

Weather

Friday  Partly Cloudy High 63°F Low 34°F	Saturday  Sunny High 60°F Low 34°F
Sunday  Partly Cloudy High 61°F Low 44°F	Monday  Partly Cloudy High 66°F Low 56°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Female All Call

Two all calls hosted by Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Nov. 16 at Phillips Auditorium for uniformed, active-duty female base personnel.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

National American Indian Heritage Month Food Tasting

A food tasting event is scheduled at 11 a.m. Nov. 23 at the Chapel Annex in observance of National American Indian Heritage Month.

Inside



Feature 8

The Veterans Day Ceremony is highlighted in this week's feature.

Columbus community comes together to honor its veterans



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

Airman 1st Class Brianna Brown, 14th Flying Training Wing Honor guardsman, salutes the flag during the presentation of Colors at the 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 in Columbus, Mississippi. During the ceremony, Alice Stallworth Lancaster, Regent of the Bernard Romans Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, rededicated the monument to veterans. Afterward Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke on what Veterans Day meant to him before he laid a wreath on the memorial and offered a salute to close the day's event with Harry Sanders, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors President, and Vice Columbus Mayor Gene Taylor. For story and more photos, see pages 8 and 9.

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 (16-11)	3.10 days	2.50 days	Dec. 14	48th (16-03)	2.61 days	3.51 days	Dec. 14	49th (16-BBC)	2.67 days	4.67 days	Nov. 18	T-6	883	689	3,555
41st (16-10)	1.40 days	2.05 days	Nov. 17	50th (16-03)	-0.42 days	1.85 days	Dec. 14					T-1	334	291	1,181
												T-38	287	223	1,164
												IFF	126	141	555

The graduation speaker is Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.

A Command Cyber Readiness Inspection is scheduled at Columbus Air Force Base Dec. 14-19.

UNAUTHORIZED WIRELESS DEVICES



PDA/Blackberry



Smartwatches



Phone



Native American Food Tasting,
11 a.m. @ Chapel Annex
Cameras



Laptops



Tablets

- Do not bring unauthorized wireless devices into secured areas where classified information is handled.
- Doing so will result in a security violation and possible destruction of the device.

FOR TRAINING PURPOSE ONLY

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
16 Female All Call, 10 a.m., 3 p.m. @ Phillips	17 Col. Milam T-6 visit Newcomers Orientation Brief, 8 a.m. @ A&FRC Ole Miss AFROTC Tour, noon @ CAFB	18 BLAZE 5/6 meeting, 12:30 p.m. @ Golf Course	19 Great American Smoke Out Dormsgiving, 5:30 @ Chapel Annex	20 Top-3 Meeting, 2:30 p.m. @ Golf Course NAF Warehouse Sale, 7 a.m. for A.D., 8 a.m. for all @ Outdoor Recreation	21/22	Dec. 15: Newcomers Orientation Brief Dec. 18: SUPT Class 16-03 graduation Dec. 24: AETC Family Day Dec. 25: Christmas Holiday Dec. 29: CT fly day Dec. 31: AETC Family Day Jan. 1: New Year's Holiday Jan. 4: Safety Day Jan. 6-7: CSAF All-Call Jan. 22: SUPT Class 16-04 Graduation Jan. 29: Fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony Feb. 5: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation
23 Native American Food Tasting, 11 a.m. @ Chapel Annex	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday	27 AETC Family Day	28/29	

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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.

14th SFS holds commanders open house



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Dustin Weeks, 14th Security Forces Squadron Kennelmaster, talks about equipment the squadron uses for training during a 14th SFS commanders open house Nov. 5 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The open house showcased squadron operations to commanders from across the base and included the Military Working Dog section, various weapon systems, the Fire Arms Training Simulator, and a force-on-force drill.

Langley AFB Raptors visit Team BLAZE



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Patrick Ryan

Three F-22 Raptors from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, sit on the flightline Nov. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The four F-22s were flown to Columbus AFB for a brief on the capabilities of the Raptor and to introduce student pilots to the aircraft they could potentially fly upon completion of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

Columbus AFB Tax Center looking for volunteers

The Columbus AFB Tax Center will open in late January and is in need of volunteer tax preparers and assistants. All of our volunteers play a critical role in assisting service members, retirees, and dependents to complete and file their tax returns. This service helps our clients maximize their tax refunds. Volunteers with special skills or training are welcome, however no prior experience is required. Training will be provided on the latest tax preparation forms and software. To be an effective volunteer you should be able to file your own tax return, work with computers, learn new things, and enjoy working with people. For more information, please contact Capt. Luke McPherson in the legal office at 434-7030.

PRO/AM MOTOCROSS
NOVEMBER 15, 2015

BENEFIT FOR THE
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

VETERANS MX PARK
1450 BARKHEAD RD
FULTON, MS
SATURDAY NIGHT

PIT PARTY
LIVE MUSIC AND GIVEAWAYS

SPONSORED BY:

E-FIRE Protection Security Safety
NB NOLAN BROTHERS MOTOR SALES
MX SOUTH

WEEKEND SCHEDULE
FRIDAY: GATES OPEN AT 12:00PM
SATURDAY: OPEN PRACTICE 10-3PM (\$25/RIDER)
SUNDAY: PRO/AM EVENT 2 MOTO FORMAT

ALL PROCEEDS FROM SUNDAY'S RACING GO TO BENEFIT THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

VISIT: HTTP://WWW.VETMXPARK.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

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.

DOD hosts Virtual Education Fair

Dawn Bilodeau
Chief DOD
Voluntary Education

Service members, it's never too early to start planning for your future. Going back to school now for a postsecondary degree or certification will certainly help to ensure your future success.


The Department of Defense is committed to making higher education accessible for service members. In support of that commitment, DOD is hosting its first Virtual Education Fair on Nov. 19.

Well-educated, well-trained service members are critical to a changing postwar military force. Today's military demands educated service members with expert technical and trade skills. As the military re-aligns and becomes lighter, faster and more technical, those with technical skills and higher education will have better job security when they transition from the military.

The Department of Defense is unified about the value of education programs designed to support professional development and successful transition of service members to the civilian workforce. They are also committed to ensuring that when military students take advantage of their tuition assistance benefits, they are equipped with the details needed to make school and program choices to meet their goals.

The Virtual Education Fair will provide the opportunity for you and your spouse to participate in the fair from anywhere in the world. You'll be able to ask questions about schools, degree and certificate programs, financial aid, tuition and fee costs, and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

Representatives from partic-



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VOLUNTARY EDUCATION VIRTUAL EDUCATION FAIR

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015

- Search for a school to meet your education or career needs.
- Learn about schools that have a signed agreement with the Department of Defense to provide you with a quality education.
- Find out about financial aid options to help you reach your educational goals.
- Chat live with representatives from participating schools.
- Get the information you need without the pressure.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY.
Find out more at <http://www.dodeducationfair.com>.
Registration begins on November 1, 2015.

ipating schools will be available via live chat from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. eastern standard time for a total of 10 hours to accommodate different time zones. You will also have the opportunity to access these three pre-recorded sessions during and after the event:

- Top High-Growth Career Fields and Degrees
- Tools and Resources for Choosing a School

- Bridging Education and Credentialing

Information on participating schools will remain accessible on-line after the event as well.

Don't miss out on this chance to explore education options to help you make informed choices about schools, degree programs, tuition assistance, financial aid and more. Don't forget to save the date and register today.

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.

Team BLAZE members learn hunting essentials



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens
Mark McClusky, Lowndes County Game Warden, speaks to attendees of the Hunters Safety Course in Phillips Auditorium Nov. 4 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The course allows participants to hunt in the U.S.

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.



**Buckle up!
It's the law.**



AF strengthens ties with community through partnership program

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Community Partnership Program (AFCP), one of the 13 Make Every Dollar Count initiatives launched by the Air Force, is currently working with 51 installations and local communities to improve and strengthen community and Air Force partnerships.

The AFCP program offers opportunities to military installations and local communities to partner and achieve mutual value and benefit, such as reducing operating and service costs and achieving mutual economic goals and interests.

Since October 2012, the AFCP program has generated more than 1,000 initiatives with a potential value/benefit of approximately \$160 million over the next five years. These partnerships are identifying new and innovative ways of supporting Airmen and their families. Current initiatives include medical, emergency response, grounds maintenance, shared use firing ranges, joint fire/police training, and operations of installation services.

"Partnering starts with committed Air Force and community leaders," said Steve Zander, the AFCP program director. "The greatest results are achieved when installation and community leaders embrace the concept of partnering and use the Air Force's well-structured process as a means to achieve mutual value and benefit."

According to the AFCP program, there are many initiatives being conducted throughout the Air Force. Here are a few examples on ways the Air Force is helping to improve and strengthen bonds with the local community:

- **Robins Air Force Base, Georgia:** Medical leaders realized renewal certification training for medical and dental doctors was available at local community hospitals around Houston County, Georgia. Attending local training eliminated the need for military members to travel to other locations, resulting in

cost savings of more than \$434,000 for the Air Force and up to \$2 million for the community.

- **Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota:** Leased underutilized facilities to a health care management firm with lease income equal to \$635,000 in June 2015. Total rentable space comprised 21,521 square feet along with associated office equipment including desks, chairs, cubicles, tables, etc. This partnership will provide good-paying jobs in western South Dakota, income to offset base operating costs, and access to base services for the firm's employees.

- **Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida:** Leadership recently signed a lease with a local medical center. The lease is for a one-year period and will enable the 325th Medical Group to provide primarily pediatric and Minute Clinic type care to patients at the center two days per week.

- **Hill AFB, Utah:** Established a satellite pharmacy in some underutilized space in the new base exchange. This increased the number of prescriptions filled, recapturing workload from the retail network pharmacies, and increased foot traffic and sales in the exchange facility. Over the past 13 months, the satellite pharmacy saved the Department of Defense and taxpayers an estimated \$3.1 million in prescription costs. In a separate partnership, the community contributed to the cost of operating open house and air show events on Hill AFB. Throughout the course of the agreement, the Air Force received \$548,000 in donated services, with the community realizing a \$15 million economic impact when the open house/air show events took place.

In its third year, the AFCP program has matured in guiding installations and communities to identify partnership opportunities across the spectrum of installation services and mission support. Moving forward, the AFCP teams are now echoing senior Air Force leadership by talking about finding ways to leverage existing resources and capabilities of installations, state and local communities, and commercial entities for the mutual benefit of all involved parties.

TRICARE young adult premiums to increase Jan. 1

TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Premiums for the Military Health System's benefit plan for adult children between 21 and 26 years old have been announced. The premiums for TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program will increase on Jan. 1 to \$306 per month for TYA Prime, and \$228 per month for TYA Standard.

"Offering the option to have young adults covered under these plans falls in line with what all Americans are able to do with their adult children under the Affordable Care Act," said Mary Kaye Justis, the director of the TRICARE Health Plan. "We want to make sure those wanting this coverage know all the facts as they go into the open enrollment season for health care plans in this country."

Justis explained the increase is due to the requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 that TRICARE set TYA premiums to cover the full cost of health care received by the program's beneficiaries. Previous years' premiums were lower because TRICARE did not yet have sufficient cost data to set annual premiums. This coming year marks the first time TRICARE has had enough actual cost data to set the premiums based on actual costs rather than predicted cost.

"We are required by law to be cost-neutral to the government, so the premiums had to be raised to cover the actual cost of care," Justis said.

TYA offers very generous, competitive coverage for young adults, Justis said. Although the premiums do not go into effect until Jan. 1, TRICARE leaders want to make sure TYA beneficiaries have all the facts now to make the best decision possible, based on their needs and circumstances, during the open enrollment season from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31.

"We like having young adults in our system and welcome them to stay on," Justis said. "But they do have options."

Other health care options for young adult beneficiaries include:

- Purchasing TYA Standard — lower premiums, higher cost shares — instead of TYA Prime
 - Enrolling in a parent's civilian health insurance plan, if available
 - Purchasing coverage through the college or university, if enrolled
 - Purchasing a plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov
 - Lower cost plans may be available depending on income and residence, and assistance paying premiums may be available if beneficiaries qualify for government subsidies through commercial plans
- Visit www.tricare.mil/TYA for more information.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Nov. 15-17

The Pro/AM Motocross is scheduled to begin noon Friday at the Veterans MX Park, 1450 Bankhead Road, Fulton, Mississippi. Saturday features open practice 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. for \$25 a rider and a Pit Party later in the evening with live music and giveaways. Open practice will be free for any military ID card holder. Sunday features the Pro/Am event 2 Moto Format with all proceeds to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. For

more information, visit online at vetmx-park.com.

Nov. 16

Columbus YMCA is looking for volunteers to evaluate the Upward Youth Basketball League, 5 - 6:30 p.m. Interested parties should contact Jeff Reeves at 328-7696. Additional volunteer opportunities exist for coaches, referees, scoreboard workers, and more.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements

for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Miscellaneous

Wanted: Looking for old artificial Christmas Trees to recycle and will pick up for free. For more information, call 352-4940.

AF veteran survivor of three wars, plane crash

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Boyer

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Retired Lt. Col. Alma Skousen, a humble, soft-spoken 89-year-old fighter pilot, served his country during three wars, encountered Soviet MiG fighters in battle and survived a jet crash before ending his flying career as the 311th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, now known as the 311th Fighter Squadron, commander in 1973 at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

“I should have been shot down,” Skousen said about one of his 133 missions in his F-4 Phantom II during the Vietnam War. “I was patrolling a river just above the demilitarized zone. There was a large cargo boat the enemy would use to transport supplies so I figured I might as well sink it. I established a run to drop a rocket into it. I should have noticed it was tied shore to shore, which was unusual. It turned out to be a trap.

“Just as I was in my run pretty good, they were over me, under me, behind me,” he continued. “I was taking fire from everywhere. Somehow every shot seemed to go behind my airplane and I made it out with my life.”

Dream to fly

“When I was a little boy I saw an airplane flying,” said Skousen, now a resident of Mesa, Arizona. “It was 1934. I got my brother to go with me to the little dirt strip the pilot landed on. At that time, pilots wanted to help anybody who was interested in airplanes. They wanted to keep it going. Talking to that pilot was the beginning of my dream to fly.”

Skousen enlisted in the Army Air Corps fresh out of high school in 1943 during World War II.

“I wanted to be a hotshot fighter pilot, but I didn’t get to fly at that time,” he said.

Skousen became a C-54 Skymaster flight engineer, but held onto his childhood dream of being a pilot. When the war ended, so did his enlistment. Skousen went back to civilian life until he joined the relatively new Air Force in 1951.

“I went to flight school at Williams AFB, right here in Chandler, Arizona,” he said. “I went off to the Korean War in 1952 flying air-to-ground missions as part of the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing in my F-80 Shooting Star.”

His missions were dangerous from the very start.

“My first mission there was bombing a place just across a demilitarized zone on the



Courtesy photo

Second Lt. Alma Skousen, far right, poses in front of an aircraft in 1951 after finishing flight school at Williams Air Force Base in Chandler, Arizona.

hillside between North and South Korea,” Skousen said. “I had a little scare because I found out later there was a flight of MiGs waiting to surprise attack us, but we made it out before they acted.”

Skousen had become no stranger to danger, but it was during a non-combat flight in the U.S. that he survived a crash.

“I had an accident, the only one I ever had, in a T-33 Shooting Star,” he said. “I was stationed at Travis (AFB) and they sent me up to Washington to be a part of an inspection team. Before returning to Travis, I noticed there was something wrong with the turbine wheel. I prepared to hop on a C-47 Skytrain to fly back when the sergeant ran up and said they got the parts to fix my jet if I wanted to wait. So I did.”

After hours of repairs, the maintainers cleared Skousen’s jet for flight. “We got up to about 24,000 feet when I heard a loud ‘bang’ and saw a piece of the turbine wheel fall off at the 10 o’clock position and cut my rudder cable,” he said. “I found out I lost a pie-shape piece of the turbine wheel. I tried to eject the canopy, but it malfunctioned, so I had no choice but to look for somewhere to land.”

The aircraft’s wheels touched down on recently-plowed farmland, but Skousen’s body paid the price.

“When the jet hit the ground the canopy and my helmet flew off and I got three compression fractures of my vertebrae. I had to spend one-and-a-half months in the hospital after that. That was in 1957, and I worried that my flying career might be over.”

Skousen recovered and in 1967 was sent to fly combat missions in Vietnam.

Back to combat

“Over Hanoi, Vietnam, my backseater said, ‘We’ve got a missile on our tail!’ and it was too near us to do anything,” he said, laughing at the memory of his fellow Airman’s fear. “It came right by us which was concerning because it had a proximity fuse.”

The proximity fuse was a radio transmitter and receiver that detected an object in its path. When it came within a specified distance from a target, it would explode, releasing the razor sharp coils or other destructive items inside.

“But this time it didn’t explode,” Skousen said. “It went on up about 10,000 feet above us and exploded there, so we made it out.”

Skousen’s illustrious career continued for many years. He worked his way into leadership positions and eventually ended his flying career at Luke AFB, where he trained young pilots to be war-ready Airmen.

“My favorite memories of Luke were flying



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Timothy Boyer

Retired Lt. Col. Alma Skousen shows off his flight suit Oct. 30, 2015, in his Mesa, Arizona, home. Skousen flew combat missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for acts of heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Skousen ended his flying career with more than 6,000 flying hours.

the F-4 Phantom II, going down to the ranges and teaching the students how to maneuver that plane,” Skousen said. “I’d get to show new students what the airplane could do. They were tentative at first, but then when they would see what the airplane could do they would become much more aggressive and have fun with it.”

These stories represent a mere glimpse into the life of an American hero who spent his life in service to his country. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. But most importantly, Skousen left a legacy of excellence for those who came after him to emulate, and has advice to guide their careers.

“Work hard,” Skousen said. “People nowadays want to start at the top and not at the bottom. I had to do a lot of things I didn’t want to do, but I did them because you start at the bottom and work your way to the top. Always do your best.”

Great American Smoke out reaches 39th Anniversary

14th Medical Group

Nov. 19 marks the 39th anniversary of the American Cancer Society Great American Smoke-out.

Columbus Air Force Base Health Promotion will celebrate by distributing “quit kits” to tobacco users who challenge themselves to give up their tobacco for 24 hours.

While efforts on that day will be geared at encouraging cessation, resources will be provided to encourage tobacco users to quit for lifetime. The overall goal is to promote healthy lifestyle through health, fitness and disease prevention.

There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Any exposure to tobacco smoke, even an occasional cigarette or exposure to secondhand smoke, is harmful.

- You don’t have to be a heavy smoker or a long-time smoker to get a smoking-related disease or have a heart attack or asthma attack that is triggered by tobacco smoke.

- Low levels of smoke exposure, including exposures to secondhand tobacco smoke, lead to a rapid and sharp increase in dysfunction and inflammation of the lining of the blood vessels, which are implicated in heart attacks and stroke.

Damage from tobacco smoke is immediate.

- The chemicals in tobacco smoke reach your lungs quickly every time you inhale. Your blood then carries the toxicants to every organ in your body.

- The chemicals and toxicants in tobacco smoke damage DNA, which can lead to cancer. Nearly one-third of all cancer deaths every year are directly linked to smoking. Smoking causes about 85 percent of lung cancers in the U.S.

- Exposure to tobacco smoke quickly damages blood vessels throughout the body and makes blood more likely to clot.

- The chemicals in tobacco smoke inflame the delicate lining of the lungs and can cause permanent damage that reduces the ability of the lungs to exchange air efficiently and leads to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Smoking longer means more damage.

- Both the risk and the severity of many diseases caused by smoking are directly related to how long the smoker has smoked and the number of cigarettes smoked per day.

- Chemicals in tobacco smoke cause inflammation and



cell damage, and can weaken the immune system. The body makes white blood cells to respond to injuries, infections, and cancers. White blood cell counts stay high while smoking continues, meaning the body is constantly fighting against the damage caused by smoking which can lead to disease in almost any part of the body.

- Smoking can cause cancer and weaken your body’s ability to fight cancer. With any cancer, even those not related to tobacco, use smoking to decrease the benefits of chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. Exposure to tobacco smoke can help tumors grow.

- The chemicals in tobacco smoke complicate the regulation of blood sugar levels, exacerbating the health issues resulting from diabetes. Smokers with diabetes have a higher

risk of heart and kidney disease, amputation, eye disease causing blindness, nerve damage and poor circulation.

Cigarettes are designed for addiction.

- The design and contents of tobacco products make them more attractive and addictive than ever before. Cigarettes today deliver nicotine more quickly from the lungs to the heart and brain.

- While nicotine is the key chemical compound that causes and sustains the powerful addicting effects of cigarettes, other ingredients and design features make them even more attractive and more addictive.

There is no safe cigarette.

- The evidence indicates that changing cigarette designs over the last five decades, including filtered, low-tar, and “light” variations, have NOT reduced overall disease risk among smokers and may have hindered prevention and cessation efforts.

- There isn’t enough evidence yet to say whether e-cigarettes are safe or effective for helping people quit smoking

The only proven strategy for reducing the risk of tobacco-related disease and death is to never smoke, and if you do smoke to quit.

- Quitting at any age and at any time is beneficial. It’s never too late to quit, but the sooner the better.

- Quitting gives your body a chance to heal the damage caused by smoking.

In addition to these negative health effects, research shows that smoking affects physical fitness, a key factor in military fitness. Compared to non-smokers, smokers have lower physical endurance.

Cessation options are available to active duty, dependents, civilian employees, and retirees to aid in cessation efforts:

Quit Lines and more:

Tricare Quit Line: 1-877-414-9949

State of Mississippi Quit Line: 1-800-QUITNOW

American Lung Association: 1-877-LUNGUSA

Freedom Smoking 1-844-IAMFREE

Web: Ucanquit2.org or www.quitnow.net/

Apps: QuitSTART, NCI QuitPal and Smokefree Quit-Guide

In person: Columbus AFB Tobacco Cessation Facilitator: 662-434-1688





DAYTON, Ohio – A Lockheed P-38L Lightning sits at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The versatile P-38 Lightning I performed many different missions during World War II, including dive bombing, level bombing, bombing through clouds, strafing, photo reconnaissance and long range escort.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: P-38 Lightning I

Mission

The versatile P-38 Lightning I performed many different missions during World War II, including dive bombing, level bombing, bombing through clouds, strafing, photo reconnaissance and long range escort. It first went into large-scale service during the North African campaign in November 1942, where the German pilots named it Der Gabelschwanz Teufel ("The Forked-Tail Devil"). When the Lightning began combat operations from England in September 1943, it was the only fighter with the range

to escort bombers into Germany.

Background

The P-38 was originally conceived as an advanced, high-performance twin-engine interceptor. On Feb. 11, 1939, Lt. Ben Kelsey set a coast to coast record of 7 hours, 48 minutes in the sleek prototype Lightning, but crashed while landing. Despite the accident, development continued and the first of 13 service test YP-38s flew on Sept. 16, 1940. Early model P-38s experienced turbulent airflow over the tail and problems at high dive

speeds, known as compressibility, but later modifications corrected these difficulties.

The first major production version was the P-38E, which had a 20mm cannon rather than the earlier 37mm cannon. Production of the E began in September 1941 and 210 were built. The next version, the P-38F, introduced pylon racks that could carry either bombs or droppable fuel tanks, greatly extending its range. Production of the G began in August 1942, followed by the P-38H in May 1943, which had a more powerful version of the



DAYTON, Ohio – A Lockheed P-38L cockpit sits open at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. When the Lightning began combat operations from England in September 1943, it was the only fighter with the range to escort bombers into Germany.

Allison V-1710 engine.

The P-38J, introduced in August 1943, was considerably improved over earlier models. It had better cockpit heating (a notable problem on earlier models), more efficient cooling for its engines, a flat bulletproof windscreen, additional fuel in the wings, and increased maneuverability.

Features

The Lightning truly shined in the Pacific theater; seven of the top eight scoring USAAF aces in the Pacific flew the P-38. On April 18, 1943, the long range of the P-38 enabled USAAF pilots to ambush and shoot down an aircraft carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who was the planner of the Pearl Harbor raid and the commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy. The P-38

became the standard USAAF fighter in the Pacific theater until the closing months of WWII.

The final production version was the P-38L, which could carry two 300-gallon drop tanks. Deliveries of the L began in June 1944 and continued until August 1945. Of the 10,038 P-38s built, 3,923 were P-38Ls.

General characteristics

Armament: Four .50-cal. machine guns and one 20mm cannon
Engines: Two Allison V-1710s of 1,475 hp each
Maximum speed: 414 mph
Cruising speed: 275 mph
Range: 1,300 miles
Ceiling: 40,000 ft.
Span: 52 ft.
Length: 37 ft. 10 in.
Height: 12 ft. 10 in.
Weight: 17,500 lbs. loaded

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.)

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Nov. 17. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the AFRC Classroom, for more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle brief is 1 - 2 p.m. Nov. 17. 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 Nov. 18. It is for spouses new to Columbus Air Force Base or the military lifestyle and 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. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class 10-11:30 a.m., Nov. 18 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.

Troops To Teachers

The Troops To Teachers workshop is Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.-noon. 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.

Capstone

This class is scheduled for Nov. 19, 8 a.m. – noon. 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/ave 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.

Team BLAZE surpasses CFC goal before final day



By Nov. 10, one day before the Combined Federal Campaign was set to end, Team BLAZE donated more than \$89,000, surpassing the 14th Flying Training Wing's goal of \$88,000. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support humanity through an employee-focused program, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program Nov. 19, 5 - 7 p.m. is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active duty personnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided. Call 434-2790 to register. The event is located at McDonalds, Highway 45 Colubmus, Mississippi.

Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop on Dec. 2, 9 – 10:30 a.m. gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and Cover Letters. To sign up call 434-2790.

Bundles of Joy

The workshop is Dec. 3, 1 -3:30 p.m. is for Active Duty families assigned to Columbus AFB who are expecting or have a child up to 4 months of age. This is an Air Force Aid Society program with informational presentations about topics such as Tri-Care, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, and Nutrition & Fitness during and after pregnancy, and Labor & Delivery. to register please call 434-2790.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for

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

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling (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.

Starting Sept. 23, the Chapel is offering the following weekly programs:

- 6 p.m. – AWANA, a religious education program for children ages three years old to 6th grade
- 6 p.m. – Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John
- 6 p.m. – Youth Group

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
Wednesday:
11:30-12:30 p.m. – Holy Hour

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

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

New Military Personnel Hours of Operation
The Military Personnel Section is now open 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 7:30 a.m. – noon Thursdays. For more information, contact 434-2626.

Thursday Night Football
The Bowling Center will offer NFL games on Thursday nights at 7:25 p.m. Catch all the action Nov. 19, Tennessee Titans vs. Jacksonville Jaguars. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is a free event. No bowling will be available during football games. The Bowling Center closes at 2 p.m. on game day and re-opens at 6:30 p.m. You could win a \$50 FSS Gift Card at each game and enter to win tickets to a regular season NFL game of your choice. For more information, contact 434-3426.

November FootGolf Special
Come kick with Whispering Pines Golf Course every Sunday in November. Special includes 9-holes of FootGolf with a hamburger and drink for only \$7.50 per person. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Youth Basketball Registration
The Youth Center is offering Youth Basketball registration until Dec. 1. The cost is \$35 for ages 3 – 4; \$40 for 5 – 18. All games played on base. Physicals must be on file at Youth Center before first practice. Coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

NAF Warehouse Sale
Come out and get great deals on used furniture, televisions and more Nov. 20 at Outdoor Recreation. Active Duty may shop from 7 – 8 a.m.; anyone with base access 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cash only; some items are limited to 2 items per customer. For more information, contact 434-1583.

Healthy Holiday Challenge
The Fitness Center is offering a healthy holiday challenge. Commit to stay fit during the holiday season. Weigh in at the Fitness Center before Nov. 20 and again during the week of Jan. 4 – 8 with the goal of not gaining weight between weigh ins. Participants will receive weekly emails with holiday-related fitness tips. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Cold Turkey Trot Fitness 5K Run/Walk
The Fitness Center is offering a 5K run/walk at 7 a.m. Nov. 20. This event begins and ends at the Fitness Center. Commander's trophy points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Southaven Outlet Mall Day Trip
Outdoor Recreation is offering a shopping trip to the

CLUB FRENZY

FOOTBALL

THURSDAY NIGHT

NFL FOOTBALL

at the CAFB Bowling Center

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M.

NIGHT FOOTBALL

Nov 19 7:25pm

Tennessee Titans v. Jacksonville Jaguars

Dec 3 7:25pm

Green Bay Packers v. Detroit Lions

Dec 10 7:25pm

Minnesota Vikings v. Arizona Cardinals

Dec 17 7:25pm

Tampa Bay Buccaneers v. Saint Louis Rams

CATCH THE ACTION AT THE BOWLING CENTER & WIN BIG

FOOTBALL

TICKET

You could win a \$50 FSS Gift Card at each game and enter to win tickets to a Regular Season NFL Game of your choice!

Entry forms available for Club Members during Thursday Night Football Frenzy at the Bowling Center. Bowling Center closes at 2:00 p.m. during NFL games.

For More Information, 434-1583

Southaven Outlet Mall Nov. 21. The cost is only \$35 per person. Depart from Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Youth Center Renovation
The Youth Center will undergo several renovations. The Youth Center staff will work to keep you informed of any updates or changes. Renovations scheduled to be completed by mid-December. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed
Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? For more information, contact 434-7836.

Referees Needed
Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact 434-2772.

GoPro Rental
Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero 3 from Outdoor Recreation. Cost is only \$10 for a 2-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a 2-day rental at no charge during Single Airman programming events. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Free Pool Passes and FootGolf
Independence Pool Passes and FootGolf is included with Whispering Pines Golf Membership. . If you have an individual golf membership, you receive an individual pool pass and FootGolf membership and if you have a family golf membership, you receive a family pool pass and FootGolf membership. Visit Outdoor Recreation for your free pool pass today.

For more information, contact 434-2505.

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.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class
Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Wood Shop Self Help
Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

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

VIEWPOINT

SILVER WINGS
Nov. 13, 2015

7

Fraud, waste, abuse-preventing culture
Lt. Col. Gerrod McClellan
14th Flying Training Wing Inspector General
The key to prevention, detection and reporting of FWA is the recognition of conditions allowing exploitation of management controls.

While I was a young Instructor Pilot with the U.S. Navy, I worked for a wise old Navy Captain that commanded a flying training wing which included service members from the U.S. Army, Navy Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.
One of the primary charges of his multi-service command was for all of us to be good stewards of the tax-payers' money. Of course, I was aware of the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse prevention but it wasn't until then I'd actually heard a leader put it into a clear and simple perspective.
Throughout the Department of Defense, commanders at all levels are responsible for FWA prevention. They are responsible for ever decreasing resources and creating an environment where FWA reduction is part of our culture. Doing so is not only essential for efficient and effective operations; it is public law and semi-annually reported to Congress. As military members and DoD civilians, we all share that responsibility and should strive to detect deficiencies, minimize waste, emphasize economy, and identify/correct potential FWA.
The key to prevention, detection and reporting of FWA is the recognition of conditions allowing exploitation of management controls. It's important to remember these indicators often appear as minor administrative or managerial irregularities on the surface, but the "indicators" of these conditions provide an initial warning and indicate the need to elevate to functional managers and commanders for closer scrutiny. Some common FWA vulnerability areas are Government Purchase Card expenses, travel programs, resource management, computer and cell phone use. It is also important to know what you're looking for when considering what is FWA. Fraud is any intentional deception designed to unlawfully deprive the U.S. of something of value or to secure from the U.S. for an individual a benefit, privilege, allowance, or consideration to which he or she is not entitled. Examples of this is accepting bribes or gratuities, making false statements, submitting false claims, using false weights or measures, evading or corrupting inspectors or other officials, falsifying records, and arranging for secret profits or kickbacks. Fraud also includes conflict of interest cases, criminal irregularities, and the unauthorized disclosure of official information relating to procurement and disposal matters.
Waste is the extravagant, careless, or needless expenditure of government funds, or the consumption of government property that results from deficient practices, systems, controls, or decisions. Waste also includes improper practices not involving prosecutable fraud.
Abuse is the intentional or improper use of government resources that can include the excessive or improper use of one's position, in a manner contrary to its rightful or legally intended use. The misuse of rank, position, or authority or misuses of DoD resources are examples of Abuse.
Although sometimes frustrating, the Air Force has implemented many procedures and controls to protect and safeguard vulnerable resources from FWA. These procedures and controls are often considered needless "red tape" but we often don't have the full scope of their requirement or understand the reason for them. There is also the potential to knowingly deviate from them to "get the job done." We should all try to find more efficient and effective ways to accomplish the mission, but we cannot simply discard or ignore the procedures and controls. To truly get the job done, we should accomplish required tasks and innovate within the procedures and controls. If the procedures and controls prevent us from doing so, we should coordinate and elevate recommendations to have them changed. Keeping an emphasis on FWA while we continue process improvement helps guard us.
As with most issues, reporting FWA is best handled through our chain of command starting with our immediate supervisors. Our chain of command does not stop there, it continues through our supervisor's supervisor and commander's commander. Allowing the chain of command a chance to address any FWA issues may add clarity to perceptions as well as give them the opportunity to correct the issues at the lowest level.
At Columbus AFB and any other DoD installation, FWA reporting can also be done through the Inspector General Complaint Resolution Process. You may fill out an AF IMT FM 102, or contact the hotlines listed below. The Office of Special Investigations can be contacted directly for criminal or civil acts of Fraud or corruption. Any Inspector General at any level can help if you have any questions. For more information, visit online at columbus.af.mil/AboutUs/Units/Wing-StaffAgencies/InspectorGeneral.aspx.
Hotlines:
CBM FWA Hotline: Comm: (662) 434-2927 or DSN: 742-2927
AETC FWA Hotline: Comm: (210) 652-4460 or DSN: 487-4460
AF FWA Hotline: (202) 404-5354 or (800) 538-8492
DoD FWA Hotline: (800) 424-9098
AFOSI Hotline: (877) 246-1453

Columbus community comes together to honor veterans

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Members of Columbus Air Force Base and the City of Columbus came together Nov. 7 to honor veterans who are serving or who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

Despite the unfavorable weather, the ceremony successfully assembled supporting community members, veterans, and several distinguished visitors.

The distinguished visitors included State Senator Charles Younger and his wife Missy; Harry Sanders, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors President; Councilman Gene Taylor, Vice Mayor of the City of Columbus; Councilman Charlie Box; the Honorable Bill Lawrence, The Mayor of Caledonia, and his wife Rissa; retired Col. Smitty Harris, former Vietnam POW for nearly eight years, and his

Nichols then Quoted General George Washington who said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

wife Louise; and Col. Kurt Kayser, 14th Mission Support Group Commander.

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, was guest speaker for the event.

Columbus AFB Honor guardsmen Senior Airmen Justin Keller, Nadia Armstrong, Rommel Aquino and Airman 1st Class Shelby Scott presented the nation's colors while Emily Waites, wife of Maj. Michael Waites,

50th Flying Training Squadron Assistant Operations Officer, sang the National Anthem. Jerry Mitchell, pastor of Mt. Vernon Church, then gave the invocation for the ceremony.

A chair was set out to symbolize the empty seat that will always be available for those still missing in action, separated from their loved ones and their freedom. Billy Quick, Commander of American Legion Post 69, placed the POW/MIA chair cover, while retired Lt. Col. Richard Johnson, 14th FTW Public Affairs director, spoke the prayer.

Alice Stallworth Lancaster, Regent of the Bernard Romans Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, read off the 22 names of fallen service members listed on the right plaque of the monument standing in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse and rededicated the memorial.

"Nothing is really ended until it is forgotten," Lancaster said. "Whatever is kept in memory still endures. Therefore, we the members of the Bernard Romans Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, members of the American Legion Auxiliary T. S. Patterson Unit 69, the citizens of Lowndes County, Mississippi, and guests, re-dedicate this marker in grateful recognition of the significance of this site. May it help to keep alive an appreciation of our heritage."

Nichols started his speech educating the audience on the history of Veterans Day. He proceeded to name several service members whom he felt have shown they fulfilled the special kind of commitment military service demands.

"Veterans like you, and like the ones I just described are part of a legacy and must never be taken for granted," Nichols said. "To honor our veterans, we must continue to keep the promises we have made. We must care for



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

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, offers his words during the 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 in Columbus, Mississippi. During his speech, Nichols named several service members whom he felt have shown they fulfilled the special kind of commitment military service demands.

those injured in the service of our country. We must support the families of our deployed members. We must honor and remember those who have died."

Nichols then Quoted General George Washington who said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

"I can say emphatically, that there is no

better community for veterans," Nichols said. "The majority of veterans we recognize today ... whether they wear the uniform today, or wore it decades ago, represent an unwavering dedication and exemplify the highest standards of service to our nation."

Nichols closed with a quote from President Abraham Lincoln who in his Second Inaugural Address in 1865 said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind

up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Sanders, Nichols and Taylor then proceeded to lay a wreath upon the Lowndes County Courthouse Veterans Memorial, symbolizing the veterans of every branch who have served and are currently serving in today's armed forces, and offered their respects.



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

Harry Sanders, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors President, speaks during the Columbus, Mississippi, Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 at the Lowndes County Courthouse. Afterward, Alice Stallworth Lancaster, Regent of the Bernard Romans Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, then rededicated the memorial to veterans.



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

The Lowndes County Courthouse Veterans Memorial sits just outside with a symbolic wreath during the Columbus, Mississippi, Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 at the Lowndes County Courthouse. The wreath symbolizes the veterans who have served or currently are serving in today's armed forces and represents that no veteran should be forgotten.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

Emily Waites, wife of Maj. Michael Waites, 50th Flying Training Squadron Assistant Operations Officer, sings the National Anthem while the Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guard presents the colors during the Columbus, Mississippi, Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 at the Lowndes County Courthouse. After the National Anthem, Pastor Jerry Mitchell of Mt. Vernon Church gave the invocation for the ceremony.