

LION X HILLS
EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2331 Military Rd. • Columbus, MS • 328-4837

Chef Specials

Friday, Sept. 22nd • 6-9pm • Reservations 329-6761

Appetizers
Mediterranean Bruschetta \$8

Entrées
3-Cheese Ravioli topped with Lobster Alfredo \$22
Served with Sautéed Green Beans with Herbs and Parmesan

Dessert du Jour
Blackberry Cream Napoleon \$6

Sunday Brunch
Sept. 10th • 11am-2pm • Adults \$19.50 • Children 3-10 \$8
Prime Rib • Veal Marsala • Smoked Salmon Carving Station
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes • Cranberry Wild Rice • Roasted Brussels Sprouts & Parmesan
Sautéed Green Beans with Herbs and Parmesan • Shrimp Bisque
White Chocolate-Berry Bread Pudding • Butter Crumb Coffee Cake

Brunch Selections Include:
Cheese, Pastry & Fruit Station • Salad Station
Egg Station • Waffle Station • Breakfast Station

Short Order Menu Also Available That Includes Sandwiches, Salads, & Burgers

© The Digest

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

Beginning Monday, October 23, the rate for Silver Wings will be \$8.30 per column inch and a pick up rate of \$6.30 will be implemented for advertisers who want to run a Dispatch ad in Silver Wings with no changes.

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**St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital**


**BETTER INGREDIENTS.
BETTER PIZZA.**
 papajohns.com • 662-241-6800

Online Code: PSACFB

25% Off Any Order
 at regular menu price

*Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required.
Additional charges may apply. Expires 10/31/17.*

Online Code: PS11

\$11 One Large
 up to 3 toppings

*Original or Thin Crust. Not valid with any other offer or discount.
Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 10/31/17.*

Online Code: PS142MED

\$14 Two Medium
 2 toppings each

*Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required.
Additional charges may apply. Expires 10/31/17.*

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Sunday Service Times:
10:00 A.M.
321 Forrest Blvd., Columbus, MS 39704
6:30 P.M.
Good Shepherd North
144 MS-373, Columbus, MS 39705
(Air Base Hill, on Hwy. 45 N. across from Columbus Middle School)




**New Salem
Baptist
Church**
*welcomes
you!*

7086 Wolf Road
3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
www.newsalem baptist caledonia.com
Pastor: Bro. Mel Houton

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

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SILVERWINGS

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“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

September 22, 2017

Vol. 41, Issue 37

Weather

<p>Friday</p>  <p>Thunderstorms</p> <p>High 90°F Low 68°F</p>	<p>Saturday</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>High 89°F Low 67°F</p>
<p>Sunday</p>  <p>Sunny</p> <p>High 88°F Low 64°F</p>	<p>Monday</p>  <p>Sunny</p> <p>High 88°F Low 64°F</p>

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

SUPT Class 17-15 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class
17-15 graduates at 10 a.m. Sept. 29 at the Kaye Au-
ditorium.

Enlisted Promotions Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions Ceremony is at 3 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Kaye Auditorium.

Inside



Feature 8

The Air Force Birthday Ball is 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 (18-09)	-4.51 days	-0.20 days	Oct. 20	48th (17-15)	-4.32 days	-1.50 days	Sept. 29	49th (18-ABC)	-7.59 days	-3.00 days	Oct. 20	T-6	1,695	1,811	31,555
41st (18-08)	-1.05 days	-1.63 days	Sept. 27	50th (17-15)	2.83 days	-4.66 days	Sept.29	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	574	454	8,239
The graduation speaker for SUPR Class 17-15 on Sept. 28 is Maj. Gen. Garrett Hargrave								Air Force Recruiting Service Commander				T-38	558	636	11,196
												IFF	252	242	4,603

The graduation speaker for SUPT Class 17-15 on Sept. 29 is Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, Air Force Recruiting Service Commander.



Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi airmen walk toward the starting line of the Air Force Marathon Sept. 16, 2017, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Each team BLAZE athlete completed the marathon in under five hours.

Columbus Airmen work as team to finish Air Force Marathon

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Several service members and their families from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, participated in the Air Force Marathon Sept. 16 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

A group of pilots from the 14th Operations Group, a ROTC instructor from the University of Mississippi, and the Assistant Chief of Health and Safety for Fire Emergency Services at Co-

lumbus AFB completed the marathon in under five hours at varying times.

In the cold Ohio morning, the group warmed up to prevent injuries, and also stayed hydrated and positive.

"I want to finish and have a good time, at this point I'm hoping I did everything to prepare I could," said Maj. Robert Young, 43rd Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot.

Young attempted and conquered his first marathon at the

See MARATHON, Page 3

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2017



Daily activities Sept 25 - 29

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fire safety demonstrations @ BX

By appointment - in home fire evacuation plan

Custom family evacuation plan

Assistance developing family fire alarm

Interactive experience for the whole family

For more information, contact Pete Dellilo at 434-2262 or via e-mail @ peter.dellilo@us.af.mil

Sept. 25 - Boy Scout Fire Safety Presentations

Sept. 26 - Caledonia Elementary School visits

Sept. 27 - Girl Scout Fire Safety Presentation

Sept. 28 - CDC and Youth Center visits 4-6 p.m. Live fire extinguisher training @ Hunt Housing building - OPEN to ALL

Sept. 29: Community Bonfire, S'more's and a free movie 6:30-8:30 pm. @ Fire Station 1

Sept. 30 – Parade and Open House

9 a.m. - Parade through Housing

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m - Open House at Fire Station

Live fire demo's, bouncy castles, give aways and free lunch @ Fire Station

Parade route

Magnolia

State

Capitol



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 58 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
25	26	27	28	29	30/1
	Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club		Daedalians Dinner, 6 p.m. @ Club	SUPT Class 17-15 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club	30th: Ole Miss vs. Alabama, 8 p.m. @ Bryant-Denny Stadium

Silver Wings

How to reach us

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Submission Deadline

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

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

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.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@us.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Miscellaneous

For sale: 1989 Alumacraft Super Bandit 17.5 feet with an 80-horsepower Mercury 2 stroke engine, very few hours on it. Runs great, has new plywood, new Tempres high-back seats, new Minn Kota 25-pound electric anchor, Minn Kota 40-pound trolling motor and fish finder. Asking \$4,000. If interested contact, 662-574-6823.

Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Sept. 22-23

The Columbus Arts Council is hosting the Annual Possum Town Tales Storytelling Festival Sept. 22-23, both days starting at 7 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center in Columbus, Mississippi. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, or get both nights for \$20, but must be purchased in advanced. For more information, call (662) 328-2787 or go to www.columbus-arts.org.

Sept. 23

The Mississippi Science Fest is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 23 at the LeFleur Museum District in Jackson, Mississippi. Four museums will have hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities for all ages. For more information visit MSScienceFest.org.

U.S. Congressman Trent Kelly will host Academy Day 2017 at 10 a.m. Sept. 23 at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Mississippi. The event is for anyone who is interested in attending one of America's prestigious military academies. For more informa-

tion, please contact the Military Academy Liaison at (662) 687-1525.


Oct. 5-7

The Seventh Avenue Heritage Festival will take place Oct. 5-7 in Columbus, Mississippi. The festival will feature comedian Rickey Smiley at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Trotter Convention Center, tickets are \$35 in advance. A parade will also start at noon Oct. 7 beginning at Catfish Alley on Fourth Street in Columbus to the festival area near Seventh Avenue and 15th Street North. There will also be music, food and other events near Seventh Avenue. For more information, visit http://visitcolumbusms.org/index.php/upcoming_events/.

Oct. 14

The Mississippi State University football team will face off against Brigham Young University Oct. 14 at Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.

Cooper's Closet



Semi-Annual Children's Consignment Sale & Marketplace

The Golden Triangle's ORIGINAL and LARGEST Children's Consignment Event

September 28th - 30th

Gateway Shopping Center
(former Dirt Cheap building)
201 V Alabama Street - Columbus, MS

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[instagram.com/cooperscloset](https://www.instagram.com/cooperscloset)
coopersclosetcolumbus@gmail.com

To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

Air Force announces 100 percent promotion opportunity to major

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — In the latest move to restore the Air Force’s readiness and lethality, senior leaders are taking a closer look at officer performance management with a focus on developing leaders and retaining the talented professionals the service needs.

Over the last year, Headquarters Air Force has conducted research and developed recommendations on a variety of officer performance management related tools, to include evaluations and promotions. The goal is to better identify talent, future potential and plan for current and anticipated officer shortages.

“There have been no major changes to the Officer Evaluation System in nearly 30 years, but there have been significant changes to our force composition, mission, requirements and how our performance system reflects what we value in officers,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Air Force deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

“Although the system hasn’t changed, challenges with agility, efficiency, consistency and transparency have been documented by research and in the field for over 20 years,” said Maj. Mike Lupher, chief of Workforce Development for the Air Force Talent Management Innovation Cell. “We recognized we needed to do something about it and are taking a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges.”

Field Grade Officer Requirements and Promotion Opportunity

One of the immediate needs senior leaders focused on was the service’s requirement for growing and developing enough field-grade officers to meet mission demands. At 92 percent, the Air Force is currently undermanned in Line of the Air Force field-grade officers, with non-rated field-grade officers manned at 74 percent.

As such, beginning December 2017, the pool of line officers considered for promotion to major will have a 100 percent promotion opportunity. Promotion opportunity rates are typically adjusted as required to meet the needs of the Air Force.

“With this change, captains whose conduct has been exemplary can expect to be promoted to major,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. “We’ve been letting capable people leave the service and we need them.”

Promotion Recommendation Forms will only be required for officers who receive a “Promote” recommendation and have derogatory information such as an Article 15, court-martial, referral report, or letter of reprimand filed in their Officer Selection Record, as well as for officers with a “Do Not Promote” recommendation.

“I fully trust raters and senior raters to continue to ensure the Air Force’s high standards of conduct,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

More information about the initiative is available on myPers.

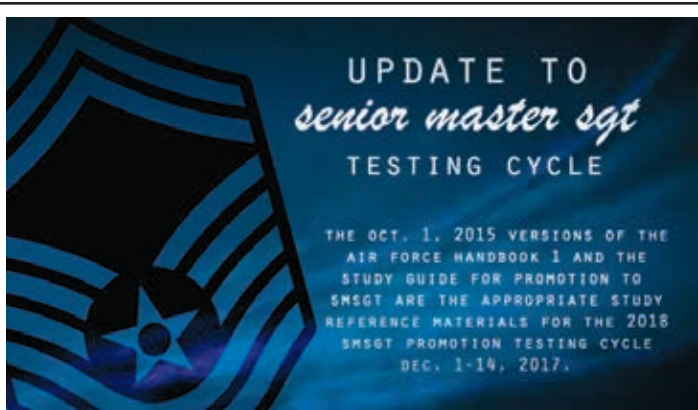
‘One more swing of the axe’

Goldfein also characterized the move as “one more swing of the axe” for him and Secretary Wilson to increase the lethality and readiness of the force, while smartly reducing administrative burdens on squadron commanders.

“This change, along with many other initiatives, will help reinforce our trust and confidence in squadron leadership and their management of our talented Airmen,” Goldfein said.

Air Force officials said they will continue to review the research and recommendations on how to improve officer performance management, and will announce new initiatives once they’re approved and ready for deliberate phased implementation.

Other talent management initiatives recently implemented by the Air Force as part of its broader effort to restore readiness and lethality include continuing to grow the force, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on Airmen, alleviating unneeded Air Force instructions, providing commanders more say in developmental education opportunities, tackling the pilot retention crisis and more acutely focusing on the needs of Airmen at the squadron level to ensure they are fully prepared to accomplish their missions.



U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Chip Pons

Master sergeants testing for promotion in the 18E8 promotion cycle will use the 2015 versions of Air Force Handbook 1 and professional development guide as study reference material, effective immediately.

Master sergeants to use 2015 promotion study guide for testing

Master Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Master sergeants testing for promotion in the 18E8 promotion cycle will use the 2015 versions of Air Force Handbook 1 and professional development guide as study reference material, effective immediately.

The new study material, slated to be released this year, will not be available in time to allow members to appropriately study for the promotion fitness exam.

“Per guidance, members testing for promotion are given a minimum of 60 days to prepare for promotion testing,” said Daniel Woolever, Profession of Arms Center of Excellence Program Management division chief. “We have been working hard to release the 2017 versions of the reference material, but those study guides will not be available for download before the minimum time period. We want to ensure everyone has adequate time to prepare for their exams and we want to make sure the material is as current as possible before it is released.”

Members scheduled to test in the 18E8 promotion cycle can download the 2015 study guide at <http://www.studyguides.af.mil/>.

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MARATHON

(Continued from page 1)

2017 Air Force Marathon but running with him that day was an avid distance runner, 1st Lt. Ricardo Torres, 41st Flying Training Squadron Executive Officer.

“We’re looking for a good pace and hoping for a negative split, when you run the second half faster than the first,” Torres said. “But ultimately I’m just here to help everyone finish the race and cheer them on at the finish.”

Pre-race events included the national anthem followed by an F-22 Raptor and P-51 Mustang flying over the starting area. Both of the aircraft were included on the medals the athletes would receive after finishing the race.

The marathon led the athletes from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, through neighboring towns inside and out of the base, past many hangars on Wright-Patterson AFB, and running back next to the museum and turning toward the finish line.

Coming around the last corners of the marathon the athletes looked determined to reach the finish line as hundreds of spectators cheered for every runner.

“I’m happy that everyone finished, for everyone to have this goal and to accomplish it, that was my goal,” Torres said. “I didn’t have a specific time in mind, i just wanted to see everyone achieve their goal.”

One of the participants was Lt. Col. Derek Oakley, 41st Flying Training Squadron Commander, who has ran multiple marathons and finished this one with Young.

“Expectation wise, I wanted everyone to finish,” Oakley said. “Young did a good job at keeping calm and slow, he pushed all the



Capt. John Vandervoort, 41st Flying Training Wing Executive Officer, runs the last mile of the Air Force Marathon Sept. 16, 2017, on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Vandervoort had the fastest time of all the Team BLAZE members who ran the Air Force Marathon, with a time of 4:24:08.

With any challenge there are hurdles; Airmen grow with every challenge they face and can learn from these experiences.

way through the middle. In fact most of us fell off, with him pulling us through, which shows that he did great consistent training.”

With any challenge there are hurdles; Air-



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver (black hat), 14th Medical Group Superintendent, 1st Lt. Ricardo Torres (blue shirt), 41st Flying Training Squadron Executive Officer, and William O'Meara (blue beanie hat), Assistant Chief of Health and Safety Officer for Fire Emergency Services, run the last mile of their respective races Sept. 16, 2017, on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. All three members are from Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

men grow with every challenge they face and can learn from these experiences.

“Anything that forces you out of your comfort zone and gets you to do something you wouldn’t normally do and for a lot of these guys it’s the first time they’ve ever done this,” Oakley said. “We do that all the time in our jobs and careers, this is just another kind of challenge. I’m proud of the work everyone put in to get themselves here.”

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver, 14th Medical Group Superintendent, ran the half-marathon and 1st Lt. Benjamin Zaiser, 41st FTS pilot, ran the 10K. Times of all ath-

letes are listed below.

Marathon race times:

Capt. John Vandervoort - 4:24:08
1st Lt. Ricardo Torres - 4:26:51
Assistant Chief H&S Officer William O'Meara - 4:26:49
Lt. Col. Derek Oakley - 4:35:43
Maj. Robert Young - 4:33:20
Capt. Colagero San Filippo - 4:47:00
Capt. Megan San Filippo - 4:47:00

Half-Marathon race time:

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver - 3:35:19

10 kilometer race time:

1st Lt. Benjamin Zaiser- 1:06:48

Professional Organization Corner

Company Grade Officers Council

The council — second and first lieutenants, and captains — promotes the development of CGOs throughout the 14th Flying Training Wing. They maintain an informational network to enhance the professional development and officer camaraderie the throughout the wing.

Meets first Friday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

President: 1st Lt. Jamion Lewis; **Vice President:** Capt. Sheila Butler

BLAZE Top 3

The Top 3 establishes and maintains a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all senior NCOs, encourage an attitude of unified purpose and set an example for all enlisted personnel according to the standards, traditions and customs of the Air Force.

Meets the third Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at the Columbus Club.

President: Master Sgt. Carmina Beedle; **Secretary:** Master Sgt. Jimmy Kitchens

BLAZE 5/6

The 5/6 represent motivated staff and technical sergeants. They provide an opportunity to meet Airmen, and to network with peers. The organization mentors junior enlisted, assist other private organizations, and are heavily involved with community relations.

Meets the last Wednesday of every month at noon at the Columbus Club

President: Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder; **Vice President:** Jeffrey Vanrees

AFSA Chapter 651

The Air Force Sergeants Association is the only association solely dedicated to representing enlisted men, women and their families. AFSA has a by-name seat at the influential tables in Congress and the Pentagon to help shape the tough policy decisions affecting the enlisted corps today. Members do not have to

be an NCO.

Meets the third Thursday of the month at noon at the Columbus Club


President: Master Sgt. Kristina O'Meara; **Vice President:** Master Sgt. Eric Severs

First Four


The Airman’s Activity Council functions as a social and professional organization established to enhance morale, esprit de corps, and cooperation between members from the E1-E4. This is accomplished through fundraisers, on and off base, volunteer opportunities, and events or trips for those eligible to become members.

Meets the last Friday of every month at noon at the Montgomery Village

President: Senior Airman Brittani Amavizca-Waddington; **Vice President:** Airman 1st Class Katelyn Jaime; **Secretary:** Airman 1st Class Kiara Crespo



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



AF Recruiting Service Commander scheduled to speak at SUPT Class 17-15 graduation

The keynote speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-15 Sept. 29 is Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, the Commander of Air Force Recruiting Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

The AFRS comprises more than 2,470 Airmen and civilians in more than 1,100 recruiting offices across the U.S. and abroad. He is responsible for all enlisted accessions and a variety of officer accession programs. AFRS also manages all strategic marketing for the U.S. Air Force.

Harencak entered the Air Force in 1983 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. His assignments include aircraft command of the B-52 Stratofortress; instructor pilot and squadron command in the B-1B Lancer; and service as aide to the Commander of U.S. Central Command. He also directed the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Executive Secretariat, and served as Deputy Director of Requirements at Headquarters Air Combat Command. General Harencak commanded the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Missouri.

Before his current assignment, he was the Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

EDUCATION

- 1983 Bachelor of Science degree, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs
- 1988 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 1991 Master of Science degree, Abilene Christian University, Texas
- 1994 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB
- 2002 Master of Science degree, Air War College, Maxwell AFB

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. July 1983 - July 1984, student, undergraduate pilot training, Reese AFB, Texas
- 2. July 1984 - December 1984, student, B-52 combat crew training, Castle AFB, California
- 3. December 1984 - September 1989, co-pilot, standards and evaluations pilot, and aircraft commander, 97th Bomb Wing, Eaker AFB, Arkansas
- 4. September 1989 - August 1993, aircraft commander, instructor pilot and evaluator pilot, 96th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB
- 5. August 1993 - June 1994, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB
- 6. June 1994 - October 1997, action officer and aide-de-camp to Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Florida
- 7. October 1997 - June 2001, instructor pilot and operations officer, 9th Bomb Squadron, and commander, 28th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB
- 8. June 2001 - June 2002, student, Air

War College, Maxwell AFB

9. June 2002 - June 2003, Director, Executive Review Secretariat, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

10. June 2003 - August 2004, Vice Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB

11. August 2004 - July 2006, Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB

12. July 2006 - September 2007, Deputy Director of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Virginia

13. September 2007 - March 2009, Commander, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB

14. March 2009 - January 2011, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, Office of Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

15. January 2011 - February 2013, Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

16. March 2013 - September 2015, Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

17. September 2015 - present, Commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. June 1994 - August 1995, action officer, Operations Directorate (J3), U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB as a major
- 2. August 1995 - October 1997, aide-de-camp to the Commander, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB as a major
- 3. March 2009 - January 2011, Principal

Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Rating: command pilot
- Flight hours: more than 3,000 hours
- Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, B-52G, B-1B and B-2

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Distinguished Service Medal
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf cluster
- National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

- Second Lieutenant June 1, 1983
- First Lieutenant June 1, 1985
- Captain June 1, 1987
- Major March 1, 1994
- Lieutenant Colonel Jan. 1, 1998
- Colonel June 1, 2003
- Brigadier General Aug. 2, 2008
- Major General June 4, 2012

SecAF outlines Air Force priorities during speech

Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs Office

NATIONAL HARBOR — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson discussed the state of the Air Force during the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference Sept. 18, 2017.

Wilson covered the Air Force's five priorities, all driven by the needs of the nation.

"We have been doing too much, for too long, with too few and that has to change," said Wilson. "We have to plan and prepare for the high-end fight."

Wilson stressed the need to restore readiness, cost-effectively modernize, drive innovation, develop exceptional leaders and strengthen alliances.

"The stark reality is the United States Air Force is too small to do all that the nation expects of it," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, the past 26 years of constant combat operations has come at a cost to the Air Force's personnel and equipment. The demand for what Airmen bring to the fight will only increase, and it is vital to take steps to ensure the readiness of the force..

"The greatest risk we're facing here at home...is the risk of not having a budget," said Wilson. "We put forward a budget that begins to restore the readiness of the force, so that we can win any fight, any time."

That would be at risk if a budget isn't approved, she added.

Readiness begins with people and we must continue to grow the force to perform current and future missions she said.

"Americans need to understand, low readiness for a crisis doesn't mean we won't go...what it means is fewer will come back," said Wilson.

The Air Force is working on the acquisitions process to get items from the factory to the flight line efficiently and expeditiously in order to win the conventional and unconventional fight.

"Adversaries are modernizing and innovating faster than we are," said Wilson. "We have to be able to evolve faster, to respond faster than our potential adversaries."

With an increase of modernization over the next 10 years in the form of bombers, fighters, tankers, satellites and helicopters, it is paramount to harness the power of innovators and entrepreneurs within the Air Force, across the country and throughout the world.



Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson discusses the state of the Air Force during the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference at National Harbor, Maryland, Sept. 18, 2017.

"Innovation is the hallmark of the United States Air Force," said Wilson. "From time to time it is important to refresh our science and technology strategy, to step back from the programs and problems of today and project 10 or 20 years into the future."

"Innovation is the hallmark of the United States Air Force," said Wilson. "From time to time it is important to refresh our science and technology strategy, to step back from the programs and problems of today and project 10 or 20 years into the future."

Wilson announced the Air Force will

conduct a 12-month Science and Technology review to update its research priorities and strategy.

Innovation not only happens in academic environments, but also out on the flight line where Airmen are doing the job every day.

"The chief and I are trying to put in place

processes that are going to push authorities down to the lowest appropriate level," said Wilson. "We've started to simplify Air Force instructions and policies so that we stop telling Airmen how to do everything, and tell them what to do instead."

The Air Force will continue to lead and support the joint force in defending the U.S. by developing innovative leaders who can thrive in joint teams and develop strong military partnerships.

According to Wilson, a service doesn't win on its own, and the Air Force's allies and partners are friendly centers of gravity.

"Air and space superiority is not America's birthright," said Wilson. "We've earned it the hard way, and we are not going to give it up without a fight."

Commander's
Action Line

434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

Don't be a litter bug.
Keep America beautiful.

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

Free Triathlon
The Fitness Center is offering a free triathlon starting at 7 a.m. Sept. 23 at Independence Pool. Each adult participant will swim 300 meters, bike 22K, and run 5K. Individual, team, and youth categories available. For ages 5 years and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Free Oktoberfest
The Café at Whispering Pines is offering a free Oktoberfest at 6 p.m. Sept. 23. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Enjoy classic Oktoberfest music by DJ Dave and a live performance by Jimmy Beatty and the Five Acres. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Free Breakfast for Club Members
The Columbus Club is offering a free breakfast for club members from 6:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Sept. 26. The cost is only \$8 for non-members. The buffet will feature build your own breakfast taco. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Free Pooches in the Pool
The Base Pool is offering a free Pooches in the Pool event from 6-7 p.m. Sept. 26. Participants must clean up after their dog. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Glow in the Dark 5K Run/Walk
The Youth Center is offering a Glow in the Dark 5K Run/Walk at 6 p.m. Oct. 27. Free event. All ages welcome. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Play Paintball
Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$10 per person for party of 10 or more; \$15 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000 paint balls. For more information, contact 434-2505.

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

SPRINT

TRIATHLON



300M22K5K

September 23

Check-in 7-7:45am ~ Race Meeting 7:45am ~ First Heat 8am

CAFB INDEPENDENCE POOL (Rain or Shine)

FREE EVENT Individual and Team Categories

T-shirts available for purchase (\$20 Adult - \$15 Youth)

Youth Age Categories 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, and 14-16

Youth distances (based on age):

Swim .25, .50, or 100m; Bike .5mi, 2mi, or 5K; & Run .25, 1, or 2mi

Official chip timing system will be used

Register at the Fitness Center by Sept 20

Free spaghetti dinner will be offered at 5pm on Sept 22 at the Columbus Club

FOR MORE INFORMATION 434-2772

The Overrun Open Friday Nights
The Overrun is open Fridays from 4:30 p.m.-midnight. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Library Hours of Operation
The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed
Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors, for more information, contact 434-7836.

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

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

Make Your Shopping Easier
Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style. Purchase your gift card at one of the following locations: Bowling Center, Golf Course or Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-3426.

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.

Instructors Needed
The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

Fitness on Request
Columbus Air Force Base Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

Space A Lodging
The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

Ride in Style
If you don't want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Call 434-2505 for more information.

49th FTS graduates IFF Class 17-LBC

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron graduated Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 17-LBC Sept. 20. Nine members graduated this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots and weapon systems officers in the Combat Air Forces of the United States Air Force and Polish Air Force. The 49th FTS is responsible for active-duty, Guard, Reserve and international flying training in the T-38C Talon IFF aircraft. The 49th FTS provides training to fighter pilots and WSOs entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the A-10C Thunderbolt II, F-15C Eagle, F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15S, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-35A Lightning II and F-22 Raptor. The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and WSOs to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Wingmen bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to basic surface attack and surface attack tactics phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these wingmen will fly in their follow-on training and employ in combat. Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!



1st Lt. Robert Shine
F-15C



1st Lt. Paul Zalar
A-10C



2nd Lt. John Blozinski
F-15E



2nd Lt. Krzysztof Dziedzic
F-16 (Polish Air Force)



2nd Lt. Nhien Ha
F-15E



2nd Lt. Curtis Hughes
A-10C



2nd Lt. Mateusz Tomczak
F-16 (Polish Air Force)



1st Lt. Joseph Goode
F-35



1st Lt. James Gehring
F-15C

Team BLAZE runs to remember POWs, those MIA



Five Airmen participate in a 5K run hosted by the Air Force Sergeant's Association in honor of National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day Sept. 15, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. There were about 100 Airmen who participated in the 5K. Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans facilities.



Airmen wait for reveille to play Sept. 15, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Following reveille, the Airmen ran a 5K hosted by the Air Force Sergeant's Association in honor of National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day. AFSA Chapter 651 flew a POW/MIA flag on the Wing Headquarters Building flag pole all week in recognition of National POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 15.



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

From Philippines to AF finance office

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force provides its Airmen with a sustainable job, career growth and development, educational benefits, and for some members it's a gateway to American citizenship.

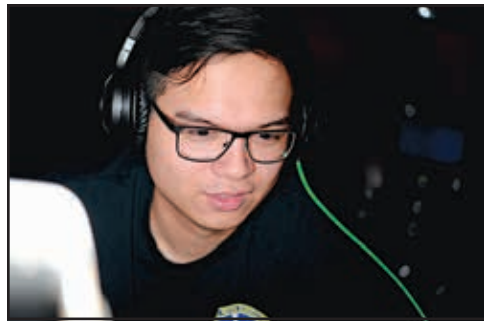
The U.S. recruits in many different ways but has bases all over the world that can change the way people see the U.S. and the Defense Department.

Airman 1st Class Arvin Dizon, 14th Flying Training Wing financial services technician, came to America with his family from the Philippines in September 2013, to live in California for about three years before joining the service.

"I was mostly raised by my grandparents on my mother's side and my brother because my father and mother had worked a lot, mostly overseas," Dizon said. "While in the Philippines, I was in my third year of college while I was interning, we got a notification that our visa got approved and we were able to move to America."

In the Philippines Dizon finished high school and college, gaining his Bachelor of Science in pharmaceutical sciences. Wanting to continue his education, he looked in the area and found nothing that fit within his financial goals.

"We had moved to California and I really wanted to go back to school, but we all know it's pretty expensive there and it would have



Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

Airman 1st Class Arvin Dizon, 14th Flying Training Wing financial services technician, works on his computer Sept. 18, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. By helping to resolve financial issues for Airmen and their families, Dizon helps produce pilots, advance Airmen, and feed the fight, pushing the Columbus Air Force Base mission forward as part of the backbone for financial services.

taken me forever to pay off the education costs," Dizon said. "Not only would the Air Force help with my education but my uncle had retired with the U.S. Navy and he suggested for me to go into the Air Force."

His uncle spent a career as an enlisted member in the Navy, moving to America with his family and raising them while in the service. He had talked to Dizon about his experiences and suggested joining the Air Force.

"I hadn't known if I was prepared to live alone and balance studying, school and work-

ing in a completely new country, so I was weighing my options and figured this was the best option for me," Dizon said.

He joined in November 2016 and came in with the career field of financial services. He had looked into the options to become a commissioned officer but was not eligible to commission until becoming an American citizen.

Thus far, Dizon said he feels the Air Force has met the expectations he sought from the beginning, and has helped with pursuing his goals. As of now, he said he doesn't see any reason why he wouldn't continue his service after his first enlistment, because the Air Force provides a lot of options and avenues to take.

When reflecting on his life in the Philippines he mentioned many differences in culture. He remembered how in the Philippines he was not allowed to go to work and school at the same time, and also recognized the options for extracurricular activities are more expansive in American public schools.

"There's tons of opportunities here compared to back home [in the Philippines]," Dizon said.

Currently Dizon is working on his upgrade training and is focused on getting on track to continue his education through the Community College of the Air Force.

As a financial services technician, Dizon is responsible for helping Airmen and their families in-process and addresses issues with members' Leave and Earnings Statements.



Airman 1st Class Arvin Dizon is a financial services technician for the 14th Flying Training Wing on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Dizon is a native of the Philippines, which is where he finished high school and college, gaining his Bachelor of Science in pharmaceutical sciences.

"Working in finance isn't that bad of a job, it's pretty nice," Dizon said. "Everywhere I had worked before were customer service based, so it hasn't been too different, since the financial services flight is a lot of customer service."

Ultimately Dizon will continue to help produce pilots, advance Airmen, and feed the fight, pushing the Columbus Air Force Base mission forward as part of the backbone for financial services.

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.)

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. For more information, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 434-2790.

Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is from 2-5 p.m. Sept. 25-26 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Learn how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The Wing Newcomers Orientation is from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Columbus Club. The orientation is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle from 1-2 p.m. Sept. 26. The workshop allows Veterans Affairs' 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.

STOMP

A Specialized Training of Military Parents webinar training opportunity will be from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. STOMP is a parent-directed program and exists to empower military parents, individuals with disabilities, professional and community members with knowledge, skills, information, resources and support for all types of disabilities. The training will include TRICARE and applied behavior analysis. For more information and to register by Sept. 25, please call 434-2790.

Youngest, oldest Airmen cut Air Force's 70th birthday cake



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

Chaplain (Maj.) Bradley Kimble, 14th Flying Training Wing Deputy Wing Chaplain, and Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb, 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs photojournalist, cut a birthday cake in celebration of the Air Force's 70th birthday Sept. 14, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cake cutting occurred before the assignment night for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-15 began.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social Program's monthly event will be from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 28. The event provides community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty personnel who are deployed, remote or on an extended temporary duty assignment. Food and activities will be provided. For more information, call 434-2790.

Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Oct. 4 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This workshop gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and cover letters. To sign up call 434-2839/2790.

Smooth Move

This class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 12 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, TRICARE, medical records, and A&FRC. For more information, please call 434-2790 to register.

Trick-or-Treating

Trick-or-treating will be from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 28 in the housing complexes on Columbus Air Force Base.

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 Jamey Coleman, SBP counselor, at (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Counselor Program

The Military and Family Life Counselor Program counselors provide a 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 marital issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors 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.

Personal Financial Resources

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor can help you and your family: manage finances; resolve financial problems; and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are no cost, private and confidential. For more information, call the PFC at (662) 998-0411 or 434-2790, or email

PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com; the PFC is also located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center. They 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's 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 is 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: have a serious illness or injury, are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time or may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

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) Start date TBA
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every 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
Wednesdays:
4 p.m. – Music Rehearsal
Thursdays:
5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)

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

National Preparedness Month: Tornadoes biggest threat to Columbus AFB

Airman 1st Class Nicholas Walkup
14th Civil Engineering Squadron

National Preparedness Month is drawing to a close. However, this does not mean preparations need to end. Hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and many more disasters can and still occur at any given moment.

This is the purpose behind National Preparedness Month message, "Disasters don't plan ahead, you can." Preparation comes in three simple steps: identifying the most common disasters, creating an emergency kit and creating a plan.

Tornadoes are a major threat for families living on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, and surrounding communities. In Mississippi during 2016, there were 44 tornadoes reported, killing one person and injuring two more.

Knowing the difference between a tornado watch and a

tornado warning is extremely important. A tornado watch is when there is a possibility for a tornado and a tornado warning is the actual sighting or indication of a tornado in the area. Knowing these terms and receiving the updates can assist with taking shelter when necessary. This is not the only way to prepare for a tornado; it is essential for families to have an emergency kit in the same area that they are sheltering.

An emergency kit is key to preparing for a disaster and ensures that the supplies needed in worse case situations are available. An emergency kit should include at the absolute minimum a gallon of water and non-perishable food per person per day; can opener, batteries and flashlights; sanitation supplies, cash, and first aid kit. This will ensure that if a family was trapped under debris that they have the supplies needed to stay alive until first responders can reach them. Families may also need to include personal medications and items for pets. An emergency supply kit needs to be tailored to every family and has to be easily accessible. After making a kit they also need to make a plan for disasters that may happen.

Every family needs to have a plan for disasters. When mak-

ing a plan try to not get too specific. This will make sure that the same plan for a fire can also be used for a tornado with only minor changes. The plan should include a primary and secondary place to meet, a way to communicate if separated, and make sure that specific family needs are considered. The places to meet should be familiar and known to each family member. Communication needs to take into consideration that there may not be any cellular service. Specific needs for families may determine how to communicate and where to meet. Lastly the most important part of making a plan is to practice the plan. As the old saying goes, "practice make perfect."

Following these simple steps will not only help ensure an individual's safety but the safety of their families, first responders, and volunteers. Being prepared for a disaster is everyone's duty to their family and community. Remember, "Disasters don't plan ahead, you can."

(Editor's note: Information used in this story can also be found at www.Ready.gov and www.beready.af.mil, also visit these sites for more tips on how you can prepare you and your family for disasters.)



Know the limit of your kite

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Gunn

14th Flying Training Wing Chapel

In my luggage I packed a small kite, one I'd chosen on Amazon after reading the five-star ratings. It was a small, parafoil style which required no rods. It collapsed completely flat and occupied almost no space in my luggage.

I had an image of a father trying to hang on to yester year by flying a kite with his 18-year-old son. Perhaps Matt would play along and be my little boy just one more time.

The next morning we left for Bimini, Bahamas, a special place that's become a home away from home for my family. The father-son trip was a high school graduation gift.

We took the kite to the Radio Beach and launched it into the wind. Immediately, it went straight upward, but after a minute or so it became unstable and fell to the ground. We tried numerous relaunches, but to no avail. I tried modifying the kite with some rudimentary objects. No improvement. Finally, Matt gave up and walked into the water. He was entertained by my refusal to give up. After quite a long while, I

We learned that it was important to know the limit of the kite. Our kite, so colorful with many stripes of color was a light breeze design and could simply not handle the heavy winds of yesterday.

gave up and joined him.

As Matt and I floated and tossed with the large waves, I said I would return it to Amazon and demand a \$7.50 refund. I would give the kite a one-star rating and warn other Amazon shoppers! "Rip off!" The subject of our conversation changed and we rode the waves a while longer.

The next afternoon while getting ready to return to the beach, I decided to give it one more try. From our vantage point at the Methodist manse, the water was almost calm,

indicating very little wind. We walked to the beach and, in doubt, tried one more launch. This time the kite caught the wind, went straight up, and stayed in the air. It flew steadily, with no movement at all except for the two colorful tails bouncing in the breeze. I took a large inflatable float far into the water and the kite pulled me for hundreds of yards. The day before was a disaster; today was a success. The difference was the wind.

We learned that it was important to know the limit of the kite. Our kite, so colorful with many stripes of color was a light breeze design and could simply not handle the heavy winds of yesterday. I turned our discussion into something my kids are all too familiar with: dadvice. "Son, sometimes we take on too much." Desiring to be liked, desiring to be helpful, desiring to fix things, taking on more and more - eventually the wind is too great for our kites and we crash.

When we become overwhelmed with too many responsibilities, we become unhealthy with misaligned priorities. Over time, our kites can grow and take on heavier winds, but even then every kite has its limit. Know the limit of your kite.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-52 Stratofortress

Mission

The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can perform a variety of missions. The bomber is capable of flying at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet (15,166.6 meters). It can carry nuclear or precision guided conventional ordnance with worldwide precision navigation capability.

Features

In a conventional conflict, the B-52 can perform strategic attack, close-air support, air interdiction, offensive counter-air and maritime operations. During Desert Storm, B-52s delivered 40 percent of all the weapons dropped by coalition forces. It is highly effective when used for ocean surveillance, and can assist the U.S. Navy in anti-ship and mine-laying operations. Two B-52s, in two hours, can monitor 140,000 square miles (364,000 square kilometers) of ocean surface.

All B-52s can be equipped with two electro-optical viewing sensors, a forward-looking infrared and advanced targeting pods to augment targeting, battle assessment and flight safety, thus further improving its combat ability.

Pilots wear night vision goggles to enhance their vision during night operations. Night vision goggles provide greater safety during night operations by increasing the pilot's ability to visually clear terrain, to increase the peacetime and combat situational awareness of the aircrew and visually acquire other aircraft.

B-52s are currently upgrading from the Litening Advanced Targeting Pod to the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod. Sniper pods provide improved long-range target detection/identification and continuous stabilized surveillance for all missions, including close air support of ground forces. The pod's advanced targeting and image processing technology significantly increases the combat effectiveness of the B-52 during day, night and under-the-weather conditions in the attack of ground targets with a variety of standoff weapons (i.e., laser-guided bombs, conventional bombs and GPS-guided weapons).

The use of aerial refueling gives the B-52 a range limited only by crew endurance. It has an unrefueled combat range in excess of 8,800 miles (14,080 kilometers).

Background

For more than 40 years, B-52 Stratofortresses have been the backbone of the manned strategic bomber force for the United States. The B-52 is capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory. This includes gravity bombs, cluster bombs, precision guided missiles and joint direct attack munitions. Updated with modern technology, the B-52 will be capable of delivering the full complement of joint developed weapons and will continue into the 21st century as an important element of our nation's defenses. Current engineering analyses show the B-52's life span to extend beyond the year 2040.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Nathan Lipscomb

A B-52 Stratofortress aircraft from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, arrived at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 9, 2016, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the operation to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and the threat they pose to Iraq, Syria and the wider international community, and as needed in the region. The B-52 offers diverse capabilities including the delivery of precision weapons.

The B-52A first flew in 1954, and the B model entered service in 1955. A total of 744 B-52s were built with the last, a B-52H, delivered in October 1962. The first of 102 B-52H's was delivered to Strategic Air Command in May 1961. The H model can carry up to 20 air launched cruise missiles. In addition, it can carry the conventional cruise missile that was launched in several contingencies during the 1990s, starting with Operation Desert Storm and culminating with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The aircraft's flexibility was evident in Operation Desert Storm and again during Operation Allied Force. B-52s struck wide-area troop concentrations, fixed installations and bunkers, and decimated the morale of Iraq's Republican Guard. On Sept. 2 to 3, 1996, two B-52Hs struck Baghdad power stations and communications facilities with 13 AGM-86C conventional air launched cruise missiles, or CALCMs, as part of Operation Desert Strike. At that time, this was the longest distance flown for a combat mission involving a 34-hour, 16,000 statute mile round trip from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

In 2001, the B-52 contributed to the success in Operation Enduring Freedom, providing the ability to loiter high above the battlefield and provide close air support through the use of precision guided munitions.

The B-52 also played a role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On March 21, 2003, B-52Hs launched approximately 100 CALCMs during a night mission.

Only the H model is still in the Air Force inventory and is assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota, and the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, which fall under Air Force Global Strike Command. The aircraft is also assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Pagán Jr.

A B-52 Stratofortress takes off from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, Feb. 26, 2016, headed to Moron Air Base, Spain. During the short-term deployment, three of the multi-role heavy bombers and more than 200 Airmen assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing will integrate and train with U.S. European Command components and regional partners by participating in Exercise Cold Response 16. U.S. Strategic Command and Air Force Global Strike Command routinely and visibly demonstrate U.S. commitment to allies, as well as global security, through joint and international training exercises such as these.

General characteristics

Primary function: heavy bomber
Contractor: Boeing Military Airplane Co.
Power plant: eight Pratt & Whitney engines TF33-P-3/103 turbofan
Thrust: each engine up to 17,000 pounds
Wingspan: 185 feet (56.4 meters)
Length: 159 feet, 4 inches (48.5 meters)
Height: 40 feet, 8 inches (12.4 meters)
Weight: Approximately 185,000 pounds (83,250 kilograms)
Maximum takeoff weight: 488,000 pounds (219,600 kilograms)
Fuel capacity: 312,197 pounds (141,610 kilograms)
Payload: 70,000 pounds (31,500 kilograms)
Speed: 650 miles per hour (Mach 0.84)
Range: 8,800 miles (7,652 nautical miles)
Ceiling: 50,000 feet (15,151.5 meters)
Armament: approximately 70,000 pounds (31,500 kilograms) mixed ordnance: bombs, mines and missiles. (Modified to carry air-launched cruise missiles)
Crew: five (aircraft commander, pilot, radar navigator, navigator and electronic warfare officer)
Unit cost: \$84 million (fiscal 2012 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: April 1952
Inventory: active force, 58; ANG, 0; Reserve, 18



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Columbus Air Force Base celebrates Air Force's 70th birthday



Rufus Ward Jr., Jo Shumake and retired Lt. Col. Gene Smith stand with Airman 1st Class Andrew Inocencio, Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsman, as they perform a Prisoner of War and Missing In Action remembrance ceremony Sept. 15, 2017, during the 14th Flying Training Wing's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. Ward's and Shumake's fathers were POWs during World War II, and Smith was a POW in Vietnam for more than five years.

**U.S. Air Force photos
by Melissa Doublin**



Retired Lt. Col. Gene Smith and Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert, 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs photojournalist, cut the Air Force birthday cake Sept. 15, 2017, during the 14th FTW's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. It is a tradition that the oldest and youngest Airmen present cut the birthday cake.



More than 400 Columbus Air Force Base members and community partners gather at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi, Sept. 15, 2017, to celebrate the Air Force's 70th birthday. The Trotter Convention Center lobby was lined with a historical display that featured some of the Air Force's and the base's key points in its existence and supported the ball's theme, "Airpower Starts Here." The event also included a Prisoner of War and Missing in Action remembrance ceremony, formal toasts to leaders of the military services, a ceremonial cake cutting, and music performed live by the 41st Army Band.



Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, Air Education and Training Command Deputy Commander and former 14th Mission Support Group Commander, speaks Sept. 15, 2017, during the 14th Flying Training Wing's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. During his speech, Brown broke down the lines of the Air Force Song and described how Airmen today still live true to the words, using three Columbus AFB Airmen as examples.



The 41st Army Band from Jackson, Mississippi, plays Sept. 15, 2017, during the 14th Flying Training Wing's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. The band provided music during intermission and after the ball's formal events were over, for dancing.



Col. Doug Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, speaks Sept. 15, 2017, during the 14th FTW's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. More than 400 Columbus Air Force Base members and community partners attended the event.