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# SILVER WINGS

“Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT”





Vol. 43, Issue 25

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

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## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  Partly Cloudy w/chc of Thunderstorms High 91°F Low 72°F	<b>Saturday</b>  Partly Cloudy w/chc of Rain High 89°F Low 72°F
<b>Sunday</b>  Partly Cloudy w/chc of Rain High 83°F Low 73°F	<b>Monday</b>  Partly Cloudy w/chc of Rain High 87°F Low 71°F

Forecast provided by the 14<sup>th</sup> OSS Weather Flight

## News Briefs

### Wing Newcomers

A Wing Newcomers will begin at 8 a.m., July 16 in the Kaye Auditorium. Newcomers is mandatory for all newly arrived military and Department of Defense civilian personnel. This base-wide connection orientation consists of a guided base tour. You must register with your unit command support staff to attend due to limited space on the bus.

### Storytellers Resiliency Event

Join fellow Team BLAZE members from 9-11 a.m., July 18 in the Columbus Club to hear stories of personal challenges and triumphs.

### 14th Medical Group Change of Command

A change of command ceremony will begin at 9:14 a.m., July 22. Join the 14th Medical Group in welcoming their new commander at the Club.

## Inside



Feature 8

The BLAZE Fest celebration is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

Five members from Undergraduate Pilot Training class 71-01, nicknamed “First of the Finest,” stand in front of the T-27 Tweet static display, July 3, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The members of UPT Class 71-01 stepped onto the base with a sense of familiarity, unanimously saying that although the base looked different, it felt distinctly similar to their time here 50 years ago. The member's began their journey in UPT on July 17, 1969.

# 5 ‘First of the Finest’ graduates visit Columbus 50 years later

Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Five classmates from the first Undergraduate Pilot Training Class toured their old home, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 3.

The members of UPT Class 71-01 stepped onto the base with a sense of familiarity, unanimously saying that although the base looked different, it felt distinctly similar to their time here 50 years ago. The member's began their journey in UPT

See GRADUATES, Page 3

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II		PHASE III		IFF		WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Track Select	Squadron	Graduation	Squadron	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (20-08)	Aug. 5	48th (19-19)	July 26	49th (19-KBC)	Aug. 20	T-6	766	762	22,130
41st (20-07)	July 23	50th (19-19)	July 26			T-1	270	213	7,029
						T-38	331	263	8,526
						IFF	127	121	3,505

Col. Sloan Hollis, Vice Commander of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, is the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class's 19-19/20 Graduation at 10 a.m., July 26 in the Kaye Auditorium.

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.



# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 53 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

*Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.*

# Silver Wings new schedule

Recently, the Silver Wings publications schedule has adjusted to a new format. Publications will now produce two issues a month with SUPT Graduations a part of those issues.

2019	2020
July 26	January 10
August 16	January 24
August 30	February 7
September 13	February 28
September 27	March 13
October 11	March 27
October 25	April 10
November 8	April 24
November 15	May 15
December 6	May 29
December 13	June 12
	June 26
	July 10

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
15	16 Wing New-comers, 8 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	17 AFRC Education & Job Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ Club	18 Storyteller's Resiliency Event, 9-11 a.m. @ Club	19 Col. Denham Retirement Ceremony, 2:14 p.m. @ Club	20/21	July 30: Wing Newcomers July 31: Quarterly Awards/Enlisted Promotions Aug. 2: SUPT Class 19-21/22 Assignment Night Aug. 13: Wing Newcomers Aug. 16: SUPT Class 19-21/22 Graduation Aug. 19: National Aviation Day Aug. 20: IFF Class 19KBC Graduation Aug. 22: Class 19-6 ALS Graduation Aug. 27: Wing Newcomers
22 14th MDG Change of Command, 9:14 a.m. @ Club	23 IFF Class 19JBC Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS Heritage Room	24	25	26 SUPT Class 19-19/20 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	27/28	

# 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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*Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14 FTW Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

*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.*

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## GRADUATES

(Continued from page 1)

on July 17, 1969.

Capt. Jeremy Dunbar, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, was the event coordinator for the 71-01 50th anniversary.

"Today was an incredible opportunity for Team BLAZE to experience our heritage and hear about what pilot training was like 50 years ago," Dunbar said.

Two of the class members, Robert Lacey and retired Col. James Donnelly, were able to fly in a T-1A Jayhawk with the 48th Flying Training Squadron. The other three members of 71-01, retired Brig. Gen. Raymond Franck, retired Maj. William Buchanan, and retired Capt. William Hodges, flew T-6 Texan II, T-1 Jayhawk and T-38 Talon simulators to experience Columbus AFB from the virtual skies.

After the flight and simulator experiences they met with Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, for a welcome and wing mission brief.

Following their brief, they toured the T-6 Texan II flying training squadrons, and reminisced about their time in the T-37 Tweets. They asked questions about the current flying training atmosphere and experienced flying the new virtual reality T-6 trainers with the innovation flight.

The five pilots also had the opportunity to see the unveiling of the 50th Flying Training Squadron's heritage aircraft. The 50th FTS had been a part of the 71-01 class training, where Hodges, a 14th OG simulator instructor pilot, had taken the first T-38 Talon flight off of Columbus AFB runways.

"We really wanted this unveiling to be part of the event today, in particular, because of the history of this squadron and the pursuit of our heritage as a pilot training wing," said Col. Derek Stuart, 14th Operations Group commander.

Ending the 50th anniversary event, the "First of the Finest" were read aloud their yearbook bios written while they attended pilot training many years ago. They followed their bios with a final words and sincere a "thank you."

"It was unique in that when we came, we were the first people to be here, the base was empty at first, but today it's very much its own small community," Donnelly said. "I appreciate the walk down memory lane and seeing the growth from our first months at Columbus. Capt. Dunbar had really done a great job facilitating the tour and showing us the highlights of the base as it stands today."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Be...

**ABOVE:** Retired Col. James Donnelly, Undergraduate Pilot Training class 71-01 graduate, speaks with 14th Operations Group leadership July 3, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Five Classmates from the 71-01 class visited Columbus AFB 50 years after their pilot training began and attended the 50th Flying Training Squadron's heritage aircraft unveiling.

**RIGHT:** Robert Lacey, Undergraduate Pilot Training class 71-01 graduate, takes a photo during a T-1A Jayhawk flight July 3, 2019, in Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. air-space. Two Undergraduate Pilot Training 71-01 class members, retired Col. James Donnelly and Robert Lacey, were able to fly in a T-1A with the 48th Flying Training Squadron during their UPT class's 50th anniversary.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Be...



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# Retired brigadier general encourages SUPT Class 19-17/18 graduates

**Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Retired Brig. Gen. John Cherrey, former Director of Intelligence, Operations and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, spoke at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class's 19-17/18 graduation June 28, in the Kaye Auditorium.

Cherrey spoke about his last 30 years as a pilot and wanted the newest generation of aviators to understand how important their job is.

"What you do every day matters," Cherrey said. "What you do matters because it's in a special way that you make the mission work. Whatever it is that you are delivering or doing, it does matter and the takeoff and landings just assures that it's done safely."

He expanded upon the theme of what the pilots do matter through their training in SUPT.

"It starts out with the people that brought you this far," Cherrey said. "The instructor pilots out there, they know it matters. They all came from different [airframes] and that's why they're so passionate about making sure that every landing matters."

He continued with the professionalism and responsibility it takes to be able to be put on the spot with a situation and have the knowledge to quickly and accurately respond to each respective situation with ease.

Cherrey furthered the theme by speaking of the first assignment instructor pilots and how they impact the mission.

"To the soon-to-be FAIPS, I appreciate everything that you do, the work that you put in to make [the students] the greatest pilots in the world," Cherrey said. "You're going to

teach the next generation of people, so I want to thank you in advance."

He also spoke directly to the family members and friends of the graduates in attendance.

"Your support has been key to what they have been able to do," Cherrey said. "I say that because they're going to need you in the future. This is just the beginning of the training. There's more to come, there's more fun to follow. They're going to need your help and support."

Cherrey noted that holidays, birthdays and other events will be missed, and families can help pilots get through those difficult times. He stressed the importance of understanding that the pilots may come home at a moment's notice and maybe it's time to throw a party because they're home.

"Put your arms around them and tell them that you love them and give them a place to stay as they're in between assignments for a couple weeks," Cherrey said. "Your help and support matters in their future success and it matters to our country because keeping the pilots on track is what this is all about. We have a small investment in them right now, but there is much more to come."

He then left the graduates with words of advice and a congratulations.

"It's so important today that we recognized the fact that this is a heavy burden that you've put upon yourself," Cherrey said. "Nobody here was 'voluntold' to go be a pilot. This is what your nation has asked you to do and you've stepped up to do it."

Cherry said the pilots could have chosen any other Air Force career, but they made the commitment to be a pilot.

"So on behalf of a grateful nation, this is a great day and you're going to make a difference for all of us," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean  
**Retired Brig. Gen. John Cherrey, former Director of Intelligence, Operations and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, speaks to attendees during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class's 19-17/18 graduation in the Kaye Auditorium June 28, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Cherrey spoke about his last 30 years as a pilot and wanted the newest generation of aviators to understand how important their job is.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean  
**Retired Brig. Gen. John Cherrey, former Director of Intelligence, Operations and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, speaks with Steve Broderick, spouse of Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, before Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class's 19-17/18 graduation in the Kaye Auditorium June 28, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean  
**Graduates break their first set of wings following Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class's 19-17/18 graduation in the Kaye Auditorium June 28, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Breaking of the wings is a tradition for new pilots, as one half is kept by the pilot and the other by a loved one. The two halves are not brought together until the pilot's death.**

## 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.)*

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation is from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. July 16. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. This base-wide CONNECTION orientation begins at the Kaye Auditorium and consists of a guided base tour. The event's main foundation is a mobile App, so if you plan to attend, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. To register, please contact your unit CSS, or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. July 17. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Career Exploration & Planning Track Workshop

The next Career Exploration & Planning Track workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. July 22-23 in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8:30 a.m.-noon July 25 in the A&FRC. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. July 25. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. July 31 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records

and A&FRC. Be sure to bring and ask any relocating questions you may have during this event.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

A Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) will be providing assistance from noon-5 p.m. Aug. 7; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 8; and 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 9 at the A&FRC. The Recovery Coordination Program (RCP) 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 RCC who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury, (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time, (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Bundles for Babies

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 22 in the A&FRC. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Transition Assistance Program GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 9-13 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 19-20. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman's Attic, Thrift Store, the

Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

### Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has 12 computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications and companies' employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

### Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

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 A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 for more information.

### Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m., and it takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 for more information.

### Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1 - 2 p.m. This program provides military families and DoD civilian members individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### 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 (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

### Personal Financial Readiness

Need Help with Financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) 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 at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411/434-2790 or e-mail PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com, located in the A&FRC.

## 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:**  
3:30 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Start in Fall)  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice  
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)  
5 p.m. – Mass  
1st and 3rd Sunday - Fellowship Meal following Mass  
**Tuesdays:**  
10 a.m. – Daily Mass (Phillips Auditorium)  
**Wednesdays:**  
10 a.m. – Daily Mass (Phillips Auditorium)  
10:30 a.m. – Adoration (Phillips Auditorium)  
2nd Saturday of each month - Faith Ablaze

### Protestant Community

**Sundays:**  
9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Community Worship Service (Donut Fellowship following)  
3rd Sunday of Each Month - Protestant Faith Ablaze  
**Wednesdays:**  
6 p.m. - AWANA: Begins September 26th (Open to all denominations)  
**Thursdays:**  
5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Open to all denominations)

Catholic	Religious	Education
<b>Class Registration</b>		
Pre-K through High School		
Classes begin on August 18th @ Base Chapel (for the 2019-2020 School Year)		
Sunday's: 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. (Mass follows at 5 p.m.)		
Questions? Contact: Megan Capelle, Catholic Religious Education Coordinator megan.capelle.ctr@us.af.mil		

**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](http://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.

**Get Connected with Your New Base App!**  
As a way to connect people together, Columbus Air Force Base launched a new app to connect Airmen and families to the mission and community! The app is available on all app stores and can be found by searching ‘Columbus Air Force Base’.

**Lunch Buffets at the Overrun**  
Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday thru Friday at the Columbus Club. Daily buffets include: Tuesday – Tacos and Nachos \$9, Wednesday – Chicken Wings and Pasta \$10, Thursday – Southern Style \$10 and Friday – Fried Catfish \$10. Club Members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Buck & Bowl**  
Forget Rock & Roll, this is Buck & Bowl! Stop by the Bowling Center for \$1 games and \$1 shoe rentals! Every Thursday in July from 2-8 p.m. Call 434-3426 for more information.

**Musical Mondays**  
Join us at the library every Monday in July starting at 10 a.m. Each Monday will feature a musical movie that will have everyone singing! Call 434-2934 for more information.

**Free Saturday Movie Matinee**  
Featuring Dumbo (PG) at 12 p.m. and Shazam (PG-13) at 3 p.m., July 20 in the Kaye Auditorium. Call 434-2337 for more information.

**East vs. West Paintball Tournament**  
The East Coast will be battling the West Coast on July 12 starting at 9 a.m. to determine which one is the BEST Coast. Teams of 8 vs. 8 will compete. The cost is \$25 per person, Paintballs, guns and helmets included. Sign up at ODR or call 434-2505 for more information.

**Education and Career Fair**  
On July 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Columbus Club. Open to Military (active Duty, Guard, and Reserve) dependents, retirees, and all CAFB personnel. If you are looking to further your education or maybe looking for new employment this event is for you! Over 20 schools will be present to provide information on their programs as well as 66 employers that have been invited to attend, and will be recruiting for industrial, business, computers, medical, transportation, education, service, and law enforcement positions. Contact the Education center at 434-2562 for Education Fair questions or A&FRC at 434-2631 for Job Fair questions.

**Alabama Splash Adventure**  
Join ITT on July 20 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. for a fun-filled day in the sun at Alabama Splash Adventure Water Park in Bessemer, Alabama. Participants will need a set of dry clothes for the ride home. \$35 per person (ages 2 and under are free) \$25 per person for single airmen and families of deployed members. Price includes transportation and admission. Call 434-7861 for more information.

**Christmas in July Party**  
Join us at the library on July 25 from 3-5 p.m. as they celebrate Christmas in July!  
Call 434-2934 for more information.

CAFB EDUCATION CENTER & A&FRC PRESENT

EDUCATION AND CAREER FAIR

Open to all Military (active Duty, Guard, Reservist) Dependents, Retirees, and all CAFB personnel.

If you are looking to further your education or maybe looking for new employment this event is for you! Over 20 schools will be present to provide information on their programs as well as 66 employers that have been invited to attend, and will be recruiting for Industrial-Business-Computers-Medical-Transportation-Education-Service-law enforcement positions. Local, State, National, and International.

JULY 17, 2019  
10 AM TO 2 PM  
COLUMBUS CLUB

Contact the Education center at 434-2562 for Education Fair Questions or Jeff Ellis at A&FRC at 434-2631 for Job fair questions

**Buy One Game Get One Free Monday**  
Come and get your bowl on every Monday at the Strike Zone Bowling Center! Available all day. Call 434-3426 for more information.

**Free Single Airmen Bowling**  
Join us at the Strike Zone Bowling Center every Wednesday in July from 4-8 p.m.! Come mingle with other singles as you show off your bowling skills. \*Must sign in at the register\* call 434-3426 for more information.

**Youth Summer Camps**  
The Youth Center offers a variety of camps during the summer to keep the kids from getting bored. Contact the Youth Center for a full list of camps available through August. For more information call 434-2504.

**Assignment Night Transportation**  
Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact 434-7861.

**Martial Arts**  
Martial Arts classes are available at the Youth Center every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. receive two free introductory classes, contact the Youth Center for more information at 434-2504.

**Exclusive Military Vacation Packages**  
Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT? Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at [www.americaforcestravel.com](http://www.americaforcestravel.com) or visit your ITT office at (662) 434-7861.

**Storytime Schedule**  
The Base Library is offering Storytime on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for ages 3 – 6 years, Fridays at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for ages birth – 2 years, and 10 a.m. on Saturdays for all ages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**FSS Gift Cards**  
Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Café at Whispering Pines, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

**Horse Boarding Available**  
The CAFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505.

**Free Mango Languages**  
Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Play Paintball**  
Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book twenty-four hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**The Overrun is Open Friday Nights**  
The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until Midnight. Excluding Graduation nights. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair**  
Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. For more information, contact 434-2507.

**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.

**Wood Shop is OPEN!**  
The Wood Shop is back in business! They are open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m., call 434-7836 for more information.

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

**RV Storage Lot**  
Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

**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**  
The Fitness Center offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with 119 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

# Team BLAZE welcomes newest ‘pilot’ during fun-filled day

**Airman Davis Donaldson**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Pilots, pink gifts and attention, according to Aubrey Armstrong, there’s not much more a child could ask for.

Aubrey had a chance to spend time with pilots at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, June 25, during her Pilot for a Day opportunity.

Pilot for a Day is a program which offers children with disabilities an opportunity to spend a day with pilots and tour the base’s facilities.

Aubrey is a 15-year-old girl from Oxford, Mississippi, and is diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Ever since she was two years old, Aubrey’s parents were very aggressive with her speech, physical and occupational therapy. According to her mother, Holly Armstrong, Aubrey receives care at Batson’s Children Hospital, is a champion and representative for the hospital.

“She’s gotten to be a part of a lot of adventures, as a representative, and Pilot for a Day happened to be one of them,” Armstrong said. “They reached out to us to see if we wanted participate and of course we said yes.” Aubrey and her parents spent the day with Capt. Joshua James, a 41st Flying Training



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
**Aubrey Armstrong, her parents and pilots from the 41st Flying Training Squadron stand in front of a T-6 Texan II June 25, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Aubrey spent the day with the pilots and, she got her own flight suit.**

Squadron T-6 Texan II instructor pilot. They went to the 14th Medical Group, and Aubrey received a flight suit in her size. They then went to the flight line, and Aubrey posed for her ‘hero shot’ on the wing of



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
**Aubrey Armstrong, Pilot for a Day, smiles as she enters a fire truck at the Columbus Air Force Base Fire Department June 25, 2019, on Columbus AFB, Miss. Aubrey met the firefighters from the 14th CES and sprayed the hose from the firetruck.**

a T-6 with her name on the side. After her ‘hero shot’ she went to Columbus AFB’s fire department, meeting some of the firefighters who protect Team BLAZE around the clock. The fire department gave



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
**Capt. Joshua James, a 41st Flying Training Squadron T-6 instructor pilot, and Aubrey Armstrong enjoy their time in the 41st FTS June 25, 2019, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., during Aubrey’s Pilot for a Day. Aubrey ate lunch with members from the 41st FTS, telling them all the places they had been that day.**

Aubrey several mementos, including a pink fire helmet, and a ride in a fire truck. Aubrey also had the chance spray water from the hose of the fire truck.

“The fire station was very cool because got a pink fire helmet,” said Aubrey. James later showed Aubrey a T-6 flight simulator. She was able to fly in the simulator herself before ending the day with lunch alongside various 41st FTS members, to include James and Col. Derek Stuart, 14th Operations Group commander.

James said Pilot for a Day was as inspiring for him as it was Aubrey and her parents.

“It may sound cheesy, but getting to show off what we get to do every day and seeing her face get really exciting about everything was amazing,” James said. “I think Pilot for a Day is important for the kids and the families because they get to have a wonderful day together and just be happy, live life and enjoy themselves.”

Holly Armstrong recognized the Airmen who opened up facilities for Aubrey. “I thought was amazing for us to see what Airmen do every day to protect our country and it was an amazing experience,” said Armstrong. “I thought everyone was so outgoing and friendly and they were just so welcoming. It was an awesome experience for Aubrey because she just loved every part of it.”

# Air quality awareness 101

Mike Blythe  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Have you ever heard of the term ozone? I first heard of “ozone” as a child, way back in the day. I remember learning about the holes in the ozone layer due to the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) or in simpler terms “man-made compounds that reach the stratosphere and deplete the ozone via a series of chemical reactions.”

Maintaining stratosphere ozone or “good ozone” is imperative as it protects humans from ultra violet radiation and reduces the chances of getting skin cancer. It has been almost three decades and we have phased out the majority of ODS and we are told the ozone layer holes are gradually beginning to shrink. Progress, right? Sort of . . . now we face a different problem, this is called ground level ozone or “bad ozone.”

Unlike good ozone, which is located 12-18 miles from Earth’s surface, ground level ozone (Ozone) is literally located at surface level and is a harmful air pollutant due to its effects on humans and the environment. This Ozone is created when oxides of nitrogen (NOx) react with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. NOx and VOCs are produced during the combustion of hydrocarbons, (for example; emissions from power plants, industrial facilities, motor vehicles, chemical solvent use, and burning of fossil fuels).

Too much chemistry? Think about it like this:  
fossil fuel emissions + organic gases + hot summer day = ozone.

Better yet,  
mowing lawn + pumping gas + hot summer day = ozone.  
Ozone is a health hazard known to irritate the respiratory system, cause an itchy throat or burning sensation in the airways, aggravate asthma and trigger attacks, and cause chronic

bronchitis. Ozone does not stay in a county or state; it has no boundaries because it moves. Just as it is harmful to human health, Ozone damages the forest, stunts vegetation growth, and weakens healthy mature trees.

So, how can we reduce the production of Ozone and protect ourselves from the health hazards associated with Ozone? The truth is that there is no simple solution. It took us decades to get to this point and will most likely take decades to correct the problem. The best thing we can do is BE ALERT, protect ourselves from Ozone, and reduce emissions.

AIRnow (www.airnow.gov) is a program made available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Air quality forecasts are issued every day, providing real time air quality coverage for Ozone. Air quality data is translated into a color-coded guide that is easy to read, called the Air Quality Index (AQI). Each category corresponds to a different level of health concern. Green days, for example, are healthy days with good air quality. Red days are unhealthy and everyone, especially those with certain health issues, should limit outdoor activities.

As summer continues and you think about sunny vacations, warmer climate, pool party days, and other outdoor activities, consider checking the AQI to determine if the air we breathe is safe. It is important to know that lung damage caused by Ozone can occur without any noticeable signs. People who live in high Ozone areas (AQI 100+) may find that their initial symptoms go away over time, but Ozone continues to cause lung damage even when the symptoms have disappeared. The best way to protect your health is to find out when AQI levels are elevated in and take precautions to minimize exposure, even when you don’t feel obvious symptoms.

In addition to protecting our health, we can all be more proactive in trying to reduce Ozone. Car engine exhaust is a

Air Quality Index	
Good 0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate 51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	Members of sensitive groups* may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected
Unhealthy 151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy 201-300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous 301-500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more than likely to be affected.

major source of pollution, so make an effort to carpool, walk, bike, or use public transportation. On Action Days (AQI Unhealthy Range), postpone mowing the lawn, painting, and using household chemicals. Wait until the sunsets to fill up your car with gasoline and use manual or electric powered equipment rather than gas or diesel fuel equipment. Together we can make a difference!

If you have any questions about air quality or need assistance setting up AQI alerts, feel free to contact the Environmental Element, 434-7353. We would be more than happy to assist in any way possible.

## Commander’s Action Line 434-1414

In an effort to stay Connected, the Commander’s Action Line is your direct link to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

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 can be reached at 434-1414. Leave your name and phone number or email if you would like to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

If you would like to remain anonymous, please submit your inquiries through our base application in the ‘Our Wing’ then ‘Contact the CC’ tab or you can submit through the webpage at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Click “Contact Us” at the top left of the page and select “Commander’s Action Line” in the Recipient drop down menu.



## 50th FTS unveil heritage aircraft



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean  
**The 50th Flying Training Squadron’s new T-38 Talon is showcased during an unveiling July 3, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base. Members of the 50th FTS took inspiration for their design from their history to celebrate their past, present and future.**

## Medical Corner

### Happy 4th of July!

## Hiking, camping with food safety in mind

It’s finally summer – a time to explore the great outdoors. Camping and hiking can be the perfect escape to enjoy the beauty nature has to offer. But whether you set out for a few hours or a few days, keep important food safety principles in mind.



### Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold

Bacteria multiply rapidly within the “danger zone,” between 40°F and 140°F. Keep foods out of the danger zone. This means not only cooking and reheating foods to a safe temperature, but also properly storing foods that require refrigeration. Perishable foods should not be left unrefrigerated for more than two hours, or more than one hour if it’s over 90°F outside.

### Don’t forget to wash

Bacteria will spread easily in an unclean environment. Bring soap, water, clean towels and hand sanitizer. Always wash your hands, utensils and all surfaces before preparing and eating food.

### Keep drinking water safe

Don’t drink water directly from a lake or stream no matter how clean it looks. Some pathogens thrive in remote bodies of water and there is no way to tell what is in the water. Bring a full bottle of purified water and replenish your supply from tested public systems. If that is not possible, purify any water from the wild.

One way to make water safe is to boil it to kill microorganisms. Bring water to a rolling boil and then boil for at least one minute. If water is muddy, allow it to stand for a while until the silt settles to the bottom. Then boil the clear water off the top. At higher elevations, boil for several minutes because the boiling point of water is lower.

### Prevent cross-contamination

Bacteria from raw meat and poultry can easily spread to other foods from dripping juices, hands or utensils. Avoid cross-contamination by washing your hands before and after handling food, and using different platters and utensils for raw and cooked meats, seafood, eggs and poultry. Double-wrap meat and poultry when transporting in a cooler to prevent raw meat juices from dripping onto other foods.

### Always clean up

Keep food safety tips in mind when washing dishes and cleaning up the campsite. You can buy biodegradable camping soap, but use it sparingly and keep it out of fresh bodies of water because it will pollute them.

*Hiking and Camping with Food Safety in Mind. Retrieved from <https://www.eatright.org/homefoodsafety/safety-tips/outdoor-dining/hiking-and-camping-with-food-safety-in-mind>*

### Stay Hydrated!

The general hydration recommendation for an adult is 30 to 40 milliliters of fluid per kilogram of body weight each day. Example: A 30-year-old woman who weighs 150 pounds would need 2,400 milliliters of fluid per day or around 10 cups.

Water is one of the best drinks to stay adequately hydrated. It doesn’t have any extra ingredients and can help your oral health as well! Drinking water after meals or snacks can help reduce the amount of plaque build up on your teeth and gums. You can also increase your fluid intake by consuming a variety of beverages that you enjoy including 100% fruit juice, milk, seltzer, sports drinks, tea and coffee but just remember that these beverages contribute to your total calorie intake during the day.

Foods can also be a great source of fluid in your diet! Try adding hydrating foods such as fruits and vegetables to your meals and snacks to help you meet your fluid needs. If you’re not a big fan of water, you can enhance the flavor of your water by infusing it with fruit, herbs and spices.

### Why Do Our Bodies Need Water?

Between 50 to 70 percent of our body weight is fluid. Our bodies need water to perform a variety of functions that are critical to our survival including:

- Dissolving and transporting substances throughout our body
- Keeping our cells alive
- Maintaining healthy blood volume
- Regulating body temperature
- Protecting and lubricating major organs and tissues

*How Much Water Should I be Drinking? Retrieved from <https://foodandnutrition.org/blogs/stonesoup/how-much-water/>*

## A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team



Dear Health Myth Busters,

Our family is busy throughout the summer with travel, camping, sports and outdoor activities. Other families that join us for activities would rather find local restaurants than bring healthy food options to eat. Is it safe and easy to prepare foods in order to beat the heat in summertime? What tips can you provide?

Sincerely,  
Busy Summer Family

Dear Busy Summer Family,

There are many quick and easy food and beverage ideas that are refreshing, nutritious and safe. Seasonal fresh fruits are a great option to add as sides to meals, to have as snacks or even add as additions to beverages.

Here’s a beverage idea! Try adding chopped melon, berries, pineapple or even fresh mint to ice cube trays, fill with water, freeze and then serve the ice in water. Not only will the ice keep your water cool, but once the ice has melted, you’ll have a flavor-infused refreshing beverage.

Even without the ice, try infusing water with seasonal berries — strawberries, raspberries or blueberries — along with mint, lemon, orange or cucumber. Simply rinse and slice the fruits, herbs or vegetables; add them to a pitcher of water or your water bottle; then place the combination in the refrigerator until cool. ENJOY!!

Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters

Got questions on other health issues related to sleep health, physical activity, tobacco, or nutrition? Share them with us and we will help you “Bust The Myths!” Send your questions to [usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil). Make sure to include in the subject line “Health Myth Buster.” For more online health tips visit the Air Force Health Promotion webpage <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Resources/Health-Promotion/>

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: KC-10 Extender

## Mission

The KC-10 Extender is an Air Mobility Command advanced tanker and cargo aircraft designed to provide increased global mobility for U.S. armed forces. Although the KC-10's primary mission is aerial refueling, it can combine the tasks of a tanker and cargo aircraft by refueling fighters and simultaneously carry the fighter support personnel and equipment on overseas deployments. The KC-10 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

## Features

The KC-10 can transport up to 75 people and nearly 170,000 pounds (76,560 kilograms) of cargo a distance of about 4,400 miles (7,040 kilometers) unrefueled.

In addition to the three main DC-10 wing fuel tanks, the KC-10 has three large fuel tanks under the cargo floor, one under the forward lower cargo compartment, one in the center wing area and one under the rear compartment. Combined, the capacity of the six tanks carries more than 356,000 pounds (160,200 kilograms) of fuel - almost twice as much as the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Using either an advanced aerial refueling boom, or a hose and drogue centerline refueling system, the KC-10 can refuel a wide variety of U.S. and allied military aircraft within the same mission. The aircraft is equipped with lighting for night operations.

The KC-10's boom operator controls refueling operations through a digital, fly-by wire system. Sitting in the rear of the aircraft, the operator can see the receiver aircraft through a wide window. During boom refueling operations, fuel is transferred to the receiver at a maximum rate of 1,100 gallons (4,180 liters) per minute; the hose and drogue refueling maximum rate is 470 gallons (1,786 liters) per minute. The automatic load alleviation and independent disconnect systems greatly enhance safety and facilitate air refueling. The KC-10 can be air-refueled by a KC-135 or another KC-10A to increase its delivery range.

## General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Aerial tanker and transport  
**Contractor:** The Boeing Company  
**Power Plant:** Three General Electric CF6-50C2 turbofans  
**Thrust:** 52,500 pounds, each engine

**Length:** 181 feet, 7 inches (54.4 meters)  
**Height:** 58 feet, 1 inch (17.4 meters)  
**Wingspan:** 165 feet, 4.5 inches (50 meters)  
**Speed:** 619 mph (Mach 0.825)  
**Ceiling:** 42,000 feet (12,727 meters)  
**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 590,000 pounds (265,500 kilograms)  
**Range:** 4,400 miles (3,800 nautical miles) with cargo; 11,500 miles (10,000 nautical miles) without cargo  
**Maximum Cargo Payload:** 170,000 pounds (76,560 kilograms)  
**Pallet Positions:** 27  
**Maximum Fuel Load:** 356,000 pounds (160,200 kilograms)  
**Crew:** Four (pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and boom operator) Certain missions may require additional crew members. In aeromedical evacuation missions, a basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added. Medical crew may be altered as required.  
**Unit Cost:** \$88.4 million (fiscal 1998 constant dollars)  
**Date Deployed:** March 1981  
**Inventory:** Active force, 59; Air National Guard, 0; Air Force Reserve, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Keifer Bowes

A U.S. KC-10 Extender departs after receiving fuel from another KC-10 Extender from the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, June 12, 2019 at an undisclosed location. The 908th EARS plays a key role in ongoing operations in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility by maintaining constant readiness in support of air operations, providing deterrence and stability, and bolstering the mission efforts of coalition partners.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford

A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft from the 912th Air Refueling Squadron, March Air Reserve Base, departs after conducting aerial refueling training with a KC-10 from Travis Air Force Base, June 26, 2018 over California. Travis Airmen conduct training missions to stay current and be prepared for future mobility operations.

## CAFB Airmen to share stories July 18 during Storytellers event

### Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Every Airman has a story; a revolving theme in the Air Force and an even more impactful one when shared with others.

Storytellers is a program utilizes the theme of "Every Airman has a Story" as a training or development opportunity with a different approach on the aspect of training. The Columbus Club will be hosting a Storytellers here from 9-11 a.m. July 18.

"Storytellers is the opportunity for members of Team Blaze to share their story in an effort that something the speakers have lived through, moved past or pushed through will help someone else if the person encountered something similar," said Daisy Jones-Brown, 14th Flying Training Wing Violence Prevention Integrator and Suicide Prevention Program manager. "Maybe it will help people learn some different coping skills or mechanisms to get through some of the things that simply life can throw at you."

The goal is to create an experience that sticks with people long after the final bell. The speakers, or storytellers, are able to engage with others in an informal coffee house vibe versus a professionally lit stage with a podium. It encourages Airmen to share their stories and hopefully impact the lives of others.

"This event is to bring everybody together for a short period of time to give the human aspect on some of the really difficult things that we go through in life, especially in the military," said Capt. Katrina Boshears, 14th Flying Training Wing director of staff. "I think it's important for us to get outside of our shell and take a minute to reflect and meditate for a little bit on what we're going through."

*"What Zach did for me today was amazing; I was at a loss for words when I found out he was calling (the unit)," Coleton Wells said. "When you're on this side of cancer, your mind is so locked on getting it done, you forget about what people do for you ... this was eye opening."*

Finding Airman to tell their story is an open process that allows people willing to share their stories to volunteer for the event.

"We take a look at different people who volunteer and we try to pick a variety of stories," Jones-Brown said. "It could be any story that someone is willing to say 'this happened to me in my life and this is how I worked through it.'"

This year the event will have four speakers to tell of their challenges and triumphs.

"I am psyched about this Storytellers," Jones-Brown said. "Our very first Storytellers we did last year went over very, very well. People really liked the event, it was really helpful to a lot of individuals who heard the stories as well as the individuals who told the stories. It was a different way to receive training and engage."

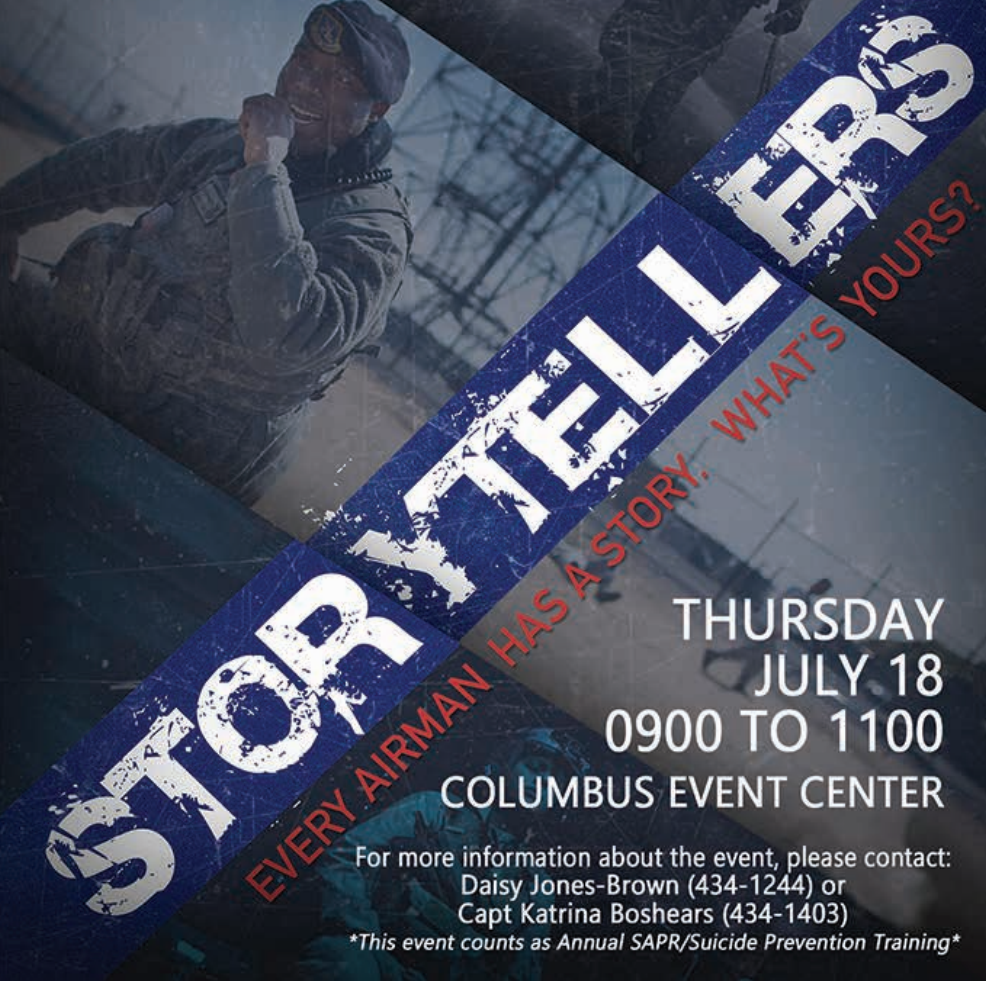
### Sharing their stories:

Col Gary Hayward (14 MSG)

Maj Earl Arnold (14 OSS)

Mrs. Debby Kantorowicz (14 FSS)

SSgt Kyle Beath (14 FSS)



Courtesy Graphic



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





U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

**Master Sgt. Jacelyn Jesseph 14th Comptroller Squadron superintendent, runs toward a base during the Eagles versus the Chiefs kickball game July 3, 2018, at BLAZE Fest on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. BLAZE Fest kicked off with a kickball game, in which the eagles defeated the chiefs 2-1.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

**Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, kicks a ball during the Eagles versus the Chiefs kickball game July 3, 2018, at BLAZE Fest on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. In a close competitive match, the eagles defeated the chiefs 2-1.**

## BLAZE Fest celebrates Independence Day with fireworks, food, fun

**Airman Davis Donaldson**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Team BLAZE commemorated and celebrated 243 years of American independence July 3 during BLAZE Fest on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Airmen and their families enjoyed various contests, three-legged races, carnival rides, bouncy houses, a petting farm, a dunk tank and a fireworks display.

Staff Sgt. Crystal Geberth, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief executive, volunteered at the celebration.

"It was a lot of fun seeing different groups and personnel across the wing come together to have fun and connect

with each other," Geberth said. "Coming together as a wing and putting something together for each other is always great."

The fest kicked off at 4 p.m. with the Eagles versus the Chiefs kickball game. The eagles defeated the chiefs 2-1 in a close competitive match.

Afterward, members of Team BLAZE had the opportunity to dunk wing leadership in a dunk tank.

Col. Samantha Weeks, Col. William Denham, Chief Master Sgt. Raul Villarreal Jr., Col. Gary Hayward and Col. Derek Stuart all took turns in the tank.

The band, Style Entertainment, performed live music on stage throughout the evening and the night was capped off with a fireworks show, ending

around 9:30 p.m.

Michael Birriel, 14th Force Support Squadron community services flight chief, was one of the many individuals from the 14th Mission Support Group that made BLAZE Fest possible.

"We worked with many supporting agencies inside and outside the MSG," Birriel said.

He said the various agencies played a part in making BLAZE fest possible and it would not have happened without them.

He said 1st Lt. Rachel Burmester, 14th FSS Officer in Charge of community services, was the main project officer for the event and he gave her a lot of credit for such a successful event, "She did a fantastic job, I was glad to have her leading the charge."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rosales, former 14th Flying Training Wing command chief executive assistant, throws a ball at the dunk tank while Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, sits on a dunk stool during BLAZE Fest July 3, 2019 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. A variety of activities and contests were held throughout the festival for attendees to participate in.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

**Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, falls into a tank of water during BLAZE Fest July 3, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Following the Eagles versus the Chiefs kickball game, attendees were able to throw balls at a target to try and dunk wing leadership throughout the evening.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Attendees visit various attractions during BLAZE Fest July 3, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The festival had an assortment of food vendors, bouncy castles and mechanical rides for children, outdoor games and so much more.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Attendees check out animals in the petting farm during BLAZE Fest July 3, 2019 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The petting farm, called Tuscaloosa Barnyard, had a variety of animals to check out, including chicken, goats, bunnies and more.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Fireworks light up the sky over the flight line during BLAZE Fest July 3, 2019 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The festival concluded with a large fireworks show at dusk.**