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Vol. 40, Issue 44

November 4, 2016

Weather



News Briefs

Daylight saving time
Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Nov. 6, when clocks are turned backward one hour to 1 a.m. local standard time.

Veterans Day Holiday
Most base organizations are closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony
The 2016 Veterans Day parade begins at 10 a.m. Nov. 12 at the Columbus Municipal Complex and will proceed down Main Street. A wreath-laying ceremony then begins at 11 a.m. at the Lowndes County Courthouse.

SCCA Autocross
The Sports Car Club of America is hosting an Autocross Nov. 12 - 13 at the SAC Ramp. Safety inspections start at 9 a.m.

Inside



Feature 8
The 48th Squadron Association is highlighted in this week’s feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

Second Lt. Arthur Eisberg, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-01 class leader, poses for a picture with Maj. Gen. James Barkley, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command, at the SUPT graduation Oct. 28, 2016, at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Barkley told graduates about the challenges they would soon face and encouraged them to rise to meet it.

Barkley offers advice to SUPT Class 17-01

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

The Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-01’s graduation at Kaye Auditorium Oct. 28.
Maj. Gen. James Barkley earned his bachelor’s degree from

Arizona State University and received his commission through Officer Training School.
Barkley attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, and received the “Top Stick” award for his pilot training class. He was selected as a T-38 instructor pilot and served as a check/evaluator pilot and squadron scheduler. Prior to his current position, he was Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Japan.
See **BARKLEY**, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual				
37th (17-10)	1.13 days	1.98 days	Nov. 17	48th (17-02)	78.32 days	26.71 days	Nov. 18	49th (17-BBC)	-1.47 days	0.48 days	Nov. 23	T-6	250	286	2,836				
41st (17-11)	0.16 days	2.43 days	Dec. 13	50th (17-02)	1.26 days	-0.49 days	Nov. 18	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	70	75	636				
The graduation speaker is Col. John Cline, Deputy Director of Operations, HQ AFSOC, Hulbert Field, Florida.												T-38	90	111	934				
												IFF	40	48	470				

Columbus AFB recognizes major selects

A promotion party for line officer captains promoting to the rank of major begins at 4 p.m. Nov. 4 in the Columbus Club.

Congratulations to the captains listed below.

Capt. Jeremy Allen, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Capt. Jonathan Bateman, 37th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Chad Bridgeford, 14th Student Squadron

Capt. Mike Capelle, 50th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Todd Early, 48th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Alan Goncalves, 50th FTS

Capt. Mark Hancock, 48th FTS

Capt. Paul Kitko, 41st FTS

Capt. Andrew Kline, 37th FTS

Capt. Reed Martin, 37th FTS

Capt. Ben Peacock, 48th FTS

Capt. Bri Peterson, 48th FTS

Capt. Leah Rist, 37th FTS

Capt. Adam Smith, 41st FTS

Capt. Chuck Staten, 48th FTS

Capt. Regan Tillman, 48th FTS

Capt. Ian Whiteman, 14th Operations Group

Capt. Matthew Yan, 37th FTS

BARKLEY
(Continued from page 1)

Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Barkley is a command pilot in the KC-135R and C-5. He has commanded an air refueling squadron, an expeditionary squadron, deployed multiple times in leadership positions, and has flown numerous missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The general began his speech by welcoming those in attendance.

“Good morning to our distinguished guests, friends, family and especially the graduating class of 17-01,” Barkley said. “This is a huge, momentous day and I envy you. You are at the tip of unquestionably the finest Air Force in the world.”

Barkley spoke about the future and urged them to become the best they can be at flying.

“It is said to whom much is given, much is required,” he said. “I challenge each of you to grow your gift. It is up to you to become experts in your weapons systems. The aviator you are now is nothing compared to the aviator you will become.”

He continued by stating that they would very soon face some of their toughest challenges yet in the form of deploying overseas and delivering justice to our enemies.

“In the next 12 to 18 months, some of you will face the ultimate test in combat,” Barkley said. “In today’s environment, the stakes are higher than ever. Any mistakes can have grave consequences. Will you be ready to answer the call?”

Barkley emphasized the importance of not only being proficient behind the stick, but to also show true character and leadership.

“Commit yourselves to become effective role models and leaders,” he said. “Some of you will be tempted to take a shortcut or the easy way. In these tough times, rely on your true character.”

He finished by encouraging the graduates and congratulating them on their decision to serve and to become military aviators.

“Be proud, be excited and be ready,” Barkley said. “Today you become Air Force aviators. You are looked up to in this honorable calling. All of us in this room, in this country are counting on you. To our newest pilots, congratulations.”

Silver Wings

How to reach us

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

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PROGRAM

(Continued from page 13)

standard retraining eligibility and AFSC entry requirements will apply for all retraining applicants.

“To apply for NCCORP, Airmen must be on their second or subsequent enlistment, be a staff sergeant (or staff sergeant-select) through master sergeant, and have a minimum

5-skill level in their control AFSC (or a 3-skill level for those AFSCs where a 5-level does not exist),” Reece said. “Additionally, staff sergeants must have fewer than 12 years, and technical and master sergeants no more than 16 years of active service as of Sept. 30.”

Retraining information is available and continuously updated on myPers. Members can click on “Retraining” from the active-duty enlisted landing page. A live chat feature is

also available for Airmen on the “NCORP Phase I and II” webpage. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow roughly 30 to 60 seconds for a representative to come online.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by visiting <http://www.retirees.af.mil/myPERS/>

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Nov. 11 – 12

Ghosts and Legends: Embark on a ghostly tour of historic Columbus, Mississippi. Tours begin at 6:30, 7, 8 and 8:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12

at the door. For more information, call 662-328-2787.

Nov. 19

Holiday Farmers’ Market: Visit the Holiday Farmers’ Market at Second Ave North from 9 a.m. – noon.

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@us.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

Transportation

For Sale: 1978 Triumph Spitfire with

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week’s issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week’s issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one)

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Transportation

Miscellaneous

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Pets

Print advertisement

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Duty Telephone #

(in case we need more information)

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Quarterly awards ceremony distinguishes great performers

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing’s best of the best were showcased during the 3rd quarterly awards ceremony of 2016 Oct. 31 at the Columbus Club.

The Team BLAZE 3rd quarter award winners are:

Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Marques Dollard, 14th Medical Group

NCO of the Quarter: Tech. Sgt. Latoria Mathis-Hebert, 14th MDG

SNCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Angelique Joiner, 14th Operations Group

CGO of the Quarter: Capt. Sean White, 14th OG

FGO of the Quarter: Maj. Jason Bingham, 14th MDG

Honor Guard of the Quarter: Airman 1st Class Andrew Langness, Wing Staff Agencies

Flight Commander of the Quarter: Capt. Nicholas Cool-ey, 14th OG

IP of the Quarter: 1st Lt. Ian Ellington, 14th OG

Cat. 1 Civilian of the Quarter: Gerald Werner, 14th Mission Support Group

Cat. 2 Civilian of the Quarter: Angela Hamilton, 14th MDG

Cat. 3 Civilian of the Quarter: Laura Trumm, 14th MSG

Volunteer of the Quarter: Airman 1st Class Michael Mannarino, 14th MDG

Make Every Dollar Count Team of the Quarter: 48th Flying Training Squadron Scheduling Team



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

The 2016 3rd quarterly awards winners or their representatives pause for a photo on stage at the Columbus Club Oct. 31. The ceremony honored the wing’s outstanding professionals for the months of July through September 2016 whose drive, determination and dedication have earned them this recognition.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 34 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.

Changes coming to Columbus Commissary

Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Customers shopping at the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Commissary will see a different store when the doors open Nov. 8.

Changes patrons will see include upgraded freezer units, more aisles and new floor tiles. The renovations are scheduled to end in August 2017.

“The chips and sodas room and the area where the baby and travel items are, will become two new aisles,” said Bobby Danzie, Columbus DeCA Store Director. “We are also going to move our produce and refrigerator displays. Our entire refrigeration units are being upgraded.”

The changes are mainly to upgrade the old, energy-inefficient units.

“The old units take a significant amount of energy to run to keep food at safe temperatures,” Danzie said. “The new units are more energy efficient.”

More aisles, new floor tiles and a new roof will help improve the overall shopping experience.

The commissary will maintain its regular hours during the renovation. It may be difficult for shoppers to swiftly find some items needed.

“Customers can ask anyone with a ‘DeCA’ name tag for help while items are being shifted around,” Danzie said. “I am also available for any-

MORE INFORMATION

■ The commissary will be open Monday, Nov. 21, before Thanksgiving and will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25

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one to talk with and always respond to every comment or complaint.”

The \$5.4 million upgrade is paid for by shoppers’ surcharges.

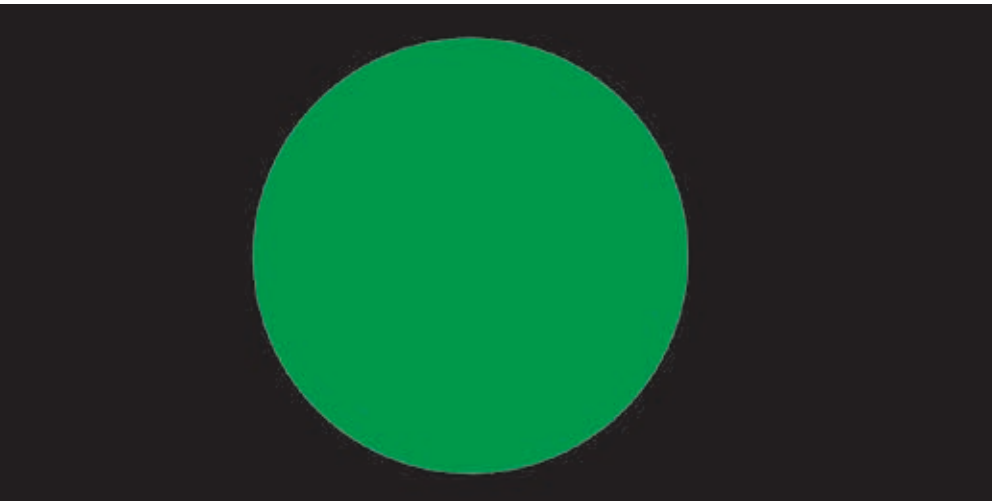
“Please bear with us while we make these changes,” Danzie said. “We hope these upgrades enhance the shoppers’ shopping experience.”

Three enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

Senior Airman Colin Hileman, 14th Communications Squadron, Staff Sgt. Thomas Molder, 14th Security Forces Squadron and Staff Sgt. Calvin Blakeney, 14th SFS, three of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen, were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony Oct. 31 at the Columbus Club.






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FAIP assignments

Congratulations to the First Assignment Instructor Pilots of the 37th, 41st and 48th Flying Training Squadrons on receiving their major weapon assignments.

Fighter/Bomber FAIPs			
Capt. Matthew Carey	41st FTS	F-22	
Capt. Andrew Smith	37th FTS	F-15C	
Capt. Shawn Delmez	37th FTS	F-15E	
Capt. Robert Steigerwald	14th OSS	F-15E	
Capt. Brent Rist	41st FTS	F-16	
Capt. Timothy Jefferson	14th OSS	B-1	
Capt. Steven Alsen	37th FTS	F-16	
Capt. Steven Brown	41st FTS	F-16	
Capt. Timothy Hartford	37th FTS	B-1	
			
Tanker/Transport FAIPs			
Capt. Paul Zampini	48th FTS	C-5M	Travis AFB, Calif.
Capt. Nicholas Cooley	41st FTS	C-17	JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.
Capt. Cody Ables	48th FTS	B-1	Dyess AFB, Texas
Capt. David Hoffman	48th FTS	KC-10	Travis AFB
Capt. Ryan Dufour	37th FTS	KC-10	McGuire AFB, N.J.
Capt. Jeffrey Leonard	41st FTS	C-130J	Dyess AFB
Capt. Curtis Harris	48th FTS	B-52	Barksdale AFB, La.
Capt. Matthew Ludwig	48th FTS	MC-130J	Cannon AFB, N.M.
Capt. Trenten Rodriguez	14th OSS	E-3	AB Geilenkirchen, Germany
Capt. Andrew Wilson	41st FTS	C-130J	Little Rock AFB, Ark.
Capt. Adam King	48th FTS	C-17	McGuire AFB
Capt. John Roling	41st FTS	HC-130J	Moody AFB, Ga.
Capt. Kevin Escobedo	48th FTS	KC-135	Fairchild AFB, Wash.
Capt. Austin Pershke	37th FTS	B-52	Barksdale AFB
Capt. Dustin Hofegartner	41st FTS	RC-135	Offutt AFB, Neb.
Capt. Brandon Holloway	48th FTS	E-8	Robins AFB, Ga.
Capt. Jennifer Carlson	14th OSS	KC-135	Fairchild AFB

Enlisted Professional Military Education Distance Learning Course Testing

Airmen initially enrolled into EPME DLCs (SNCOA/NCOA) between June 3 – Dec. 31, 2015, have until Jan. 1, 2017, to have the course completed. Airmen who fail to complete the applicable DLC will automatically be rendered ineligible to promote,reenlist or extend until the requirement is met. Please plan accordingly as we approach

the holiday season. Also, testing capacity may be limited due to the high demand and testing relocation to the new Community Commons.

EPME DLC Testing is offered on Mondays at 8 a.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m.; seating is limited to five per session. Register for your test in AUSIS and then call 434-2562 to reserve a seat.

FY 2017 NCO retraining program application window now open

Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force has released fiscal year 2017 retraining quotas for eligible NCOs via the NCO Retraining Program.

The retraining program is a complimentary tool used to help balance and sustain the enlisted force as the Air Force continues to grow. While the Air Force is still undermanned across the force, certain skill and grade levels within some Air Force specialty codes are healthier than others which provides an opportunity for retraining some Airmen.

“We continue to grow the force and are maximizing our accessions. As a result, training seats are at a premium and most AFSCs are at or near max capacity,” said Brig. Gen. Brian Kelly, the director of Military Force Management Policy. “Correspondingly, our retraining opportunities are limited and focus on balancing the inventory between AFSCs where our inventory is healthier and those where manning is lower in both the first-term Airman and NCO retraining areas.”

Kelly added that the Air Force has married its retraining process with broad re-enlistment bonuses and high year of tenure extensions which has resulted in improved retention.

Those AFSCs identified as eligible for retraining-out represent areas where the current inventory of Airmen, based on skill and grade, is healthy enough to take some risk. Those AFSCs identified as eligible for retraining-in currently have lower inventories where current risk can be reduced by adding additional Airmen.

To assist Airmen with an interest in retraining, a new retraining instrument called the Air Force Work Interest Navigator (AF-WIN) tool was introduced this year for NCOs. AF-WIN, located on the retraining page via myPers, helps Airmen identify potential career fields by answering a series of questions regarding functional communities, job context and work activities.

According to Master Sgt. Kristie Reece, the Air Force Personnel Center Enlisted Skills Management Branch superintendent, the AF-WIN tool creates a customized job interest report from the member’s responses and compares individual interests to all entry-level AFSCs.

“You will still want to visit the enlisted retraining advisory, however, because AF-WIN does not tell you if that career field is available or whether you are eligible,” she said.

The enlisted retraining advisory on myPers is updated in real time, and assists Airmen with identifying career fields with retraining-in quotas in their grade (or projected grade if selected) that they might find interesting. Stan-

See PROGRAM, Page 14

Carrying the load

1st Lt Chris Sullivan
352nd Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — In early 2016, an MC-130J Commando II, along with its five-man crew, navigated the air above a heavily populated area of Afghanistan during daylight hours. Their orders were to deliver a resupply of ammunition and water to troops engaged with enemy forces. Inbound to the drop zone, their mission was interrupted by heavy fire from the ground.

With enemy rounds visible within 10 feet of the ramp, the loadmasters took cover and manually cut the release gate. After the drop, the pilot conducted a rapid climb and maneuvered out of the weapon engagement zone. Although the entire encounter lasted approximately 90 seconds and resulted in a medium-caliber entry hole in the tail section and multiple holes through the rudder of the aircraft, the airdrop was successful.

This story, although specific to Staff Sgts. Joshua Call and Gary Bjerke, both 67th Special Operations Squadron MC-130J instructor loadmasters, is not all that uncommon to members of their profession. Danger aside, the skill and competency of which they perform their duties during these stressful events is the real point of pride.

“You need to have confidence in your job and know how to perform your job in stressful situations. If the rest of the crew isn’t confident in you, that’s a failed link in the chain,” Bjerke said. “If we don’t do this right and don’t have attention to detail, something is going to damage the aircraft, potentially bring the aircraft down or cause a bad airdrop.”

For Staff Sgt. Samuel Haydon, a 67th SOS instructor loadmaster, his ability to perform effectively during a leaflet airdrop that came under fire is directly relatable to realistic training he receives at his home station.

“The key to remember here is how our consistent, realistic and practical home station training kicked in immediately when a real life-threatening scenario arose,” Haydon said. “Everything we’ve been taught and learned through ground training, simulations and in-flight practicing became instinct in a time of true danger.”

Being able to react professionally under pressure is not only something these Airmen are trained to do, it’s a necessity.

Aside from the training and skill needed to perform during these types of events, the key to being a successful MC-130J loadmaster starts before the aircraft even leaves the ground.

“Prior to loading, we’re going to inspect the load and ensure it is safe to drop and safe to put on the aircraft. Once we inspect, we load that piece of equipment, position it to ensure the weight and balance (are) good and then start rigging procedures,” Bjerke said. “The rigging procedures are pretty extensive, and that’s where loadmasters pride themselves.”

Loadmasters are essential in many areas, from performing cargo and personnel airdrops to helicopter aerial refueling and supervising forward arming refueling point operations.

“My role on the MC-130J is to supervise the upload and download of cargo onto the aircraft, conduct airdrops, infiltration/exfiltration, FARP, helicopter aerial refueling and assist, should any emergency procedures arise in flight,” Bjerke said. “Operationally, most of this is done at night.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christine Halan

Staff Sgts. Joshua Call, Samuel Haydon and Gary Bjerke, all instructor loadmasters assigned to the 67th Special Operations Squadron, stand in front of a MC-130J Commando II Oct. 14, 2016, on Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. The MC-130J flies low visibility, single or multi-ship, low-level air refueling, and infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply of special operations forces by airdrop or air-land, intruding politically sensitive or hostile territories.

Attention to detail, confidence, patience, maturity and the ability to multitask are just a few of the characteristics these instructor loadmasters stated were essential to performing their job safely and effectively.

“Sometimes there’s chaos in the back of an aircraft — whether it be cargo or people — and you’re trying to load things due to weight and balance purposes,” Call said. “If there were any sort of mistakes, it could create unstable flight characteristics for the pilots. Aircrew, passengers, troops we’re supporting on the ground — we have a lot of lives in our hands.”

Although some personality traits are characteristic of those seeking to be loadmasters, much of what made these instructors who they are falls to experience, mentorship and consistent training.

“I’ve really enjoyed this job and feel it has really grown me as a person and as an Airman,” Haydon said. “It’s made me more confident, more assertive, and I think the multitasking piece has also been huge, teaching me how to work multiple issues and problems at one time.”

Regardless of the challenges associated with their profession, being an MC-130J loadmaster is a job that these Airmen love.

“There is no question, being a loadmaster has given me the opportunity to travel to amazing places and see parts of the world I never would have before – some safe, some not, some fun, some difficult,” Haydon said. “But, just being able to meet new people, experience new places and new cultures has been an incredible opportunity in my career. It’s been a great mix of challenges, mentally and physically.”

Tuskegee Airman engages with today’s generation of Airmen

Mark Wyatt
66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Before heading into Boston Oct. 27 to speak at an event co-hosted by the New England Tuskegee Airmen Chapter, retired Col. Charles E. McGee, a Tuskegee Airman, met with several Airmen here.

McGee said he appreciates the opportunity he has to meet with this generation of Airmen.

“I think it’s important to know where we’ve been, because there are some things we don’t want to repeat,” he said. “It’s good to be part of that education, to pass on the lessons to our young people because they are the future.”

McGee served on active duty for 30 years, retiring in 1973. During that time, he became a command pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours and 400 combat missions in three major conflicts, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War.

The Tuskegee Airmen, named after Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, received pilot and aircraft maintenance training during WW II. The Tuskegee Airmen were not just flyers, but also radio operators, navigators, bombardiers, aircraft maintainers, support staff, instructors and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.

Senior Airman Alfredo Maldonado, a personnelist assigned to the 66th Force Sup-



U.S. Air Force photo/Mark Herlihy
Retired Col. Charles E. McGee, a Tuskegee Airman, speaks with Airmen during a visit to Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts, Oct. 27, 2016. Senior Airman Alfredo Maldonado, right, and Airman 1st Class Quinton Coke, both personnelist with the 66th Force Support Squadron, and other Airmen from Hanscom, met with McGee.

port Squadron, was one of the Airman who were able to talk with McGee.

“I came to learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen, to learn more about the legacy

of these pioneers,” Maldonado said. “What they accomplished is more impactful when heard in person by someone who experienced it firsthand. I’m glad I had this op-

portunity and thankful he could spend some time with us.”

McGee’s message for each of the Airmen he spoke with was to work hard for what they want. He discussed what current Airmen could learn from the experiences of Tuskegee Airmen.

“We (Tuskegee Airmen) could have bowed our head and said ‘they don’t like me, they don’t want me’ and gone off into the corner,” he said. “What would that have accomplished? We wouldn’t have served our country nor dispelled the biases that had been part of the policy that said because of skin color we didn’t have talent.”

McGee said he has been most proud of the opportunity he had to serve his country.

“Being able to serve our country was certainly a big step during that time,” he said. “Today that’s what we’re (Tuskegee Airmen) all about, providing opportunity and encouragement to our young folks.”

McGee, as well as retired Lt. Cols. Enoch Woodhouse and George Hardy, each Tuskegee Airman themselves, was in the area to participate in “A Conversation with History” at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

McGee offered this advice to Airmen serving in the Air Force today.

“Believe that you can,” he said. “If you have doubts about your ability you’re shorting yourself. You’ve got to believe and then be willing to go for it.”

AF changes officer developmental education selection declination policy

Kat Bailey
Air Force Personnel Center

WASHINGTON — A change to Air Force policy means officers will have the opportunity to decline in-residence intermediate or senior developmental education without the implications of the seven-day option policy.

The seven-day option policy, which generally requires that officers who do not want to accept an assignment must submit a request for separation or retirement within seven calendar days of their assignment notification date, will no longer apply to officers who decline their developmental education assignment.

The decision to change the IDE/SDE assignment declination policy gives officers and their families added flexibility within the Air Force assignment system. The policy itself makes a distinction between operational and developmental assignments.

“Operational assignments are critical in meeting mission requirements and remain essential, while development

opportunities are designed to educate and professionally broaden individual officers,” said Maj. Kevin Jernigan, the Workforce Development and Career Programs deputy branch chief. “This distinction allows the Air Force to create more discrete assignment declination policies.”

Jernigan highly encourages open dialogue between officers and their senior raters during this time to discuss what it means in the long term if an officer declines the in-residence opportunity.

“If you’re selected and you decline, you’ll lose your select status,” Jernigan said. “You’ll compete in the future as a candidate.”

Candidates are not guaranteed an in-residence seat and therefore would need senior rater recommendation to the board during the annual call for IDE/SDE nominations to compete again for both a program and a seat.

Jernigan urges officers who are considering declination to explore alternate ways to complete IDE or SDE, such as distance learning.

Air Force Personnel Center requests that officers submit

their declinations by Dec. 19, or as soon as they know they are unable to accept the assignment, in order to allow timely notification to alternate designates.

Officers selected for developmental education will attend intermediate- and senior-level development programs such as Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, National War College and more.

The board was held Sept. 12 and designated line and non-line officers to attend in-residence developmental education during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The IDE/SDE selection list has posted to myPers and additional details regarding developmental education are available there as well. Click the force development link from any officer landing page or select any officer category from the dropdown menu and search “developmental education.”

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by visiting <http://www.retirees.af.mil/myPERS/>

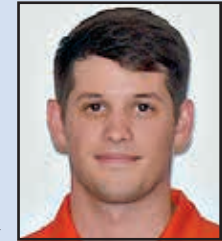
Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight

Category: Airman/NCO
Nominee Name/Grade: Senior Airman Kyle Carpenter
Unit: 14th Operations Support Squadron

Information:

- 1. Home Town:** Thornville, Ohio
- 2. Time in the Air Force:** 3 years, 8 months
- 3. Time at Columbus AFB:** 3 years, 1 months
- 4. Career Short Term Goals:** Complete CCAF, Earn 7-Level upgrade
- 5. Career Long Term Goals:** Become a Watch Supervisor, progress through the enlisted ranks, PCS
- 6. Nominated by:** Master Sgt. Joshua Matias
- 7. Nomination reason:** Senior Airman Carpenter is a shining example in our wing.

An expert air traffic controller, his commitment to mission success made him the go-to trainer for two 3-levels experiencing difficulty in training, focusing six hours daily on live traffic, simulator, and classroom sessions. Additionally, he was the only facility Airman of 83 selected to complete Airfield Operations System Specialist (AOSS) training where he completed an additional six-week Tech School course and is already 25% SEI complete in a mere three weeks of a 52-week program. As his squadron’s booster club VP, he led fund-raising events netting \$2K in just two months. Finally, he balanced work and school by enrolling in a three-hour humanities class leaving him only six credit hours from his CCAF Certified in AETC’s busiest ATC facility, proven leadership qualities, whole Airman concept and elected positions clearly proves SrA Carpenter is a cut above the rest!



Airmen educated on distracted driving risks



U.S. Air Force photo Airman 1st Class John Day
Senior Airman Adrian Johnson, 14th Medical Group Health Services Manager, participates in a VR simulator Nov. 3, 2016, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The simulator showed what it is like to drive while texting and the dangers associated with distracted driving.

Screening is women’s best chance to find breast cancer

RN Pattie Loffis
14th Medical Group/Health Manager

Not counting skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States.

Every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, while one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime.

Fortunately, huge strides have been made in recent years relating to the early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. When breast cancer is found early, treatment is most effective, and many women go on to live long and healthy lives. Getting screened does not prevent breast cancer, but if you have it, screening gives you a much better chance of finding it early and surviving it.

A mammogram is an X-ray picture of the breast and is the best way to detect breast cancer early, sometimes up to three years before it can be felt. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends routine breast cancer screening mammography every two years and to begin at age 50 to 74. For women who are 40 to 49, it is recommended you and

your provider discuss breast cancer screening options and decide at what age to begin mammography screening.

Women should weigh the benefits and risks of screening tests when deciding whether to begin getting mammograms at age 40. Talk to your doctor about when you should start screenings.

Some ways to lower your risk of getting breast cancer include the following:

- Stay physically active by getting regular exercise
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Avoid using hormone replacement therapy or find out the risks and benefits of HRT and if it is right for you
- Limit the amount of alcohol you drink

Symptoms of breast cancer vary from person to person. Some warning signs of breast cancer may include:

- Skin changes, such as swelling, redness, or other visible differences in one or both breasts
- An increase in size or change in shape of the breast(s) (over a short period of time)
- Changes in the appearance of one or both nipples
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk

- General pain in/on any part of the breast
- Lumps or nodes felt on or inside of the breast or underarm (armpit)
- Nipple retraction (turning inward)
- Changes in touch (may feel hard, tender or warm)

Other conditions may cause these symptoms also, so it is best to be seen by your primary provider to discuss any concerning symptoms.

All Tricare beneficiaries age 40 and older can refer themselves for a screening mammogram without a doctor’s order or referral. Local facilities including Baptist Hospital (662-244-2979) and Imaging Center (662-328-8402) are available for scheduling. Please be sure to inform the facility that your primary doctor is at Columbus Air Force Base.

Our Health Manager can assist with scheduling your mammogram at our local facilities and other surrounding areas. Please call 662-434-2396 for any assistance needed with scheduling your mammogram or obtaining your results. Additional information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast>.

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: T-6A Texan II

Mission

The T-6A Texan II aircraft is a single-engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train Primary Pilot Training, or PPT, students in basic flying skills common to U.S. Air Force pilots.

Background

Before being formally named in 1997, the T-6A was identified in a 1989 Department of Defense Trainer Aircraft Master Plan as the aircraft portion of the Primary Aircraft Training System, or PATS. The system includes a suite of simulators, training devices and a training integration management system.

On Feb. 5, 1996, Raytheon was awarded the PATS acquisition and support contracts. The first operational T-6A arrived at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in May 2000. The full rate production contract was awarded in December 2001. Air Force production of the aircraft was completed in 2010.

The T-6A is used to train PPT students, providing the basic skills necessary to progress to one of three training tracks: the Air Force fighter-bomber, the Air Force airlift-tanker, the Air Force turboprop track and the Air Force helicopter track.

Instructor pilot training in the T-6A began at Randolph AFB in 2000. PPT began in October 2001 at Moody AFB, Georgia, and is currently at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and Laughlin and Sheppard AFBs in Texas.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Entry-level trainer in joint primary pilot training

Builder: Raytheon Aircraft Co.
Powerplant: 1,100 horsepower Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-68 turbo-prop engine
Wingspan: 33.5 feet (10.19 meters)
Length: 33.4 feet (10.16 meters)
Height: 10.7 feet (3.23 meters)
Speed: 320 miles per hour
Standard Basic Empty Weight: 6,500 pounds (2,955 kilograms)
Ceiling: 31,000 feet (9448.8 meters)
Range: 900 nautical miles (1,667 kilometers)
Crew: Two, student pilot and instructor pilot
Armament: None
Date Deployed: May 2000
Unit Cost: \$4.272 million
Inventory: Active force, 446



U.S. Air Force photo

The T-6A Texan II is a single-engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train Primary Pilot Training, or PPT, students in basic flying skills common to U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots. PPT began in October 2001 at Moody AFB, Georgia, and is currently at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and Laughlin and Sheppard AFBs in Texas.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Garry Argent, a maintenance contractor, prepares a T-6A Texan II aircraft for one of the last joint training missions between the 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron and the Iraqi air force Squadron 203 Sept. 4, 2011, at Camp Speicher, Iraq. The 52nd EFTS turned over flight operations to the Iraqi air force Sept. 5. The Iraqi training squadron has 11 instructor pilots trained and ready to carry the torch.

To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

Air Force Readiness Programs

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

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 7 - 8 and explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required; the company requires 10 days notification and must have a minimum of eight participants. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 8. The class 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop at 9 a.m. Nov. 9 is on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon Nov. 9. 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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Nov. 15 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop from 1-2 p.m. Nov. 15 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. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Heart Link for Spouses

This event is 8 a.m. - noon Nov. 16. It is for spouses new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. The event is held at Columbus Club. 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. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Children visit base housing for trick-or-treat



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

Airman 1st Class Kyle Beath, 14th Force Support Squadron Customer Support Journeyman, and his wife, Rose Beath, pass out candy and glow sticks to trick-or-treaters on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Oct. 29, 2016. Children visited base housing to trick-or-treat from the residents of the base, many of whom participated in Halloween and dressed up as well.

Air Force Junior ROTC

This is an information brief on becoming a JROTC instructor. If you have any questions 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, 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.

covery. 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.

Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact Delores Sherman, Personal Financial Counselor, for an appointment at 426-2527, or 434-2790. She can help manage finances, resolve financial problems, and reach long-term goals such as getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement.

Learn How to Read Your LES

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

Chapel Schedule

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

Catholic Community

Sundays:
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: Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 4th Sundays of the month
Tuesdays:
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
11:30-12:30 p.m. - Adoration

Protestant Community

Sundays:
9 a.m. - Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service
Tuesdays:
5 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesdays:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Ecumenical services

Wednesdays:
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

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus_afb_living, 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.

Club Membership Drive
The Club Membership Drive runs Nov. 1 – 22. Join the Columbus Club and enter to win weekly prizes and the grand prize, a Jeep Wrangler. Rules and entry available at MyAirForceLife.com/ GiveAway. For additional information call the Club at 434-2489.

.25 Cent Bowling
The Bowling Center offers 25-cent bowling on Mondays in November. Upcoming dates are Nov. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 4 p.m. until close, shoe rental not included. For more information, call 434-3426.

Breakfast Club
The Breakfast Club starts at 6:30 a.m. Nov. 7 with free breakfast at the Event Center for Club Members. Non-members can eat free if you complete a Club membership application. For more information call the Columbus Club at 434-2489.

Circle Time
A weekly Wednesday program at the Library begins at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 9 for ages 0-4. Learn rhythm, kinesthetic, and body language thru songs, dance, and activities. For more information call 434-2934.

Thanksgiving Buffet at the Club
The Thanksgiving Buffet at the Club is from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 10. Cost is \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members, \$5 for kids 5-11, 4 and under eat free. Enjoy delicious Thanksgiving entrees with all the trimmings and dessert. Call the Columbus Club at 434-2489 for more information.

Fight Frenzy
Fight Frenzy is Nov. 12. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for Club members and \$5 for non-members. The event offers adult themed entertainment with food and drink specials. The pre-fight includes Woodley vs. Thompson and Jedrzejczyk vs. Kowalkiewicz, featured fight is Alvarez vs. McGregor. For more information call 434-2489.

Legos at the Library
Legos at the Library is at 2 p.m. Nov. 13. Spark creativity with Legos. Please call 434-2934 for more information.

Preseason Basketball Tournament
The Fitness Center will hold a free preseason basketball tournament Nov. 14-16 for ages 14 and up at the Fitness Center. For more information, call 434-2772.

Monthly Fitness Run
The Fitness Center will hold a Turkey Trot 5K Fitness Run at 7 a.m. Nov. 18. Participants can enter to win a frozen turkey. The run will start and end at the Fitness Center; commander's trophy points will be awarded. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

Turkey Bowl Nine-Pin No Tap Tournament
A Turkey Bowl Nine-Pin No Tap Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Nov. 18. Cost is \$15 per person and includes three games and shoe rental. First and second place winners receive a frozen turkey. Call the Bowling Center for more information at 434-3426.

Thanksgiving

Buffet Dining at the Club

November 10 5-7 p.m.

\$12 Member - \$14 Non-Member - \$5 for kids 5-11, 4 & Under Free

MENU

Roasted Turkey
Honey Glazed Ham
Cornbread Dressing
Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Macaroni and Cheese
Green Bean Casserole
Sweet Potato Casserole
Assorted Pies

For more information

434-2489

 **CLUBS**



Pearl River Resort Casino Trip
Outdoor Recreation offers a monthly casino trip to Pearl River Resort. Upcoming dates are Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. The cost is only \$25 per person; includes \$20 in play credit at casino and transportation. Outdoor Recreation bus departs Exchange/Shoppette parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Any party of 10 or more may book transportation to casino anytime for \$25 per person. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament
The Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament is Nov. 19 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Event is a nine-hole two-person scramble, cart not included. Cost includes lunch, prizes, and turkey raffle. For more information call the Golf Course at 434-7932.

Teen Adventure Camp
Registration is now open for the 2017 NH White Mountain Winter Adventure Camps for military teens. Camps will be held in January for teens with disabilities and in February for teens without disabilities. Contact the Youth Center at 434-2504 for more information or register at www.nhmilitarykids.org.

Youth Basketball Registration
Youth basketball registration is now open until Nov. 28 at the Youth Center. Cost is \$35 for ages 3-4 and \$40 for ages 5-18. Volunteer coaches needed. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Give Parents a Break
Give Parents a Break is 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Youth Center. Call 434-2504 for more information.

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

Thursday NFL Football
Come out to the Club each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. There will be food specials and prize giveaways. The complete game schedule is available at the Columbus Club. Call 434-2489 for more information.

Fitness/Time Out Child Care
The Child Development Center offers child care from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is only \$4 per hour. Sign up one week in advance at the CDC or contact 434-2479 for more information.

The Overrun Open Friday Nights
The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Story Time and Circle Time at the Library
The Base Library offers Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. for all ages. Circle Time is offered each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Cosmic Bowling Special
The Bowling Center offers Cosmic Bowling for only \$12 per person every Friday and Saturday night from 5 – 8 p.m. You also may purchase individual games for \$3 per game with purchase of \$1.50 shoe rental. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Free Wood at the Golf Course
Wood is available at the Golf Course on Sundays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact the Golf Course Monday-Friday to arrange pick-up. Call 434-7932 for more information.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair
Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. Self-help bicycle repair is also available. For more information, contact 434-2507.

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

Play Paintball
Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of 9 or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Make Your Shopping Easier
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. Purchase your gift card at one of the following locations: Bowling Center, Golf Course or Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Take & Bake Pizzas at the Bowling Center
Grab-and-go ready pizzas for you to take home and bake yourself are available at the bowling center. Save \$2 per pizza. Large and medium pizzas only.

Free Fitness Classes
Free classes are available at the fitness center. Classes range from P90X, Hot Fusion, Jiu Jitsu and Floor Core & More. For more information on class schedules, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

National Radiologic Technology Week

Master Sgt. Eric Severs
14th Medical Group

Providing patients with safe medical imaging examinations is the prime goal for the nation's radiologic technologists. To recognize the vital work of its Registered Technologists, the Koritz Clinic's Radiology Flight is celebrating National Radiologic Technology Week, Nov. 7 – 11. NRTW was created by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists in 1979. The event is celebrated each year during the week of Nov. 8, the day that German physicist

Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered the X-ray in 1895. The American Society of Radiologic Technologists represents more than 152,000 members who perform medical imaging procedures or plan and deliver radiation therapy. The Society is the largest radiologic science association in the world. Its mission is to advance and elevate the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession and to enhance the quality and safety of patient care. Medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals work with some of the most innovative equipment in the medical field to help identify pathologies, plan and administer treatment and restore patient health. R.T.s specialize in breast imaging, computed tomography, cardiac-interventional procedures, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, radiation therapy and general diagnostic radiology. The Koritz Clinic currently has general diagnostic radiology capabilities for beneficiaries; all other modalities services are referred off base. The department has two nationally certified Radiology Technologists and is currently staffed with one active-duty technologist and one G.S. civilian technologist. If interested in learning more about the career field or Radiology in general stop by or contact the department at 662-434-2211.

2016 COLUMBUS VETERANS DAY
PARADE AND CEREMONY

In honor of those who have fought for our freedom

Nov. 12, 2016
Parade begins at 10 a.m.
at Columbus Municipal Complex (1501 Main Street) and proceeds down Main Street

Join us at
11 a.m. for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Lowndes County Court House (502 2nd Ave N)



VIEWPOINT

It's all about attitude

Lt. Col. Damon Sevier
14th Flying Training Wing,
Director of Staff

I graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base with Class 00-08 on April 28, 2000.

I don't recall how we came up with our class patch or how we decided on the simple statement on top of the patch, but it certainly has proven to be extremely accurate.

As I reflect on it, looking back now nearly 17 years, that simple statement has had so many different meanings. At the time, I think we were just trying to come up with something catchy and not necessarily so prophetic. This simple statement, applicable to so many different situations, has really become a small yet powerful reminder of how we should live, lead and follow.

I can't think of any situation that's ever been made better with a bad attitude; however, the simple insertion of a positive attitude can mean all the difference. Imagine if when Apollo 13 made their historic call back to Earth, "Houston, we have a problem," mission control had come back with something

like, "well, you're screwed," or something of that nature. How about if when Neil Armstrong stepped from the ladder of the lunar lander he had remarked, "That's one small step for man and hey, this place sucks, there's nothing here," considering the vacuum of space and landscape stretched out before him and all.

Would these events have been the same? I doubt it. In fact, I contend that neither of these events would have even occurred because the United States wouldn't have even attempted such lofty feats. Both of these examples were made possible through positive attitudes in the face of extreme challenges.

Fast forward to today. Our Air Force, the Department of Defense and our nation as a whole is facing some very big issues. It seems like all anyone is talking about these days is negative. As a leader, if you approach the myriad of challenges with a bad attitude, it will infect your organization at every level.

Pretty soon an effective organization will falter and or fail. Likewise, as a follower, a bad attitude will tend to cloud your vision, impact your judgement/decision making and could lead to a myriad of negative consequences. As the Air Force has shrunk, the importance and impact of every individual has increased.

Our nation has become ever more reliant upon the power we can project. The demands placed upon each of us that make up the Air Force will only increase. We need every one of our members to be an effective part of the team and, "It's All About Attitude."

48th FTS members gather for 20-year reunion

1st Lt. Ed Acosta
48th Flying Training Squadron

In the Air Force, we celebrate heritage not because we have to, but because we want to. It gives us a chance to honor those who paved the way to ensure the success of our Air Force.

Our Air Force is the greatest in the world because we stand on the shoulders of giants.

The history of the 48th dates back to World War I, having been initiated shortly after the United States entered the Great War on April 6, 1917. It was on Aug. 4, 1917, that the 48th Provisional Squadron was first assembled at Kelly Field, Texas. Their primary mission was to build and repair facilities in support of the war. Fast forward to

World War II, where Lt. Virgil H. Smith of the 48th Fighter Squadron became the first P-38 Ace of the war when he shot down his fifth enemy aircraft on Dec. 12, 1942.

October truly is a special month for the 48th. It was in October 1996 that the 48th Flying Training Squadron flew its very first student sortie in the mighty T-1A Jayhawk. While the legacy of the 48th FTS is rich in history, the Alley Cats of Columbus recently celebrated their 20th year in support of Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training.

The squadron recently held its first ever heritage month celebration. Lt. Col. Charles "Spanky" Gilliam, 48th FTS Commander, and his staff invited past and present members of the 48th FTS to Columbus Air Force Base for a weekend heritage celebration.

The weekend's festivities included a family event at

the local pumpkin patch in Caledonia, a golf scramble at the Lion Hills Country Club and culminated with a formal dinner at the Columbus AFB Club. The Alley Cats had the chance to hear from several members of the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Two former 48th Flying Training Squadron Commanders were also in attendance. Finally, the Alley Cats recognized Mrs. Regina Bowen, a civilian employee, who has selflessly served the 48th FTS and their families over the last 15 years.

As we continue to progress as an Air Force, let us take time to remember and honor those that came before us. The members of the 48th FTS live by General Robin Rand, Global Strike Commander's, words. "History makes you smarter, heritage makes you prouder."



Courtesy photo

The 48th Squadron Association's 2016 reunion culminated in a banquet Oct. 29, 2016, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Seventy-six members and guests gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 48th Flying Training Squadron here. The 48th Squadron lineage goes back 99 years and several members representing the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron era were in attendance.



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Bernard Davis, 14th Security Forces Squadron and Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsman, renders a salute to those missing in action and prisoners of war at the 48th Squadron's reunion Oct. 29, 2016, at the Columbus Club on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. Members of the 48th, both present and past, gathered to celebrate their heritage and to meet with one another.