

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Vol. 36, Issue 19

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

May 11, 2012

## Weather



### Today

High: 83, Low: 57  
Partly Cloudy



### Saturday

High: 79, Low: 60  
Cloudy



### Sunday

High: 76, Low: 61  
Scattered T-Storms



### Monday

High: 82, Low: 61  
Scattered T-Storms

## News Briefs

### Mother's Day

May 13 is Mother's Day.

### CCAF Graduation

Come celebrate the 46 Team BLAZE Airmen who have obtained their Community College of the Air Force degree during their graduation on May 17, 10 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

### 48th FTS CoC

The 48th Flying Training Squadron Change of Command will be held May 17, 8:48 a.m. at the BLAZE Hangar.

### Case Lot Sale

The Columbus Air Force Base Commissary will hold a Case Lot Sale May 18 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick

As summer break nears, children leave a Lowndes County School bus to enter the Columbus Air Force Base Youth Center on May 9. School is scheduled to end for most public school students on May 18.

# Columbus schools almost out

### Senior Airman Chase Hedrick

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Summer break is right around the corner for those attending local public schools and Team BLAZE is getting ready to give them a variety of opportunities during the coming months.

Most local schools end on May 18, an important date for most 14th Flying Training Wing members to keep in mind

to watch for an increase in young cyclists and outdoors enthusiasts trying to enjoy the outdoors.

“Please be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists as they move from the housing areas toward the pool and playgrounds, children sometimes forget to look out for you... always slow down and look out for them,” said Michael Fischer, 14th Flying Training Wing Safety Education and Training.

For those looking to give constructive opportunities throughout the summer to their dependants, the Columbus Air Force Base Youth Center has them covered.

“We do the traditional summer crafts and arts activities and most of all we keep them moving! The days go by quick and the kids sleep well at night,” said Terry Graves, the Youth Center's School Age Program Coordinator.

See SCHOOLS, Page 2

## Inside



### Feature 8

Motorcycle and summer safety are 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 (13-02)	1.46 days	0.03 days	May 14	48th (12-09)	0.30 days	2.17 days	May 18	49th (12-HB)	4.62 days	4.59 days	May 31	T-6	1,038	880	19,220
41st (13-03)	2.79 days	1.80 days	Jun 6	50th (12-09)	-1.45 days	-2.57 days	May 18					T-1	343	351	6,194
												T-38	313	318	6,243
												IFF	94	119	2,036

The graduation speakers are Maj. Gen. Maggie Woodward, AF/A5X and Brig. Gen. Dan Woodward, USAF Retired.

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 65 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## SCHOOLS

(Continued from Page 1)

The Summer Camp opportunities begin May 21 and end Aug. 3 with staff trained in CPR/first aid in addition to child development. The program is one of two Nationally Accredited Programs in the state of Mississippi said Graves.

In addition to the summer camp there are a spread of additional opportunities offered by the Youth Center; Talent Show, British Soccer Week,

Children's Theater as well as camps focused on science, dance and sports just to name a few.

Those interested can contact the Youth Center at 434-2503 or stop by for flyers and additional information. Fees are based on total family income.

This summer will no doubt be an exciting one, but time will fly all too fast. E.J. Griffis, CAFB School Liason Officer notes that school begins again Aug. 6 for Lowdnes County and Columbus Municipal Schools.

## Commander's Action Line 434-7058

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 434-7058. 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.



## Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, Academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website with exception of Air Force publications through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
14 Class 12-02 Track Select, 9 a.m. @ Philips	15 CSC Social, 6 p.m. @ Club Pilot for a Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	16	17 48th FTC CoC, 8:48 a.m. @ BLAZE Hangar CCAF Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Club Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel Annex	18 Class 12-09 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	19/20 New Park Ribbon Cutting, 8 a.m. @ Old CDC Park (19th) Street Survival Driving School, 7:30 a.m. (19th)
21	22	23	24 Safety Day, 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. @ Kaye APAH Luau and Golf Tournament, noon @ Golf Course Blood Drive, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. @ Fitness Center. Aviators welcome.	25 AETC Family Day	26/27

### Long Range Events

May 28: Memorial Day  
May 29: Newcomers Orientation  
May 31: Enlisted Promotions  
May 31: IFF Graduation  
June 1: Commander Calls  
June 1: Class 12-10 Assignment Night  
June 2: St. Leo Commencement  
June 4-8: Night Flying Week  
June 4-8: Vacation Bible School  
June 6: Class 13-03 Track Select  
June 8: Medical Group Closed

## 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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# AFRC/CC returns to CAFB

**Senior Airman  
Chase Hedrick**

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, returned to the location of his first assignment to meet with the 43rd Flying Training Squadron and speak with the reserve unit about the future of the AFRC.

Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, who graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base in 1974 praised the work of the 14th Flying Training Wing and the 43rd FTS during his visit.

"It's great to see the evolution of how we do the training. It's still quality training and I don't think you can get a better product out of anybody," said Stenner. "This is a premier organization and the fact that we've had this association with the Active and Reserve forces working together has been a validation of

*The growing missions of the AFRC is part of where Stenner said he sees the AFRC in the future; in all the mission sets, rebalanced to meet the future needs of the nation.*

keeping the talent that we've created and executing the mission to create pilots."

Retaining talent is an important aspect of the Reserve component said Stenner, especially as the AFRC works to grow in certain mission sets.

"We are working very hard to adjust to the missions that are new, that are more enduring because we're evolving into nuclear operations, special operations... all of the

missions that go along those lines are growth areas," he said. "As we go wherever the active force is I want to be able to capture the talent that makes a life changing decision to leave the active force and can't participate full time anymore I want to give them the opportunity to participate in a part-time capacity."

The growing missions of the AFRC is part of where Stenner said he sees the AFRC in the future; in all the mission sets, rebalanced to meet the future needs of the nation.

As for Columbus Air Force Base, some things stay the same said Stenner.

"I'll tell ya, the thing that hasn't changed is it's very well maintained. The older facilities look good, you can tell there's a pride in this particular installation, and you can see it in the folks, you can see they're happy and they're proud of being part of Columbus Air Force Base and the mission that it does."



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens  
**Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Commander, Air Force Reserve Command poses with the 43rd Flying Training Squadron vehicle dedicated to Maj. Blair "Bama" Faulkner, a 43rd FTS Instructor Pilot who died on a training sortie.**

## Class 12-09 Graduation features two speakers

### Maj. Gen. Woodward

Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward is the acting Director, Operational Planning, Policy and Strategy, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. She is responsible for the development and integration of operational strategies, organizational concepts, policies and plans supporting all elements of aerospace power employment. Her directorate's eight divisions orchestrate Air Force participation in joint and regional war and mobilization planning communities; operator and warfighter talks with allies and sister services; strategic planning for missile defense; combating weapons



of mass destruction; and compliance with international agreements. General Woodward supervises the Air Force's concept of operations development as well as its interface with Joint Staff and National Security Council issues. Her responsibilities cross multiple functional countries to include interpretation of national defense guidance for use in directing the Air Force's capabilities-based planning process.

General Woodward entered the Air Force in 1983 as a graduate of Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering. Her career includes a variety of operational and staff positions, including command at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels. She flew and commanded in operations Just Cause, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The general served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the Director of Protocol and military assistant, and she was the Deputy Director for Colonel Matters, Air Force Senior Leader Management Office,

Washington, D.C. Prior to her current assignment, General Woodward was Commander, 17th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Africa and served as Coalition Forces Air Component Commander for Operation Odyssey Dawn.

### Brig. Gen. Woodward

Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Woodward (USAF Ret.) last served as the Director of Regional Affairs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. In this position he managed the Air Force's direct liaison with foreign government officials, Washington agency counter-



parts, and representatives of the aerospace industry to implement Air Force security cooperation programs, particularly the sale of Air Force military equipment to foreign governments. The Regional Affairs Directorate provides analysis and advice to senior leaders on current politico-military affairs and their impact on the Air Force. In this position he also serves as Air Force member, Delegation to Inter-American Defense Board; and Air Force member, Joint Mexico-U.S. Defense Commission.

General Woodward received his commission in 1980 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He has served in a variety of operational and support positions throughout his career. The general has commanded a support group and a flying training wing.

From August 2009 to Present Woodward has held the positions of Vice President, Integrated Solutions and Senior Consultant, General Dynamics Information Technology.



## Volunteers read at CDC for APAH



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Charles Dickens  
**Airman 1st Class Brandon Thomas, 14th Security Forces Squadron reads a book to children attending the Child Development Center as part of an Asian-Pacific Heritage Month event. Several events including a luau and golf tournament will take place during the month of May to celebrate Asian-Pacific American heritage and culture.**

# Summer grilling safety tips

**Senior Airman Justin Rodriguez**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Inspector

With warmer weather arriving and the summer months approaching people will begin cooking outside using charcoal or propane gas grills. Each year there are an average of 6,500 grill fires in the United States mostly caused by explosions resulting from gas leaks, blocked tubes, and overfilled propane tanks. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

### Safety tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

### Charcoal grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the

charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

### Propane grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

For more information, please contact the Fire Prevention office at 434-2270 or 434-2271 or 434-2274.

## CAFB to host driving safety course

**Senior Airman Ross Crimaldi**  
14th Comptroller Squadron

According to a study by the governor's highway safety association the number of 16 and 17 year old drivers who died in car accidents increased by 11 percent in the first half of 2011 compared with the same period of 2010. This increase breaks an eight year decline in teen driving deaths. While high school driver's education does a good job teaching the rules of the road, they do not address how to make accident avoidance or skid recovery maneuvers. All too often the first time a teen driver makes an accident avoidance maneuver it's in a crisis situation.

To help combat this new upward trend and keep Team BLAZE Airmen and their dependents safe, members of the local chapter of the Sports Car Club of America are bringing a Tire Rack Street Survival course to Columbus Air Force Base on May 19.

The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival is a "hands-on" driving experience in real-world situations! We use your own car to teach

you about its handling limits and how you can control them. The students will become more observant of the traffic situation they find themselves in. They will learn to look far enough ahead to anticipate unwise actions of other drivers. As the students master the application of physics to drive their cars, they will make fewer unwise driving actions. They will understand why they should always wear their own seatbelts, and why they should insist that their passengers wear seat belts too.

This program also qualifies for insurance premium discounts for many auto insurance companies.

The cost of the program is \$75 and it is open to all civilian licensed or permitted drivers ages 15-21 as well as all Airmen E-1 to E-4 and O-1.

Space is limited to the first 30 paid and registered students. Parents are welcome to attend and participate.

For more information and to register visit: [www.streetsurvival.org](http://www.streetsurvival.org)

For questions and more information please contact Senior Airman Ross Crimaldi at 434-3598.

## Feed the fight



Courtesy Photo

**Congratulations to Master Sgt. Dan Morphey, on his recent promotion at Regional Contracting Center Shank, Afghanistan. Morphey is currently deployed from the 14th Contracting Squadron. If you have a photo of a currently deployed Team BLAZE Airman you would like featured in Feed the Fight, send it to [SilverWings@Columbus.af.mil](mailto:SilverWings@Columbus.af.mil)**



# Civilian Call held at Kaye

**Senior Airman Chase Hedrick**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing, held a Civilian Call at the Kaye Auditorium on May 8 to explain how the shaping of Air Force workforce would play out for Columbus Air Force Base civilian Airmen.

Rounds one and two of RMD 703 have both affected the civilian workforce at Columbus. Col. Barre Seguin said he is staying with his plans for ensuring that civilian Airmen at Columbus Air Force Base who want to continue as part of Team BLAZE would be able to.

"Here at Columbus we have lost 37 positions, of those, only six we were unable to management reassign. So we're going to have to go into RIF proceedings starting 1 June to be finalized by 30 September."

Seguin stressed that due to open positions within the 14th Flying Training Wing, work was being done to ensure this would not be a "Food on the table issue."

"We have enough vacant positions right now, and if we look at those six in particular we're very confident we can place them, albeit in a job at a lower paygrade, your pay doesn't change if you're one of those six on the table," he said.

"We have done very very well," said Seguin. "I was shown



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**Col. Barre Seguin, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander talks about issues affecting civilian Airmen at Columbus Air Force Base during a civilian call on May 8 at the Kaye Auditorium. Force shaping measures in relation to Columbus Air Force Base covered the majority of the call.**

a list of other bases today. We have our six here, but there are other bases with 50 or 60 employees looking for jobs that they may not be able to find where they're currently located."

For information on these and related issues contact your Civilian Personnel Specialists:

Manpower and Personnel Flight Chief — Chris Chesser – 434-3601

Civilian Personnel Officer — Ben Brock – 434-2635

Labor Relations Officer — Kika Millner – 434-2641

Employee-Management Relations — Rowdy Smith

434-2637

Staffing Specialist — Garland Kirkland – 434-2636

Staffing Assistant/Customer Service — Brian Carter – 434-2650

## Trail BLAZE'r

**Name:** Paul Jones  
**Unit:** 14th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Authority  
**Job Title:** 14th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Authority Resource Advisor

**Time at Columbus:** Fourteen years, one month

**Time in Service:** Twenty-two years Air Force, seven years Civil Service

**Hometown:** Columbus, Ga.

**Career Goals:** Further Civilian Development Education to be an outstanding Resource Manager

**Family members:** Anna Jones, Tania Jones.

**Favorite musician:** Kenny G

**Favorite movie:** Fire Proof

**Biggest Pet Peeve:** Laziness

**Favorite Book:** The Bible

**Inspirations:** My oldest brother Joe, for showing me courage and faith through life's issues.

**Personal motto:** The storms of our life reveal the strength of our faith.



## Upcoming CAFB blood drive directly affects AoR

**Master Sgt. Brian Fisher**  
14th Medical Support Squadron Laboratory Services NCOIC

Columbus Air Force Base will be hosting an Armed Services Blood Program drive at the Fitness Center on May 24. The event will begin at 6 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. that afternoon. This date, which kicks off the four-day Memorial Day celebration, was chosen to maximize participation by all base personnel and their families, and to remind everyone that this most personal of donations, that of giving blood, is going straight to our deployed troops still in combat.

ASBP is the official military blood program of the United States. It is a tri-service organization, with the Army, Air Force, and Navy collecting blood products for all the military. All blood collected stays

*Donated blood is sent overseas for wounded warriors, arriving in-theater within 7-10 days of collection. Because blood has a shelf life of just 42 days, it is imperative to continually have blood drives that will generate a fresh supply.*

within the military community, where it is available for service members, their families and retirees. For more information on ASBP go to [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

Donated blood is sent overseas for wounded warriors, arriving in-theater within 7-10 days of collection. Because blood has a shelf life of just 42 days, it is imperative to continually have blood drives that will generate a fresh supply.

The ASBP relies on healthy service members, families and DOD civilian donors to keep its blood supply fresh and safe. If ASBP does not

have donated blood in stock, the program must buy it from an approved outside agency for approximately \$250 a pint. Specialists from the Blood Donor Center at Keesler AFB, one of 22 military collection sites, will be donating their time and effort to assist CAFB in this worthwhile endeavor.

Simply put, by donating you have the opportunity to save the life of a fellow service member. For more information on the Columbus AFB ASBP blood drive and/or to schedule a donation time, contact your unit blood drive POC.



# How it works in the real Air Force

**Master Sgt. Chris Stagner**  
Robert Gaylor NCO Academy

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy recently issued a call to arms for all enlisted Airmen in his perspective paper: “Now is the time for bold leadership.”

In this message, he states it is up to the enlisted force to lead with integrity and return stability to the enlisted performance report system. Specifically, he said of his message sent to command chiefs, functional managers, and major command commanders and vice commanders, “the theme of the message was that too much arbitrary guidance could prove to be counterproductive. As supervisors, the more leverage we have to deal with situations on a case-by-case basis, the better.”

The response to this message and the resulting discussions has been phenomenal — and varied. Opinions range from enthusiastically supportive to continued concern about the system.

I’m currently attending the Robert Gaylor NCO Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the theories behind leadership are something we discuss every day. Based on what we’re being taught here, I find it hard to understand the confusion about the chief’s message.

We’re taught to communicate with our Airmen. We’re taught to provide constant feed-

back to our Airmen. We’re taught to establish standards for our Airmen and, more importantly, hold them to the standards we establish. We’re taught to counsel those same Airmen if they fail to meet our standards.

So ponder me this: If we are all doing this every day, if we’re actively leading our Airmen versus passively leaving them to do their jobs, if we’re training our Airmen and are involved; how can writing an EPR with integrity be so difficult? Why do we constantly hear, “That’s not how it’s done in the real Air Force?”

I learned early in my career not to expect a 5 EPR. My second EPR, as a matter of fact, was a 2 referral. As an entitled Airman, I was furious with the rating. How could I warrant a 2 referral with the amount of effort I put into the job every day? How could my supervisor ruin my career? She explained to me very simply that she’d established standards, and I’d failed to meet them. It took years and a number of supervisory experiences of my own before I understood what she meant: No one deserves a rating; we all earn our ratings.

NCO academy lesson plans say the same thing: establish standards, hold subordinates accountable to those standards, provide feedback constantly and rate fairly. If all of us are being taught the same way, why aren’t we exceeding those simple expectations in “the real Air Force”?

Chief Master Sgt. Craig Howell is the com-

mandant of the Robert Gaylor NCOA. He’s spent 15 years involved in professional military education and eight years as a first sergeant. He’s also spent a great deal of time asking himself this same question.

“Having dissected it (the enlisted evaluation system) over the last 28 years, our EES is probably the most perfect I’ve seen,” he said. “However, it is misunderstanding, misuse, and sometimes abuse and fear of supervisors to do the right thing that makes the system appear broken.”

During our discussions in class about this very topic, many of my classmates have stated they’ve given 5 ratings because they didn’t have the paperwork to justify a 4 or a 3. Those statements perfectly support Howell’s statement.

Why would you need paperwork to justify a 4 EPR? A 4 is an excellent rating. You don’t need a letter of counseling to receive a 4 on your EPR. You need to come to work, do an excellent job, be involved in your community and pursue your education.

Did you read what I just wrote?

In order to earn a 4 on your EPR, you need to come to work, do an excellent job, be involved in your community and pursue your education. That is what qualifies you as a 4 — being excellent.

It’s been said that leaders refuse to allow less than a 5 (which is a topic for another day since no one can tell you how to rate your Airmen)



because it reflects negatively on leadership.

Comic book hero Thor says, “I say thee nay.” I tend to agree with him on this one. So does Howell.

“It’s not a reflection on leadership when a follower is less than perfect,” he said. “Sometimes it’s a battle of will instead of a battle of skill. No one is perfect all of the time.”

So how do we fix this? How do we move from this “broken” system into a fixed one? Do we as enlisted leaders require someone else to tell us how to do our jobs and lead our troops? Do we need a quota system to tell us how many of our Airmen are allowed to shine? Do we ask for a switch back from EPRs to APRs? A mulligan, perhaps?

No.

In order to fix this system, all we have to do is what we’re taught in PME. All we have to do is follow Roy’s direction and be bold, confident leaders who take care of our Airmen.

If that’s not how it’s done in “the real Air Force,” then it is up to us to have the integrity to make it so.

No one can do that but us.

## Air Force chaplain faces unique challenges

WASHINGTON — When I first heard of Arlington National Cemetery I immediately thought of honoring veterans and fallen comrades. I didn’t realize the true significance of my role in comforting their families as well. Also, I didn’t comprehend how challenging that would be.

Sure, as a chaplain I believed that I was capable of speaking with and providing comfort to the families. I’m certainly able to highlight the sacrifices of the veterans and active duty members for the just cause of freedom. I also know how to comfort the families with the knowledge that the Air Force is their extended family.

But one day I performed a service that challenged me in a way that I had never been challenged before.

I was assigned to a service that required me to give a committal for a stillborn baby boy, whose father was an active duty member. He and his wife had three other children who were 8 years old, 6 years old, and 18 months old.

I contacted the family to extend my condolences and see if there was any information that they might want me to share at the committal. The parents only had one request - to make the committal service kid friendly. I pondered how to fulfill this unique request.

I began to conduct research, to no avail. Then it dawned on me that I needed to go back to my foundation, which is my faith. I prayed and asked God to help me to minister to this family, particularly their children.

My faith in God, through my answered prayer, gave me what I needed to minister to this family. I knelt down in front of the children at the service, and asked them to tell me their favorite character. The oldest told me “a princess.” The middle child said “Star Wars.” The youngest pointed to an iPhone with a picture of Elmo on the screen and said “Elmo.”

The two oldest children, at my urging, then gave me more specific names of their heroes as it relates to these characters.

Afterwards, I pointed to the white marble stones surrounding the gravesite and explained that the stones represented our nation’s heroes.

I told them we were there on that day to honor another hero. I asked

them if they knew to whom I was referring and the 8 year old, with tears rolling down her red cheeks, said “my brother.” I agreed with her, and told them that heroes always showed up when they were needed, and that their brother was watching over them.

With my voice cracking and full of emotion I said that their brother will always remain in their hearts and whenever they needed him — their hero — would always show up. The family and I then grabbed hands and prayed as I gave the final committal of their stillborn child.

This ministry opportunity has changed my life forever. Now, I fully understand my mission. I am humbled and proud to serve on the sacred grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ruano  
**Chaplain (Capt.) Christian L. Williams is one of the chaplains representing the military services responsible for honoring those who are laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Another major role is to comfort and assist the families of those service members buried at the nation’s largest national cemetery.**

## Base News

### 14th OSS SNOG

The 14th Operations Support Squadron will hold its Screaming Night of Glory May 12 in Hangar 3, the event starts at 6 p.m.

### Women’s Flag Football

A Women’s flag football tournament will be held Friday May 18 at the base softball field. Single elimination begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

### The Base Thrift Shop

The Base Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments until noon. The Thrift Shop is non-profit and all proceeds benefit CAFB Community. It is located in building 530. Phone: 434-2954.

### Contraceptive Counseling Class

There are currently many safe and effective options for preventing or delaying pregnancy. The staff of the 14th Medical Group, wants to make sure you have the information you need to make your best choice. The Family Health Clinic is now offering a Birth Control Counseling Class covering topics ranging from natural family planning to tubal ligation. The class is offered once a month and taught by a Women’s Health Provider and a Registered Nurse. Classes will be held at the Koritz Clinic, the last Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30. Please call the clinic appointment line at 434-2273 to reserve your spot in the next Birth Control Counseling Class.

### Sleep Enhancement Class

There is a new Sleep Enhancement Class at the Koritz Clinic held every other Friday. You are a good candidate for the Sleep Enhancement Class if you have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. Call 434-CARE (2273) to schedule.

### CLEP Testing Discontinued

The Columbus Education Office no longer offers CLEP exams. Computerized CLEP testing however will be available at the Mississippi State Univ. Assessment and Testing Center (<http://www.ats.msstate.edu/testing/>). Military members will only be charged a \$23 service fee for the first-time administration of any CLEP exam at MSU. DANTES paper-based exams will continue to be administered in the CAFB Ed Office. Please call 434-2562 or 434-2563 for more information or to schedule an exam.

### Motorcycle PPE at Exchange

Air Force compliant personal protection

equipment for motorcycle riders is now carried at the base Exchange.

### vMPF Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits

Members can now access the vMPF and click DoD TEB website to transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. The vMPF application will verify the Airman’s eligibility to transfer benefits, provide timely notice regarding eligibility issues and allow Airmen to complete, sign, and forward the required statement of understanding to the Automated Records Management System. You can link to the vMPF through the AF Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/afpc2ww3/vmpf/Hub/Pages/Hub.asp>.

### LGR Mobility Individual Protective Equipment Element closed for Training

The 14th Logistics Division, Mobility and Individual Protective Equipment Element located in the Walker Center, building 1030 will close for training Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. beginning Thursday, May 10, 2012. All appointments must be scheduled around these days/times to avoid delays and inconveniences. Walk-ins are no longer accepted. All appointments must be scheduled in advance by calling 434-7305, 7306, 3363 or 3364. For more information, please call 434-7212 or 434-7306.

## Airman and Family Readiness Center

*(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 or email [afrc@columbus.af.mil](mailto:afrc@columbus.af.mil).)*

### Military and Family Life Consultant Program

MFLC consultants 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 martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Consultants 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 251-8627.

### Self-paced Tutorials

Available on MS Office 2007 Suites; Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word and Windows Vista. Set your own learning pace at your AFRC.

### Relocation assistance

Weekly workshop on programs, services and resources available through the Airman and Family Readiness Center held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environmental/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness.

### Employment Workshop

Workshop on local and base employment opportunities, held every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

### Spouse welcome

For new personnel assigned to CAFB held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Magnolia Inn lobby. Local information is presented.

### Sponsorship training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application and Training (eSAT) is now available. It can be found on the MilitaryINSTALLATIONS homepage <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>, under “Are You a Sponsor?”

### Survivor-Benefit Plan

One of the best feelings about retiring from the military Service is to know you are guaranteed a lifetime income as the result of a successful career. What about your spouse or dependent children? If you die, what guarantees do they have? Enrolling in the SBP prior to retiring will ensure they will have guaranteed income after your death. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at 434-2720.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic Community

**Sunday:**  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice  
4 p.m. – Confession  
5 p.m. – Mass  
**Thursday:**  
4:15 p.m. – Choir Practice

### Protestant Community

**Sunday:**  
9 a.m. – Mother’s Day Breakfast (free), Chapel Annex  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Service  
Noon – The Monthly Potluck Lunch (4th Sun)  
**Tuesday:**  
5 p.m. – Lieutenants Bible Study  
**Wednesday:**  
4:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

### Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

Mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring. Briefing should be completed at least 90 days prior to separation and may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 a.m. and takes approximately 30 minutes.

### Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at the AFRC; Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m. and post-deployment at 1:30 p.m.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

May 8, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for newly arrived Active Duty and Civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

### Hearts Apart Social

May 8, 4:30-6:30 a.m., social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel, information, refreshments, and activities. Please RSVP when invitations are received. Headcount of attendance prior to event is critical for planning and preparation. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

### Ten Steps to a Federal Job

May 9, 10-11 a.m., Workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search for federal employment, To register call 434-2790.

5 p.m. – Dinner (summer break — resumes Aug. 22)  
6 p.m. – Religious Education: (summer break — resumes Aug. 22)  
**Saturday:**  
7 a.m. – Men’s Monthly Breakfast and Study—*Twelve Ordinary Men* (2nd Sat)

### Vacation Bible School

The Columbus AFB Chapel is excited to present this year’s “Sky” Vacation Bible School to the BLAZE community. This year’s “Sky” theme will remind children that by trusting God, everything is possible. With “Sky” VBS, the sky’s the limit! It will run from June 4 to 8 at the Base Chapel. For registration information, age requirements, or volunteer opportunities on this ecumenical Christian event, please contact the Base Chapel at 434-2500.



# A variety of activities are offered to base families

## Moms Golf Free!

In honor of Mother's Day, moms golf free at Whispering Pines Golf Course all day Sun., May 13, with a paying spouse or child. This deal is for greens fees only. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

## Mother's Day Brunch

The Columbus Club wants to help you celebrate the great mother in your family with a Champagne brunch Sun., May 13. Reservations are required with seating beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continuing every 30 minutes until 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$16 for members and \$18 for nonmembers. For children ages 5-11, the cost is \$5 for members' children and \$7 for nonmembers' children. Ages 5 and under eat free. To make reservations or for more information, drop by or call the Club at 434-2489 or 434-2471.

## Arts and Crafts Loves Moms!

In honor of Mother's Day, Art and Crafts is offering specials at both the framing and engraving shop as well as at Auto Hobby during the entire month of May. Take an additional 5 percent off the already incredibly low prices on all framing and engraving orders over \$30, or receive a free vehicle check with every oil change/tire rotation combination purchased. The vehicle check includes checking all belts, hoses, fluids and brakes (a \$25 value). For more information, call framing and engraving at 434-7836 or Auto at 434-7842.

## NAF Sealed Bid Sale

The 14th Force Support Squadron will have a sealed bid sale of various NAF items and equipment on May 18 at Outdoor Recreation. Items will be available for viewing during normal business hours May 14 – 18 at ODR. All items will be sold as is, and minimum bids will be posted. Bids will be opened at 1 p.m. on May 18, and the high bidder will be notified the same day. All purchasers must hold a valid military ID or CAC card. Call ODR at 434-2505 or 434-2507 for more information.

## Something FREE for Everyone

Get ready for a day of FREE fun for the entire BLAZE family on Sat., May 19. The day starts at 9 a.m. with the Name That Park Celebration and America's Kids Run Kick Off at the current "Park With No Name" at the corner of Downs St. and Simler Blvd. Following the ribbon cutting, unveiling of the new park name and announcement of the winner of the FREE pizza party in the "Name That Park" contest, the America's Kids Run will start at 9:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to participate in the run. Register at [www.americaskisrun.org](http://www.americaskisrun.org) or call the Youth Center at 434-2504 for more information. Refreshments will be served following the run. Single and Unaccompanied Airman can leave base at 11 a.m. with FREE transportation to Memphis in May to enjoy world-class barbecue and top-notch live music. Space is limited to the first 33 registrants. For more information on this trip, contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505 or 434-7861. For those folks remaining in town or on base, the 14th Force Support Squadron also is offering a FREE PG-13 comedy and variety show at Kaye Auditorium at 7 p.m. Please see the advertisement on this page for more information on this great date night event or direct questions to us on Facebook at CAFB FSS Rocks.

## U GOT TALENT?!

Columbus AFB amateur performers can strut their stuff on stage at Kaye Auditorium, Thurs., May 31, 6:30 p.m. at the annu-

**FREE ADMISSION**

**OPERATION MAGIC**

**RATED PG-13**

**A COMEDY AND VARIETY SHOW**  
**SAT • MAY 19 • 7 PM • KAYE AUDITORIUM**

**FEATURING:**



**THE BORNSTEIN EXPERIMENT**  
A rare mix of comedy, mind reading & magic! You may recognize Jeff Bornstein (American Idol, actor, stuntman & Army Veteran) from Comedy Central, "The Long Show," "Art of the Party II," "The Book of" and "The Spectator" where he got kicked out by "Sawyer" Stalans. Together with his lovely mind-reading wife, Kimberly, they produce OPERATION MAGIC, an emotion-inducing variety variety.



**DAVID BECK**  
Versatile, high-energy & real-life comedy! Regular on the national comedy clubs, David Beck has a resume full of radio and television appearances including The Sports Illustrated, the nationally-syndicated Bob & Tom Show, the Sports Comedy Zone Network and Night 100 & 1000 common sense radio. He'll engage you with one-liners and one-liners of the social commentary while keeping you laughing!

**GREAT DATE NIGHT EVENT**  
OR JUST A  
**FUN, FREE EVENT**  
WITH FRIENDS!

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
Ask us on Facebook at CAFB FSS Rocks!

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE  
**FORCE**  
SUPPORT SQUADRON

al U Got Talent! Family Talent Show and Competition. Sign up by May 22 in these categories: ages 6-8; ages 9-12; ages 13-18; and Group or Family. Participants may enter in solo/individual act, vocal, instrumental, performance or specialty. For more information, contact Mr. Hamilton at 434-2504.

## May Bowling Specials

Attention, Students! Strike Zone Lanes has an After Class Pack Special every Mon. – Fri., 2 – 5 p.m., throughout the month of May. A game of bowling with shoes, hot dog and small soda is only \$5. Also, don't miss Dollar Days every Thursday, 2 p.m. – close, all month long. Enjoy bowling games, shoe rental, hot dogs, sodas and domestic drafts...all for just \$1 each. FAM-tastic Saturdays and Sundays offer family and friends and afternoon of Cosmic Bowling from 2 – 4 p.m. with unlimited games, a hot dog, small soda and shoe rental...all for just \$8 per person. Bowling punch cards are back on sale with 10 games for \$10, 25 games for \$20 and 50 games for \$40. Finally, Bingo at the Bowling Center is back for just \$1 per card. Also, check out the Summer Sizzling Specials to win great prizes for your patronage. Call the Bowling Center at 434-3426 or 3577 for more information.

## Pool Opens May 26

Independence Pool is set to open May 26, and pool passes go

on sale at Outdoor Recreation May 7. These passes will NOT be sold at the pool or the Columbus Club, but only at ODR. Swim lessons are scheduled in two-week increments throughout the summer for all ages and all skill levels. Stop by or call ODR at 434-2505 for more information.

## Club Scholarships Up for Grabs!

Application packages for the \$1,000 scholarships are due at the Columbus Club or in the Force Support Squadron front office (Bldg. 730, Rm. 231) by Mon., July 2, 2012. Air Force Club members in good standing and their family members who have been accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry for the Fall 2012 term as part-time or full-time students in either undergraduate or graduate programs are eligible. Entry forms with rules and full eligibility requirements are available at the Club, Library, Education Center and in the foyer of the MSG Building. Or go to [www.afclubs.net](http://www.afclubs.net) for more information.

## Massage Therapy is Back!

Massage therapy is available by appointment only at the Fitness Center. Swedish massage is just \$35 for 30 minutes, \$60 for 60 minutes and \$90 for 90 minutes. Therapeutic/deep tissue massage is \$45 for 30 minutes, \$70 for 60 minutes and \$100 for 90 minutes. Reflexology is \$35 for 30 minutes, and a chair massage is \$1 per minute. Call Terrance Bonner at 662-251-9255 for an appointment.

## Living Fit for Families

USAF FitFamily has created a tool to help your family get into the best shape of your lives with a simple, easy-to-use weight loss program designed just for you. We know you're busy, and this program is sure to fit your lifestyle and needs. Just create a plan. Follow it. Lose weight. It's that simple. The program includes menu plans and other weight loss tools. Sign up today at [www.usaffitfamil.com](http://www.usaffitfamil.com).

## Daily Fitness Classes Available

Columbus AFB Fitness & Sports offers a variety of heart-pumping, sweat-inducing classes throughout the week including weekday spin classes, Mon., 11 a.m., Wed., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m. There's a Stroller Fitness Class, Tues., 9 a.m., beginning at Freedom Park. Come check out Zumba every Tues. and Thurs., 11:30 a.m., and circuit training classes on Tues. and Thurs., 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 434-2772 or go online to [www.cafbssrocks.com](http://www.cafbssrocks.com) and click on the link to the Fitness page.

## Check Out the New Books!

The Columbus AFB Library is now receiving a steady flow of new books to include adult bestsellers and children's new favorites. Also, soon to arrive are new teen books and updates to the non-fiction collection. Stop by your Base Library today to see what's arrived so far!

## Car Maintenance on Base

Don't forget you can get your general automotive maintenance and repairs at the Auto Hobby Shop right here on base and even while you work. If you are a do-it-yourselfer or shade-tree mechanic, Auto Hobby offers a wide array of tools and equipment. For more information and pricing, drop by Auto Hobby or call 434-7842.

# Air Force leader talks about future of ISR

**Tech. Sgt. Jess D. Harvey**  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — Air Force leadership reinforced the critical nature and future of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions April 26 to a group of civic and industry leaders as well as media members attending the Air Force Association's monthly breakfast in Arlington, Va.

The Air Force Association's breakfast program is a monthly series that provides a venue for senior Air Force and Department of Defense leaders to communicate directly with the public and the press.

The key speaker, Lt. Gen. Larry D. James, the deputy chief of staff for ISR at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, spoke about how ISR is done today, and where it is headed in the future.

Right now, there are more than 20,000 Airmen working ISR missions on a daily basis, according to James. Of that number, more than 1,000 are deployed across all combatant command areas executing joint-service missions right now. They are collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating more than 1.3 million megabytes of information per day, said the general.

"The Air Force truly is all in when it comes to conducting this ISR mission in support of our joint partners around the globe," said James. "If you look across the ISR enterprise, we fly about 1,500 hours of airborne ISR missions every day."

He said that includes more than 1,000 hours of full-motion video daily, as well. The Airmen then take this information and produce more

than 1,400 intelligence products each day. The Air Force then fuses intelligence information and brings it to partners through a flexible global network called the Distributed Common Ground System.

"So I would offer, frankly, that this is probably the gold standard of today in terms of intelligence processing capability on a global scale," said James.

The general said that the Air Force is now looking at how these large amounts of data are being used, and more importantly, how they will be used in the future. Specifically, he said, the Air Force is examining how the ISR enterprise needs to look in the next decades.

The future of ISR is going to be network-centric, he said, with the information being readily available in a way that is efficient and useable. He said in the future, the speed and effectiveness of analysts using these huge amounts of information will be more crucial than ever before.

"You have to have the ability to reach into the network or reach into the cloud, however you want to define that, and gather the data you need to get as an analyst to solve the problem you've been given," James said.

That means developing a common architecture that allows data to be moved from all domains and across dissimilar platforms rapidly and efficiently.

"Over the course of the last 10 years, we been very good at operating in a permissive environment with airborne capabilities," the general said.

However, the prospect of operating in a non-permissive environment is driving ISR requirements of the future. For instance, during the outset of



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Tiffany Trojca

**Lt. Gen. Larry D. James speaks April 26, 2012, during the Air Force Association breakfast at the Crystal City Marriott, Va. The AFA breakfast program is a monthly series that provides a venue for senior Air Force and Defense Department leaders to communicate directly with the public and the press. James is the deputy chief of staff for ISR at Headquarters Air Force.**

conflict in an A2/AD (anti-access/area denial) environment, ISR capabilities that are currently available from remotely piloted vehicles like the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper would be severely limited.

Non-traditional ISR platforms, such as the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II, both of which have an array of sensors that can be used as intelligence collectors, are capable of and may be used for gathering intelligence inside non-permissive environments, he said. But, these capabilities do not traditionally feed into Air Force ISR, so there is work to be done in integrating non-traditional ISR sources into the global ISR enterprise.

"Ultimately, from an ISR perspective, one of the things that we're definitely driving to is that this problem-set requires solutions that we bring information in from every domain — air, space and cyber," James said. "So, how you gather information from each of those domains is going to be extremely important."

# ACC confident in F-22

**Tech. Sgt. Amy Robinson**  
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command, talked with media here April 30 about the national security imperative for the F-22, the status of efforts to identify a root cause for unexplained physiological incidents, and risk mitigation efforts since the Raptor's return to flying operations in September 2011.

Confirming recent media reports of the F-22 deploying to Southwest Asia, Hostage emphasized the Raptor's ability to support combatant commander requirements around the world.

"I won't comment where it's deployed to or where it deployed from, but yes, the F-22 is on an operational deployment now. And this is not the first operational deployment," he said. "If your adversary is so concerned about what your capabilities are they decide not to engage with you, that to me is the ultimate use of your military capability. People pay attention to where this airplane goes and what it does...we need to make sure that it's a sustained part of our inventory."

The command-directed stand down from May to September 2011 was a prudent measure following reports of potential oxygen system malfunctions. Since the stand down, ACC has implemented a number of risk mitigation measures intended to protect F-22 pilots and maintenance crews and prevent future incidents.

Hostage said he understands there are still concerns about the aircraft; however, he explained that there's always a certain amount of risk involved, and the risk must be balanced with the requirement for the capability.

"In a peacetime training circumstance, we want to operate at as low of risk is prudent for the level of training we get out of a mission," he said. "When we go into combat, risk goes up, but the reason to assume that risk goes up as well.

"We live in a community where risk is part of our lives," he said. "If we think the risk has gone to a level where we just can't accept it, we either reduce that risk or eliminate it. But right now, we believe that risk — although it's not as low as we would like it — is low enough to safely operate the airplane at the current tempo."

Hostage said he believes this risk is not a risk he expects his Airmen to take alone. In an effort to learn more about the aircraft and get a better understanding of what F-22 pilots are

dealing with, ACC's commander will soon begin flying the Raptor.

"I'm asking these guys to assume some risk that's over and above what everybody else is assuming, and I don't feel like it's right that I ask them to do it and then I'm not willing to do it myself — that's not fair," he said, adding that the day they figure out what the problem is the day he will stop flying.

Since the aircraft resumed flying operations in September, the F-22 has flown more than 12,000 sorties and returned to operational capability.

"We've taken a very specific, methodical approach to how we return to flying — the types of missions and the durations of the missions," said Maj. Gen. Charles Lyon, ACC director of operations. "We've been continually increasing the types and durations."

The Air Force continues to search for the root cause of the unexplained physiological incidents using detailed data-collection methods, which will soon include centrifuge and high-energy testing. Hostage said he believes the command is making significant progress toward an answer; however, he emphasized that scientific testing and data collection take time.

"I believe we are making significant progress toward an answer," said Hostage. "I don't want to characterize how far or when because I don't own the progress of science. But I am confident we're going to get to a solution."

Both Lyon and Hostage compared this to the early days of the F-16.

Although the first F-16 had its first operational flight in 1970, the combat edge aircrew flight equipment, which was optimized for high-G flight, wasn't fielded until about 1988, Lyon said.

"We didn't field it slowly because we had fiscal challenges — it took us that long to get the understanding over time of what was actually happening."

Hostage illustrated a similar analogy regarding the unknown effects of human physiology and technology.

"What we're looking at is human physiology and the regime this airplane operates in," he said. "This airplane does things airplanes have never done before in regimes of flight that we've never operated in before."

And Hostage said he's confident they will find a solution for what he calls "the most tactically-capable aircraft in the world."

"This nation needs this airplane — and every one of them," he said. "I wish I had ten times as many as I have."



# “See Me, Save Me!”

**Lt. Col. Lee Gentile**  
14th Flying Training Wing Safety

We do not see them, but they are there! Every day, Team BLAZE Airmen and local community members ride their motorcycles to work, to the store, or just to enjoy the freedom of the open road. However, most motorists do not see motorcycles because we are not looking for them...the motorcycles just blend into the surroundings.

Most of us have experienced this phenomena after purchasing a new car. Think back to your most recent purchase. Did you notice how many Jeeps or Mustangs or Explorers were on the road until you purchased one? In most cases the answer is ‘No’ because it was just another car. The same holds true for motorcycles...we do not see them because we are not consciously aware of their presence. Yet, unlike not seeing a specific type of vehicle, not seeing a motorcycle can have tragic consequences.

Unfortunately, there are over 45 motorcycle accident fatalities in Mississippi every year. Almost 75% of these fatal accidents involved a collision with another vehicle and in most cases the motorists said ‘I didn’t see them!’ Yes, motorcycles are hard to see but if we are distracted while driving or not actively looking for them, motorcycles are nearly impossible to see.

The most dangerous location is the transition from rural driving to urban driving because

drivers are more susceptible to distraction as their minds shift from the relaxed nature of driving on the open road to the chaotic environment of traffic, neon signs, and congestion. For Team BLAZE Airmen, this point is along Highway 45 between Spivey and Bluecutt; the location of a Team BLAZE motorcycle fatality in November 2011.

In order to prevent fatal accidents, Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard members are required to wear brightly colored riding gear during the day and retro-reflective riding gear at night. These simple, but effective, measures help drivers notice the otherwise small profile of a motorcycle and help motorists see and avoid motorcycles.

But what can the rest of us do. It’s easy. Put the cell phone away! Distracted drivers are 280 percent more likely to be in a traffic accident than those who focus on the road. Look twice! Motorcycles, especially those travelling straight at you, are small and difficult to see. And most importantly, assume that motorcycles are everywhere, because they are!

This month, focus on looking for motorcycles...you’ll be surprised how many are on the road. By increasing your awareness, you will drastically improve your chances of seeing them and saving them so they can return home to their wives, husbands, moms, dads, and children.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**Basic Qualified Lane Russell, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, explains boating regulations to local resident Jay Taylor at the Market Street Festival on May 5. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Columbus Air Force Base were just a few of the organizations at the festival offering safety information.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**Lt. Col. Lee Gentile, 14th Flying Training Wing Chief of Safety talks with Lonnie Sellers, a local resident and future motorcycle rider about the local “See Me, Save Me” motorcycle safety campaign on May 5 at the Columbus Market Street Festival. “See Me, Save Me” is part of May’s Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**David Victory shows Willie Robinson a pair of leg chaps designed for protection against chainsaw accidents while discussing power tools at a safety booth at the Columbus Market Street Festival on May 5. The booth was one of many promoting summer safety campaigns.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**Green Knights Chapter 6 participated at the Columbus Market Street Festival to promote motorcycle safety. The Green Knights is an international independent organization that works to bring together DoD and base personnel to form a safe and open motorcycle riding community.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Chase Hedrick  
**Kirk Adams, a Columbus resident listens as Senior Airman Ross Crimaldi, 14th Comptroller Squadron, explains some of the events the Sports Club of America hosts in the local area to promote driving safety. The SCCA is scheduled to host a driving safety course on Columbus Air Force Base May 19.**