

---

April 21, 2017

| 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)   | 1.28 days    | 2.52 days        | Apr. 24      | 48th (17-08) | -0.50 days   | 2.23 days        | Apr. 28    | 49th (17-GBC)   | 1.28 days    | -4.50 days       | Apr. 27    | T-6               | 1,714    | 1,784 | 17,244 |
| 41st (18-02)   | 5.38 days    | 2.66 days        | May 16       | 50th (17-08) | 0.50 days    | 0.22 days        | Apr. 28    | * Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling. |              |                  |            | T-1               | 488      | 396   | 4,475  |
|  |              |                  |              |              |              |                  |            |   |              |                  |            | T-38              | 657      | 543   | 5,700  |
| The graduation speaker is Col. Dean Lee, Director of Safety, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. |              |                  |              |              |              |                  |            |   |              |                  |            | IFF               | 261      | 273   | 2,528  |

“There are a lot more changes in store for this program,” Isaac said. “That is one of my big responsibilities: finding new ways to make this program better and to expand it. It is always great to see our students working hand-in-hand with fellow air force officers.”



Maj. Gen. Xavier Isaac, the Argentine Defense and Air Attaché to the United States, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, April 18, 2017. The 14th Flying Training Wing currently has an Aviation Leadership Program student pilot from Argentina and an Argentine air force exchange pilot in the 49th Fighter Training Squadron.

An advertisement for Bob's Paint & Auto Body. The top half features a photograph of a man and a young girl with pigtails, both wearing jackets, leaning over and inspecting the front fender of a silver car. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. Overlaid on the right side of the photo is the text "We Can Help!" in a large, white, bold font. Below the photo, a red banner contains the text "Call us for quality work and friendly service!". The bottom section is a white rounded rectangle with a red border. Inside, on the left, is a logo featuring a spray gun and a stylized car silhouette. To the right of the logo, the word "BOB'S" is written in large, bold, red letters with a black outline. Below it, "PAINT & AUTO BODY" is written in white letters on a dark blue rectangular background. At the bottom of this white section, the address "83 E. Plymouth Rd. • Columbus • 662-327-1221" is printed. Below the white section, a red banner contains the text "24 Hour Wrecker Service 662-328-4822".



Professional Organization Corner

Dorm Council:  
May 18, 3 p.m.  
@ Montgomery Village

First Four:  
  
5/6: April 26, 12 p.m.  
@ Club

Top 3:  
  
Air Force Sergeants Association: April 27, 12 p.m. @ Club



First Four enlisted Airmen enjoy paintball



Courtesy photo

Airmen the rank of E-4 and below pose for a photo April 14, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base. The First Four organized a game of paintball for Airmen and to invite them to join their organization.

| Mon        | Tue | Wed                                | Thur                              | Fri  | Sat/Sun                                 | Long Range Events   |
|------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 24<br>AFAF | 25  | 26<br>Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ A&FRC | 27<br>Daedalians Meetings, 6 p.m. | 28<br>SUPT Class 17-08 Graduation, 8 a.m. @ Club<br>Enlisted Promotions/Quarterly Awards, 3 p.m. @ Club<br>Rod Roberts Retirement, 1 p.m. @ Fire Station | 29/30<br>29th: 14th FTW Golf Tournament | May 9: Wing Newcomers Orientation<br>May 18: CCAF Graduation<br>May 19: SUPT Class 17-09 Graduation<br>May 25: 37th FTS Change of Command<br>May 25: Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony<br>May 26: AETC Family Day<br>May 26: Independence Pool Opens<br>May 29: Memorial Day Holiday<br>May 30: Wing Newcomers Orientation<br>May 31: Enlisted Promotions<br>May 31: Hearts Apart<br>June 3: Columbus AFB Triathlon |
| 1<br>AFAF  | 2   | 3                                  | 4                                 | 5<br>SUPT Class 17-09 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club<br>Market Street Festival   | 6/7                                     |   |

Silver Wings

How to reach us  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@us.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Douglas Gosney  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Commander

Mr. Sonic Johnson  
Chief of Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens  
Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah  
Quality Assurance

Senior Airman John Day  
Editor

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
Photo Journalist

Mrs. Tina Perry  
Layout Designer

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.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

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.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.



DUCKS UNLIMITED

800-45-DUCKS

A CFC participant - provided as a public service

13 MILLION ACRES... AND COUNTING

For more information, go to [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

Floyd's Custom Hand Engraving

Glass • Wine Bottles • Most Metals  
Golf Clubs • Knives • Compacts  
Personalized Gifts are Remembered!

501-545-7750  
Call For Estimate



© The Dispatch

Washer And Dryer In Unit  
1 And 2 Bedrooms Available  
15% Military Discount  
Move In Specials  
Fitness Center On Site

632 31st Avenue North • 662-386-4446

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](http://lifechoicesms.eventbrite.com).

April 29 - 30  
Lion Hills Golf Course is hosting a 1-Man Scramble. This golf event is open to the public. For more information, contact Lion Hills Center and Golf Course, 2331 Military Road, Columbus, MS 39705, 662-328-4837.

May 5 - 6  
The Market Street Festival will run May 5 - 6, in downtown Columbus. The festival offers over 250 arts, crafts and food vendors as well as dozens of special events, musical acts and activities throughout the festival. This is free and open to the public.

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](mailto: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.

Transportation

For Sale: 2005 Cadi CTS with 3600 Engine. 62,000 miles. Pearl white exterior with no scratches or dings. Rear wheel drive. Asking \$8,900. For more information, call 244-5861.

LEARN TO DIVE



MILITARY DISCOUNT  
ONLINE LEARNING  
AVAILABLE  
[downrightdiving.com](http://downrightdiving.com)  
662-549-1255



© The Dispatch



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

318 College Street • Columbus

Holy Communion  
at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
on Sunday  
(childcare provided)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Anne Harris  
328-6673 • [www.stpaulscolumbus.com](http://www.stpaulscolumbus.com)



Find us on facebook



New Salem Baptist Church  
welcomes you!

7086 Wolf Road  
3 miles south of Caledonia, MS  
(662) 356-4940  
[www.newsalem baptistcaledonia.com](http://www.newsalem baptistcaledonia.com)  
Pastor: Bro. Mel Howton

SUNDAY  
Worship Service - 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:15 am

SUNDAY EVENING  
Youth Drama & AWANA - 4pm  
Discipleship Training - 5pm  
Evening Worship - 6pm

WEDNESDAY  
Kid's Drama - 6 pm  
Adult/Youth Bible Study, RAs, GAs  
& Mission Friends - 6:30 pm  
Nursery available for all services.

Finding cures. Saving children.®

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®

800-822-6344 • [stjude.org](http://stjude.org)  
A CFC Participant. Provided as a public service.



## AIRLIFT

(Continued from page 13)

now building upon and the mid-winter missions coupled with our NVG capability have launched us into a new era for ODF.”

Despite the difficulty of operating in an austere environment, the 166 total force personnel deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, airlifted 1.8 million pounds of cargo and transported 2,992 passengers into the Antarctic, logging a total of 393 flight hours.

“The new McMurdo-Phoenix Airfield was validated and approved for C-17 and wheeled aircraft operations,” said Lt. Col. Robert Schmidt, the 304th EAS mission commander and 62nd Operations Group deputy commander. “The new field replaces Pegasus field, which has experienced several seasons of melting, and is expected to remain in use beyond 2030.”

Christchurch International Airport, New Zealand, is the staging point for deployments to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, a key research and operations facility for the USAP. Deployment support at McMurdo is provided by Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica

and led by Pacific Air Forces at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Community outreach was a highlight for this season as well. The mayor of Christchurch, Lianne Dalziel, presented the 304th EAS with a civic award for supporting local charities. Aircrews supported New Zealand’s yearly IceFest—a unique festival, with over 4,500 attendees, highlighting New Zealand’s leadership in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean—with a C-17 static display.

Through six decades of continuous support, ODF has evolved to meet today’s logistics requirements of the USAP. Joint Task Force – Support Forces Antarctica, headquartered at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, executes inter- and intra-theater airlift, tactical LC-130 deep field support, aeromedical evacuation support, search and rescue, sealift, seaport access, bulk fuel supply, port cargo handling and transportation requirements at NSF’s request in order to support the USAP.

Planning for the next season will include continued refinement of the mid-Austral schedule as well as supporting NSF future requirements.



U.S. Air Force Reserve photos by Staff Sgt. Madelyn McCullough  
**A C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, rests on Pegasus Ice Runway, Antarctica, during Operation Deep Freeze, July 15, 2016. ODF is one of the military’s most difficult peacetime missions due to the harsh Antarctic environment. The U.S. military is uniquely equipped and trained to operate in such an austere environment and has therefore provided support to the U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955.**

## ROCK BOTTOM

(Continued from page 7)

feelings off my chest. That way I didn’t have to tell anyone about my issues. I started journaling and left it on my desk every night. It didn’t help. I failed another flight. My buddy kept pressing me while we were out for lunch. I was absolutely exhausted from fighting it, so I caved and told him my problems. I agreed to tell my flight commander and talk to a professional. It had taken three months of denial to finally get to that point.

As my buddy and I walked back into the squadron, my squadron commander stopped me in the hallway, “Hey can I talk to you in my office for a minute?” My heart stopped. I figured it wasn’t about how well I was doing on my flights. Turns out my wife had come back home and found my notebook on my office desk. She called my commander and said she found a “suicide note” written by her husband.

In the blink of an eye, I figured I had lost it all – my dream and my wife. It was fun while it lasted, I thought, but I’ll never strap in a jet ever again. I’ve been labeled a suicide risk. It’s over. How could they ever let me fly again?

It was then that I finally understood what my dad meant when he told me, “The Air Force takes care of its people.”

After reading a few John Q. Public articles online, you’d be convinced we are just pawns in a communist regime that holds ulterior motives, but that’s not my experience.

My commander put his career on the line for me and never hesitated once. He simply let me know the many options I had available to me and didn’t judge me. He never really talked about “the situation,” he just wanted to help me get better. I told him I wanted to talk to the chaplain, because all

I remembered from the base welcome brief was they guaranteed full confidentiality. He drove me there himself to show his support. The chaplain was great, and he recommended I also talk to mental health. He explained they are the real professionals.

I told him I was scared that would be a career killer, and he looked at me and said, “Do you really have anything to lose at this point?” I laughed and he drove me over to the mental health clinic. There I was introduced to a young-looking captain, a mental therapist. I gave him the cold shoulder for the first three hours, judging him as inexperienced. He quickly proved me wrong.

The young captain said, “I know you think I’m here to take your future wings from you, but I’m actually here to fix the Air Force’s injured future pilot so we can get him back in the plane. The end goal is to get you back to 100 percent so you can fly again. Ending your dream? That’s not what we’re here for. Nobody is out to get you. Not your commander, not anybody. We all just want to get the old you back. I know that’s hard for you to believe with the stigma out there about us [mental health], so I’m going to have to ask you to take my word for it in an age where that carries no weight.”

Over the next two weeks, I spent every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with him, logging 15 hours together. Every day I felt stronger. It wasn’t like the movies where you lay down on a couch and they ask you to close your eyes and explain your feelings. It was not so much talking as it was learning. He taught me so many things that nobody ever teaches us growing up about how to handle overwhelming situations.

All the while my commander called me daily to check in and see my progress and let me know he was there for me. He never let me feel like a liability. He was my greatest support

through the entire process. It meant a lot to see him drop his extremely busy schedule and worry about just one Airman.

I realized then that most commanders want that. It’s what they live for...to take care of their people. But their people rarely speak up because most of us are scared to ask for help in fear of career repercussions. Well, I guess you’re just going to have to take my word for it in an age where that doesn’t carry much weight.

I used to think all Airmen were normal and the few who weren’t went to mental health. That was for them, not us. It turns out everyone goes through trouble in life and nobody really knows how to handle it. Just ‘be a man’ and ‘suck it up’ don’t always cut it. We go to the gym to work out our muscles, but we neglect our brain. We have broken bones set and healed, yet when our mind hurts, we think it’s crazy to go to a doctor. That doesn’t make any sense. Everyone gets hit by unexpected trials. When that happens, don’t handle it alone and speak up sooner rather than later.

As for the whole career thing, after 14 days I was cleared medically to fly again with no restrictions – as if it never happened. I was in the jet two days later. One week later I flew solo in formation. I’m now on track to graduate in two months and achieve my childhood dream of being an Air Force pilot.

Everyone was so happy to see me back in the squadron and there were no whispers about me in the hallways. My wife ended up seeing the positive change that seeking help got me and chose to come back so we could work together on our marriage. We’re happier than we’ve ever been.

Doing it my way would have certainly ended up with me failing out of flight school, losing my dream, and losing my wife. Doing it their way got my dream back and my wife back. I’ll let you be the judge which way works better.

# Shipping high value items

## Transportation Management Office

What would you do if your family heirloom or one-of-a-kind collectable went missing or got damaged during your PCS move? To say you’d be disappointed would be an understatement. High value items can be irreplaceable and therefore, require special attention by all parties. To help you during your next PCS move, we would like to provide the following tips.

Have expensive and valuable items (e.g. artwork, collectables, heirlooms) appraised. The government does not pay for the appraisals, but consider this part of your investment in the event of loss or damage. Attempt to locate original purchase receipts for your more expensive items and keep them separate from the rest of your shipment. Consider using a video camera or taking close-up pictures to record the condition of your furniture, working condition of your stereo, television and the actual appearance of your expensive and or valuable items prior to the household goods pack/pickup dates. This could help in the event you must file a Loss/Damage Claim.

Do not ship small, extremely valuable items such as stocks, bonds, jewelry, coins/coin collections, passports, birth certificates

and items of great sentimental value such as photo albums. Pack them in your suitcase and hand-carry them, as well as your purchase receipts, pictures and appraisals. You should also secure and safeguard these items during your pack/pickup dates, don’t leave these items lying around. Putting them in your locked vehicle can prevent them from accidentally being packed up in your shipment.

If you decide high value items are to be shipped, it’s imperative that the items are listed on the inventory. In addition, you must be able to substantiate what you owned and its pre-shipment value.

Should you encounter any problems regarding shipping your high value items during your pack and pick up dates remember the Quality Assurance Department is always available to assist. QC contact numbers 434-2602/7260

Don’t forget, if you have property stored by the government, it is your responsibility to keep your contact information current at all times. It’s imperative that you update or make arrangements for delivery of your storage during your personal property counseling.

Go to [www.Move.mil](http://www.Move.mil) for additional helpful personal property information.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tara Fadenrecht  
**First Assignment Instructor Pilots assigned to the 48th Flight Training Squadron, stand in front of a KC-135 Stratotanker April 2, 2017, at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. The FAIPs visited McConnell to gain a better understanding of the tanker and the base mission.**

# First Assignment Instructor Pilots visit McConnell

**Senior Airman Tara Fadenrecht**  
22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Nineteen First Assignment Instructor Pilots visited McConnell Air Force Base, April 2, 2017.

The FAIPs, currently stationed at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, as T-1 Jayhawk instructor pilots, made the trip to get a closer look at the KC-135 Stratotanker and learn about the base mission before they are assigned to an aircraft.

“The pilots completed Undergraduate Pilot Training and were asked to remain at Columbus AFB as instructors instead of moving to Air Mobility Command,” said Capt. Curtis Dejaco, 350th Air Refueling Squadron exec-

utive officer. “They compete with FAIPs from across Air Education and Training Command for assignments at the end of their three-year tour. They visited two other bases this [past] weekend, but [we had] the opportunity to showcase our aircraft and mission as the best in AMC.”

The group listened to briefings from KC-135 pilots and boarded a tanker to get a better feel for the aircraft.

“The benefit is actually being able to see the aircraft we might be [assigned] to,” said 1st Lt. Ian Ellington, 48th Flying Training Squadron FAIP. “I’ve never actually been inside a KC-135, so physically getting into the [aircraft] and [seeing] how you fit in the cockpit was definitely worth the trip.”

# 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.



## GTL tours Columbus AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Members of the Golden Triangle Leaders pose for a photo April 19, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. GTL are an adult leadership program designed to bring the leaders of the Golden Triangle together in order to strengthen the bond and development between all three regions.**



# Volunteer your services as a Victim Advocate

**Carla Neal-Bush**  
Sexual Assault Prevention  
and Response Office

If you are interested in becoming a trained and certified Air Force Victim Advocate, the next training is scheduled for May 1 – 5, 2017, in Bldg. 926, Rm. 213 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please register before April 20, 2017.

This is 40 hours of training and you must be available to attend all 40 hours to earn your certification.

I would like to thank those that are interested in advance for supporting those affected by the crime of sexual assault and assisting Team Columbus Sexual Assault Prevention and

Response (SAPR) program.

All active duty members, DOD civilians, or Reserve /National Guard personnel in active statues are eligible to serve as a Victim Advocate.

Victim Advocates can serve in three different capacities. They can serve as a responder, (added to hotline and work with victims) trainer, (assist with training and briefings) or both. All members are required to attend the 40-hour training, but responders will have to obtain additional certification after the training. If you are interested in participating in any of the capacities please feel free to sign up for the training.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Carla Neal Bush, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate  
Bldg. 926, Rm. 117  
Phone: 662-434-1329  
Hotline: 662-364-0822  
Email: carla.neal\_bush@us.af.mil  
Or  
Dr. Marcia Stewart, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager  
Bldg. 926 Rm. 117  
Phone: 662-434-1228  
Email: marcia.stewart.1@us.af.mil

MS Hwy 373  
will be Slurry Sealed  
by MDOT beginning  
Tuesday, April 25

CAUTION

MS Hwy 373 will be reduced to  
1 lane during resurfacing.  
This will be a slurry seal application  
involving liquid asphalt emulsion.  
Please consider using the main gate.



## For the Airmen, By the Airmen

Your contributions to the Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) will lend critical support to your fellow Airmen and their families — active duty and retired, officers and enlisted.

Because of your gifts, we can help with emergency needs, educational assistance and family support...and provide comfort and dignity to Air Force widows and widowers.



800.258.1413  
AFEV.US



703.972.2650  
AFAS.ORG



800.655.3083  
AFVGIVING.ORG



800.554.4410  
LEMAY-FOUNDATION.ORG



# AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND

afassistancefund.org

From entry to retirement...  
taking care of our own.

SILVER WINGS  
Apr. 21, 2017

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

13

# America’s cryptologic wing develops cyberspace warriors

**Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes**  
70th ISR Wing Public Affairs

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — As one of Air Combat Command’s integral as-sets, the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing is home to several types of cyberspace warriors, including the exploitation analysts (EA) of the 41st Intelligence Squadron.

The 70th ISRW is known in the cyber community as “America’s cryptologic wing,” being a premier source for the Defense Department’s information network fortification. One way the 70th ISRW received that accolade is through enhancing their 41st IS exploitation analysts with precise selection, testing and training.

Mission Force qualified.

In addition to their military credentialing, EA Airmen are also given the opportunity to qualify with certifications in Cisco Cer-tified Network Apprentice, Linux+, Securi-ty+, Network+ and others, like their civilian counterparts, James said.

“Our training requirements are difficult because of the nature of our mission,” he said. “Our squadron must build Cyber Na-tional Mission teams and national support teams in an era when our economy demands that we do more with less. We have to con-tinually grow and learn to stay in stride with new technologies, developing tradecraft and emerging threat vectors.”

U.S. Air Force illustration by Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes

The exploitation analyst training flight at the 41st IS previously realized that even with all the training through CYBERCOM’s joint pipeline, it was not enough, said James. They had a zero percent acceptance rate to high-profile cyber network organizations for their EA Airmen.

“It became apparent that we needed more rigorous training in order to prepare analysts for the tough mission; thus, our internal EA training program was born,” James said.

Even though the program is still in its infancy, the increase in efficient and knowl-edgeable Airmen has been realized.

“Our program takes the foundation-al knowledge from [Joint Cyber Analysis Course], and the subject knowledge from the pipeline, and provides a tailored environment to challenge each individual analyst to lever-age their unique bodies of knowledge and apply that knowledge to effectively conduct cyberspace maneuvers and achieve mission objectives,” said Master Sgt. Michael, a 41st IS cyber intelligence analyst. “This is the art of teaching tradecraft.”

Creating these types of cultural invest-ments to improve Airmen’s readiness has be-gun to evolve the future of cyber Airmen at the 41st IS, said Michael.

To practice performing their duties, EA

**Exploitation analyst Airmen assigned to the 41st Intelligence Squadron have begun using advanced mobile desktop training that uses an environment to challenge each individual analyst in cyberspace maneuvers to achieve mission objectives at Fort. George G. Meade, Maryland.**

Airmen are provided transient training lab-oratories, individual lab kits, to utilize their knowledge. In each kit, Airmen receive a locally crafted portable desktop which can influence virtual machines and facilitate hands-on scenarios. This advances Airmen’s capabilities, Michael said.

The advanced mobile desktop training challenges each individual analyst in cyber-space maneuvers to achieve mission objec-tives. “This, of course, is a short-term mea-sure,” James said.

The ideal, long-term goal is to have squad-ron, group and wing-owned labs and hard-ware that can all be leveraged to develop amazing training, rather than simply paying vendors, he said.

“Rather than relying so heavily on cost-

ly commercial training, our innovative in-house training has enabled our EAs to join the ranks of some of the best cyber profes-sionals in the world, and take the fight to the most advanced and sophisticated cyber actors across the globe,” Michael said.

This one-on-one training has strength-ened the unit’s comradery, he said. As a plus, it has also saved the unit approximately \$80,000 in training.

“This training is pivotal in not only help-ing analysts reach the level they need to reach in order to pass the interview,” James said. “More importantly, it empowers EAs to be the best they can be to fight harder in our difficult mission space.”

(Editor’s note: Last names were not used for security reasons.)

# Increased Antarctic airlift capability contributes to science

**446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. — Over the past 60 years, winter flying missions have provided a significant con-tribution to how the National Science Foundation conducts scientific research in Antarctica.

The C-17 Globemaster III 2016-2017 season recently

wrapped up, and the night vision goggle (NVG) capability paired with mid-Austral winter flying continued to be a game changing airlift support for the National Science Foundation during Operation Deep Freeze.

Citizen Airmen assigned to the 446th Airlift Wing and ac-tive-duty Air Force members assigned to the 62nd AW formed blended aircrews to deploy as part of the 304th Expeditionary

Airlift Squadron who provide airlift to the Antarctic in support of the NSF-managed U.S. Antarctic Program.

“The 446th Operations Group performed at a high level of expertise this season,” said Senior Master Sgt. Derek Bryant, a 446th Operations Group loadmaster. “Every aircrew mem-ber should know that they laid a foundation that the NSF is

See AIRLIFT, Page 14



# Immigrant joins Air Force to give back

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Park**  
386th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — *(This feature is part of the “Through Airmen’s Eyes” series on AF.mil. These stories focus on a single Airman, highlighting the Air Force story.)*

People have many reasons for joining the military. Some might join to follow a family tradition of military service, while others might join to see the world. Whatever the reason is, people enlist in the military to change their lives and to become a part of something greater than themselves. One Airman here has a particularly unique reason for joining the military: he wants to give back to the country that provided him new freedoms.

Staff Sgt. Fadi Chreim, a 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operations dispatch chief, joined the military to give back to the country that brought him in as an immigrant a decade ago.

Chreim grew up in Lebanon, a small, picturesque country with nearly 200 miles of Mediterranean coastline to the west. Syria borders the country to the north and east, and Israel borders it to the south. Lebanon has a rich history dating beyond 5000 B.C. The country served as the home of the Phoenicians during biblical times and has a unique culture that borrows from the Persians, Greeks, Romans, and others who once occupied the country. Throughout its history, the country has also experienced many conflicts as well.

During the 2006 Lebanon War, Hezbollah, a militant group and political party based in Lebanon, captured two Israeli soldiers, resulting in Israel launching airstrikes on Lebanon. The intense fighting resulted in many deaths on both sides.

“It was the third war for me,” said Chreim. “I’ve seen a lot of bombs and a lot of strikes, so I’m used to it.”

However, it was the first war his wife, Sandra, had experienced firsthand. She was born a U.S. citizen to Lebanese parents and spent time in both countries growing up.

“She convinced me to go to the U.S. embassy and apply for an immigration visa to come to the U.S. and give it a chance,” explained Chreim.

Unfortunately, the embassy was closed, so he met with a counselor who gave him an immigration visa. He still had another obstacle to face. The airport was shut down. He’d



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Park

**Staff Sgt. Fadi Chreim, a 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operations dispatch chief, poses for a photo at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, April 11, 2017. Chreim joined the Air Force Reserve in 2012 as appreciation for the opportunities the U.S. provided him as an immigrant.**

have to find another way of getting to the U.S.

Foreign governments from several countries, including the U.S., worked to evacuate the country during the conflict. Sailors and Marines from the U.S. Navy Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group helped transport U.S. citizens and family members to Cyprus and eventually to the U.S. Chreim and his wife were among those transported to the small island via a U.S. Navy ship.

“I said goodbye to my family,” Chreim said. “I gave my mom a hug and my sisters, and I said I didn’t know what would happen, but I’m just going to take off from here.”

Their trip to the U.S. took ten days as they went from Cyprus to the Czech Republic to New York and, finally, Florida. They arrived in their new country with the clothes on their backs, a credit card, a thousand dollars in cash and not much else. Chreim knew he had to find a job quickly.

Chreim learned by trial and error how life worked in the U.S., including how to apply for college, rent a house, and apply for jobs.

After nearly five months of searching for work, he eventually landed a job at a Walgreen’s pharmacy. He walked into the store and asked the manager for a job doing whatever was needed, whether it be stocking

shelves or running the cash register. The manager, however, saw greater potential in Chreim after looking at his resume and decided to offer him a job as an assistant store manager.

Chreim and his wife could now rent a house, lease a car and begin building a life in the U.S.

A couple years later, Sandra gave birth to their first child, a daughter. It was at this moment that Chreim realized he had a greater purpose to his life, and he looked for better opportunities to provide for his family. Chreim decided that he would need to attend college. However, since his schooling was in Lebanon, he would first need to attend one year of English classes.

Around this time, Sandra gave birth to their second child, a son. She stayed at home to take care of the newborn while Chreim continued to work and go to school.

“My family counted on me to provide,” said Chreim. “It took me a lot of stress, a lot of dedication, a lot of sacrifice, a lot of nights that I went without sleep in order for me to graduate college.”

Chreim began settling into his new life as an American, especially after becoming a naturalized citizen in 2009. However, he still sensed something was missing. He felt an

intense need to give back to a country that had provided him the opportunity to go to college and build a career. It was at this point he decided to join the military.

At first, he wanted to join the National Guard, but his wife was worried about him returning as a Soldier to the wars similar to those they left behind when they fled Lebanon. Still, Chreim had a deep desire to serve his country. He and his wife decided the Air Force Reserve would be the most beneficial choice for their family.

Chreim took time off work and school to attend basic training, and decided shortly after graduation that he wanted to become an officer. But to become an officer, he’d first have to finish college.

“I made graduation a must for me,” he said. “I made it a plan. I said I was going to graduate in 2016. I’m not going to take more time. I’m going to do whatever it takes.”

He started taking more classes and pushed himself even harder. It paid off. He graduated in 2016 from Florida Atlantic University. That same year, he applied for the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program, which gives enlisted service members the opportunity to commission as officers.

“I fell shy about ten points on the (Air Force Officer Qualification Test) for the verbal section. Since English isn’t my first language, I struggle with the vocabulary. Everything else – the navigation, the math, the physics – I aced it.”

He is now deployed from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, where he is responsible for the logistics of moving people around base.

On his desk sits a stack of vocabulary flashcards and an AFOQT preparation book. Chreim studies this material as much as possible during his deployment and hopes to take the test again next month and reapply for the program.

“If it happens, it’s a dream come true,” Chreim said. “If it doesn’t happen, I gave all and I gave it my best shot.”

And giving it his best shot is what Chreim’s experience in the U.S. has been about from the start. He believes that everyone gets the same opportunity and that it comes down to what a person does with these opportunities that truly matters.

“You hold it and you run with it and it’s about how far you can go,” said Chreim. “That’s what I like about the U.S. It made me want to give back. Part of me wanted to put on that uniform just to say ‘thank you.’”

## Mission

The RC-135V/W Rivet Joint reconnaissance aircraft supports theater and national level consumers with near real time on-scene intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities.

## Features

The aircraft is an extensively modified C-135. The Rivet Joint’s modifications are primarily related to its on-board sensor suite, which allows the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum. The mission crew can then forward gathered information in a variety of formats to a wide range of consumers via Rivet Joint’s extensive communications suite.

The interior seats more than 30 people, including the cockpit crew, electronic warfare officers, intelligence operators and in-flight maintenance technicians.

All Rivet Joint airframe and mission systems modifications are overseen by L-3 Communications (previously Raytheon), under the oversight of Air Force Materiel Command.

## Background

The current RC-135 fleet is the latest iteration of mod-

ifications to this pool of -135 aircraft going back to 1962. Initially employed by Strategic Air Command to satisfy nationally tasked intelligence collection requirements, the RC-135 fleet has also participated in every sizable armed conflict involving U.S. assets during its tenure.

RC-135s were present supporting operations in Vietnam, the Mediterranean for Operation El Dorado Canyon, Grenada for Operation Urgent Fury, Panama for Operation Just Cause, and Southwest Asia for operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. RC-135s have maintained a constant presence in Southwest Asia since the early 1990s.

All RC-135s are assigned to Air Combat Command. The RC-135 is permanently based at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and operated by the 55th Wing, using various forward deployment locations worldwide. More recently, RC-135s have also supported Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, and Operation Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector in Libya.

## General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Reconnaissance

**Contractor:** L-3 Communications

**Power Plant:** Four CFM International F108-CF-201 high bypass turbofan engines

**Thrust:** 21,600 pounds each engine

**Wingspan:** 131 feet (39.9 meters)

**Length:** 135 feet (41.1 meters)

**Height:** 42 feet (12.8 meters)

**Weight:** 173,000 pounds (78,743 kilograms)

**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 297,000 pounds (133,633 kilograms)

**Fuel Capacity:** 130,000 pounds (58,967 kilograms)

**Speed:** 500+ miles per hour (Mach.66)

**Range:** 3,900 miles (6,500 kilometers)

**Ceiling:** 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)

**Crew:** (flight crew) five (augmented) - three pilots, two navigators; (mission flight crew) 21-27, depending on mission requirements, minimum consisting of three electronic warfare officers, 14 intelligence operators and four inflight/airborne maintenance technicians

**Unit Cost:** unavailable

**Initial operating capability:** January 1964

**Inventory:** Active force, 17; Reserve, 0; Guard, 0



U.S. Air Force photo

**The RC-135V/W Rivet Joint aircraft is an extensively modified C-135. The Rivet Joint’s modifications are primarily related to its on-board sensor suite, which allows the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum.**



U.S. Air Force photo

**The RC-135V/W Rivet Joint reconnaissance aircraft supports theater and national level consumers with near real time on-scene intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities. The current RC-135 fleet is the latest iteration of modifications to this pool of -135 aircraft going back to 1962.**

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



# Deputy Chief of Chaplains visits Columbus Air Force Base

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Deputy Chief of Chaplains Brig. Gen. Steven Schiack visited the Team BLAZE community April 18 – 20, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

He started the day off April 19 with a Unit Prayer Breakfast in the Wing Headquarters building.

Schiack told a story of how he was on a plane that had to have an emergency landing due to smoke billowing up from underneath passengers’ seats. He talked about how the flight attendants struggled to contain the panicking passengers and had to yell over the intercom to teach them the proper crash position.

“Eventually the smoke stopped,” Schiack said. “Passengers started to calm down and then the Captain’s voice came over the intercom saying there was a generator that had problems however they had shut it down, but due to safety reasons we will land at the nearest

airport.”

He said the story is a metaphor meaning God may not always be there talking to you, but he’s there in the background trying to keep you safe.

After the breakfast, Schiack went to the Chapel On-Demand at Knowledge Operations. Schiack bragged on the base’s Chapel team because they were the ones who developed the program that has a chance to be used Air Force wide.

The next day he officiated the retirement of Maj. Craig Augustino, 50th Flying Training Squadron Assistant Director of Operations.

Schiack thanked the family, friends and fellow wingmen for coming out and supporting Augustino as he prepares for a new chapter in his life. His speech talked about how Augustino progressed through his career and congratulated him on this accomplishment.

After the ceremony, he departed Columbus with hopes to return again soon.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**The 14th Flying Training Wing Chapel team stands with Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Schiack, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, April 19, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Schiack originally enlisted to serve four years then go to college, however he took the opportunity to commission as a chaplain.**

## VIEWPOINT

# AF Basic Military Training – Did you know?

**Chief Master Sgt. William Whitt**  
14th Mission Support Group Superintendent

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, has been described as “The Gateway to the Air Force” since November 1942 (prior to the inception of the U.S. AF in 1947), when the first group of enlisted Air Corps personnel trained there.

Only when manpower requirements increased during the Berlin Airlift and during the Korean and Vietnam Wars did the AF find it necessary to conduct Basic Military Training elsewhere.

The length of the BMT program has bounced everywhere from about two days to about 13 weeks based on world events and mission requirements, with the first 20 years of its existence seeing the most flux.

During the Korean War buildup in 1950, BMT dropped from four to two weeks. Very little training was going on except for processing and uniform issue. The entire mathematics portion was deleted.

Then in January and February 1951, the two-week program was reduced to processing alone -- a matter of days. Airmen had to make up their training at follow-on locations. By March of that year, it shot back up to eight weeks. BMT went to six weeks in 1964 and changed again to eight weeks in 2008.

As the length of BMT fluxed, so did the nature of the world. For many of the Airmen who joined after Vietnam and before Desert Storm, deployments were unheard of unless

they were in an ops career field. But since Desert Storm and especially since 9/11, that culture has changed. The Airmen who sign up today understand they will deploy and they will more than likely learn about jobs that were previously considered responsibilities of the U.S. Army.

Dating back to 1942, BMT for enlisted Airmen has been conducted at the following locations at one time or another:

- **Lackland AFB, Texas** (1942 – Present)
- **Sheppard AFB, Texas** (1950 – 1952)
- Provided recruit training from Aug. 26, 1950, during the Korean War
- **Sampson AFB, New York** (1950 – 1956)
- Provided additional recruit training until shortly after the Korean War ended
- **Parks AFB, California** (August 1950 – 1957)
- Provided additional recruit training until shortly after the Korean War ended
- **Keesler Field, Mississippi** (1955 – 1964)
- Training occurred at Keesler due to the inception of a two-phase BMT program that had Airmen spend the first six weeks at Lackland and finish up BMT at their follow-on tech training site
- **Amarillo AFB, Texas** (1966 – 1968)
- Crowded conditions and a meningitis outbreak caused Lackland to shift some basic trainees here between Feb. 17, 1966 – Dec. 11, 1968
- As well as at some overseas locations:

- **Sonthofen AB, Germany** (1951 – 1952)
- 187 men trained at Sonthofen, Germany
- Burg Sonthofen had originally been constructed as a school known as the Adolf Hitler Schule to train youthful candidates for positions of leadership within the Nazi Party
- **RAF Sealand, Wales, UK** (1952 – 1953)
- A total of 278 recruits passed through RAF Sealand
- **Panama** (Early 1950s; approx. 1950 – 1951)
- Most trainees were dependents of “Canal Zone” American Citizens
- **Philippines** (Early 1950s; approx. 1953)
- BMT was conducted for only three-five classes and most trainees were native residents of the Philippines
- Having come up in the U.S. AF under the premise that Lackland AFB is and always has been the gateway to USAF BMT operations, I never pondered that BMT may have been conducted elsewhere. That all changed and I became quite curious after reading a few social media posts and published articles that referenced BMT being conducted elsewhere.
- After researching the material for this article, I reached out to many fellow chiefs (both active and retired) and found most were under the same assumption as I was; that Lackland AFB was the end all, be all of where USAF BMT had been conducted. That being the case, I felt it important to share the information I gleaned through a little research, in order to help educate others on an additional part of their U.S. AF heritage that is often not referenced.

## 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.)*

### Hearts Apart

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

### Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. May 1 – 5, and includes seminars on Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, MS Dept of Employment Security, Dept of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Dept of Labor TAP portion. Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance 8 – 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register call 434-2839.

### Career Technical Training

This transition event is held from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. May 8 – 9. The workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants to make. To register and more information call 434-2790.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. May 9. 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. May 16, 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. May 16, 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.

### Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for

## SAPR ‘strikes out’ sexual assault



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day  
**The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office set up an informational booth and provided free bowling April 19, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This was just one event put on by the SAPR office for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.**

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 deploy-

ments, 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. 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-lores 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.

### Saint Leo University

SLU offers on-base classes in psychology, criminal justice, and business administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by room 120 in building 926 (old Personnel building).

## 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



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.

April Is Month of The Military Child

Bowling and shoe rentals are \$.75 for children 12 and under in April. April 20, wear purple and receive free shoe rental and 3rd game free. ODR has 30 percent off inflatables rentals. The Youth Center has many activities. Call the Youth Center at 434-2504 for schedule of events.

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.

Intramural Softball

Sign-ups for Intramural Softball will begin April 24. For more information call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

Barbenders Challenge

A Barbenders Challenge 300 club will be held at 6 p.m. April 24. Open for ages 18 and up. Call the Fitness Center at 434-2772 for more information.

Disc Golf Tournament

A Disc Golf Tournament will be held at 5 p.m. April 26. Sign-up at the Fitness Center or call 434-2772 for more information.

Babysitting Course

The Youth Center will host a babysitting course 5:30 p.m., April 27 for ages 11-19 with an instructor from Baptist Memorial Hospital. The cost for the course is \$30. For more information, call 434-2504.

Teen Lock-in

A Teen lock-in will be held April 28 – 29. The event is open to ages 12 – 18 and is \$10 per person. Please sign-up in advance. Call the Youth Center at 434-2504 for more information.

Farewell Golf Tournament

Whispering Pines Golf Course will host its final tournament 9:30 a.m., April 29 with a 2 person scramble for \$15 per person. Call 434-7932 for more information.

Mother's Day Craft

The Library inside the BLAZE Commons will offer a free kid craft May 4 from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Design a personalized gift for mom. Call 434-2934 for more information.

Cinco De Mayo Bowling

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo on May 5 with \$.75 bowling at the Bowling Center. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Fitness Mini Expo

The Fitness Center will host a mini expo 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., May 5. Enjoy vendor exhibits, fitness activities and health screenings. For more information call 434-2772.

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.



Moms Bowl Free

The Bowling Center is celebrating Mother's Day with a moms bowl free event all day on May 13. For more information call 434-3426.

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.

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 Outdoor 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 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, 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.



# Hitting rock bottom: One officer's tale of resilience and recovery

Capt. Anonymous

Air Education and Training Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, Texas

— As a young boy growing up on Coronado Naval Air Station in San Diego, I used to watch my father fly A-6s in the Navy. His father had died at a young age, so he raised us the best way he knew how...through physical discipline, mental strength, and zero emotion. But he loved his three boys more than life itself and always told me, “If you join the military, join the Air Force. They take care of their people.” I never knew what that meant until now.

My earliest memory is sitting on his shoulders watching the Blue Angels scream overhead at an airshow and saying to myself, “I want to fly jets.” Every decision I made was intentionally to get me one step closer to that dream.

The first time I faced defeat was when my high school guidance counselor told me I “didn’t have the grades” for the Air Force Academy and I needed to “seek alternative options.” I ended up in a senior military college where I was broken down and built back up as a man who doesn’t show emotion, never quits, and never leaves a brother behind.

My newly forged character was first put to the test my junior year when I got an e-mail that read, “You have been disqualified from pilot/navigator selection.” Everything I had worked for was gone in a one-line email. After the initial shock, I decided to dust myself off and take whatever job the Air Force would give me. I used the disappointment as motivation and figured I would try again later. I passed my first tough guy character test.

I was put to the test again at age 23. A new Air Force officer, I had just met my wife and we were sitting in my apartment when my phone rang. It was a good friend from high school who I hadn’t talked to in a while. He cut right to the chase, “Hey man, I’m guessing you’ve heard about Paul.” I frantically responded, “No! Paul who? What is it?” He proceeded to tell me that my best friend in the entire world, the man closer to me than both of my biological brothers, had unexpectedly collapsed leading his Army Ranger platoon in a standard PT run. Paul was dead at 22 – a West Point graduate who could run 5-minute miles.

We had been on multiple diving trips together, rigorous mountain hikes, and long runs over the years. I instantly felt a shortness of breath, dropped the phone, and looked at my wife speechless.

My tough guy act crumbled in the blink of an eye. I spent the night staring at the wall with tears streaming down my face and didn’t say a word. My wife didn’t know what to say at the time, so she just sat there next to me and didn’t say a word all night. Looking back, that was the most helpful thing in the world. That was all I wanted at the time, to just not be alone.

I didn’t want to be kicked off my first deployment so I kept Paul’s death a secret and never told anyone. It was hidden right under the surface and the mention of his name brought

the pain back instantly, so I never liked to talk about it. My wife knew that, and she was a tremendous support over the years. I seemed to be plagued by death over the next few years losing multiple uncles, grandparents, and friends from college. I grew colder every time, just holding it all in and never speaking up. I figured everyone goes through tough times, and the guy next to me probably had it worse.

Three deployments later, lots of funerals, and five years older I grew to be one pretty cold dude. I certainly wasn’t the loving, courageous and humble man my wife committed to five years earlier. I felt like I was a soda can being shaken up more every year. My wife was my only strength, and the one thing keeping the can from exploding. My wife is always so loving, supportive and positive with her words. She keeps me going when I want to quit.

Then one day, I received word that I could again reach my dream with acceptance to Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training. I couldn’t believe it. This was our new beginning. I didn’t want to waste it.

We PCSed and I went full speed in my commitment to training. My wife knew how much it meant to me, and she was happy to support me through the process. It was a long year. I would come home exhausted, wave “hello” to her as I walked through the door and continued straight to my room to study until bedtime, sometimes falling asleep in my chair studying. The guys would go out on Friday nights, but I stayed in and studied. I studied every waking minute. I never felt burnt out because this was my dream. I enjoyed studying.

On top of it all, I had my dream girl as my wife. We rarely fought. She always smiled and was happy to see me when I came home. She would even help make my flash cards for me to study. Life couldn’t get better. Until one night when I walked in the door and she wasn’t smiling. She was crying. She uttered the words, “I can’t do this anymore.”

I initially laughed thinking it was a joke, but when she left with bags packed the next day, it became very real. I was completely blindsided. Just like losing Paul, I had so many questions. She and I never argued. There was no affair. I never laid a finger on her. It was completely out of the blue. I woke up the next day in a confused daze and did the only thing I did best, showed up to work.

The guys instantly knew something was up, but I was the class leader and wanted to look strong for them and set a good example. I had to be tough and suck it up, because that was my idea of being a man. The last thing I was going to do was tell someone or go see mental health and lose my dream.

I tried to keep pushing, but a few weeks later I started making mistakes I never make and failed four flights in two weeks. I was on a fast track to failing out and losing my dream on my own. A good friend in my class kept pushing me to speak up and go talk to someone about it, but graduation was only two months away. Besides everyone knew that going to visit mental health was the kiss of death. I could make it, right?

I decided to try journaling. Maybe it would help get my





U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin  
**Chaplain (Maj.) Bradley Kimble, Deputy Wing Chaplain, hands Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, a biscuit during a prayer breakfast April 19, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Chapel provides refreshments to many community events to build relationships with Airmen around the base.**



Courtesy photo  
**Team BLAZE members gather around Chaplain (Maj.) Bradley Kimble, Deputy Wing Chaplain, for the Blessing of the Bikes March 31, 2017, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The base offers a motorcycle safety and training course and the Chapel took the opportunity to bless the riders and provide refreshments.**

# CAFB Chapel is Setting Faith aBLAZE

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

It is the 1st Amendment in the U.S. Constitution that says everyone has the right to practice their own religion, faith, belief or to not practice at all.

The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel's purpose is to ensure Airmen can exercise that right but to also provide care and spiritual fitness to the Team BLAZE community.

"We ensure spiritual fitness for Airmen and support their religious needs," said Master Sgt. Christopher Thompson, Superintendent of Chapel Operations. "So we can Fly, Fight and Win."

The Chapel mainly offers Catholic and Protestant services, however they also have a multi-faith prayer room open to all religions. If an Airmen can't find their faith at the Chapel, the Chapel team will go the extra mile to help them find a place to practice.

"If there is a faith someone is practicing and

*"We want people to realize that they don't have to have any religion or belief to come to us," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Richardson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain. "We are here to listen."*

it's not something we can provide we can seek off-base sources," Thompson said. "So they may continue practicing their faith as they see fit."

It is not uncommon to see a chaplain walking around base, in fact they make an effort to meet and talk with as many Airmen as possible. Unit engagements and Squadron Focused Warrior care are two ways the Chapel accomplishes that goal.

Chaplain (Maj.) Kyle Ivy says they do this to build relationships, so if they see an Airman

is down and glum they have a better chance to help him out rather than them being in the dark and not knowing why he is down.

The CAFB Chapel developed a Chapel on Demand program that will soon be used Air Force wide. It is a training program where the Commander chooses a topic, time and location and the Chapel facilitates discussion in order to bring about relational, emotional and spiritual health.

The Chapel tries to reach out to all age groups. They have adult bible studies and programs focused towards youth.

The Chapel also offers many great volunteer opportunities. Airmen can help with youth programs that are aimed towards helping young people develop their faith through fun activities.

"We have stuff for all ages," Ivy said. "We have children's programs in addition to the parent programs as well."

The chaplains do their best to be as accessible as possible. Some are even embedded in the squadrons around the base, however if an Airman needs a chaplain they are all able to help them in the best way they can.

While chaplains and other Chapel team members are men and women of faith, they also cater to people who don't have a religion or belief. They are not only ministers, they are counselors and offer total confidentiality that cannot be released without the written consent of the individual.

"We want people to realize that they don't have to have any religion or belief to come to us," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Richardson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain. "We are here to listen."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaleb Snay  
**One of the biggest missions for a Chapel is to provide freedom of religion and religious practices or accommodations. Currently the Chapel offers both Catholic and Protestant services. For more information call 434-2500.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**The Columbus Air Force Base Chapel stands tall on Harpe Blvd. April 18, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Chapel is open to all religions so all Airmen can be spiritually fit to fight.**



**BLAZE CHAPEL**  
Magnify God · Serve Airmen · Build Community