

Weather

Friday Chance of PM Rain High 90°F Low 74°F	Saturday Thunderstorms High 84°F Low 72°F	Sunday Cloudy High 86°F Low 63°F
Monday Partly Cloudy High 88°F Low 64°F	Tuesday PM Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 67°F	Wednesday PM Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 70°F
Forecast provided by the 14 th OSS Weather Flight		

News Briefs

Enlisted Promotions

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. June 30 in the Kaye Auditorium.

SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-11 is graduating at 10 a.m. July 1 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is retired Col. Smitty Harris, a former F-105 pilot who was shot down and taken in as a POW for nearly eight years in North Vietnam.

Fireworks on the Water

Fireworks on the Water begins at 5 p.m. July 4 at the Stennis Lock and Dam. The event includes live music, food and fireworks. It is free and open to the public.

Inside



Feature 8

The Tops In Blue is highlighted in this week's feature.

Fireworks on the Water returns to Columbus

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

This Fourth of July, fireworks will fly over the Stennis Lock and Dam in a patriotic salute to our nation's history.

The event, entitled 'Fireworks on the Water 2015,' is a free, open-to-the-public initiative between the community and Columbus Air Force Base celebrating Independence Day.

Nancy Carpenter, CEO and Executive Director of Visit Columbus and Fireworks on the Water co-chairman, said the community is honored to co-sponsor this event in honor of the men and women of Columbus AFB.

While fireworks are in the title, the event features far more than just a fireworks display. Airmen staying in town for the holiday can bring their chairs, grab a burger or a snow-cone and listen to live music courtesy of Johnny Coleman and Swing Shift while the kids enjoy bouncy castles and clowns. Then as the sun sets the night sky will become a canvas of lights, choreographed to music.

Fireworks on the Water will begin at 5 p.m. at the East Bank of the Stennis Lock and Dam. Please bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets, but leave the personal fireworks and pets at home. Like Columbus AFB, firearms are not permitted on federal property. Be sure to arrive early to get a prime parking spot.

Local vendors will be available to satisfy even the pickiest of palates. Vendors for the event include Mugshots and Chick-fil-A, as well as barbecue, funnel cake, fried pies and more. Children can have their faces painted, race through an inflatable obstacle course, or hang out with Columbus' own Mother Goose.

Music will begin at 5 p.m. with DJ Mike Chain. Starting around 6:30 p.m., local band Johnny Coleman and Swing Shift will provide live music. Swing Shift's signature sound consists of mainly rock-and-roll hits from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s with R&B and soul classics from these eras as well. Swing Shift formed in 1985, has played hundreds of shows, and has opened for noted performers such as Lee Greenwood and Ricky Skaggs.



U.S. Air Force photo

Fireworks shoot off over Stennis Lock and Dam at the 2013 Fireworks on the Water event in Columbus, Mississippi. Fireworks on the Water, a free and open to the public event occurring July 4, is sponsored by the Columbus community in order to honor our nation's independence and to celebrate the men and women of Columbus Air Force Base.

Fireworks on the Water has been a joint effort between the base and community since 2006. The last time Fireworks on the Water occurred was in 2013, where a crowd of over 5,000 gathered for the evening's festivities. This year will be its fifth iteration.

Happy 239th birthday, America.

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 (16-04)	12.21 days	3.71 days	June 30	48th (15-11)	-0.34 days	1.39 days	July 1	49th (15-IBC)	-0.21 days	-0.25 days	June 29	T-6	2,183	2,210	20,827
41st (16-04)	2.40 days	4.23 days	June 30	50th (15-11)	-0.10 days	-1.61 days	July 1					T-1	837	784	7,769
												T-38	567	660	6,277
												IFF	351	336	2,939

The graduation speaker is retired Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, a former F-105 pilot who was shot down and taken in as a POW for nearly eight years in North Vietnam.

Recycling Key		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 1- Aluminum (Grey)					1	2	3	4
Week 2- Plastics 1 & 2 and Shrink Wrap (Yellow)		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Week 3- Mixed Paper (Green)		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Week 4- Cardboard (Red)		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Week 5- Aluminum (Grey)		26	27	28	29	30	31	

Beginning July 1, 2015, Columbus Air Force Base will have a new recycle service contract. Recyclables will continue to be picked up on Wednesday morning; however, items that are comingled will no longer be accepted. If you prefer not to store your recyclables until the scheduled pickup, you have the option to take your items to the base recycling center.

Silver Wings



The Silver Wings newspaper will be published on July 1 next week due to the AETC Family Day and Independence Day Federal Holiday.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
29 15-IBC IFF Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS	30 Chief Master Sgt. Michael Thomas promotion ceremony, 11:14 a.m. @ Phillips Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Kaye	1 Footgolf Grand Opening, 9:14 a.m.-Dusk @ Golf Course SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	2 AETC Family Day	3 Independence Day Federal Holiday	4/5 4th-Independence Day 4th-Fireworks on the Water, 5 p.m. @ Stennis Lock and Dam	July 13: SAPR Large Group Training July 14: Wing Newcomers Orientation July 16: EES Roadshow with Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia July 17: AF Birthday Ball Drawdown July 24: SUPT Class 15-12 Graduation July 28: Quarterly Awards Ceremony July 31: Enlisted Promotions July 31: 14th MDG Change of Command Aug. 4: Wing Newcomers Orientation Aug. 14: SUPT Class 15-13 Graduation Aug. 31: Enlisted Promotions Sept. 4: AETC Family Day Sept. 7: Labor Day Sept. 11: SUPT Class 15-14 Graduation
6	7	8	9	10 Firecra5Ker Run, 7 a.m. @ Fitness Center SUPT Class 15-12 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Kaye	11/12 11th-Color Run, 10 a.m. @ Lil Blazer Park	

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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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.

Tops In Blue sings songs of freedom

Senior Airman Stephanie Englar

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

More than 1,000 Team BLAZE and local community members attended the Tops In Blue performance at Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium June 20.

The Tops In Blue performers rocked the house with this year's "Freedom's Song" theme, which featured family-friendly covers of popular songs ranging from today's hits to gospel to 1940s wartime favorites. The performers also donned costumes and sang a few children's tunes.

"I really enjoyed watching Tops In Blue this year," said Airman 1st Class Nadia Armstrong, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace Medical Technician. "My favorite part was the A Cappella where they sang from the Barber-shop scene."

Tops In Blue is an all active-duty U.S. Air Force special unit made up of 35-40 talented vocalists, musicians, dancers and technicians selected for their entertainment abilities. They are hand selected after a musical talent competition, the Worldwide Talent Search, which takes place yearly in San Antonio, Texas. Performers who are selected then partake in a 60-day intensive training period at Lackland AFB, Texas, before they begin their seven-month long worldwide tour.

"Coming to see these shows is a real morale booster," Armstrong said. "It gives Airmen the opportunity to see what else the Air Force offers and what you can offer to the Air Force."

Though the Tops In Blue performers are their own "road crew," responsible for setting up and tearing down their own stage and performing various other tasks, 29 volunteers from Team BLAZE were on hand to assist the group.

"Volunteering to help out Tops in Blue was important to me to be able to support their mission, and for a brief moment, be a part of them," said Master Sgt. Richard Savannah, 14th Communications Squadron Plans and Programs Superintendent. "It was great to see first-hand the hard work and pride that is put into before, during and after the show."

Tops In Blue started in 1953 as a way to recognize the talent of the Airmen of the United



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Second Lt. Lauren Rogers, Tops In Blue vocalist, sings gospel during the Tops In Blue performance June 20 at the Mississippi University for Women Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. Rogers grew up singing and participated in a worship group while attending Mississippi State University.

States Air Force. Second Lt. Lauren Rogers, 35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs officer and Tops in Blue vocalist, is also a Meridian, Mississippi, native and 2013 graduate of Mississippi State University.

"When I heard about Tops In Blue, you never know what to expect with a traveling show group, but when I saw them it was amazing — it's professionalism," Rogers said. "I couldn't believe that I could travel around the entire world, the Air Force supports what we do, and spread the word of America when we are overseas."

The show ended with "God Bless the USA" and the "Air Force Song," both receiving a standing ovation.

While traveling around the world, Tops In Blue performs for Airmen stationed at overseas bases and deployed locations as well as at home in America.

Bickerstaff takes command of the 49th FTS



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Col. James Boster, 14th Operations Group Commander, hands the 49th Fighter Training Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. David Bickerstaff, the new 49th FTS Commander, at a change of command ceremony June 19 at the firehouse. The 49th FTS conducts Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals flying training for over 80 U.S. Air Force pilots, international pilots and Weapon System Officers annually.

Kayser hands 14th SFS reigns to Redmond



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, passes the 14th Security Forces Squadron guidon to Maj. Shawn Redmond, the new 14th SFS Commander, at a change of command ceremony June 25 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Redmond's last assignment was as the 422nd Security Forces Squadron Commander, Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 32 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



CAP cadets learn about Air Force pilot training

1st Lt. Matthew Herten
48th Flying Training Squadron

Civil Air Patrol cadets from across the country traveled to Columbus Air Force Base June 22-26 to participate in the 2015 Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course.

The course, held here annually, exposes the cadets to Air Force flight training.

Offering a head start to aspiring military aviators, this one-week, academically-intense program gave CAP cadets an introduction to flying. They learned side-by-side with Air Force student pilots and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the base's facilities, including the air traffic control tower, aerospace physiology and base operations.

The cadets were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn, study and excel in an environment similar to that of real pilot training. They learned and mastered T-6 bold-face and operational limitations, were instructed on various systems of the T-6 and studied the same syllabus used to guide the pilot training pipeline. In addition, their off time was spent chair-flying a takeoff and landing in preparation for their simulator event at the end of the program.

By the end of the week, cadets were evaluated via academic testing, simulator evaluations and teamwork performance, all of which were factored into a rack and stack. The top performers identified through those evaluations received a T-1 incentive ride with the 48th Flying Training Squadron June 26 before attending a mock assignment night, where they will learn which platform they would have received at the end of their year-long journey, similar to the assignment night for SUPT students at Columbus AFB.

"At SUPTFC, we simulate 52 weeks of U.S. Air Force pilot training in one week," said Lt. Col. John Davidson, course director. "Many of our graduates have gone on to Reserve Officer Training Corps or the U.S. Air Force Academy and are now active-duty Air Force pilots."

In addition to the exposure to Air Force pilot training, the cadets received briefings on Air Force ROTC, the United States Air Force Academy and various other routes available to them following graduation from high school. The program as a whole hopes to provide the information necessary to inspire these young cadets to strive for excellence and perhaps, one day, become Air Force pilots themselves.

The familiarization course is just one of 30 National Cadet Special Activities sponsored by CAP this summer. These activities allow cadets to hone their skills in a variety of areas including search and rescue, emergency services, science, leadership fundamentals, citizenship and military courtesies. It also encourages members to explore aerospace technology and aviation careers. In 2009, more than 1,100 youth participated in CAP-sponsored summer activities.

Through its cadet program, CAP builds strong citizens for the future by providing leadership training, technical education, scholarships and career education to young men and women ages 12 to 20.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

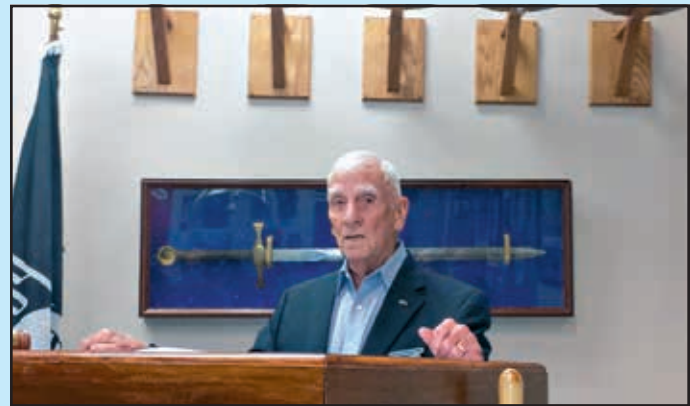
Airman 1st Class Samuel Miller, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace Physiology Technician, prepares to demonstrate a Parachute Landing Fall to Civil Air Patrol Cadets June 22 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Cadets also got to experience the altitude chamber and basic egress training.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Rosales, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace Physiology Technician, hands a blacked out mask to a Civil Air Patrol Cadet June 22 before providing a lesson on spatial disorientation to the cadet on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Civil Air Patrol cadets from across the country traveled to Columbus Air Force Base June 22-26 to participate in the 2015 Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 59,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 24,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 68 years. For more information on CAP, visit www.gocivillairpatrol.com.



U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson

'Smitty' Harris to speak at SUPT 15-11 graduation

Columbus Air Force Base welcomes retired Col. Carlyle S. "Smitty" Harris as guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-11's graduation July 1.

Smitty Harris entered the Air Force Jan. 2, 1951, and served through the rank of sergeant before being commissioned.

He retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1979.

In his career he flew fighter aircraft, was an instructor pilot, an operations officer, and a faculty member at the Air War College. On April 4, 1965, while on a combat mission, his F-105 was hit and he was forced to bail out over North Vietnam. He was captured immediately and spent the next eight years as a prisoner of war in various prisons where he was confined, mistreated and tortured.

He is credited with introducing the tap code to POWs so they could communicate secretly between cells. During his Air Force career, Smitty earned two Silver Star medals, three Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars for valor, two Air Medals, and two Purple Hearts.

After Smitty retired, he entered directly into the University of Mississippi law school, joining the Mississippi Bar in December 1981. His post-Air Force employment included banking, law, and marketing. Since 1979, Colonel Harris has been retired but has kept busy with volunteer work, flying, travel, golf, reading and other pursuits.

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.

FULL TIME Pharmacy Technician needed in Columbus, MS. Experience in retail setting preferred.

Send resume with references to:
Pharmacy Tech Position, 2320 5th St N., Columbus, MS 39705

Upcoming EVENTS

CPR Classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Classes are held twice each month. Pre-registration is required. Call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Baptist Cancer Center offers free prostate PSA screenings for men over 40 the last Friday of each month. July PSA screenings will be held in Starkville from 9 a.m.-noon. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Join us for a weekly education/support group meeting for people with **congestive heart failure** at Baptist Golden Triangle. Program runs on a 6-week cycle, you may begin at any time. Held each Thursday, 11am-noon, Outpatient Pavilion Board Room. For information call 244-1953 or 244-2132.

United Blood Service blood drive will be held Wednesday, July 29, 11a-5p, Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center at Baptist Golden Triangle. All donors are encouraged to give the gift of life. For more information go to bloodhero.com.

Baptist Golden Triangle offers **childbirth classes** each month. Classes are held on each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Diabetes Self-Management Education Class meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Baptist Golden Triangle Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center. Physician referral is required. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

BMH-GT Diabetes Support Groups - day classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, and evening classes are the 2nd Thurs. each month, 6-7 pm, rooms 4 & 5 PT. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

Baptist Memorial Hospice is seeking volunteers to assist in various ways in the office and with their families. Please call 662-243-1173 for more information.

For more information contact the numbers listed above or email info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org.

 **BAPTIST** | MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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,



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Discipleship Training - 5pm
Evening Worship - 6pm
WEDNESDAY
Kid's Drama - 6 pm
Bible Study, RAS, GAS
& Mission Friends - 6:30 pm
(662) 356-4940

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: 2004 tan Nissan Frontier XE, 6-cylinder, 4-door, 141,700 miles, \$6,900. For more information call 574-3312.

Miscellaneous


For Sale: Two IBM T61 Laptops with Intel 2.10ghz CPU, Windows XP, and 2GB Ram; asking \$145 for the 120ghd and \$135 for the 80ghd. For more information call 386-6981.

For Sale: iPad mini 3, 16GB, brand new in box, includes life proof case, \$400. For more information contact 497-2408.

News Around Town

July 9 and 23

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series has begun. Come to the free concert series at the Riverwalk 7 - 9 p.m. throughout the months of June and July. Coolers and pets not welcome, please bring lawn chairs for comfort seating.



More information regarding Fireworks on the Water activities, procedures and volunteer opportunities will be published in the July 1st edition of Silver Wings.

Hecker assumes command of 19th Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Maj. Gen. James B. Hecker assumed command of 19th Air Force in a ceremony here June 23.

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command who presided over the ceremony, spoke to the importance of the 19th Air Force and the opportunity that awaits Hecker.

“All aviators start in the 19th Air Force,” Rand said. “If we don’t get it right here, how can we expect our Air Force to get it right?”

The 19th Air Force is responsible for the training of aircrews, remotely piloted aircraft crews, air battle managers, weapons directors, Air Force Academy Airmanship programs, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialists to sustain the combat capability of the U.S. Air Force, other services and allies.

Serving as the foundation for all Air Force flying training, the 19th Air Force conducts more than 490,000 flying hours annually, or 44 percent of the Air Force’s total flying hours. It includes 19 training locations, with

16 active-duty, Guard and Reserve wings. More than 32,000 people and nearly 1,400 aircraft of 29 different models make up the force.

Hecker said the 19th Air Force consistently provides world-class training so its students are prepared for the demands that lie ahead.

“It’s not [a matter of] if we go to war,” Hecker said. “Within a year, most of the people we graduate are going to go to war. We owe it to their mothers and fathers, and their daughters and sons, to make sure that they are prepared.”

Hecker said their success is largely dependent on Air Force leaders treating their Airmen right.

“As you are putting them through this pressure, and making them the best they can be to go out and lead our nation, you have to make sure that they are also having fun,” Hecker said. “The biggest thing is to treat your Airmen with dignity and respect. It all starts at the top.”

The assumption of command marked the second celebration of the day for Hecker, as he pinned on major general rank prior to the ceremony.



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Peterson

Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presents the unit guidon to Maj. Gen. James B. Hecker during the 19th Air Force assumption of command ceremony, June 23, 2015 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The 19th Air Force is responsible for the training of aircrews, remotely piloted aircraft crews, air battle managers, weapons directors, Air Force Academy Airmanship programs, and survival, escape, resistance, and evasion specialists to sustain the combat capability of the United States Air Force, other services and our nation’s allies.

PRIDE

(Continued from page 11)

Metcalf said his first base taught him to be cautious and never admit to being gay.

“I never told anyone that I was gay, their assumptions can be their assumptions,” he said. “But as long as I never told anyone I was gay, I knew I’d be somewhat okay.”

Metcalf was then sent to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he was able to be open around his Airmen. He was able to talk openly about his boyfriend at the time because of his support group and the European lifestyle being more accepting of gays.

But for people he wasn’t close with, he still had his secrets. He learned to get in the habit of saying “Danielle” when speaking about his boyfriend, Darnell, and changing all his “he’s” to “she’s.” Because of don’t ask, don’t tell, Metcalf still had to remember to keep his stories together. Leading a separate life was now his norm.

After his time in Germany, he returned back to the U.S., which also meant he had to return to hiding who he was.

It was a smart move at the time, he said. But after six and a half years of active duty service, he transitioned into the Reserve so that he could peruse school and learn how to survive outside the military. It gave him the chance to live a civilian

life and be around people who were more accepting of his sexual orientation, he said.

On September 20, 2011, don’t ask, don’t tell was repealed and it changed Metcalf’s life. He was now able to be open about who he was. He was now able to be himself and not worry about possibly losing his job over his sexual orientation.

“I heard it over the radio,” he said. “I was leaving Buckley AFB one day and I heard the president speaking. I did not realize how much of an effect it’d have on me. I was driving and I heard him say the words in the speech and I started crying. In one swift move, he just validated my entire military career.”

Metcalf’s twelve years, multiple deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar, being stationed in multiple countries, and doing his best for the Air Force, were all validated in one presentation, he said.

“It still makes me excited to think about,” he said.

Regardless of the repeal, nothing was different the next day at work, he said. Metcalf didn’t open up to his coworkers for another two years, but after a while he didn’t feel like it was fair to keep his partner a secret.

“It was freeing,” he said about coming out. “You don’t realize how much stress you carry about an issue until it’s removed and you can feel the weight removed.”

During last year’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride month, Metcalf told his story. He said his words filled the crowd with tears, smiles and applause.

Part of Metcalf’s inspiration for becoming a first sergeant was to help Airmen through tough times like he experienced, he said.

“I do this to be there for people in this time and this transition in the Air Force and giving them the support they need and some guidance they need sometimes,” he said. “Realizing that they, too, can succeed, and they will promote, and they will continue their career, and they can meet all aspirations they have.”

Metcalf hopes to see, in the future of the Air Force and the U.S., an equal workplace for all LGBT and straight Airmen.

“My hope going forward is that LGBT members serving in the military and have served in the military are able to take part in the freedoms that we have served to protect,” he said.

Metcalf wants everyone to know that no matter what someone’s sexual orientation, background or story is, if they have decided to serve, that is all that matters, he said.

“I am African-American. I am a son. I am a man.. I am in the Air Force, and I am gay,” he said. “But none of those make me a single identifier. It’s important to me that I am seen as I want to be seen, and that is as an Airman in the Air Force.”

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Team BLAZE members survive first enlisted combat dining in

Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Team BLAZE enlisted members strapped on their oldest and most worn battle attire and took up arms of water warfare June 19 during the first-ever wing-wide enlisted combat dining in.

The warriors endured a grog, obstacle course, food and advanced water warfare.

“I think the Airmen’s favorite part of the CDI was getting to see every tier of our BLAZE Enlisted Command in a different light,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Satchell, Inspector General Management Internal Control Toolset and CDI Primary Committee Member. “We had the opportunity to relax with the Command Chief, Flight Chiefs, First Shirts, Superintendents, supervisors and fellow peers at a military function and still have fun while still being a professional.”

Chief Master Sgt. Harry Hutchinson, 81st Training Wing Command Chief, was the guest speaker at the event and shared his past experiences at CDIs.

“I recall attending roughly four CDIs and three Dining Ins in my career,” Hutchinson said. “I really enjoy when the warriors approach the Grog Bowl. I always chuckle at the sequence of events and actions



U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

Airmen take cover and return fire during the Enlisted Combat Dining In June 19 at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. CDIs are one of the Air Force’s most honored traditions, and an experience many Airmen enjoy.

that ensue. It’s amusing how the smartest Airmen on the planet cannot follow a perceived simple set of rules, but their excitement speaks volumes.”

CDIs allow Airmen to relax and focus on having fun while attending an official function.

“Events like Dining Ins allow Airmen to slow down and learn to see the forest through the trees,” Hutchinson said. “We can’t continuously load the wagons without tending to the workhorses. My

hats off to Columbus leadership for making time to showcase their thoroughbred team and the contributions of enlisted Airmen to producing pilots and advancing the fight.”

CDIs are one of the Air Force’s most honored traditions, and an experience many Airmen enjoy.

“I would definitely encourage Airmen at all levels to attend a CDI,” Satchell said. “The CDI is truly a one-of-a-kind event. It puts a unique spin on honoring our past



U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

Grog bowls are guarded by Team BLAZE members during the Enlisted Combat Dining In June 19 at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The warriors in attendance endured an obstacle course, food and an intense water gun battle.

as Airmen while fueling our future as a fighting force. It is an experience that you will always hold on to. It is an experience that will bond you as Airmen to each other. The experience is truly unforgettable and so much fun.”

The CDI concluded with a water war including water guns, a water pit and water balloons. Camaraderie was built as Airmen proudly

defended their posts.

“It was an absolute pleasure fellowshiping with the men and women of Columbus AFB,” Hutchinson said. “Witnessing the camaraderie and pride of team BLAZE reminds me why I still serve after all these years. I am still amazed no matter where we are planted as Airmen, we bloom. It’s in our DNA. Air Power!”

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 an 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.



What's in a Name: Columbus Air Force Base

Dr. Doris Crusoe
Wing Historian Office

Did you know that the name of Columbus Air Force Base has changed six times since its establishment on June 26, 1941?

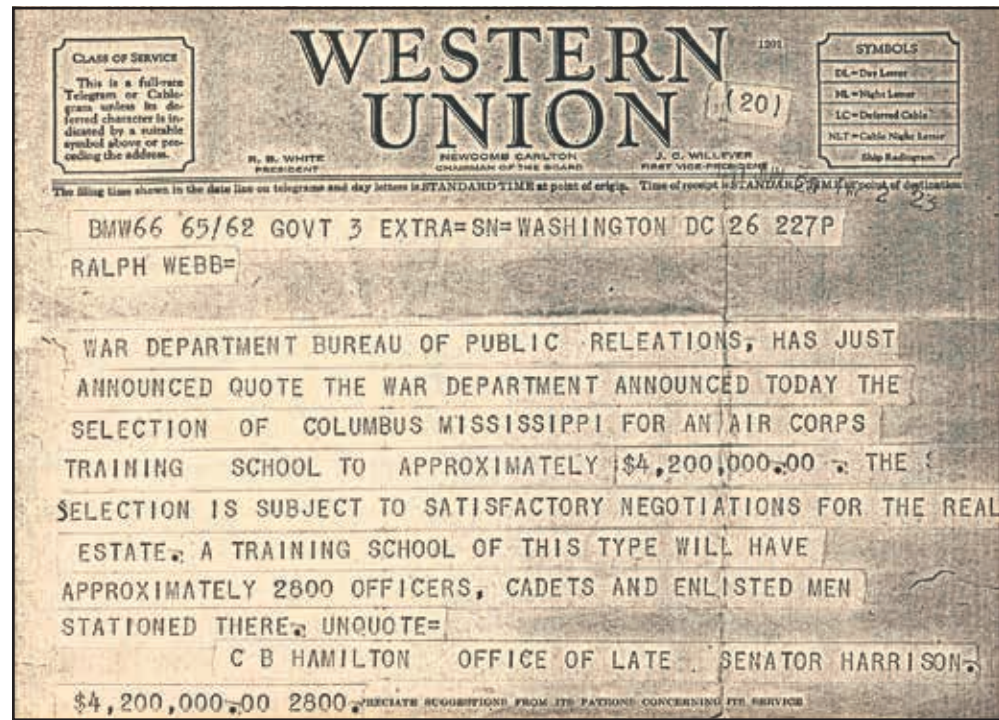
The base was originally established with the purpose to construct a local airport as a means to secure worthwhile projects for its local communities, while simultaneously supporting the war efforts.

However, that plan changed as the United States forces geared up for war. As a direct result of an inevitable world conflict, the Army Air Forces activated new flying schools which supported the Air Corps pilot production goals that soared from 300 in 1939 to 93,000 in 1943. A total of 99 military and civilian contract flying schools operated at one time or another during the war.

In light of these changes, Columbus civil leaders shifted their focus from that of simply obtaining a local airport, to that of acquiring a military flying field. Council members realized the benefits of an Army Air Corps base, which would serve both the nation and their community.

On Aug. 6, 1941, the newly established base was named Air Corps Advanced Flying School, synonymous with its World War II mission to train military pilots. The following month, on Sept. 15, 1941, the base became known as Columbus Airfield.

No one designated or suggested a name for the new military installation until Jan. 22, 1942. Then, on Feb. 24, 1942, the War De-



This telegram is the official document stating a new \$4.2 million Air Corps training school would be coming to Columbus, Mississippi. The new school started with around 2,800 personnel and was charged with training military pilots.

partment announced the installation would be named Kaye Field in honor of Capt. Samuel Kaye Jr., a World War I flying ace.

Kaye was born in Columbus, Mississippi, on November 8, 1895. He enlisted in the Air Service in World War I and served in the 94th Aero Squadron, commanded by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. In the course of

his many successful combat missions, he was credited with shooting down eight German planes. Kaye died March 12, 1939, after an extended illness.

Later, on March 27, 1942, the War Department announced that the base name had been changed from Kaye Field to Columbus Army Flying School. The name change was

made to correct an issue of confusion which resulted from a similar sounding name of a nearby base, Key Field in Meridian, Mississippi. Planes often flew to the wrong airfield, and mail was even delivered to the wrong base.

Then, on April 28, 1943, headquarters at Maxwell Field, Alabama, notified the base that the name would be changed once again. In the interest of uniformity in the names of Army Air Forces Air Field schools which operated under the Southeastern Air Corps Training Center, the Columbus Army Flying School was changed to Columbus Army Air Field.

Columbus Army Air Field's name was changed to Columbus Army Air Field Pilot School on July 31, 1943. At that time, the base operated under the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command.

Shortly after the Air Force became a separate service on Sept. 18, 1947, the base name was changed to the present-day, Columbus AFB, on June 24, 1948. Columbus AFB was named for the city of Columbus, Mississippi, a small town that inspired an immeasurable dream.

What's in a name? Columbus AFB is rooted in an honorable history, reflected in humble beginnings of a mission to train military pilots, which continues over 40 years later with its present-day assignment, to train Air Force pilots in support of the United States' Global Air Power missions.

Why volunteer this Fourth of July? Here's 239 reasons

2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Every family has Fourth of July traditions: cookouts, water balloon fights or maybe the annual family volleyball tournament.

This year consider adding a new tradition: volunteering. This Fourth of July, Columbus is putting on Fireworks on the Water 2015, a fully community-funded fireworks show and music event at the Stennis Lock and Dam, and they need volunteers to help make it happen.

All of us are in the military because we believe in dedicating ourselves to serving this country. I'd like to ask you all to join me and help make this event the kind of event where everyone says, "Wow, Columbus – what a great place to be!"

I know the Fourth of July is a family weekend, and you're looking forward to four uninterrupted days of their company. (Unless they're like mine, in which case you're jumping for a chance to get out of the house for a few hours.) Why not bring your family along? There's no better bonding experience than serving the community together.

Need another reason to sign up? I can offer you 239. That's the number of years it has been since July 4, 1776, when Jefferson, Adams, Hancock, and Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence declaring ours an independent union. We owe it to the remarkable history that we all are benefactors of to remember and celebrate their achievement. Come out and volunteer for patriotism.

If history isn't your thing, come out and volunteer because it's an opportunity to shine. Fireworks on the Water is offi-

cially sponsored by the base, a key community event with expected crowds of over 8,000. The bullet practically writes itself.

Or come out and volunteer because it's fun! Volunteers get special parking, a chance to hang out with folks from the local community, and at the end of it you get to see an awesome fireworks show up-close. What better way to spend a Saturday evening?

If interested in volunteering, you can contact the Public Affairs office at 434-7068 for more information. Or you can go to the Columbus AFB webpage, Columbus.af.mil, and click on the Fireworks on the Water logo to find a link to all volunteer information.

If you volunteer for one thing this summer, make it Fireworks on the Water 2015.

First sergeant serves with pride

Airman 1st Class Emily E. Amyotte
460th Space Wing Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — (This feature is part of the "Through Airmen's Eyes" series on AF.mil. These stories focus on a single Airman, highlighting their Air Force story.)

With the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, many LGBT Airmen felt like they could finally be open about who they are; this included a first sergeant for the Air Reserve Personnel Center on Buckley Air Force Base.

Master Sgt. Thomas Metcalf was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1982. He said he grew up in a lower-class family that was no stranger to food stamps, spending the first nine years of his life living on a farm with his two siblings.

Metcalf's mother joined the Army when he was eight years old and, Metcalf said, it changed the course of his family's entire life. It was an equalizer for the Metcalfs and was his first introduction to the military lifestyle.

Later on, after a failed attempt at college, Metcalf decided that he would follow in his mother's footsteps and join the military.

"My mother was a huge influence on why I wanted to join the military," Metcalf said. "I saw how it turned my family's life around, and I knew that I never wanted to worry about money again."

Metcalf said he initially wanted to join the Marine Corps, because that's what he thought the definition of a "man" was; however, he wasn't yet a legal adult and his mom wouldn't give her consent.

Since Metcalf didn't know how to swim, the Navy was out. He also figured that if he didn't want to be in the Army and didn't think that the Marines Corps would be any easier, the Air Force was the right branch for him.

After going through his initial Air Force training, Metcalf found himself at his first duty station on Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. Within his first two or three months of being on station, he heard that he was under investigation for being gay.

"A friend of mine told me that he had heard I was under investigation," Metcalf said. "It was weird because I didn't even do anything. I'm not sure how they got the idea. It taught me that I should not be open about being gay and I should be cautious about the people who know and be careful with my mannerisms and actions."

Not long after his investigation began, 9/11 happened and his command had bigger things to focus on, he said.

See PRIDE, Page 12

Father, son spend Father's Day in deployed location

Senior Airman Racheal E. Watson
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Deployed accommodations have changed drastically in the last 30 years. In the '80s and '90s, handwritten letters and rooms filled with pay phones were the only ways to communicate with loved ones from home.

"When I went to Desert Storm the first time, we got our phone call home and we were in country (for) almost a week," said Tech. Sgt. Michial Smith, a 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment technician. "It was a three-minute morale call and you waited in line for it. I actually got a letter home before that call."

Spending time away from loved ones during various holidays throughout the year can take a toll on deployed service members. When Michial could make phone calls home, he didn't have much to say, instead he would rather listen to his 5-year-old son talk.

"That was the biggest thing and he told me about playing with the dog or playing with his toys," Michial said.

In 1992, Michial chose to put his military career on pause and began driving a truck to support his family.

Years passed by and Michial's children grew into adults and began families of their own, but the military was still close to his heart. He was proud and loved to serve his country and after seeing his son struggle he wanted to pass the opportunity to him.

"When I was going through dark times in my life and had a dead-end job, three kids and a wife, and nowhere to go, (my dad) came out of nowhere and said you need to talk to a recruiter," said Senior Airman Brandon Smith, a 386th EAMXS AGE technician. "(My dad said) you need to get yourself a trade and that would be easiest way to get it. I know you can do it."

Brandon took his father's advice and



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Racheal E. Watson
Tech. Sgt. Michial Smith and Senior Airman Brandon Smith, both 386th Expeditionary Aerospace Ground Equipment technicians, are deployed together as father and son at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, June 11, 2015. The Smith duo is stationed at Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa.

talked to a recruiter. What Michial did not know was his son also talked to the recruiter about him re-enlisting in the military.

"We were sitting in a bar having a drink because it was (my son's) birthday and that's when he told me 'dad, I'm going to be going into the service,'" Michial said. "I said well, you know if I was young enough and I could still get in, I would do it."

Brandon informed his father that his 10 years of active-duty service allowed him to re-enlist. Michial could not believe what he was hearing. A chapter of his life he thought was closed forever was about to reopen.

Both father and son submitted their paperwork to join the military. Michial was able to retrain from ammunitions into AGE and was in the technical school when he received a phone call from his son.

"Dad, I'm in basic training," said

Michial, recalling the phone conversation. "More than that, we're going to be stationed together and we're going to be in the same shop together."

More years passed and the father and son duo had the opportunity to deploy together.

Michial never thought in a million years he would be able to deploy with his son, let alone spend Father's Day with him in Southwest Asia.

"This is one of the highlights of my career, being able to be here with (my son)," Michial said.

A father and a son deployed together, spending Father's Day together is a rare moment, but one both will cherish.

"I understand where he has been and as a father myself, I have a lot more respect for him now than I ever did and a lot more understanding for him teaching me how he did," Brandon said. "Above all, I love him to the fullest and I couldn't ask for a better father."

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 and FootGolf

Independence Pool Passes are included with Whispering Pines Golf Membership. FootGolf is coming July 1 and is also included with 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.

Summer Reading Program

The Base Library is offering a summer reading program for all ages. Register at the library and enjoy a summer of stories, activities, crafts and tons of fun. The program will run until July 23 with a Summer Reading Awards Ceremony at 1 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Free Movie Night

Free movie night at the Kaye Auditorium Friday, June 26. Watch the family friendly movie “Home” (PG) at 6 p.m. and “Fast and Furious” (PG-13) at 8 p.m. Concessions will be available; no outside food and beverages allowed. For more information, contact 434-2314.

FootGolf Grand Opening

Join Whispering Pines Golf Course for FootGolf Grand Opening July 1. Enjoy free FootGolf all day with food and drink specials. Door prizes to be given away. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Youth Flag Football Registration

The Youth Center is offering youth flag football for ages 3 – 18. Register July 6 – 31. The cost is \$40 per youth. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Firecracker 5K Run/Walk

The Fitness Center is offering a 5K run/walk at 7 a.m. July 10. Bikes and strollers welcome. Commander’s trophy points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Third Annual Color Run

Join the Youth Center for the Third Annual Color Run at



Lil Blazer Park at 8 a.m. July 11. Free for Base ID card holders; \$10 per person without base access. Registration required by July 6. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Skydive Alabama Trip

The 14th Force Support Squadron is offering a Skydive Alabama Trip Aug. 8. The cost is \$20 per person which includes transportation, snacks, lunch, and skydive jump. Single Airmen may sign up July 1 – 10; open sign up July 11 – 24. For more information and to sign up, contact Lt. Russo at john.russo.7@us.af.mil.

Story Time

The Base Library is offering Story Time each Friday at 10:30 a.m. for all ages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

Smooth Move

This class, 10-11:30 a.m. July 1, 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.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. July 6-10. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has Seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance 8 – 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register, call 434-2839.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. July 13-14. 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 more information call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. July 14, 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is 9 - 10:30 a.m. July 15. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs, Call 434-2790 to register.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30a.m. - noon July 15. 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.

Grants, Scholarships & Financial Aid

This work shop is 2 - 3 p.m. July 16. It informs you how to pay for college and is open to everyone. Call 434-2790 to register.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Tech. Sgt. Nathan Sullivan, Wing Newcomers Security Forces briefer, briefs new Team BLAZE members on the 14th Security Forces Squadron defenders’ mission and how to obey base rules and regulations on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The next Newcomer’s Brief will be from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. July 14 in the Kaye Auditorium. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held 8 - 3 p.m. July 20-21. 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.

TAP Education Track

This transition event is held 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. July 21-22 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 required by AFI for all newly assignment personnel to their first station. The event will be 9-10 a.m. July 21. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon July 23. 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.

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.

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



TOPS IN BLUE



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

First Lt. Oliver Chang, Tops In Blue violinist, plays a solo during the Tops In Blue performance June 20 at Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. Tops In Blue has performed for 60 years to boost morale of Airmen and their families.



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Airmen in the 2015 Tops in Blue world tour put on a free concert for Team BLAZE members and the local community June 20 at Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. More than 1,000 people attended this year's event.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile

Columbus Air Force Base Airmen enjoy the Tops in Blue performance June 20 at Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. About 29 Airmen volunteered to help set up and tear down the stage, hand out programs and usher attendees to their seats.



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

Airmen in the 2015 Tops in Blue world tour post the colors and introduce this year's tour title, "Freedom's Song," June 20 at Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. The show combined a wide range of music, both vocal and instrumental, and dancing.



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

Tops In Blue prepare the audience with song before Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, takes the stage to address the audience June 20 at the Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. Tops In Blue played music from past decades along with popular music from modern day.



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

Tops In Blue Airmen from around the world perform for Columbus Air Force Base Airmen and members of the local community June 20 at the Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rent Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. Before they start their tour, Tops in Blue Airmen undergo 60 days of intense training where they learn what it takes to become world-class performers.