



The Dispatch is preparing to honor military veterans and active service members from the Golden Triangle in a special Veterans Day tribute section. We're asking veterans or their families to complete and submit this form, along with photos that can be used in the publication. Submissions can be made in person, through the mail or by email. All physical photos submitted will be scanned and available for pick up after the publication prints on Sunday, Nov. 7. Deadline for submissions is Oct. 22.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreign Tours: \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Why You Joined the Military: \_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts/Memories from Your Service: \_\_\_\_\_

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# SILVER WINGS

"Train World Class Pilots"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 19

October 1, 2021

## Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

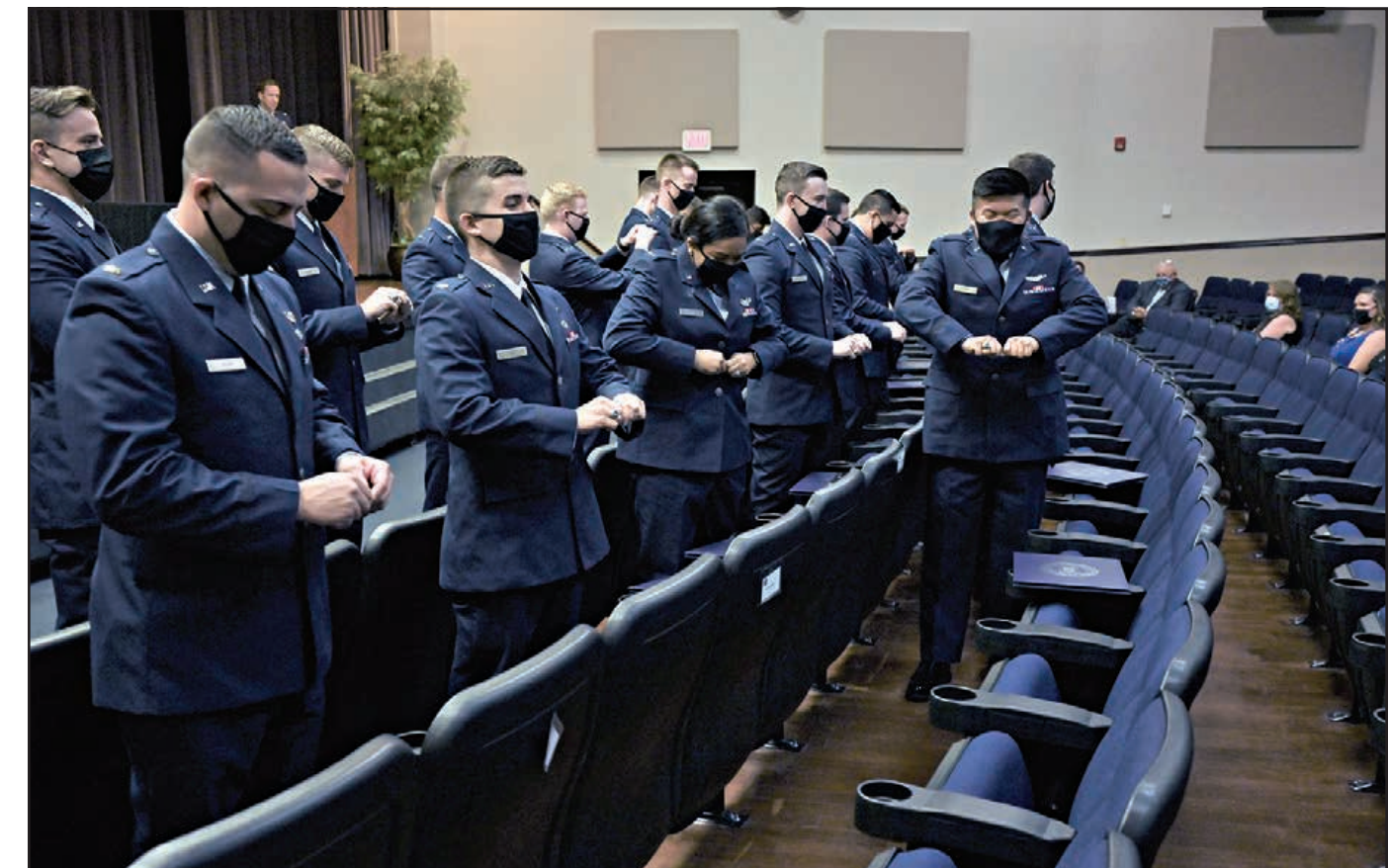
## COVID-19 General Info

The base is continually focusing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will persistently prioritize the safety of the Airmen, families and communities of Columbus.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements. See Pg. 2 for more COVID-19 info.

### Social Gathering Limitations

- Kaye – 92 person limit
- Event Center/Club – 145 person limit
- Phillips Auditorium – 22 person limit
- Walker Center – 112 person limit



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

Graduates from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-15, break their first pair of wings during the graduation ceremony, Sept. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Per tradition, pilots will keep one half of the broken wings and give the second half to a loved one. The two halves are never to be brought back together while the pilot is still alive.

## Air University commander visits SUPT graduation

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. James Hecker, Air University Commander and President, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, stopped in for the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-15, Sept. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Hecker facilitates full-spectrum education, research and out-

reach at every level through formal professional military education and the continuation of higher-level education. He leads the Intellectual and Leadership Center of the U.S. Air Force, graduating more than 50,000 resident and 120,000 non-resident officers, enlisted and civilian personnel each year. Additionally, he is responsible for officer commissioning through Officer Training School and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

See GRADUATION, Page 4

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# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

## Myths and facts about the vax — debunking common COVID-19 vaccine myths

**Air Force Surgeon General  
Congressional and Public Affairs**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The COVID-19 vaccine has been mandated across the Department of Defense and despite its demonstrated effectiveness and safety, a host of myths have left some Airmen and Guardians hesitant to receive it. While social media posts and some news outlets may make it harder to keep up with what is fact or fiction, the science is clear ... approved COVID-19 vaccines work.

Here is a breakdown of the most common myths surrounding COVID-19 vaccines, and the facts behind each myth:

**Myth: COMIRNATY is not the same as the PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 vaccine.**

**Truth:** It is common for vaccine names to change after receiving full Food and Drug Administration approval for branding purposes. COMIRNATY and Pfizer-BioNTech are biologically and chemically the same vaccine. The FDA approved Pfizer-BioNTech for licensing and branding as COMIRNATY August 23 for people 16 years and older. Critically, the Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine continues and covers the 12-15 year old population.

In accordance with FDA guidance, COMIRNATY has the same formulation and can be used interchangeably with the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Providers can use doses distributed under the EUA, to administer the vaccination series as if the doses were the licensed vaccine.

**Myth: There was no diversity for people of color in the research or development of the vaccine.**

**Truth:** COVID-19 has taken a heavy and disproportionate toll on people of col-

or, particularly Black adults. Historically, people of color have been underrepresented in clinical trials. Therefore, ensuring racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials for development of COVID-19 vaccines has been particularly important. Diversity within clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine also ensures safety and effectiveness across populations. Findings show that Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine safety and efficacy were similar for people of color and white participants.

The FDA offered nonbinding recommendations that strongly encouraged the enrollment of populations most affected by COVID-19, specifically racial and ethnic minorities. Both Pfizer and Moderna worked to ensure that people of color were included in their trials, with Moderna even slowing down enrollment to enroll more racial and ethnic minorities. There have also been efforts on the community side. Historically Black colleges and universities participated in COVID-19 vaccine trials and encouraged participation among their communities. The purposeful encouragement to increase racial and ethnic groups in these trials have achieved greater diversity than many previous trials for other drugs.

**Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine can cause problems with breast tissue and lead to breast cancer.**

**Truth:** There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause problems with breast tissue or would lead to breast cancer. The mRNA vaccines are processed by your body near the injection site and activate immune system cells that then travel through the lymph system to nearby lymph nodes. In this manner, an individual may experience swelling under the arm where the vaccine was administered due to swelling of the lymph node. The vaccines are not affecting hormone levels, nor are they traveling throughout the body or affecting other body organs, such

as breast tissue. Swollen lymph nodes can show up in a mammogram even if women can't feel them. Hence, the Society of Breast Imaging recommends women delay any routine mammography scheduled within four weeks after their most recent COVID-19 vaccination.

**Myth: If I take COMIRNATY while breastfeeding, my baby will be infected with COVID-19.**

**Truth:** COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause infection in anyone. Vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 in people who are breastfeeding. Additionally, breastfeeding people who have received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have antibodies in their breast milk, which could help protect their babies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine recommend that lactating women receive the vaccine and that breastfeeding should not be stopped around the period of vaccination.

**Myth: COVID-19 causes infertility.**

**Truth:** There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems in women or men. The mRNA vaccines are processed by your body near the injection site and activate immune system cells that then travel through the lymph system to nearby lymph nodes. In this manner, they are not affecting hormone levels, nor are they traveling throughout the body or affecting other body organs.

**Myth: The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System proves that COVID-19 vaccination causes too many side effects and deaths.**

**Truth:** VAERS data alone cannot determine if an adverse event was caused by a COVID-19 vaccination. Anyone can report individual events to VAERS, even

See COVID, Page 3

## 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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**COVID**  
(Continued from page 2)

if it is not clear whether a vaccine caused the problem. These events are studied by vaccine safety experts who track for trends, then validate significant adverse concerns. Recently, the number of deaths reported in VAERS has been misinterpreted and misreported as if this number means deaths were proven to be caused by COVID-19 vaccination.

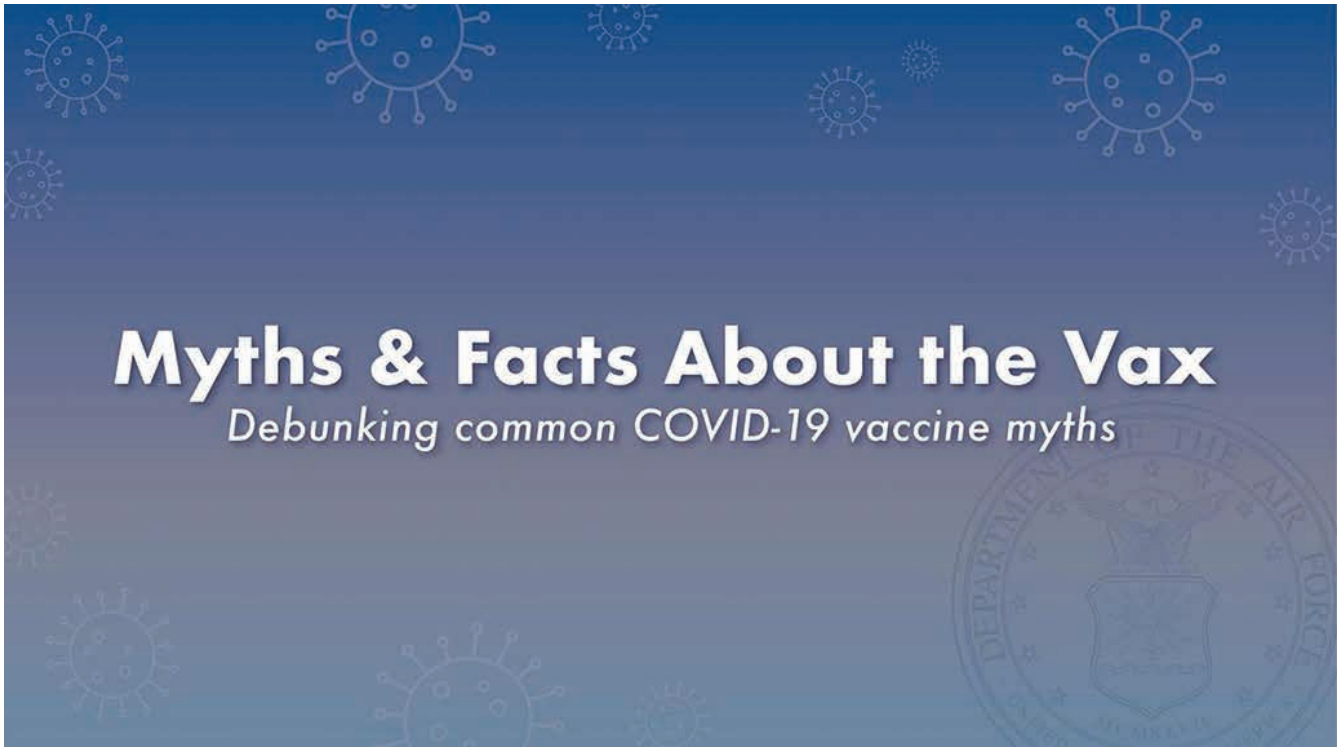
**Myth: COMIRNATY vaccine contains fetal cells.**  
**Truth:** None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal cells. Specifically, COMIRNATY and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines did not use a fetal cell line to manufacture their vaccine. However, a fetal cell line was used in early research efficacy of these vaccines.

The use of these fetal cell lines in research and/or production of vaccines and medication is not new. Some over-the-counter medications for which a historic fetal cell line was utilized in research and/or production and manufacturing include: Tylenol, Pepto Bismol, Aspirin, Tums, Senokot, Motrin, Maalox, Ex-Lax, Benadryl, Sudafed, Preparation H, Claritin, and others.

**Myth: Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.**  
**Truth:** The COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. have gone through the typical FDA approval process — no steps were skipped — but some steps were conducted on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster.

First, the COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna were created with a method that has been in development for years, so the companies could start the vaccine development process early in the pandemic. Second, vaccine projects received large resources. Governments invested in research and/or paid for vaccines in advance, which enabled a faster approach. Third, some types of COVID-19 vaccines were created using messenger RNA (mRNA), which allows a faster approach than the traditional way that vaccines are made. Fourth, the capabilities of social media reaching numerous people enabled companies to find and engage study volunteers at a faster than typical pace. Finally, COVID-19 is so contagious and widespread, therefore it did not take long to see if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.

**Myth: If I get the COVID-19 vaccine, it will make me sick with COVID-19.**  
**Truth:** You cannot get COVID-19 disease from the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms,



## Myths & Facts About the Vax

*Debunking common COVID-19 vaccine myths*

U.S. Air Force graphic

**The COVID-19 vaccine has been mandated across the Department of Defense and despite its demonstrated effectiveness and safety, a host of myths have left some Airmen and Guardians hesitant to receive it. While social media posts and some news outlets may make it harder to keep up with what is fact or fiction, the science is clear ... approved COVID-19 vaccines work.**

such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. If you do not have side effects, that does not mean your body's immune system is not responding.

**Myth: COVID-19 vaccines shed or release their components and are harmful.**  
**Truth:** Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened live version of the virus. None of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus.

**Myth: COVID-19 vaccine will alter my DNA.**  
**Truth:** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA resides.

**Myth: Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will make me magnetic.**  
**Truth:** All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals and will not make anyone magnetic. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives.

**Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine contains microchips.**  
**Truth:** COVID-19 vaccines do not contain manufactured electronic or microchips. Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines work by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies. After getting vaccinated, you develop immunity to that disease, without having to get the disease first.

Airmen, Guardians and family members who still have questions and concerns are encouraged to reach out to their primary care provider. Additional information, including the DoD mandate, can be found at <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Coronavirus-DOD-Response/>

### 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 Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. James Hecker, Air University Commander and President, and Col. Seth Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, bow their heads in prayer during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-15, Sept. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Hecker was commissioned in the Air Force in 1989 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy and has commanded at the squadron, group, wing and numbered Air Force levels prior to his current position.

## GRADUATION

(Continued from page 1)

Hecker took on the role of guest speaker at the ceremony but was also there in support of his high-school best-friend's son who was in the graduating class. The graduating class took this opportunity to hear what Hecker had to say during his speech where he gave words of advice and encouragement.

"No matter how good you are, be humble in what you do," said Hecker. "Make sure, whatever your job is, that you are approachable so that everybody out there can come talk to you. Being able to give advice and help solve people's problems will make all the difference whether it has to deal with mental health, family issues or work related problems. Just make sure they can come to you in a time of need."

Hecker is an experienced pilot with more than 3,500 hours flying various aircraft including the F-15C Eagle, F-22 Raptor, MQ-1B Predator, HH-60 Pave Hawk, C-208 Caravan and the T-38C Talon. He highlighted stories about his family and mentioned how important it is to keep your family close.

"The big thing is you always need to have both immediate and long range goals," said Hecker. Those long range goals have to go beyond the Air Force and for me it was to

*"The big thing is you always need to have both immediate and long range goals," said Hecker.*

still have my family with me. I want to still be close to them and have fun. So if the Air Force ever stops being fun, you will still have your family to lean on."

After the ceremony had ended, Hecker met with the graduates to offer his congratulations.

"I really had a good time," said Hecker. When I come to things like this it really helps re-energize my spirit's to see the excitement on their faces and their families."

Having receiving their diplomas and being congratulated for their hard work, the graduates will move onward to their respective bases and begin training on the aircraft designated to them. Some selected officers will stay at Columbus AFB, entrusted with the position of a First Assignment Instructor Pilot to continue the training of world-class aviators.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. James Hecker, Air University Commander and President, giving his speech during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-15, Sept. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Graduates of SUPT have to complete a demanding 52-week course, comprised of academics, physiological training, and flight training in the T-6A Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk, and T-38C Talon.



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FSS  
(Continued from page 10)

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Local Shuttle Service will be handled by ODR on Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This includes shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Stop by ODR or call (662) 434-2505 for more information.

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COMMUNITY  
(Continued from page 11)

**Discovery Resource Center**  
The Columbus A&FRC has 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. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or 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. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

**Employment Workshop**  
An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This pro-

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**Free Mango Languages**  
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**Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair**  
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**Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed**  
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gram 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.

**Key Spouse Program (KSP)**  
The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a CC's pro-

**Wood Shop**  
The Wood Shop is now open by appointment only, Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$5 for first hour and \$3 for every hour after the first. Please call (662) 434-7836 for any questions.

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

**Space A Lodging**  
The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at (662) 434-2548. Guest Services staff is on duty from 6 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/property/columbus-afb>. After hours services call (662) 251-2931.

gram. The CC establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-2839.

**Military and Family Life Counselor Program**  
Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they 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, please call (662) 435-1110.

**Sponsorship Training**  
An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source's MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link [https://militarylearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0::](https://militarylearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0::More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at https://www.columbusafbliving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/) More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbliving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/> . For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.



# Parade & Route



Train World Class Pilots

- Off Base partners invited (8 additional vehicles)
- Route is driven morning of to verify that it is clear

## Magnolia



## State





# Air Force refines pilot candidate selection process in support of rated diversity

Air Education & Training Command  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Several Air Education and Training Command initiatives to remove barriers for qualified candidates in the pilot candidate selection process were highlighted in the Air Force’s six-month assessment of its initial Racial Disparity Report Sept. 9.

Pilot Candidates may now:

- Use their highest composite scores from any Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) rather than the most current score.
- Complete the Test of Basic Aviation Skills (TBAS) up to three times, with the third requiring a waiver from the applicant’s wing commander or equivalent.
- Re-take the AFOQT and TBAS after 90 days compared to the previous 150-day requirement for the AFOQT and 180 days for the TBAS.

- Participate in study sessions with other individuals who have not yet taken the test if the examinee has also never taken the AFOQT.

These changes came after extensive research conducted by the pilot selection process working group responsible for identifying potential barriers while upholding the standards of excellence in the Pilot Candidate Selection Method (PCSM) used since 1993.

“Our studies concluded that these changes will result in more qualified candidates of underrepresented groups being selected for training,” said Lt. Col. Brandi King, the working group’s Air Education and Training Command lead.

## Prior flying experience a barrier to qualification

Prior flying experience, the second largest component of an applicant’s PCSM score, particularly poses a socioeconomic barrier to candidates without access to or financial means to pay for flying lessons. To address this barrier, the Air Force now considers only a candidate’s initial 60 flight hours when scoring a candidate.

“There is no evidence that more than 61 hours of flight experience poses a significant benefit to pilot training success,” said Dr. Katie Gunther, chief of strategic research and assessment at the Air Force Personnel Center. “The probability of success in flight training increases substantially from 0 hours to 60 hours, then relatively plateaus.”

The working group also found that removing the higher ranges of flight hours as part of the PCSM score would result in a more-diverse applicant pool. According to the Validation of the Pilot Candidate Selection Method 2020 report prepared by the AFPC Strategic Research and Assessment branch, removing the four highest ranges of flight hour codes would have resulted in 69 more Hispanic, 47 more female, and 26 more Black/African-American qualified applicants over a 12-year period.

## improving rated diversity.

AETC IMPLEMENTS  
CHANGES TO REMOVE  
BARRIERS WHILE  
UPHOLDING STANDARDS  
OF EXCELLENCE

READ MORE AT  
WWW.AETC.AF.MIL



Several Air Education and Training Command initiatives to remove barriers for qualified candidates in the pilot candidate selection process were highlighted in the Air Force’s six-month assessment of its initial Racial Disparity Report Sept. 9.

“Flying lessons are expensive and could potentially exclude qualified candidates from becoming pilots in the Air Force due to limited income or lack of opportunities,” said Brig. Gen. Brenda Cartier, AETC’s Director of Operations and Communications and the pilot selection process working group’s overall lead. “In order to ensure we do not eliminate otherwise qualified candidates, flight programs have been implemented at both The United States Air Force Academy and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. Cadets receive free ground and flight training, and an opportunity to gain critical skills and directly improve their competitiveness for pilot selection boards.”

## Pilot selection process

A PCSM score quantifies a pilot candidate’s predicted aptitude for success at undergraduate pilot training. This score is comprised of the AFOQT and TBAS scores, previous flying experience, and other “whole-person concept” merits such as grade point average, physical fitness assessment scores and class ranking.

“Data supports that the PCSM is the best single predictor of pilot training completion. However, it is imperative that we continue re-evaluating our selection methods and remove barriers that hinder rated diversity without compromising test integrity or lowering standards,” King said.

## 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.)

“Please note events are subject to change due to COVID-19, so please contact A&FRC to confirm all events”

## Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Oct. 5 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Columbus Club. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event’s foundation is the base’s mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

## Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 7. 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.

## Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held Oct. 14-15 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 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.

## Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Oct. 28 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 ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

## Airman of the Week



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeremy Bergin (left), 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, presents Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen (center), 14th FTW Public Affairs specialist, the Airman of the Week certificate alongside Chief Master Sgt. Joel Buys (right), 14th Mission Support Group senior enlisted leader, Sept. 22, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. This is a new program to further highlight our Airmen throughout the Wing who show outstanding performance and dedication to Excellence, Airmanship, and Leadership!

quired, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

## Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 1-5 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.

## Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 15-16 and will be held 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.

## Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Nov. 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.

## Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 2. 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.

## Music on the Patio

Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Or have you ever wanted to? Please join the fun on the patio behind the Airman & Family Readiness Center on Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. If you have a musical instrument, bring it. There’s no agenda, just people hanging out who enjoy playing music.

## EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Pro-

gram-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support) entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact (662) 434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

## 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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 13

## Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!



**Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events**  
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at ColumbusAFBliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact (662) 434-2337.

**Get Connected with Your 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’.

**The Print Shop Has Moved!**  
The Print Shop has moved to The Commons, building 715, room 128. It is located in the back of the Commons and can be accessed either from the main entrance or from the parking lot directly behind the base Chapel. Services include large format printing, mounting, laminating, color and black/white copying, binding, and much more. For a quote call 434-2337 or email 14FSSColumbus@gmail.com.

**Youth Program’s After School Care**  
The Youth Center is offers After School Care for ages 5-12. The center provides games, sports, arts & crafts, educational enrichment, social skills, leadership building and much more. Request care at MilitaryChildCare.com or call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

**Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar**  
The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday 3:30 -7 p.m. and Friday from 4-8 p.m. (may be extended for special events) for dinner and drinks. Quick bites done just right featuring favorites such as Chicken Tenders, Mozzarella Sticks, and French Fries.

Also, don’t forget the Club offers Catering services. Call (662) 434-2490 for more information.

Let’s Connect! Boss & Buddy Night at the Club Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and enjoy a few brews with your boss and buddies.

**Back to Bowling!**  
The bowling lanes will open once again beginning Oct. 4th. Bowling will be available by appointment or walk-in, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. On Wednesdays it will close at 1 p.m. Friday, bowling will be open until 10 p.m. and feature a full bar! It will also feature Neon Bowling from 7-10 p.m. For reservations, call (662) 434-3426 or on Facebook @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter.

**Strike Zone Grill at the Bowling Center!**  
The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) is open for DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT service. The expanded eating area will allow for social distancing. Grab’n go products will be available including during bowling.

Beginning Oct. 4 the grill will be open for dinner too!

Your Library presents the annual



**PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST!**

**19 OCT AT 11AM**  
**AT THE commons**

All ages are welcome to participate!

call 434-2934 for more info



For breakfast they are open from 6:30-10 a.m. Monday-Friday. For lunch/dinner, the grill is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. On Wednesdays, it will close at 2 p.m. It will be open until 9 p.m. on Fridays! The center is closed on Saturday and Sunday. For take-out orders, call (662) 434- 3426.

**Library**  
The Library is open for in-house customers Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. It has been relocated to a more inviting and visible location in open area in The Commons which is next to the base chapel. For everyone’s safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must remain with their children at all times.  
The Library is hosting Storytime at the Park every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Meet at Freedom Park for a story read by your favorite Librarians! If it rains, StoryTime will be in the Library located in The Commons.

**Pumpkin Carving Contest**  
The Library presents its annual Pumpkin Carving Contest on Oct. 19th at 11 a.m. at The Commons. All ages are welcome to participate. Pumpkins will be provided.

See all of the Library’s activities visit their Facebook page: @ColumbusAirForceBaseLibrary.

**Fitness Center**  
The Columbus AFB Fitness Center and the Alpha Warrior tent is open Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Saturday 8

a.m.-6 p.m. It is open on Sunday for 24/7 Access members only (CAC must be registered at the front desk prior to use).  
The Fitness Center is now serving all DoD cardholders and eligible contractors during normal hours of operation.  
24/7 access is available to not only Active Duty patrons, but also any DoD cardholder such as dependents, retirees, and civilian employees. CAC must be registered at the front desk.  
Also, the locker rooms and showers are once again available.  
Please note there will 100% ID card check, limited rental equipment available, and other risk mitigation plans still apply. For more information, call the Fitness Center at (662) 434-2772.  
Also, the basketball and racquetball courts are now available! Check-in at the front desk required.

**Strength Competition at Alpha Warrior**  
Prove how well conditioned you are and compete for the best time in The Fitness Center’s Strength Competition at Alpha Warrior Tent on Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. The exercises will include things like kettle bell carry, squats, tire flip, slam ball toss, and hammer slam. You must be 18 or older to compete. Call the Fitness Center for more information at (662) 434-2772.

**Spooky 5K**  
The Fitness Center will host the Spooky 5K Fun Run on Oct. 23 beginning at 9 a.m. Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume for a fun run around the base. Open to all ages. Call the Fitness Center for more information at (662) 434-2772.

**Venture 360 is Now Open!**  
The much anticipated Venture 360 outdoor activity center, located across from Capital housing, is now open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It will be a phased opening with more activities being added over the next several months as equipment arrives. Phase 1 includes volleyball, crossnet, several inflatables, a putt putt golf course (inflatable), 1-outdoor theatre locations, picnic and lounge areas, horseshoes, cornhole, and ping pong (inside the building). The building and activities will also be available for rent for parties and meetings. For pricing and a map of all the activities, visit ColumbusAFBliving.com/Venture360/ or call 434-7972.

**Outdoor Recreation**  
Outdoor Recreation’s (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.(closed Tuesday and Wednesday) and Saturday/Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Call ODR at (662) 434-2505 for all of your outdoor activities.

**Coffee House on 5th**  
Coffee House on 5th, located in the Blaze Commons, is back open to 50% capacity inside. Drive through or come in to enjoy a cup of coffee or a tasty treat. Their hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.- noon. Call for more information at (662) 434-2233.

See FSS, Page 12

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: U-28A

**Background**  
The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 aircraft and is part of the Air Force Special Operations Command manned, airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance fleet. Operational squadrons include the 319th, 34th and 318th Special Operations Squadrons, and the 5th and 19th SOS conduct the airframe’s formal training.

**Mission**  
The U-28A provides manned fixed-wing tactical airborne ISR support to humanitarian operations, search and rescue and conventional and special operation missions.

**Features**  
AFSOC fielded the U-28A fleet through the purchase of commercially available aircraft and subsequent military modification to include tactical communications capabilities, aircraft survivability equipment, electro-optical sensors, and

advanced navigation systems. The advanced radio-communications suite is capable of establishing U.S. Department of Defense and NATO data-links, delivering full-motion video, and transmitting secure voice communications. The U-28A benefits from outstanding reliability and performance, and the aircraft is capable of operating from short runways and semi-prepared surfaces.

**Background**  
The diverse Special Operations Command mission requirements generated a need for small numbers of mission-specific aircraft which were procured rapidly to address specific mission needs. The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 that operates worldwide.  
The U-28A is part of AFSOC’s Light Tactical Fixed Wing fleet, formerly known as non-standard aviation.  
The initial block of U-28 aircraft were procured and modified for use in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.  
All U-28A aircraft are maintained through contractor lo-

gistics support.

**General Characteristics**  
**Crew:** 2 Pilots, 1 Combat Systems Officer, 1 Tactical Systems Officer  
**Builder:** Pilatus Aircraft Ltd  
**Power Plant:** Pratt-Whitney PT6A-67B  
**Thrust:** 1,200 horse power  
**Wingspan:** 53 feet 3 inches (16.23 meters)  
**Length:** 47 feet 3 inches (14.4 meters)  
**Height:** 14 feet (4.25 meters)  
**Speed:** 220 knots  
**Range:** 1,500 nautical miles  
**Ceiling:** 30,000 feet  
**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 10,935 lbs.  
**Deployment Date:** 2006  
**Unit Cost:** \$16.5 million  
**Inventory:** Active duty, 28; Reserve/ANG, 0

(Current as of September 2017)



Courtesy photo

The U-28A provides a manned fixed wing, on-call/surge capability for Improved Tactical Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) in support of Special Operations Forces.



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

A U-28A is parked on the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flight line April 13, 2018. The diverse Special Operations Command mission requirements generated a need for small numbers of mission-specific aircraft which were procured rapidly to address specific mission needs. The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 that operates worldwide.



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**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/Columbus\\_AFB](https://www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB)







T-1A Jayhawk

# SUPT Class 21-16 earns silver wings



T-38C Talon



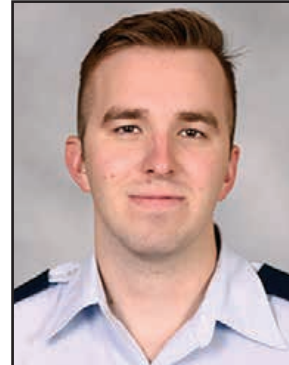
**1st Lt. Samuel Bishop**  
Middleton, Idaho  
KC-135



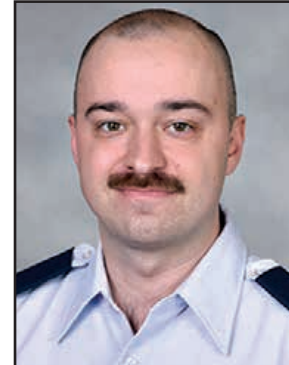
**1st Lt. Carter Chaloupka**  
Amarillo, Texas  
C-17



**1st Lt. John deAndrade**  
Ledyard, Connecticut  
RC-135



**1st Lt. Kyle Fricker**  
Indianapolis  
F-22



**1st Lt. Zachary Glasgow**  
Elk River, Minnesota  
C-17

Thirty-one officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to become Air Force pilots.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-16 graduates at 11 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks will be recognized.

1st Lt. Kyle Fricker, 1st Lt. Zachary Glasgow, 1st Lt. Jeremy Schwartz and 1st Lt. James Tatom received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 1st Lt. Chaise Poland and 1st Lt. Jake Watkins who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 21-16 recognized were Fricker, Glasgow, Schwartz, and Tatom for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Students learn aircraft flight character-

istics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

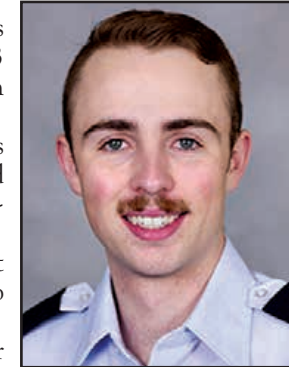
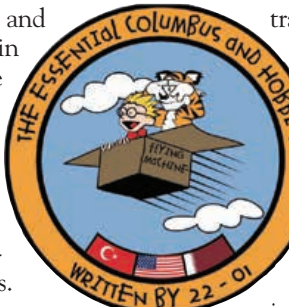
Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

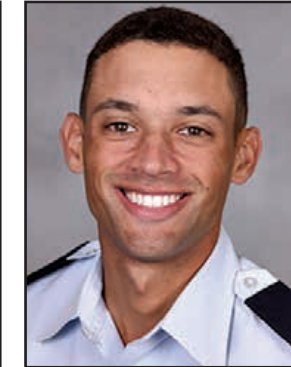
Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.



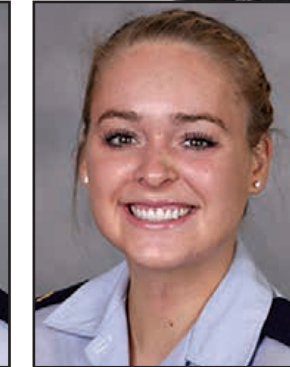
**1st Lt. Rylan Haag**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
T-6



**1st Lt. Jordan Herald**  
Rockford, Michigan  
E-3



**1st Lt. Mason Knox**  
Bonneau, South Carolina  
A-10



**1st Lt. Meredith Laskey**  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky  
U-28



**1st Lt. Nick Lopez**  
Belleville, Illinois  
KC-135



**1st Lt. Kenta Maruyama**  
Agatsuma, Gunma  
F-15J



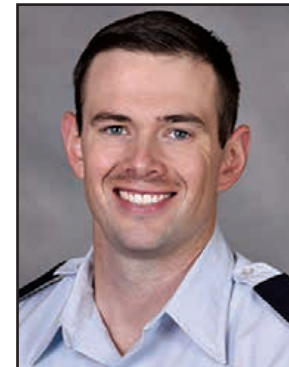
**1st Lt. Matthew Media**  
Oviedo, Florida  
F-16



**1st Lt. Gabrielle Miller**  
Granite Bay, California  
C-17



**1st Lt. Kosuke Okada**  
Hyogo, Japan  
UH-60J



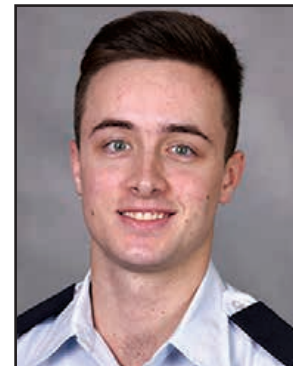
**1st Lt. Chaise Poland**  
Abingdon, Illinois  
AC-130J



**1st Lt. Bradley Stefanovic**  
Coral Springs, Florida  
MC-130J



**1st Lt. James Tatom**  
Big Sky, Montana  
C-130J



**1st Lt. Jonah Urlaub**  
Westminster, California  
KC-135



**1st Lt. Jake Watkins**  
Upland, California  
B-2



**1st Lt. Trevor Westendorf**  
Murrieta, California  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Caleb Caldwell**  
Kenai, Alaska  
C-17



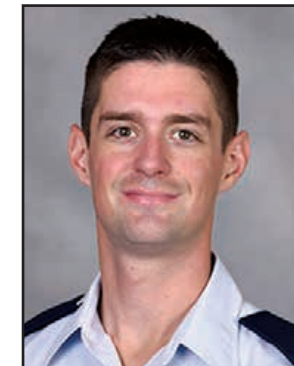
**2nd Lt. Corey Dufresne**  
Massena, New York  
KC-135



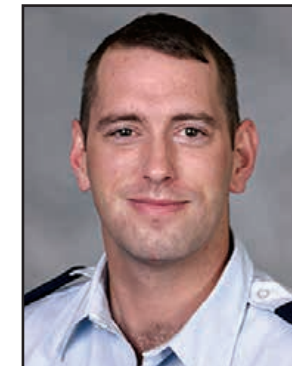
**2nd Lt. Alexandre Jeremie**  
Pearl River, New York  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Derek Ostrom**  
Wasilla, Alaska  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Brett Sloan**  
Boardman, Ohio  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Thomas Smarsh**  
Goldsboro, North Carolina  
KC-46

