid inside and the ends from touching.
  - Take packaging apart so the paper can be recycled even if the rest can't be. Put all your plastic or paper shopping bags together and those are taken too. Again, please remove all contents and no goo or liquids should be in the bags. If the eggs broke in the bag, throw it out.
  - Pizza boxes are problematic because pizza crust, grease and cheese ruins the whole batch of paper slurry and there is no way to get it out once it is in the process. Paper with oil on it is not useful for recycling and paper used for human consumption like napkins, plates and tissues are too contaminated to use again.
  - Shredded paper is a premium product and gets high prices on the recycling market. Pure white shredded paper is the best money maker at a recycle facility. Cardboard is the next best so any cardboard packaging is good. Take the liner out of cereal boxes and flatten them.
  - Look at all your plastics for a number 1 or 2 in the recycle triangle. They are on the majority of all bottles and containers. The other numbers are not accepted as there are no buyers, but clean and empty 1 and 2 of any color, shape or size are good.
  - Glass bottles are all that can be used here. Glass is heavy, so it saves \$200 per ton to recycle it even into gravel that is only worth \$20. It is not the value of the end product; it is the savings on disposal which makes it worth doing. The recycle center always has crushed glass for free issue if you have a use for it. The rest of the types of glass are not recycled because they tend not to break into such nice smooth pellets that are safe to handle.
  - The last big recycling tip is compost. In Mississippi, composting is easy, but may not be as accessible to everyone. Make a container, anything that will hold stuff in such as old fencing or even pallets, and pile in leaves, grass, weeds, wet kitchen waste like coffee filters and vegetables. Reuse an old garbage can lid over it to keep the critters out and turn it with a shovel every so often. It will become hot, steam on a cold day, and cook down into the best black topsoil for spreading on your lawn in the fall or as garden soil. If you put in bones, meat or fat it may attract animals such as rats, but the good news is they will help turn the soil, the bad news is they are rats or the neighborhood stray and they might make a big mess.
- Once you put more in your recycle containers than in your trash can you are well on your way to becoming a super recycler. Over 90 percent of what is normally thrown away is recyclable, but the last 30 percent requires more work than it is generally worth. See how you do, and good luck.

and it applies to far more than paper and plastic recycling.

I live downtown and bring my recycling on base. There is a cart in the Exchange parking lot next to the gas station that takes paper, plastic, glass, metal and cardboard. I recycle so much, I don't put trash out more than once every two weeks, and that is one bag. Many bases don't like you to bring your home recycling to the base, but here we need the volume to make our shipments large enough to pay, so feel free to bring it on.

I had a conversation with a former mayor on recycling. He was not a fan of recycling. Cities have a tough time recycling because they try to make lots of money recycling to show the taxpayers a benefit. This is where accounting and recycling get involved.

If you look at your utility bill, there is a charge for picking up trash. It really isn't very much -- or is it? Trash costs about \$.008 a pound to send to a landfill. Your bill is at a much higher rate than that to pay for the pickup service, so you may pay considerably more.

Columbus AFB has 100 percent control of all recycling and trash service, so we can look at both costs. There are labor and machine costs

just combines many chemicals that never should mix and can generate methane, and can make an unstable mound of earth that should not be built on for decades. There are liners in landfills now, so the chemical soup is pumped out and re-injected in deep abandoned oil wells if it can't be treated on site.

Landfills are filling up nationwide and the next crisis will be finding landfill space. New York City now sends trash to western Pennsylvania, South Carolina and New Mexico by rail. Mississippi will be on the receiving end of outside trash increasingly every year, because there is excess capacity here.

Recycling isn't a perfect answer, but it can extend the useful life of oil by re-refining it to new product. All metals are 100 percent recyclable and it saves the pollution and cost of mining for new metals. Plastic recycling is difficult in America because there is no standardization of containers like Germany and other European countries, but it is getting better.

If recycling wasn't a good idea, then why do aluminum cans now have inked-on labels? The aluminum can industry spent millions to make the

to baling and sorting recyclables, while trash needs to be taken to the Tri-County landfill, weighed and buried, and the truck returns empty but it still costs money to run it home.

It is the difference in the last step that recycling pays. The base reduces cost by nearly one-third to recycle, compared to the cost to have trash taken to the landfill. When the base trash bill can run \$40,000 in a month, a one-third discount adds up. In the case of the mayor, he had only the recycling facility and its expenses, not the trash pickup. He never saw the savings from the landfill side of the expense so it just did not pay for the city to continue.

At SWANA, a conference for garbage men, it was observed that the landfills from before 1940 contain more chrome than South Africa exported last year, and the amount of methane produced was enough to power hundreds of local homes. The buried metals alone are in the millions of tons. Landfills are America's future resource.

The point was made if our generation of Mississippians is not interested in recycling, that is our loss and our shame. Burying mixed trash in landfills is not a great solution for disposal, it



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

**The Columbus Air Force Base Recycling Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, can accept paper of all kinds including books, magazines, news print, office paper, moving boxes and more. Any clean, dry paper is acceptable. Metal is accepted, but it must not contain oil, grease or chemicals. Any electrical device with a power cord is acceptable. Electronics are acceptable. Used oil can now be drained from your containers by bringing them to the recycle facility used oil collection building.**

used aluminum free of paint and plastic so it is cheaper to smelt to new sheet of aluminum. Industry figured it out years ago. Follow the money and recycle.

For more information about recycling please contact Mike Blythe and Mike Jago at 434-7353/7974.