
Vol. 41, Issue 18

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

May 12, 2017

		SATURDAY MORNING SPECIALS Starting at: 7:00 am	
May 13, 2017 7:00 - 11:00 AM			
 SAVE \$30 \$49⁹⁹ Steel Park Bench Antique Bronze. (453878) Was \$79.99		Web Exclusive Coupon! <i>Sign up for our weekly web exclusive coupon at</i> www.marvins.com	
 SAVE 10% \$1²⁹ Each 5/8" x 6" x 6' Pressure Treated Dog Eared Fence Boards (16667) Was \$1.49		 SAVE \$3 \$7⁹⁹ 10" Deluxe Basket (493429) Was \$10.99 <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Don't forget MOM</div>	
 SAVE 40% 3/\$6⁰⁰ .5 cu. ft. Assorted Landscape Rock (774422) (242776) (242891)		 SAVE \$3 \$4⁹⁹ 10" Flowering Annual Basket Selection may vary. See store for available varieties. (503144) Was \$7.99	
		 SAVE \$2 \$7⁹⁹ 10" Fern Hanging Basket (502757) Was \$9.99	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Find a location nearest you! www.marvins.com Follow us on Facebook Making it easy.. One Project at a time. </div>			

An advertisement for Bob's Paint & Auto Body. The top half features a red car with significant front-end damage, including a crumpled hood and a broken headlight. To the left of the car, the text "NO WORRIES! TAKE IT TO" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. The bottom half of the ad contains the company logo, which includes a stylized car silhouette, a paint spray gun, and the text "BOB'S PAINT & AUTO BODY" in red and blue. Below the logo, the address "83 E. Plymouth Rd. • Columbus • 662-327-1221" is listed. At the very bottom, a blue banner with white text reads "Call Us For Quality Work And Friendly Service!".

LION  HILLS
EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mother's Day Brunch

May 14, 2017 • 10am-2pm • Reservations 329-6761
Adults \$24.99 • Children (3-10) \$10.00

Beef Wellington • Crab Cakes with Herb Aioli
Chicken Cordon Bleu with Spinach Cream Sauce
Shrimp Charleston Bar • Smoked Salmon

Steamed Asparagus with Goat Cheese and Orange Buerre Blanc • Brussels Sprouts with Candied Bacon
Tomato Provençale • Artichoke and Rice Pilaf • Citrus Parsely Orzo • Tomato Basil Soup
Chocolate Covered Strawberries • Bailey's Chocolate Cheesecake
Raspberry & White Chocolate Bread Pudding

~Salad Station~
Lemon Dill Potato Salad • Ranch & Sour Cream Potato Salad
Spinach Orecchiette Salad • Chicken Salad Cups

~Breakfast Station~
Biscuits • Sausage • Gravy • Grits • Bacon • Mini Quiche • Eggs Benedict • Cooked to Order Omelets




~Salad Bar~
Spring Mix & Spinach Salad topped with fresh "Mayhew" Strawberries and Red Onions. Sides of Toasted Almonds, Cranberries, Roasted Sunflower Seeds, Mandarin Oranges, Feta Cheese, Bacon, and Croutons.
Strawberry Vinaigrette and assorted salad dressings available.

~Waffle Station~
Plain, Chocolate Chip, Blueberry, or Pecan with Strawberries,
Whipped Cream, Maple Syrup, and Chocolate Hazelnut Spread

~Devised Eggs~
Traditional • Pimento and Cheese

2331 Military Rd. • Columbus, MS • 328-4837

Weather

<p>Friday</p>  <p>Thunderstorms</p> <p>High 79°F Low 59°F</p>	<p>Saturday</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>High 79°F Low 57°F</p>
<p>Sunday</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>High 83°F Low 53°F</p>	<p>Monday</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>High 86°F Low 60°F</p>

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

News Briefs

Police Week

Columbus Air Force Base will observe Police Week May 14 – 20. Check the calendar for a list of events.

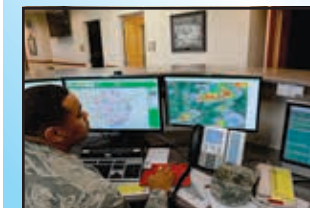
CCAF Graduation

A graduation ceremony for Airmen who were recently awarded a degree from the Community College of the Air Force takes place at 3 p.m. May 18 at the Columbus Club.

37th FTS Change of Command

The 37th Flying Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 9:37 a.m. May 25 at the fire station.

Inside



Feature 8

The 14th Operations Support Squadron's Weather Flight highlighted in this week's feature.

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 (18-03)	1.02 days	0.69 days	June 7	48th (17-09)	2.51 days	0.87 days	May 19	49th (17-HBC)	-6.34 days	-5.41 days	May 25	T-6	1,120	1,054	19,360
41st (18-02)	3.87 days	1.68 days	May 16	50th (17-09)	1.07 days	-1.01 days	May 19	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	352	271	5,016
												T-38	393	350	6,694
												IFF	170	174	2,840

Fireworks on the water returns to Columbus

Sonic Johnson
th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The Fourth of July will once again be celebrated with live music and fireworks over the Stennis Lock and Dam in a patriotic salute to our nation's 241st birthday.

Fireworks on the Water 2017 is a free, open-to-the-public initiative between Visit Columbus, the community and Columbus Air Force Base celebrating Independence Day.

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

While fireworks are in the title, the event features far more than just a fireworks display. Team BLAZE Airmen staying in town for the holiday can bring their chairs, grab a burger or a snow-cone and listen to live music.

Nashville recording artist and songwriter Danika Portz is returning this year to provide live music entertainment while the kids enjoy bouncy castles and clowns. Then as the sun sets, participants will enjoy an 18-minute professional fireworks show choreographed to music.

See FOTW, Page 3



U.S. Air Force photo

Fireworks shoot off over Stennis Lock and Dam in Columbus, Mississippi. Fireworks on the Water, a free and open to the public event occurring July 1, 2017, is sponsored by Visit Columbus, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lowndes County, the City of Columbus and Columbus Air Force Base to honor our nation's independence.



• **Monday, May 15th**

• **Tuesday, May 16th**

• **Wednesday, May 17th**

• **Thursday, May 18th**

• **Friday, May 19th**

• **Saturday, May 20th**

• **24 Hour Security Forces March**
• *Begins at 0700 at Wing HQ Bldg*

• **Torch Run**
• *0900 at Visitor Center*

• **Demonstrations (MWD, Weapons Display, Red Man Suit, SMC)**
• *1000-1300 at Bldg 205*

• **MWD Rex Retirement Ceremony**
• *1014 at Columbus Club*

• **Fallen Defender/OSI Presentation**
• *0900 at Columbus Club*

• **Police Week Kickball Game (SF only)**
• *0700 at Softball Field #1*

• **Police Week BBQ/Potluck (SF only)**
• *1130 at Freedom Park*

• **Retreat Ceremony**
• *1700 in front of Wing HQ*

• **Police Week Parade through State/Magnolia Housing**
• *1000 Meet at Bldg 205*

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>	<u>Long Range Events</u>
15	16	17	18	19	20/21	May 29: Memorial Day Holiday
Police Week 24 Hour Security Forces March, 7 a.m. @ Wing Headquarters	Security Forces Demonstration, 10 a.m. @ Security Forces warehouse 18-09 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ Gregory Construction	MWD Rex Retirement, 10:14 a.m. @ Club	Fallen Defender/OSI Presentation, 8 a.m. @ Club CCAF Graduation, 3 p.m. @ Club	87-05 Reunion SUPT Class 17-09 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Police Week Retreat Ceremony, 5 p.m. @ Wing Headquarters	20th: Police Week Parade, 10 a.m. @ State/Magnolia 20th: Chief Induction Ceremony, 6 p.m. @ Club	May 30: Wing Newcomers Orientation
22	23	24	25	26	27/28	May 31: Enlisted Promotions May 31: Hearts Apart June 3: Columbus AFB Triathlon
Green Dot Team Visit	14 FTW/CC all calls, TDB @ Kaye		37th FTS Change of Command, 9:37 a.m. @ Fire Station Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony, 4 p.m. @ Wing Headquarters	AETC Family Day Independence Pool opens		June 8: 14th CPTS Change of Command June 9: SUPT Class 17-10 Graduation June 15: Enlisted Dorm Dinner June 16: 49th FTS CoC

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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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.



New Salem Baptist Church
welcomes you!

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3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
www.newsalembaptistcaledonia.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.



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

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES FOR RENT

148 Highway 363, on Airbase Hill across from Columbus Middle School, adjacent to Lutheran Church.
\$450/mo.
Introductory special: \$380/mo for the first six months with one year lease.
662-352-3345

LEARN TO DIVE

MILITARY DISCOUNT ONLINE LEARNING AVAILABLE
downrightdiving.com
662-549-1255

NEWS AROUND TOWN

May 17
In honor of National Police Week 2017, a Prayer Breakfast takes place at 7 a.m. May 17 in the First Baptist Church Ministries and Activities Building, 3000 Bluecutt Road. Law Enforcement Officers and family members are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Chaplain Fred Shelton at 662-364-1829 or email fshelton@columbusms.org.

May 26
Honeyboy and Boots will hold a concert for their new CD release at 7 p.m. May 26 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement
The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.
Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.
Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.
Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets


Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@us.af.mil.

CURE : PREVENT : TREAT



A CFC participant.
Provided as a public service.
jdrf.org

Algerian triplets join Air Force for better future

Airman Chad Gorecki

375th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — For one Algerian family, 6,600 miles was the distance between a life of struggle, promise and opportunity.

Their journey has carried them over thousands of miles, from a barren region in Africa to California's Simi Valley where eventually the Harchaoui triplets — Myriam, Rabah and Warda — would join the U.S. Air Force. Scott Air Force Base is now home to Myriam, who recently reflected on her unique journey.

“Growing up we were very poor,” said Airman Myriam Harchaoui, a 436th Supply Chain Operations Squadron C-130 stock control apprentice. “Our mom fought for us to move to the states because of life (in Algeria). It was like the movies — a desert with a ton of beat-up buildings.”

Her mother, Brigit Wilcox, arrived in California at first with just the three boys in the family, leaving Myriam and her sister, Warda, in the care of grandparents. They were not able to come at the same time because the government only allowed the boys to leave, but when the girls reached age 5, they were able to join their family.

When they arrived they didn't know how to speak English and had to adjust to the different culture. Myriam said she was able to pick up the language quickly, and Warda, now an Airman assigned to the 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis AFB, California, said she learned the language through the Boys and Girls Club.

Their brother, Rabah, who is an Airman assigned to the 56th Security Forces Squadron, at Luke AFB, Arizona, was age 2 when he moved so it's all he's really known.

“Growing up here gave me a lot of opportunities and it has been a blessing so far,” he said.

After graduating high school, the Harchaouis saw the Air Force as a good option because their older brother, Sofiane, had served six years as an F-16 avionics specialist.

Additionally, the triplets were a part of their high school's Junior ROTC, so they were introduced to the idea of the military early.

In 2016, they each raised their right hand in commitment to the Air Force, and they each had their own reason for doing so.

Myriam said, “When I was younger I always wanted to join since the government had done so much for us and getting my family to the states, that I saw it as a way to give back.”

Warda and Rabah said they saw the opportunities the military lifestyle offered.

“Having a single mother with five children, we couldn't all be put through college,” Warda said. “I wanted to avoid the mistake of going through college right away and not knowing what I wanted to do, and I saw what the Air Force



Courtesy photo

Pictured are the Harchaoui triplets (from left): Myriam, 436th Supply Chain Operations Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; Rabah, 56th Security Forces Squadron at Luke AFB, Arizona; and Warda, 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis AFB, California. All three were born in Algeria before immigrating to the United States, and are Airmen serving in today's Air Force.

was able to offer.”

For Rabah, the military was a stepping stone for life after high school that could also provide college opportunities.

Even with all of the benefits the military life has offered, Myriam said this has been the longest they have been apart since those early years, and it has been difficult for them and especially their mother. Still, she has remained very supportive of their decisions.

“It went from all of us being together at home to everyone being gone,” Myriam said. “It was a fast change for her, but she is okay with it because having our brother already serve, she knew the military would take care of us. It has been hard, but she has been very optimistic because she has always wanted the best for us and she pushed us to be successful.”

The distance that comes with being members of the military has been tough on the family, but it has also helped strengthen the bond between them. The triplets stay in touch with each other through a group chat where they talk every day, said Myriam.

Rabah added, “We always communicate which has made it easier to get through some of the tough times in the military so far. Communication has been key. We can all motivate each other, and we are in this together. Even though we aren't under the same roof, we are still together in heart.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christian Clausen

An MQ-9 Reaper is loaded with a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb on the left and a GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munition on the right April 13, 2017, at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. The JDAM is a GPS guided munition which brings added capability to the warfighters, specifically by aircrews being able to employ weapons through inclement weather. The first two GBU-38s employed in training successfully hit their targets May 1, 2017, over the Nevada Test and Training Range.

MQ-9

(Continued from page 13)

us another versatile way to guide the weapon, specifically, through inclement weather onto targets,” Scott said.

The JDAM being added to the arsenal is another step in furthering the attack capabilities of the MQ-9 Reaper force.

“There's definitely times when I could've used the GBU-38 in combat prior to this,” Scott said.

Not only does the GBU-38 perform through poor weather conditions, it also helps the munitions Airmen and the weapons load crew members who load them.

“The GBU-38 has a 20 minute load time compared to the GBU-12, which has a 30 minute load time,” said Senior Airman Curtis, a 432nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load crew member. “The GBU-38 is a quicker load compared to the GBU-12 and gets the plane in the air quicker.”

Incorporating this new munition into the total strike package will give MQ-9 aircrews additional capabilities.

“Our job at the weapons school is to train to the highest standard possible,” Scott said. “We're going to take the GBU-38 and incorporate it into our advanced scenarios, prove the weapon and integrate with all Air Force assets. What that gives us is the ability to take it downrange and employ in the most demanding circumstances possible.”

The JDAM will add flexibility and efficiency to the targeting process. Aircrews will continue to employ the AGM-114 Hellfires and GBU-12s downrange in addition to the GBU-38 that is now ready for combat.

“The overall impact of the GBU-38 is aircrew will have more versatility for the commanders to provide different effects and make a difference for the guys on the ground,” Scott said. “It has a different guidance system and it opens the bridge to more GPS-guided weapons in the future.”

FOTW

(Continued from page 1)

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

Be sure to arrive early to nab a prime parking spot. An event of this magnitude will require many volunteers and Columbus AFB Airmen and spouses are being asked to help.

We need assistance in all aspects of host-

ing this event from Kiddie land, fireworks and entertainment coordinators and parking teams. If you are interested in helping in any capacity at any time starting Friday, June 30 through Sunday, July 2, contact the Public Affairs office at (662) 434-7068 or e-mail 14ftw.pa@us.af.mil.

Fireworks on the Water has been a joint effort between the base and community since 2006. The last time Fireworks on the Water occurred was last year, when a crowd of over 7,000 gathered for the evening's festivities.

Make plans now to come out and enjoy this free event on Saturday, July 1.



Singles Retreat

(A Spiritual Resiliency Event Hosted by the Chapel)

20 May 2017

- * Memphis Scavenger Hunt
- * Main Event Entertainment



To Reserve Your Spot
Call 434 ~ 2500
or send email to
aubery.daniels@us.af.mil

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 25 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Professional Organization Corner

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

AFSA:
Monthly meeting, noon May 18 @ Club

Top 3:
Monthly meeting, 3 p.m. May 19 @ Club

5/6:
Monthly meeting, noon May 31 @ Club

Date change for All Calls

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Wing Commander All Calls originally scheduled for May 9, have been rescheduled for May 23.

Team BLAZE welcomes new Inspector General

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

There is a new face in the seat of the Inspector General's office and he plans to continue ensuring that Team BLAZE is running smooth.

Lt. Col. John Sullivan, 14th FTW Inspector General, has joined the BLAZE community from his last assignment at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

“As a native Mississippian, it is great to be a part of this community,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan wants the community to know his team is always available to anyone, regardless of their status as a service member, civilian, dependent, contractor or other BLAZE members. He says he is very approachable even in his off time.

“I live on base in Capitol Village and can be frequently found at the dog park,” Sullivan said. “Anyone can approach me with anything, even in my off time.”

As for new changes, Sullivan is looking at things from a fresh perspective. The IG team's goal is to continue working towards improving the base and help Team BLAZE be the best it can be.

“Regarding self-inspections, it is important to identify deficiencies in your squadron and ‘embrace the red,’” Sullivan said. “This serves as a great tool to make your unit better, but it is important that you don't continue to ‘live in the red.’”

The IG has two primary focuses which are complaints and inspections.

“We serve as the eyes and ears of the Wing Commander,” Sullivan said.

The IG team are responsible for the Commander's Inspection Program where they are charged with identifying undetected non-compliance so that it can be fixed in



Lt. Col. John Sullivan
14th FTW Inspector General

order to make the unit more effective.

The team is also responsible for filing complaints. They ensure the existence of responsive investigations and fraud, waste and abuse programs that are characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality. You can file a complaint by stopping by Building 724, Room 103 and talking face to face, emailing the IG at 14ftw.ig@us.af.mil, mail a letter, sliding a note underneath their door, calling an IG hotline or contacting a Member of Congress.

“Regardless of the issue, come see us and we will assist you,” Sullivan said. “If our office is not the appropriate venue to take action on your complaint, we will ensure it gets to the proper place.”



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens
Members of Team BLAZE and the local community attend the Community Partnership Program at the Club May 4, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The participants were split into four different groups to discuss different topics such as Work, Play, Live and Learn.

CAFB moves forward with Air Force Community Partnership Program

2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base hosted its second Air Force Community Partnership meeting on Wednesday at the Columbus Club.

Over 70 base and community members attended this meeting to share their new ideas of how to create better partnerships between the base and the local Columbus community.

The meeting was hosted by Lt. Col. Timorah Beales, Partnership Broker from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, and Lt. Col. Nathan Miller, 14th Flying Training Wing Community Partnership Director and 14th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander.

The meeting focused on multiple objectives surrounding potential community partners, existing agreements, challenges and opportunities of potential partnerships. The 4-hour workshop allowed community members to brainstorm and facilitate ideas in hopes of creating a better understanding of the community's needs and wants.

"Good partnerships accomplish more for each organization's mission than they could on their own," said Beales.

The workshop was broken into four groups with specific focus areas: Work, Play, Live and Learn. Each group included community members and Team BLAZE


members whose jobs and organizations fall under those categories. The groups spent 90 minutes discussing ideas and writing out plans for future partnerships and then shared with all the groups in the Club.

The entire group then got back together to present their ideas. Each group had a spokesperson who presented their top 10 recommendations to the group.

"There really isn't any other program in the Air Force that is purely about working with the partners outside of the gates to help solve our problems," said Beales. "There is no hidden agenda, no minimum number of partnerships, and no dollar goal. Every commander and community is going to be different, and we just provide the framework and tools to create beneficial partnerships."

The Air Force Community Partnership Program, one of the 13 Make Every Dollar Count initiatives launched by the Air Force, offers opportunities for military installations and local communities to partner and achieve mutual value and benefit. It is a framework through which installation and community leaders are developing creative ways to leverage their capabilities and resources to focus on achieving reduced costs by finding a shared value.

"I want to thank our community partners for the time they invested in today's brainstorming sessions" said Col. Doug Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander. "This program is going to do great things for our base and our community."



Colonel Douglas C. Gosney
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing

cordially invites you to attend the
Community College of the Air Force Graduation

Thursday, the eighteenth of May
two thousand and seventeen at
three o'clock in the afternoon
Columbus Club
Columbus Air Force Base, MS



AF NEWS

Hurricane Hunters prepare the Caribbean

Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill
403rd Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. —More than 20,000 people attended the Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour hosted April 24-29, 2017 by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The annual tour is held to share the mission of the Hurricane Hunters and raise hurricane awareness across Latin America and the Caribbean, said Maj. Brad Roundtree, the 53rd WRS aircraft commander for the tour.

The Hurricane Hunters traveled with officials from NOAA's National Hurricane Center, which included Dr. Rick Knabb, the NHC director, Lixion Avila, an NHC senior hurricane specialist, and John Pavone, the chief of aerial reconnaissance coordination. The group stopped at five locations including Mérida, Mexico; San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Grand Cayman, Turk and Caicos; and Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

During the CHAT, the public toured one of 10 WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft flown by the 53rd WRS. The aircrew gave demonstrations of the equipment used to collect storm data and explained how the data is used, said Maj. Kimberly Spusta, a 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer.

"Once the data is collected, it is given to the NHC in real-time via satellite from the plane," said Spusta. That information is then inserted into a model that generates storm forecasts and allows local governments to issue proper and timely weather advisories and warnings to the public.

"Some people see that we do a hurricane awareness tour in the Caribbean and may think it's just an airshow, but it's so much more than that," said Spusta. "We are really getting into communities that don't have access to hurricane readiness information, and that is very rewarding."

The Hurricane Hunters and NHC officials also took part in several interviews with local media, attended press conferences with local government officials, and spoke to the public on the importance of being prepared before a storm comes, said Roundtree.

The question most people asked was, "What is it like



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shelton Sherrill
Residents tour a WC-130J Super Hercules Aircraft in Mérida, Mexico, during the Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour April 15, 2017. The event, which attracted more than 13,000 local residents, was hosted by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron from Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to help people prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

to fly into a hurricane" Roundtree described it as a roller coaster ride through a car wash. However, he said the crews focused on promoting the importance of being prepared and having a plan before a storm comes.

"Whenever those watches and warning go out, we have the proven data that a storm will hit the area," he said.

"Several Caribbean countries were severely damaged last year by Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Otto," Knabb said. "Another season is just weeks away, and we have to

be prepared. Simply hoping one of these storms won't hit your community is not a good plan. It doesn't matter how many hurricanes there are this season, it only takes one to hit your area."

People who want to stay prepared and get more information before a storm hits should watch their local media outlets for weather advisories. Visit the NHC's website at www.nhc.noaa.gov to see live data collected by the Hurricane Hunters.

MQ-9 Reapers add to arsenal with first GBU-38 drop

432nd Wing
432nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Airmen from the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing, here, and the 26th Weapons Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, made history earlier this week, by employing the first GBU-38 Joint Direct

Attack Munition from an MQ-9 Reaper. While the JDAM has been around since the late '90s, the munition has just recently been validated and now proven for real world engagements marking a significant step in the Reapers' joint warfighter role.

"We had a great opportunity to drop the first live GBU-38s in training," said Capt. Scott, a 26th WPS weapons instructor pilot. "The GBU-38 is a weapon we've

been trying to get on the MQ-9 for several years now and we had the opportunity to be the first to drop during training."

While waiting for the aircraft to approach the target area, members of the weapons squadron waited anxiously. After the bombs successfully struck their practice targets in a controlled environment, the entire room cheered.

For the past 10 years skilled MQ-9

aircrew have been employing AGM-114 Hellfire missiles and GBU-12 laser-guided bombs, but the JDAM brings new global positioning system capabilities to the warfighters.

"The GBU-38, just like the Hellfire and GBU-12, is a very accurate weapon and the fact that it's GPS-guided gives

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.)

Linked-In Workshop
The Linked-In workshop is from 2 - 5 p.m. May 15 - 16. You can learn how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation
This brief is 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. May 30 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle
The Military Life Cycle workshop from 1-2 p.m. May 30 allows the VA contractors to explain to service members, whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Hearts Apart
The Hearts Apart Social program from 5- 7 p.m. May 31 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. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Smooth Move
The Smooth Move class takes place 10-11:30 a.m. June 6. The class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

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.

Club offers free breakfast for members



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

Several first sergeants attend the Free Club Member Breakfast May 9, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Once a month, the Columbus Club offers their members a free breakfast, as well as other free events.

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan
Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program
The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities
If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

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

Personal Financial Readiness
Make the most of your money. Contact DeLores Sherman, Personal Financial Counselor, for an appointment at 426-2527, or 434-2790.

She can help manage finances, resolve financial problems, and reach long-term goals such as getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement.

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

DRMO
Recycle first by using the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office as your facility's source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply. Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

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

BLAZE Commons coffee shop
officially opens



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander; C.J. Andrews, Coffee House on 5th Co-owner; Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander; and Master Sgt. Shannon Goodwin, 14th Force Support Squadron BLAZE Commons Project Manager, pose for a photo at the Coffee House on 5th grand opening May 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. After more than a year of work, the BLAZE Commons is now operating at full capability with all of its functions.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day – We salute you!

Col. Doug Gosney
14th Flying Training Wing Commander

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day takes place May 12, 2017.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan recognized the impact military spouses have on the preparedness and well-being of men and women in uniform by issuing Proclamation 5184, dated April 17.

Congress officially made Military Spouse Appreciation Day part of National Military Appreciation Month in 1999. Subsequently, the Department of Defense standardized the date by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day every year as Military Spouse Appreciation Day to show appreciation for the sacrifices of military spouses.

Military spouses are absolutely the backbone of our families — certainly their immediate core family, but also our larger Air Force Family as well. Our military spouses support our Airmen during mission, deployment and reintegration. Everything we accomplish across the service, and specifically here in Team BLAZE, we are able to do because of the support of our military spouses.

It is often said that the uniformed member serves and the spouse and families sacrifice, but I see it a little differently. From my perspective, our spouses certainly make sacrifices, but I see a whole lot of spouses providing service in the wing each and ev-

ery day ... 24/7, 365. It is incredible to see how our spouses take care of each other and enable mission success across the wing.

I do not have a sufficient command of the English language to describe just how valuable our military spouses are and the significant roles they play in mission accomplishment and making Team BLAZE a great place to work, live and play, so instead let me offer a sincere heart-felt Thank You to our spouses. I encourage all members of Team BLAZE to take a moment to thank a military spouse today for all he or she does to support our base. If it is your spouse, give him or her a hug as well. You don't need to wait for National Military Spouse Appreciation Day either, we can and should thank them all year!

To help celebrate and honor our military spouses, the 14th Force Support Squadron will offer the following discounts on Columbus Air Force Base to all military spouses on Friday, May 12:

- Arts and Crafts Center: 20 percent off framing and engraving
- Bowling Center: Free fries and small drink from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Columbus Club: 50 percent off lunch buffet
- Outdoor Rec: 20 percent off jumper rental
- Whispering Pines café: 20 percent off lunch special
- Free family movie, "Lego Batman," at Bowling Center at 8 p.m.

In-Service Recruiter
briefs Airmen on AFRC



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

Master Sgt. Dustin Ballingham, 908th Airlift Wing Recruiting Squadron Recruiter, briefs Airmen May 10, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Ballingham talked about the Air Force Reserve Command, programs for transitioning, the benefits the Reserves has to offer and more.

happy
military spouse
appreciation day!

Military Spouses!
Enjoy these great specials Friday, May 12

ARTS & CRAFTS
20% off framing & engraving

BOWLING CENTER
Free fries & small drink 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

COLUMBUS CLUB
50% off lunch buffet

OUTDOOR RECREATION
20% off jumper rental

WHISPERING PINES CAFE
20% of lunch special

Free Family Movie
Lego Batman Movie (PG)
8 p.m. Bowling Center

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS A MILITARY SPOUSE

Safety provides Wing mission brief



U.S. Air Force photo by Sonic Johnson
Lt. Col. Joseph Dietz, 14th Flying Training Wing Chief of Safety, provided a hybrid Wing Mission Brief and pilot safety brief to over 40 drivers for Volume Freight Trucking Company May 6, 2017, at Lion Hills Country Club in Columbus, Mississippi. Located on U.S. Hwy 45 right out the main gate and easily recognized by the large American flags on their trailers, owner Doug Estes invited Dietz to speak at their quarterly safety meeting. Dietz' presentation, "Driving trucks and flying airplanes may be more alike than you think," was well received.

DFAS address change

Attention all retirees and annuitants,

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

Retired Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200	Annuitant Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1300
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The old PO Boxes in London, Kentucky will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time.

Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

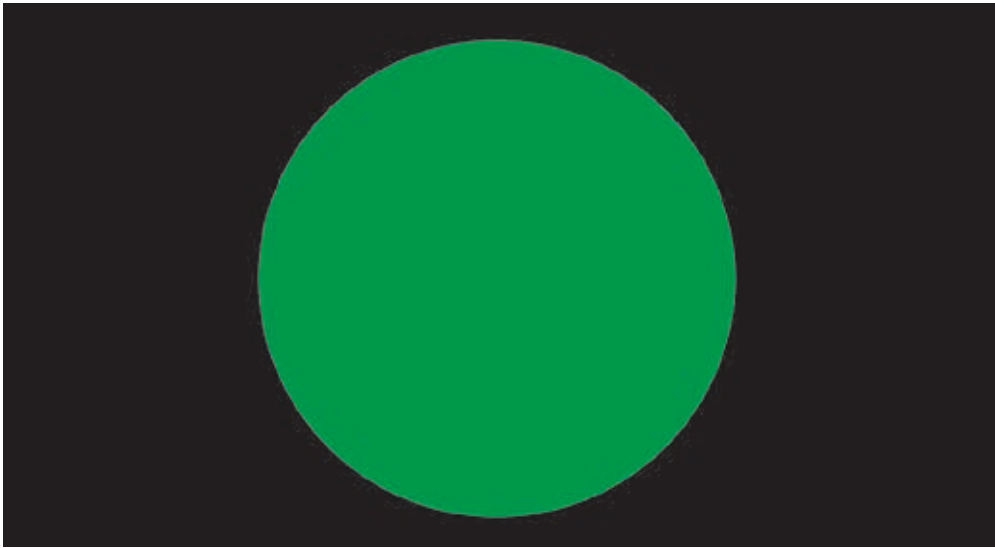
SPRING TRIATHLON
SWIM 300M ~ BIKE 22K ~ RUN 5K

Saturday, June 3 (rain or shine)
Check-in 6-6:45 a.m. Race Meeting 6:45 a.m.
First Heat Starts 7 a.m.
at INDEPENDENCE POOL

FREE TO PARTICIPATE
Pay \$15 to receive a T-Shirt and Medal
Pay \$9 to receive a T-Shirt
Pay \$6 to receive a Medal

Age Categories 6 & under, 7-11, 12-16, and 17 & up
Youth distances (based on age): Swim 25, 50, or 100m; Bike 3 or 6K; & Run 1 or 3K

Sign-up by May 26 at the Fitness Center
FOR MORE INFORMATION 434-2772



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.

America's Kids Run

The Youth Center will host the America's Armed Forces Kids Run at 8 a.m. May 13. Register online at www.americaskidsrun.org. For more information call 434-2504.

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.

9 Pin No Tap Bowling Tournament

The Bowling Center will host a 9 Pin No Tap Bowling Tournament at 2 p.m. May 20. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Intramural Bowling League

Letter of intent for intramural bowling is due to the Fitness Center by May 25. League play will start at 6 p.m. June 12. Call 434-3426 or 434-2772 for more information.

Pool Opening

Independence Pool will open at noon May 26. The daily rate is \$3 for non-Club members and \$2 for members. Summer passes are available based on family size. Call 434-2505 for more information.

Funnel Cakes

Celebrate National Donut Day June 2 with funnel cakes at the Bowling Center for \$5 each while supplies last. For more information, call 434-3426.

Ladies Bowling League

The Bowling Center is offering a ladies bowling league starting at 10 a.m. June 8. The 8-week league will occur every Thursday. The first league meeting will be June 1. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Penny-A-Pin Bowling

Enjoy penny per pin bowling at the Bowling Center June 12 - 16. Only pay for the pins you knock down. For example, if you play three games and score a 364, then you only pay \$3.64. Excludes shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

Dads Bowl Free

All fathers bowl free at the Bowling Center June 17 in honor of Father's Day. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Color Run

The 5th Annual Columbus AFB 5K Color Run will take place at 8:30 a.m. June 24. Only \$10 per person. Register by June 19. Call 434-2504 for more information.

Coffee House on 5th now open at the BLAZE Commons

The Blaze Commons Coffee House on 5th is open 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday and serves coffee items, smoothies, breakfast and lunch items. Drive-thru service available as well as call ahead. 434-CAFE (2233). The commons also houses the Library, an ITT and ODR kiosk, a computer lab, and FedEx drop-off point.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
at your Columbus Club inside the Event Center

May 14
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Reservations Preferred
Walk-ins Welcome

Traditional Breakfast Items
Roast Beef Carving Station
Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Variety of Vegetables
Salad Bar
Waffle Station
Omelet Station
Dessert Station
Beverage Station

\$16 • Club Members
\$20 • non-members
\$8 • Children 5-11
Free • Children 4 & under

For More Information 434-2489

Columbus AFB Cinema

Enjoy free movies on select dates through May and June. Pick up a movie guide with movie schedule, times and locations at any FSS facility or check it out on Facebook at ColumbusAFB Living.

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.

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.

Patience in perspective

Lt. Col. Nathan Smith
50th Flying Training Squadron
Commander

At the end of March, three first assignment instructor pilots and I journeyed to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, to attend the 44th annual Freedom Flyer Reunion.

This is a reunion of former Prisoners of War who were imprisoned by the North Vietnamese after ejecting over hostile territory during the Vietnam War.

Over the past 37 years, the 560th Flying Training Squadron has been responsible for flying 196 former POW aviators in an Air Force T-38 Talon to ensure their last flight in an Air Force aircraft was not the one resulting in their capture.

While at the reunion, we listened to story after story of selfless acts of courage in the face of unbelievably difficult circumstances. From air-to-air combat to surviving in a POW camp, we all listened intently with amazement.

Many of these men spent years living in horrible, unsanitary conditions while enduring torture. Some suffered from life threatening injuries sustained during ejection or parachute landing. Their stories inspired me to do some self-reflection on how to be a better

husband, father, friend and leader.

There are numerous character traits exemplified by these former POWs. Tenacity, mental toughness, hope, optimism and loyalty are only a few. One trait which hit home for me was patience.

How often does your blood pressure rise when someone is driving five miles per hour under the speed limit in a no passing zone? What about trying to check out at a supermarket and the person in front of you pulls out a checkbook and proceeds to meticulously fill out the check?

In the fast-paced world we live in, patience can be an elusive trait.

In each of the personal stories I had the privilege to hear, one of the common traits was patience. Each man had to endure horrible living conditions coupled with malnutrition and injuries sustained from continuous torture. The patience these men displayed under such conditions is nothing short of amazing.

I wonder if I would have had the patience to endure the same conditions. For me, the example these men set has given me a new perspective on patience. The next time your patience is tested, stop, take a deep breath and try to put your situation in perspective too.

Hunt Housing tip of the week



Pets must be “on leash” at all times when outside the fenced area of the housing unit. Pets shall not be tethered outside the home. Pets must be in the home or behind an approved fenced area in the backyard if unattended. Avoid leaving pet food out for prolonged periods, as it will attract vermin and pests.



Tricare Online (TOL) PATIENT PORTAL SECURE MESSAGING

The Air Force Medical Service is excited to announce the new name of our secure messaging system and the recent merger with TRICARE Online. TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging, the Military’s online confidential secure messaging service, can now be reached from either the federal platform of RelayHealth, <https://mil.relayhealth.com/> or by the TRICARE Online link at <https://app.mil.relayhealth.com/security/login/default.aspx?bid=DHA>.

This system has been shown to significantly reduce the number of phone calls between patients and providers, increase patient satisfaction, and save time for the medical office staff and the patient. The AFMS aim is to enroll as many patients as possible into TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging and utilize secure messaging as the primary form of communication between patients and their healthcare teams.

Patients currently enrolled in Patient Portal Secure Messaging have commented on the ease, accessibility, and benefits of this Internet-based service. One Patient Portal Secure Messaging enrollee said, “it is always empowering to be able to communicate via the Internet about routine health issues – and can very well prevent visits to the clinic...” Another enrolled patient said Patient Portal Secure Messaging “will answer lots of questions and save so much time for both doctors and patients.”

On TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging, patients can request appointments with healthcare providers, get test results, request prescription refills, or ask their healthcare team medical questions via a secure electronic message that bypasses phone-trees, voicemail, and phone tag. The TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging merger continues to provide secure messaging and now includes easy access to beneficiaries’ Blue Button Personal Health Record.

To register, patients should visit or call their Military Treatment Facility (MTF) to initiate the face-to-face registration, e-registration, or telephone registration process. Patients will need to verify their military enrollment eligibility and provide basic information such as name, social security number, birthday and email address. An email will be sent for patients to finish enrollment and confidential messaging may begin.

TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging has been designed to support patients and healthcare teams and has been implemented DoD-wide, so once registered, a patient will remain in the system—no matter where the Air Force takes them.

For more information, visit <http://www.afms.af.mil/securemessaging> or call 662-434-CARE (2273).



Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: MQ-9 Reaper

Mission

The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.

Reapers can also perform the following missions and tasks:

Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-laser, convoy/raid overwatch, route clearance, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-9’s capabilities make it uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in

support of combatant commander objectives.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Intelligence collection in support of strike, coordination, and reconnaissance missions

Contractor: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Power Plant: Honeywell TPE331-10GD turboprop engine

Thrust: 900 shaft horsepower maximum

Wingspan: 66 feet (20.1 meters)

Length: 36 feet (11 meters)

Height: 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)

Weight: 4,900 pounds (2,223 kilograms) empty

Maximum takeoff weight: 10,500 pounds (4,760 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 4,000 pounds (602 gallons)

Payload: 3,750 pounds (1,701 kilograms)



Courtesy photo

A maintenance Airman inspects an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft in Afghanistan. Capable of striking enemy targets with on-board weapons, the Reaper conducts close air support and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt

An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft, armed with GBU-12 Paveway II laser guided munitions and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, piloted by Col. Lex Turner, flies a combat mission over southern Afghanistan. The Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets.

The Airman’s Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation’s call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage.
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.
I am an American Airman.
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation’s sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman.
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

When you see this sign, stop.
Help keep our children safe.





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

Staff Sgt. Ramon Curtis, 14th Operations Support Squadron Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Mission Services, reviews a storm cell May 4, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The weather team monitors the weather of wherever the pilots in training fly.



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

Clouds pass over the Team BLAZE flight line May 4, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The weather in Mississippi is known to be unpredictable and spontaneous.



Rainy days don't stop Team BLAZE

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Weather can be tricky to predict and it takes highly trained professionals to read the signs and make the call to fly or not to fly.

The 14th Operations Support Squadron's Weather Flight is charged with communicating the weather so Team BLAZE can produce pilots and protect its resources.

"We touch everything, even the commissary," said Staff Sgt. Ramon Curtis, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Mission Services. "If there is lightning within a certain distance we have to make sure the back-up generators are ready for a power outage."

The 14th OSS Weather Flight uses different technology to cover a 300 nautical-mile area to give accurate forecasts. The 557th Weather Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and the 26th Operational Weather Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, provide programs to the flight to see a plethora of different weather systems. Locally, they have radar systems used to see storm cells, as well as technology that is placeable in the middle of a thunderstorm or a tornado and see the cell core.

One of their most common tasks is answering the calls from pilots for their return weather.

"When the pilots are out at other places, they call to get their return weather to get back here," said Staff Sgt. Aimee Boxell, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Airfield Services. "We are still responsible for their weather, whether they are taking off here or from another place."

Another task for the team is resource protection from severe weather such as thunderstorms, hail and tornadoes.

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A thunderstorm can have strong winds and lightning that could knockout power to the base. If the winds become too strong, they could flip planes and cause a lot of damage. Hail storms can also do a lot of damage to exposed aircraft on the flight line, which could halt pilot production. The weather team is also tasked with watching for weather formations that indicate tornadoes because on average, Mississippi has 45 tornadoes per year.

"Resource protection is a big thing," Boxell said. "We produce the (14th Flying Training Wing) weather advisories in order to help prepare for bad weather."

The weather team is always challenged by Mississippi's "peculiar" weather, Boxell said. She also included that Columbus flies over 300 sorties a day, which means all of those pilots need to know their departure and landing conditions. In addition to that, the pilots in training easily confuse "weather talk" and "pilot talk."

Even with their challenges, the weather team still manages to be a vital part in the mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

Airman 1st Class Micah Shenk, 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight apprentice, trains on conducting maintenance checks and cleaning a Tactical Meteorological Equipment-53 Sensor April 5, 2016, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The flight uses different technology to cover a 300 nautical-mile area in order to give accurate forecasts.