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Vol. 41, Issue 13

April 7, 2017

Weather

Friday Sunny High 64°F Low 49°F	Saturday Sunny High 71°F Low 49°F
Sunday Sunny High 79°F Low 55°F	Monday Sunny High 78°F Low 55°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight.

News Briefs

Sports Car Club of America Autocross

The Sports Car Club of America will hold an Auto-cross event April 8 - 9 at the SAC Ramp. The event is free and open to all of Team BLAZE. Participants should arrive at 8 a.m. for signup and registration.

14th Operations Support Squadron Change of Command

The 14th Operations Support Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 9:14 a.m. April 13 at the McAllister Fire Station.

50th Flying Training Squadron Change of Command

The 50th Flying Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 8:50 a.m. April 21 at the McAllister Fire Station.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 17-07 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

Ryan Daniel (center), lead singer of the Ryan Daniel Band and Emmette “Lucky” Bush (left), RDB drummer and retired chief master sergeant, perform with the rest of RDB for Team BLAZE March 31, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Daniel spent nearly 10 years as a Munitions System Specialist for the Air Force.

Ryan Daniel visits Columbus Air Force Base

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Ryan Daniel, lead singer for the Ryan Daniel Band, performed for the Team BLAZE community here March 31.

The event included a concert and free face painting, bounce houses, popcorn and snow cones, as well as other food for sale.

Daniel started the show with a few cover songs and a shout out to the Columbus Air Force Base leadership for the honor of performing here. He then went straight into songs from his newest album where he rambunctiously ran around the stage and crowd.

See DANIEL, 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 (18-01)	0.54 days	3.60 days	Apr. 24	48th (17-08)	1.20 days	1.69 days	Apr. 28	49th (17-GBC)	-3.02 days	-1.73 days	Apr. 27	T-6	419	462	15,922
41st (18-02)	3.80 days	2.19 days	May 16	50th (17-08)	-1.41 days	-0.20 days	Apr. 28					T-1	117	110	4,156
* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.												T-38	159	152	5,303
The graduation speaker is Gen. Robin Rand, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.												IFF	66	56	2,311



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 40 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.

DANIEL

(Continued from page 1)

Between songs Daniel would tell stories about his Air Force experience. He spent nearly 10 years in the Air Force as an ammunition specialist and during that time he also toured with Tops in Blue, the former elite touring group of the Air Force.

"I loved everything about the Air Force," Daniel said. "I'd still be in if it wasn't for what I'm doing now."

Daniel said he loves performing for service members and proudly supports every branch of the military. He gave credit to service

AETC Award

Congratulations to Capt. Kenneth "DOOGIE" Taylor for being recognized as the AETC Malcom Grow Flight Surgeon of the Year! Taylor represents AETC's Aeromedical Communities finest and has worked hard with his team to deliver trusted care every day.

members, saying they are the reason he gets to live his rock star lifestyle.

"I'm excited to be here," Daniel said. "It's good to be here and I can't wait to see everybody out and I hope we get to come back."

Daniel wrapped up the show by thanking everyone for attending. Earlier that day he also gave some advice to the younger Airmen.

"You can be anything you want to be," Daniel said. "If you set your mind to be a chief, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, or go to school and become a four star general then go do it. No one is going to hand it to you, but go do it."





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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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10 AFAF	11	12	13	14	15/16	Apr. 28: SUPT Class 17-08 Graduation Apr. 28: Enlisted Promotions/Quarterly Awards May 9: Wing Newcomers Orientation May 18: CCAF Graduation May 19: SUPT Class 17-09 Graduation May 25: 37th FTS Change of Command May 25: Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony May 26: AETC Family Day May 26: Independence Pool Opens May 29: Memorial Day Holiday
17 AFAF	18	19	20	21	22/23	
Argentinean AF visit	Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	Deputy Chiefs of Chaplains visit		50th FTS Change of Command, 8:50 a.m. @ Fire Station	22nd: International Student Social, 3 p.m. @ Columbus Club	
		Golden Triangle Leaders Tour				

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Dubisher Award
1st Lt. David McCarthy

Top Guns
Contact: Capt. Timothy Mann
Instrument: 1st Lt. David McCarthy
Formation: 2nd Lt. Aaron Bellini

17-15

ALS Class 17-3 graduates 16



The graduates of Airman Leadership School Class 17-3 pose for a photo at their graduation March 30, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. ALS prepares senior airmen and staff sergeant selects to take on a supervisory role.

U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin
Thirteen of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony March 31, 2017, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Thirteen enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

**14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs**

Thirteen of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony March 31, 2017, at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the month of March were:

Airman Jefferey Thompson, 14th Force Support Squadron
Airman 1st Class Jesus Alarcon, 14th Operations Support Squadron
Airman 1st Class Kichae Farr, 14th Communications Squadron
Airman 1st Class Victor Lugo Vargas, 14th OSS

Senior Airman Dillon Ariztia, 14th OSS
Senior Airman Zachary Jackson, 14th Security Forces Squadron
Senior Airman Matthew Stanger, 14th SFS
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bahr, 14th OSS
Staff Sgt. Bradley Garwood, 14th Contracting Squadron
Staff Sgt. Gregory Hovland, 14th CONS
Staff Sgt. Darren Hussey, 14th OSS
Staff Sgt. Juliana White, 14th Comptroller Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Justin Gilbert, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Union Membership Drive

The American Federation of Government Employees Local 1296 will sponsor a two-day Metro Membership Drive from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 12 and 13. Freedom Park will be the location for April 12 drive and the Mission Support Group building will be the April 13 location. Tenth District Representatives will be on site answer any questions. All new members will receive \$100 for signing up and recruiters will also receive \$100 for recruitment of new members. Recruiters must be Union members. Lunch will be served at both. All members are invited. If you have any questions please contact VP Benjamin Norris Sr. at 662-436-1081, 434-2578 or contact Lachunda Sparks at 434-2239.

SAAM begins with proclamation



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, poses for a photo after the signing of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation March 31, 2017, at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney was joined by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response team at the signing.

Retired chief speaks at Women's History Month Luncheon



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, former 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, speaks at the Women's History Month Luncheon March 30, 2017, at the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Club. This was the last event of WHM.

Hunt Housing tip of the week



As stated in your signed Lease Agreement, a written 30-day notice is required prior to vacating housing. The penalty for not providing sufficient notice is the equivalent to one month's rent. There will be no penalty for a short notice given in compliance with military orders. Upon receiving orders, please arrange TMO dates prior to coming in to give notice. Final move dates are not able to be scheduled without confirmed TMO information.

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PHYSICIAN

(Continued from page 12)

Vietnamese and from the United States," she said.

After graduating from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in biology, Thanh Thao Le attended medical school at St. Matthew's University School of Medicine.

While in-residence, two classmates who were pursuing an Air Force commissioning program invited Le to do the same. She commissioned in 2011 at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, with her father by her side.

She had found her opportunity to give back to those who served in her homeland more than 40 years earlier, and those who continue to serve.

"Some of my most memorable rotations as a medical student were treating veterans," she said. "In the case of those who served in Vietnam, I'm especially grateful for what they did so many years ago."

Her parents still live in Houston. Her two sisters are civilian physicians, and her younger brother is in his second year of medical school at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

Thanh Thao Le, who will pin on major in July 2017, treats members on active duty, as well as retirees and their families.

"In family medicine we take care of a wide spectrum of patients," she said. "I love the challenge and helping those who have served, and continue to serve, this nation bravely."

Le said when she meets with Vietnam-era patients, and the opportunity presents itself, she thanks them for their service and lets them know how much she appreciates their sacrifice.

"If they didn't do what they did, my siblings and I wouldn't be practicing medicine and helping those in need of care," she said. "They inspire me to give back to those who came before us, and those who continue to serve this nation."



Courtesy photo

Capt. (Dr.) Thanh Thao Le, 66th Medical Squadron physician, poses with her father, Minh Le, following her commissioning ceremony at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, in July 2011. Le, who will pin on major in July, treats a wide-spectrum of patients at the Hanscom clinic.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

April 22

Join runners and walkers for the Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center's 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Color Fun Run April 22 at the Columbus Riverwalk. Registration begins at 7 a.m., the 5K begins at 8 a.m. and the Kids' Color Fun Run begins at 8:45 a.m. Parents are also welcome to participate in the kids' run. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Preregister online at lifechoicesms.eventbrite.com.

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.

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Stopping Sexual Assault – Not Just in April

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force
Kaleth O. Wright

WASHINGTON — The truth is, the vast majority of Airmen we serve alongside have never – and will never – sexually assault another person in their lifetime. Let me say it again for the people in the back – the vast majority of our Airmen HAVE NEVER and WILL NEVER harm another person. Hard stop.

But the ability and the responsibility to stop sexual assault does not begin and end here. Every survivor, and every Airman who has ever served in a unit impacted by these acts, can tell you first hand it has the same effects as a natural disaster. It’s very real, very devastating and leaves a trail of total destruction in its wake.

Airmen are the heart of our Air Force. With Airmen, the mission will never fail; without them, the mission will not succeed. And sexual assault deeply and severely impacts our ability to perform the mission.

Every Airman, on their own or together in a group, has the ability to stop this behavior in its tracks. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, but putting an end to this devastation within our ranks requires each of us to be engaged, every day, all year round.

Every Airman who demands professionalism in their workplace and in their unit, who insists their fellow Airmen treat each other



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Andy M. Kin
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, visits Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, for an all-call where he spoke with hundreds of Airmen conveying his strategic messages on March 17, 2017. Wright took questions from a dozen Airmen ranging from policy to quality of life. The CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

with dignity and respect, and who enforces professionalism through their words and their deeds is taking action to eliminate assault. Every Airman who embodies our core values every day, on and off duty, in and out

of uniform, is supporting a survivor, whether they realize it or not.

Our Airmen are the best the world has ever seen. They’re the best at what they do – from fighting fires to calling in air strikes to

defending our bases. Our Airmen are also our best asset for stopping a sexual assault before it happens. Their professionalism and dedication is what generates airpower and allows us to fly, fight and win. That same dedication, when applied to taking care of their fellow Airmen, is what will eliminate these damaging behaviors from our ranks.

People sometimes define integrity as “doing what’s right when no one is looking.” Integrity is also doing what’s right when EVERYONE is looking. Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is what stops unsafe or unacceptable behaviors. That can be learned, and it’s fairly easy. Speaking up when no one else has – that’s the hard part.

But I promise you, when a situation arises that just doesn’t “feel right” or when someone isn’t doing what’s right, there are other Airmen hoping someone will speak up. That someone is you. Your fellow Airmen are looking to you to have the courage to speak up, to do the right thing when no one else will.

The vast majority of Airmen will never sexually assault another person. But EVERY Airman can be the one to make sure it never happens within our ranks. Today, tomorrow and every day. I’m counting on you – and the Airmen to your left and right are counting on you – to be the one who puts an end to sexual assault in OUR Air Force. I have your back in this fight and I’m asking you to have mine ... not just in April.

Physician serves to honor past, present

Mark Wyatt

66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Capt. (Dr.) Thanh Thao Le, a 66th Medical Squadron physician, learned from her father the importance of honoring those who serve in the military.

Her father, Minh Le, was a 1st lieutenant in South Vietnam’s Political Warfare Branch in the 1970s during the Vietnam War.

“When Saigon fell on April 30, 1975, my father was sent to communist prison along with other military officers, government workers and supporters of the South Vietnamese government that opposed North Vietnam,” said Thanh Thao Le, whose parents were married the day before her father went to prison.

After his release six years later, her father and her mother, Thach Le, started a family in a small Vietnamese village. Her father raised pigs and her mother taught language arts in a

local elementary school to support their growing family.

“My parents always worked really hard to provide a better life for their children,” said Thanh Thao Le, the oldest of four children.

She said it was through their example that she learned about service before self.

“My parents always put their children’s needs first,” she said.

While her father did not discuss his prison experiences

with his children, she said, he did often say how grateful he was to the service members who traveled halfway around the world to fight in a country they knew little about.

“He often spoke about the sacrifices of those who laid down their life during that war,” she said. “He’d always tell us that we needed to find a way to pay them back.”

When Thanh Thao Le was 12 years old, in 1994, her family moved to the U.S. via a program for former South Vietnamese.

“Government officials who went to prison for more than three years were able to move here with their family,” Le said.

They lived in a crowded one-bedroom apartment for the first six months and then a three-bedroom apartment in the projects in Houston.

“Despite the financial hardships we faced, my father always reminded us that we would not be here today if it were not for the sacrifices of those who served in Vietnam, both South

See PHYSICIAN, Page 13

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-22 Raptor

Mission

The F-22 Raptor’s combination of stealth, super cruise, maneuverability and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force.

The F-22, a critical component of the Global Strike Task Force, is designed to project air dominance, rapidly and at great distances and defeat threats attempting to deny access to our nation’s Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Features

A combination of sensor capability, integrated avionics, situational awareness, and weapons provides first-kill opportunity against threats. The F-22 possesses a sophisticated sensor suite allowing the pilot to track, identify, shoot and kill air-to-air threats before being detected. Significant advances in cockpit design and sensor fusion improve the pilot’s situational awareness. In the air-to-air configuration the Raptor carries six AIM-120 AMRAAMs and two AIM-9 Sidewinders.

The F-22 has a significant capability to attack surface targets. In the air-to-ground configuration the aircraft can carry two 1,000-pound GBU-32 Joint Direct Attack Munitions internally and will use on-board avionics for navigation and weapons delivery support. In the future, air-to-ground capability will be enhanced with the addition of upgraded radar and up to eight small diameter bombs. The Raptor will also carry two AIM-120s and two AIM-9s in the air-to-ground configuration.

The F-22 will have better reliability and maintainability

than any fighter aircraft in history. Increased F-22 reliability and maintainability pays off in less manpower required to fix the aircraft and the ability to operate more efficiently.

Background

The Advanced Tactical Fighter entered the Demonstration and Validation phase in 1986. The prototype aircraft (YF-22 and YF-23) both completed their first flights in late 1990. Ultimately the YF-22 was selected as best of the two and the engineering and manufacturing development effort began in 1991 with development contracts to Lockheed/Boeing (airframe) and Pratt & Whitney (engines). EMD included extensive subsystem and system testing as well as flight testing with nine aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base, California. The first EMD flight was in 1997 and at the completion of its flight test life this aircraft was used for live-fire testing.

The program received approval to enter low rate initial production in 2001. Initial operational and test evaluation by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center was successfully completed in 2004. Based on maturity of design and other factors the program received approval for full rate production in 2005. Air Education and Training Command, Air Combat Command and Pacific Air Forces are the primary Air Force organizations flying the F-22. The aircraft designation was the F/A-22 for a short time before being renamed F-22A in December 2005.

General characteristics

Primary function: air dominance, multi-role fighter

Contractor: Lockheed-Martin, Boeing



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class John Day
An F-22 Raptor aircraft sits on the SAC ramp of the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flightline April 20, 2016. Twelve F-22s from the 94th Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, visited the 14th Flying Training Wing to generate interest in students to fly this airframe.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker
Lt. Col. James Hecker flies over Fort Monroe before delivering the first operational F-22A Raptor to its permanent home at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The Raptor program is managed by the F-22A System Program Office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

14th MDG participates
in Pilgrimage kickoff



Courtesy Photo

Members of the 14th Medical Group pose for a photo after participating in the Spring Pilgrimage Kickoff 5K and Half Marathon April 1, 2017 in Columbus, Mississippi. Eleven of the 12 14th MDG participants ran the half marathon.

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VIEWPOINT

Eagle Eyes promotes community's involvement in security

Special Agent Kelly Luzum
Special Agent-in-Charge
Air Force Office of Special Investigations
Detachment 406

The Eagle Eyes program is an Air Force anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of Air Force members and citizens in the war on terror.

Eagle Eyes teaches people about the typical activities terrorists engage in to plan their attacks. Armed with this information, anyone can recognize elements of potential terror planning when they see it.

Eagle Eyes provides a network of local, 24-hour phone numbers to call whenever a suspicious activity is observed. You and your family are encouraged to learn the categories of suspicious behavior and stay attuned to your surroundings.

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

- **Suspicious persons/vehicles out of**



place: People who don't seem to belong in the work center, neighborhood or place of business.

- **Tests of security:** Attempts to provoke and measure security's reaction time or base personnel's alertness to identify strengths or weaknesses for exploitation.
- **Elicitation:** Attempts to obtain infor-

mation by social media (friend requests from strangers) mail, fax, telephone or in person about military operations or personnel.

- **Surveillance:** Recording or monitoring activities with or without vision-enhancing devices, taking notes, photographs, drawing diagrams, etc.
- **Acquiring supplies:** Stealing or purchasing explosives, weapons, ammo, uniforms, IDs, passes or badges.
- **Dry run:** The test run, when terrorists rehearse their plan, map out routes and determine the timing and flow of their attack.
- **Deploying assets:** People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

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

While it is the role of AFOSI Det 406 and the 14th Security Forces Squadron to protect and defend Columbus AFB, everyone can and should help ensure our base is safe and secure through the Eagle Eyes program. The AFOSI and Security Forces rely heavily on

the eyes and ears of the entire community. It is the Airmen and their families who are in the best position to notice anything that seems to be out of the "norm."

AFOSI Det 406 and the 14th Security Forces Squadron ask that everyone take an active role in maintaining the safety and security of Columbus AFB by reporting criminal and suspicious activity. There are numerous ways to report suspicious activity, either in person at AFOSI, 680 Seventh St, Columbus AFB, MS or by calling AFOSI at 662-434-2852. In cases of emergency call 911 or after hours to the local Columbus AFB Emergency Control Center at 662-434-7128.

If you prefer to remain anonymous, you can use the AFOSI anonymous tip line by visiting https://www.tip411.com/tips/new/alert_group_id=21111 or download the TipSubmit Mobile application from your provider's marketplace; just select "Federal/Military" and then "Air Force Office of Special Investigations" or text "AFOSI" plus your tip information to 274637 (CRIMES).

For more information regarding the Eagle Eyes program please visit <http://www.osi.af.mil/Home/Eagle-Eyes/>.

SILVER WINGS
Apr. 7, 2017

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AF News

Breaking barriers through opportunities

Airman 1st Class Kevin Tanenbaum
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — With over 3,000 flying hours she has broken more than the sound barrier, graduating from and becoming an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School and attaining operational experience in operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, according to Air Force records.

Her résumé speaks for itself.

It's a résumé full of incredible accomplishments, not including breaking the barrier of being the first female fighter pilot.

For Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, the 57th Wing commander, every accomplishment of her 25-year career flying the F-15E Strike Eagle stems from seizing her opportunities, by seeing them as challenges and overcoming them every step of the way.

"All of these were opportunities, even flying fighters when it was new for women. I didn't think of them as breaking barriers," Leavitt said. "Effectively, since I was the first female to do those things I did break them, but it was all based on opportunities that the Air Force gave me."

When Leavitt graduated pilot training at the top of her class, she selected the F-15E Strike Eagle to be her primary aircraft. However, because of a Defense Department policy restricting women from flying fighters, she was denied by the Air Force Personnel Center.

"After that I really wanted to be a T-38 (Talon) instructor pilot, but the Air Force wasn't having anyone come straight from pilot training to be an instructor pilot," Leavitt said. "So, I actually got an assignment for KC-10s at March Air Force Base (Calif.) initially, but I never started the training because the policy change happened right after that."

Once the policy was altered and women were allowed in the cockpit of fighter jets, Leavitt was hesitant to become the first female, but the opportunity and challenge of being an F-15E pilot was too much to turn away.

"Quite honestly, I didn't want to be the first," Leavitt said. "I actually asked if I could be the twelfth, thirteenth or fourteenth. I didn't want the attention or the added pressure of being the first. When someone asked, I said, 'If those are the terms of the deal, I'll take it because I really want to fly fighters.'"

This want and drive to fly was one of the main reasons Leavitt joined the Air Force, but the reasons she has stayed are what are most significant to her.

"When I joined the Air Force, I wanted to fly," Leavitt said. "I was an aerospace engineering major at the University of Texas, and I was learning to design airplanes. I thought it would be amazing to fly."

"I also wanted to serve my country, and the reason I stayed was the people I worked with and the mission. The sense of purpose, being a part of something bigger than yourself, being a part of a team, making a difference (and) defending the nation for my children is so important to me."

Once DOD policy changed and women were allowed into combat fighter roles, Leavitt faced a new set of challenges, in-



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kevin Tanenbaum
Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, 57th Wing commander, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, poses for a portrait on the flightline July 15, 2016. Leavitt is responsible for 34 squadrons at 13 installations constituting the Air Force's most diverse flying wing.

"All of these were opportunities, even flying fighters when it was new for women. I didn't think of them as breaking barriers," Leavitt said.

cluding when she participated in one of the Air Force's largest joint training exercises: Red Flag.

"When I was a brand new Strike Eagle wingman and I came out to Red Flag, I was very much a target," said Leavitt. "Everyone knew who I was and knew that I was the first female fighter pilot, and quite honestly there were a lot of adversaries that wanted to take down my aircraft."

"My flight lead got a lot of kills during that Red Flag. Every time someone tried to roll in and kill me he would kill them. So, it was an entertaining deployment, and you have to take that challenge and turn it into an opportunity, and that's what we did."

Leavitt has excelled through training to the USAFWS to combat deployments and now as a leader of Airmen, learning to surpass challenges along the way.

"My favorite part of the day is spending time with Airmen," said Leavitt. "I am so truly honored and humbled to lead the Airmen of the 57th Wing, and spending time with Airmen energizes me. It's incredible because every Airman truly has a story, and to hear their stories and to see how motivated they are to be a part of this organization is truly refreshing for me."

This opportunity to connect with and lead Airmen, just like her leadership in the past did with her, is just one of the things Leavitt cherishes most.

"I have been fortunate enough to have incredible opportunities that the Air Force has given me," said Leavitt. "I have had leaders who believed in me, and empowered me to do wonderful things and, in turn, had the opportunity to lead Airmen. I'm very thankful for that."

From being empowered by her leadership to leading the 57th WG, the wisdom that she passes down to Airmen is from learned experiences and her own challenges she has faced.

"My advice to Airmen is to do the absolute best in whatever assignment they're placed in," said Leavitt. "I have all kinds of assignments and interesting jobs, some not being the most desirable. I would just say to excel in any opportunity you're given. If you're presented with a challenge, turn it into an opportunity and make the most of it."

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.

Youth Spring Fling & Egg Hunt
A Youth Spring Fling and Egg Hunt is from 9 - 11:30 a.m. April 8 at Freedom Park. Come out for food, fun, games and an egg hunt. Call 434-2504 for more information or to volunteer.

Petrified Forest Trip
A Petrified Forest trip is from 7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m. April 22. Cost is \$15 per person. Sign-up at ODR or call 434-2505.

Easter Bowling Special
All day April 15, pick an egg and get your bowling price.

Club Easter Brunch
An Easter Brunch will be held 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. April 16. The buffet includes all your traditional breakfast favorites as well as fried chicken, vegetables, salad bar, roast beef carving station, waffle station, omelet station and more! Cost is \$16 for Club members, \$20 for non-Club members, \$8 for children 5 – 11 and free for children under 4. Call for reservations 434-2489.

Unlimited Bowling
Unlimited bowling is Fridays and Saturdays in April from 6 – 11 p.m. Unlimited bowling \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under 12 years old.

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 call 434-2479 for more information.

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

Story Time and Circle Time
The Base Library offers Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. for all ages. Circle Time is offered each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, call 434-2934.

Laser Bowling Special
The Bowling Center offers Laser 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, call 434-3426.

The Youth Center's

Spring Fling

and

EGG HUNT

APRIL 8

SATURDAY

9A.M. - 11:30A.M.

FREE

EGG HUNT AGE CATEGORIES: 0-2, 3-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11 & UP

FOOD & GAMES

PRIZES & FUN!

SPONSORED IN PART BY:

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COLUMBUS

The Youth Center

Bldg. 348 | Phone: 4342504

FORCE

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.

Wood Shop
The wood shop is now open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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, call 434-2507.

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

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

Skeet & Trap
Skeet and trap is available at Outdoor Recreation. Call 434-2507 for more information.

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 Out-

door Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, call 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 world-wide 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, call 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.

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

Interested in Sponsoring with Columbus AFB?
Want your business to reach the 18,000 active-duty military, family members, civilian employees and retirees living and working at Columbus AFB? If you are interested in event sponsorship or donations, please contact our sponsorship coordinator at 434-2337.

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, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

RV Storage Lot
Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

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. Call 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. Call 434-2505 for more information.

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.)

Resume and Cover Letter
The Resume and Cover letter workshop is from 9 – 10:30 a.m. April 11. The workshop helps with preparing and writing an effective civilian resume and cover letter. To sign up, call 434-2839/2790.

Federal USAJobs Workshop
The Federal USA Jobs Workshop is from 9 – 10:30 a.m. April 12. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

Bundles of Joy
This workshop is from 1 – 3:30 p.m. April 12, and is for active-duty families assigned to Columbus AFB who are expecting or have a child up to 4 months of age. It is an Air Force Aid Society program with presentations about topics such as Tri-Care, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, and Labor & Delivery. For more information or to register, call 434-2790.

Start Smart
This workshop is from 1 – 3 p.m. April 13. It is designed for personnel getting ready to enter the workforce and how to negotiate your skills. Start Smart is a "nuts and bolts" approach to salary and benefits negotiation facilitated by MUW faculty. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation
This brief will be from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. April 18. It 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 call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle
The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 – 2 p.m. April 18, 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 434-2839/2790.

Smooth Move
This class, 10 – 11:30 a.m. April 19, 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.

Hearts Apart
The Hearts Apart Social program, 5 – 7 p.m.

Team BLAZE volunteers at Spring Pilgrimage



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

Kristie Hover, spouse of the 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, takes tickets from guests touring the Old Waverly Mansion antebellum home April 5, 2017, in West Point, Mississippi. Hover, donning period late 1800's dress, joins 65 Columbus Air Force Base spouses and family members volunteering for docent duties at local antebellum homes during the 2017 Columbus Spring Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage began on March 31, and will run through April 8.

April 27, 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.

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 sup-

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

Personal Financial Readiness
Make the most of your money. Contact De-lore 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 w/Children's Church
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd 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



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

SUPT Class 17-07 earns silver wings



Capt. Nicholas Barrett
Franklin, Mass.
C-17, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.



Capt. Nico DeBarmore
Raleigh, N.C.
CV-22, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Capt. Carlos Ruiz Solano
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
A-29, TBD

Twenty-three officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to become Air Force pilots.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-07 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Gen. Robin Rand, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, is the graduation guest speaker.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

2nd Lt. James Gehring, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Joey Pippin, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. James Gehring, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Austin Hill, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

2nd Lt. James Gehring, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Joey Pippin, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 17-07.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation

flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 17-07 pilot partners are Air Control Engineering and Stark Aerospace.



2nd Lt. Abdulrahman Alhaidari
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
TBD



2nd Lt. Alexander Boules
Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
A-10, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Carl Burnham
Bangor, Maine
KC-135R, Bangor Airport, Maine



2nd Lt. Dylan Flynn
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. James Gehring
Orlando, Fla.
F-15C, Kingsley Field ANGB, Ore.



2nd Lt. John Goudelock
Mableton, Ga.
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Austin Hill
Raleigh, N.C.
U-28, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Javier
San Ramon, Calif.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Jennifer Logsdon
Toledo, Ohio
KC-135T, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.



2nd Lt. Joey Pippin
Jackson, Miss.
C-17, Allen C. Thompson ANGB, Jackson, Miss.



2nd Lt. Isaías Rivera
Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
C-130, Muniz



2nd Lt. Kenner Roberts
Dallas, Texas
AC-130J, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2nd Lt. Carlos Saldana
Panama City, Panama
C-208, Delgado AB, Panama



2nd Lt. Quincy Watts
Ramona, Calif.
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



Capt. Brandon Telken
St. Louis, Mo.
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



1st Lt. Fiacre Obanda
Brazzaville, Congo
F-1, Air Base 01/20



1st Lt. Elizabeth Tiffany
Peachtree City, Ga.
HC-130J, Moody AFB, Ga.