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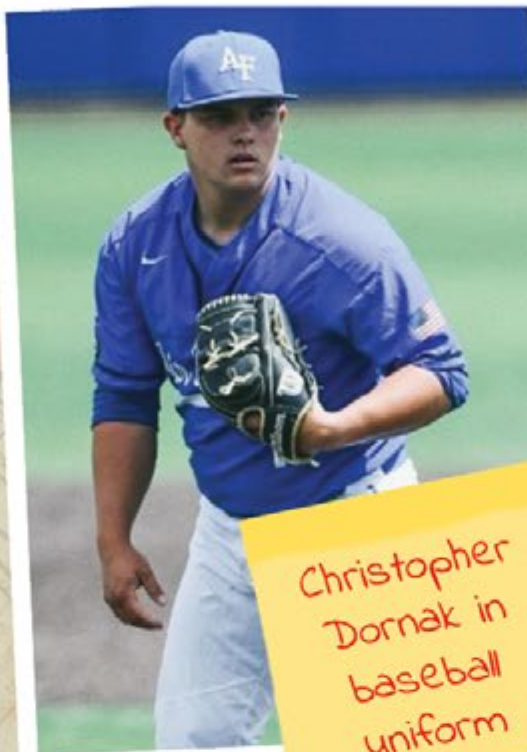
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RADIO CHATTER

THOUGHTS FROM THE COCKPIT



Christopher Dornak in baseball uniform

From Pitcher to Pilot

Transitioning from the pitcher's mound to the cockpit, Christopher Dornak's journey embodies resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As a standout pitcher for the United States Air Force Academy Falcons baseball team, Dornak's four-year tenure culminated in a memorable graduation in 2022. With the same fervor and work ethic, he embarked on a new chapter: Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base.

Reflecting on his final season with the baseball team, Dornak recalls the shared goal of ending on a high note. "The goal for the 2021-2022 season was clear: 'Go Out on Top,'" he reminisces. The pivotal moment came during the Mountain West Championship's final game, where Dornak found himself on the mound, fueled by the support of his teammates, coaches, and the roaring crowd. "I stepped off the mound, looked over at the dugout, and saw my best friends for the past four years, all rooting me on," he recalls. Their collective energy propelled them to victory, securing a spot in the Regional Series at the University of Texas.

Post-graduation, Dornak was assigned to the 14 Student Squadron, where he seamlessly transitioned his skills from the diamond to the classroom. Drawing parallels between the intensity of baseball training and the demands of pilot training, Dornak emphasizes the importance of camaraderie, mutual growth, and

support among peers. "In both arenas, success is not solely individual but thrives on collaboration and unity," he asserts.

Arriving at Columbus AFB, Dornak recognized the parallels between the teamwork required on the baseball field and in the cockpit. Embracing the challenges and opportunities of pilot training, he integrated critical thinking, multitasking, and teamwork into his approach. "Transitioning from baseball to flying felt natural, and I immediately recognized what I learned at the Academy was what I needed here in UPT" Dornak states.

Within his squadron, Dornak found a sense of fellowship and purpose, propelling him forward on his journey as a pilot. "The overwhelming support and encouragement from my teammates and instructors have been invaluable," he acknowledges. "Their guidance and camaraderie have fueled my passion for flying."

Christopher Dornak's transition from pitcher to pilot is a testament to the seamless integration of skills, experiences, and values across disciplines. His journey serves as an inspiration, highlighting the power of determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence, whether on the field or in the sky.

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HITTING THE TARGET

Matthew Carmack loved living in Alaska and enjoying the great outdoors. He served as a contracting officer for the M-1 maintenance contract at Eielson Air Force Base. Every spare moment of his time was spent with nature. Carmack welcomed the Southern way of living when he had a permanent change of station to Columbus Air Force Base. He embraced the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors in a warmer climate. As a newcomer to Columbus, he sought out events offered by the base and discovered the Skeet and Trap Range. "I was so excited to see the Columbus Skeet and Trap Range because I've been shooting for over twenty years."

Carmack discovered that the Skeet and Trap Range needed someone to bring it back to life. He set out to restore the range in his spare time, with some help from volunteers. In October of 2023, Carmack initiated the process by collaborating with the 14th Security Forces Squadron, with one of their volunteers overseeing the legal aspects of transporting, storing, and registering firearms for use on the base. Subsequently, range certification was mandated for operating and managing the range during sessions. Active-duty volunteers from diverse units across the base, including the 14th Security Forces and the 14th Student Squadron, gathered to clean and refurbish the range. "This project took about 10 volunteers to clean up. It took a couple of hours to pull weeds, sweep, vacuum the broken clays out of the trap houses, mow, knock down a metric ton of dirt dobber nests, and then clean and lube the machines. Every week a few of us end up putting in a couple of hours behind the scenes for upkeep and maintenance," Carmack says.

With the groundwork laid, the next step was to generate interest within the community. Carmack collaborated with the Force Support Squadron's marketing team, Public Affairs, and Wing leadership to promote small shooting events during the week, leading up to the grand reopening event in January of 2024. On the chilly morning of the reopening, with temperatures at a frosty eighteen degrees following a recent storm, Carmack arrived at the range. "After I made a quick trip back to Outdoor Recreation for final supplies, I returned to find twenty cars in the parking lot and a large crowd eager to participate, and I was so excited! I realized the resurgence was evident, and I can see a future with regular tournaments every quarter and open shooting sessions every Friday night and Saturday morning," Carmack states.

Reflecting on the journey, Carmack emphasized the collective effort involved. "I acknowledge the volunteer team's dedication, recognizing their crucial role in revitalizing the program. I want the volunteers to know the time spent is appreciated." He expressed gratitude and shared, "going forward, we are hoping to get the attendance up enough to allow us to purchase rental shotguns, purchase additional machines to expand the range, and upgrade existing machines for more reliable shooting. We are always looking for different groups of people to come out and shoot whether it's youth groups, brand new shooters, or seasoned veterans; it doesn't matter to us as long as the members continue to find enjoyment in sport shooting."

Please contact Outdoor Recreation for more information at (662) 434-2505.

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MANAGER FOR MORE INFORMATION
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DISCOVER UNITY

EXPLORING THE AIR FORCE'S UNITE PROGRAM

In the dynamic landscape of the Air Force community, fostering unity and resilience among squadrons is essential. It's about more than just achieving mission objectives; it's about building strong bonds that withstand the rigors of military life. The Unite Program is a multi-faceted initiative designed to cultivate and support camaraderie through engaging recreational activities.

The Unite Program, born from the Air Force's Recharge for Resiliency (R4R) program in 2019, stands as a beacon of fellowship and support within the Air Force community. Alongside pillars like Single Airmen and RecOn, Unite swiftly gained recognition for its pivotal role in bolstering unit cohesion. Credited by the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee (SPRIC) as a promising endeavor, the program is deeply committed to enhancing the well-being and morale of its service members.

At its core, the Unite Program is all-encompassing, serving every Airman within a unit, regardless of their status—be they Active-Duty Air Force members, Air Force APF/NAF civilians, or AF Reservists. This inclusive ethos ensures that every individual has access to the support and camaraderie fostered by Unite.

Unit commanders and directors are key players in the execution of resources that benefit Airmen under their authority. Empowered by the program, these leaders have a multitude of avenues to facilitate team-building events, activities, and programs.

Financial support provided by the Unite Program ensures that squadrons can execute resiliency activities without constraints. Offering \$13.50 per DOD ID and food/beverage funding of \$5.00 per DOD ID number



Unite can also assist with funds and booking for FSS facilities, rentals, food services, and other resources on Columbus Air Force Base

per calendar year, the program provides ample resources for engaging activities.

Coordination of events within each squadron under the Unite Program is facilitated by Ms. Gwendolyn Granderson, the Community Cohesion Coordinator. In her role, Granderson ensures that events align with the Unite initiative's objectives and maintains funding integrity.

Granderson emphasizes the Unite Program's commitment to providing squadron leaders with maximum flexibility in developing and delivering programs tailored to the unique needs of their units. Offering a range of customizable options, participants can choose activities both on and off the base, from reserving FSS facilities to organizing off-base excursions.

From exploring the Memphis Music Hall of Fame to engaging in team-building activities like escape rooms, Unite funds allow for memorable experiences beyond Columbus. Granderson serves as a catalyst, unlocking funding and facilitating fun-filled adventures for the entire team.

Granderson expresses, "Think of me as your squadron's secret weapon, unlocking funding and fun-filled adventures for the whole team! From team-building escapades to laughter-filled moments, energizing your squadron isn't just a perk—it's the jet fuel that propels us toward mission success!"

For those intrigued by the Unite Program and eager to learn more, contacting Gwendolyn Granderson is the first step toward unlocking a world of camaraderie and support within the Air Force community.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Granderson

Unite Program Coordinator

Office: (662) 434-2328

Email: gwendolyn.granderson.3@us.af.mil



PICTURED:

Mrs. Granderson
Unite Program
Coordinator.
In her office in
the Blaze
commons, 2024



Unite can assist with funds, trip planning, and off base events for all squadrons. ALL squadrons qualify, and all squadrons have easy access to these free funds for team morale boosting programs.

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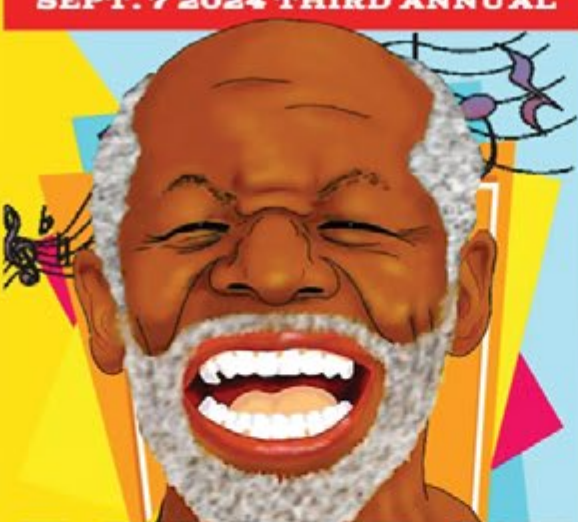
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- NAF Human Resources Office**
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Amber Meiborg
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Latasha Jones-Swoope
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arts & Crafts Center ■ Bowling Center ■ Event Center ■ Kaye Auditorium ■ Library ■ Military & Family Readiness ■ Outdoor Rec ■ Youth Programs ■ Fitness Center ■ Wing Event ■ Special Event 	<h2>YOUR REFRIGERATOR FRIENDLY MONTHLY CALENDAR!</h2>		<p>The Arts & Crafts Center will be taking submissions for the Air Force Art Contest over the month of March. Contact Abby Jenkins, Arts & Crafts Director, at (662) 434-7856 for more information.</p>		<p>The Youth Center is now offering <i>Guitar Lessons!</i> Contact <i>Tijuana McDonald</i> at (662) 434-2504 for more information.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT NIGHT IFF GRADUATION LUNCH & LEARN: ANCESTRY / FOLD 3 1200, Library</p> <p>FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS! 1100-1400, Event Center</p> <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY 1700-2000, Bowling Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>COSMIC SATURDAYS 1000-2000, Bowling Center</p> <p>STORYTIME - DR. SEUSS READ ACROSS AMERICA 1000-1100, Library</p> <p>NIGHT TOURNAMENT 1730, Skeet & Trap Range</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
		<p>STORYTIME - FEMALE PILOTS 1000-1100, Library</p> <p>YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATIONS BEGIN Youth Center</p>	<p>WING NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION 0800-1600, M&FRC</p> <p>NATIONAL DAY OF UNPLUGGING 1000, Library</p> <p>YOUTH OF THE YEAR SEND OFF 1600, Youth Center</p>	<p>TAP PRE-SEPARATION GROUP COUNSELING 0930-1100, M&FRC</p> <p>TRAINING CLOSURE 1200-1630, M&FRC</p> <p>CAFB BOOK CLUB 1800, Library</p>	<p>FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS! 1100-1400, Event Center</p> <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY 1700-2000, Bowling Center</p>	<p>STORYTIME - FEMALE PILOTS 1000-1100, Library</p> <p>COSMIC SATURDAYS 1000-2000, Bowling Center</p>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
	<p>BABYSITTING COURSE 1600-1800, YOUTH CENTER ANNEX</p> <p>TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WORKSHOP 0730-1600, M&FRC</p>		<p>STORYTIME - PLANT A FLOWER 1000-1100, Library</p>	<p>YOUTH ADVISORY CLUB 1530, Library</p>	<p>TRAINING CLOSURE 1200-1630, M&FRC</p>	<p>UPT 24-06 GRADUATION</p> <p>FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS! 1100-1400, Event Center</p> <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY 1700-2000, Bowling Center</p>	<p>SPRING FLING 0930, Child Development Center</p> <p>STORYTIME - ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1000-1100, Library</p> <p>COSMIC SATURDAYS 1000-2000, Bowling Center</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	<p>AMF-F 24-07 GRADUATION FBF GRADUATION</p>	<p>BUNDLES FOR BABIES 0800-1600, M&FRC</p> <p>STORYTIME - MARDI GRAS 1000-1100, Library</p>	<p>WING NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION 0800-1600, M&FRC</p> <p>ROCK PAINTING 1500, Library</p>	<p>TRAINING CLOSURE 1200-1630, M&FRC</p> <p>CAFB BOOK CLUB 1800, Library</p>	<p>ASSIGNMENT NIGHT GPT 24-07 GRADUATION</p> <p>FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS! 1100-1400, Event Center</p> <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY 1700-2000, Bowling Center</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL DAY YOUTH CENTER</p>	<p>STORYTIME - PUPPIES 1000-1100, Library</p> <p>COSMIC SATURDAYS 1000-2000, Bowling Center</p>		
<p>SPRING BREAK CAMP 0630-1730, YOUTH CENTER</p>								
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
<p>SPRING BREAK CAMP (cont)</p>								
31	<p>STORYTIME - EASTER 1000-1100, Library</p>		<p>ENLISTED PROMOTIONS BOSS & BUDDY 1630, Event Center</p>	<p>TRAINING CLOSURE 1200-1630, M&FRC</p> <p>TRIVIA NIGHT 1730, Event Center</p>	<p>IFF GRADUATION</p> <p>FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS! 1100-1400, Event Center</p> <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRENZY 1700-2000, Bowling Center</p>	<p>COSMIC SATURDAYS 1000-2000, Bowling Center</p> <p>STORYTIME - EASTER 1000-1100, Library</p>		
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YOUTH Baseball

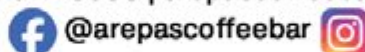
REGISTRATION BEGINS
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5 MARCH

SEASON STARTS
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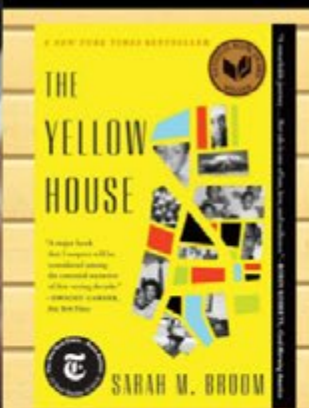
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- Game Truck
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EFPM – 1020

0-2 year olds – 1040

3-4 year olds – 1100

5-7 year olds – 1120

8-10 year olds – 1140

11+ – 1200

Contact Latasha Jones-Swoope - Youth Center
Director at (662) 434-2504 for more info

