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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 17

September 2, 2021

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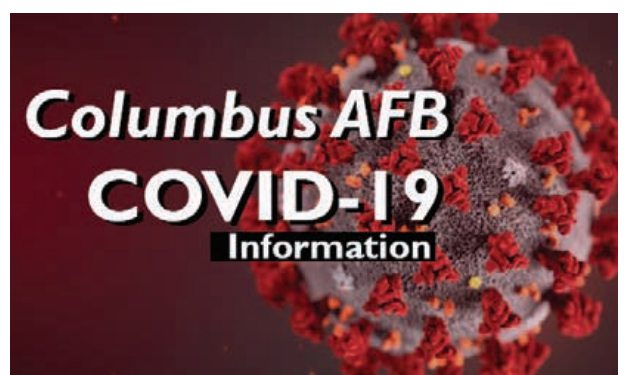
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COVID-19 General Info

The base is focusing on early, prudent steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 and safety of Airmen, families and communities.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements.

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 Melissa Duncan-Doubling
Graduates from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-14 wait for their names to be called during graduation at Columbus Air Force Base, August 20, 2021. A total of 16 students earned the title of U.S. Air Force Pilot after completing a 52-week SUPT course.

SUPT Class 21-14 become newest aviators

Danielle Knight
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
One Major, twelve 1st Lieutenants and three 2nd Lieutenants graduated from SUPT (Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training) to become newest aviators on August 20, 2021 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Class 21-14 contributed to the readiness and manpower of the Air Force by producing 16 new pilots. These aviators completed a demanding 52 week course, comprised of academics, physiological training and flight training in the T-6 Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk, and T-38C Talon.

See GRADUATION, Page 3

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COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

Secretary of Defense mandates COVID-19 vaccinations for service members

By David Vergun
DOD News

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III yesterday issued a memorandum directing mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for service members, a Pentagon official said today. John F. Kirby, Pentagon press secretary, said only Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccines will be mandatory. The secretary has determined — after careful consultation with medical experts and military leaders and with the support of the president — that mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for service members are necessary to protect the health and readiness of the force, Kirby said.

On Aug. 23, the FDA gave full approval to the Comirnaty vaccine — previously known as the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine — for individuals 16 years of age and older. Before Aug. 23, the vaccine was available for use through an FDA emergency use authorization.

Kirby said vaccines other than Comirnaty will not be made mandatory, but that could change if the FDA issues full approval for others.

The memo directs the secretaries of the military departments to immediately begin full vaccination of all members of the department on active duty or in the Guard or Reserve, who aren't yet fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Service members who are actively participating in COVID-19 clinical trials are exempt from mandatory vaccination until the trial is complete to avoid invalidating clinical trial results, the memo states.

The secretaries are also directed to "impose ambitious timelines for implementation and to report regularly on vaccination completion using established systems for other mandatory vaccine reporting," the memo states.

"The secretary has communicated to the military departments to execute this mandatory vaccination program with, ob-



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kegan Kay

Medical staff from Navy Medical Readiness and Training Command Sigonella in Italy rehearse COVID-19 screening procedures in support of the Defense Department's mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, special immigration visa recipients, and vulnerable Afghan populations from Afghanistan at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, Aug. 20, 2021.

"The secretary has communicated to the military departments to execute this mandatory vaccination program with, obviously, skill and professionalism, which we always do, but also with a measure of compassion," Kirby said.

viously, skill and professionalism, which we always do, but also with a measure of compassion," Kirby said.

Service members with preexisting conditions who are advised against being vaccinated by their doctors would be exempt from mandatory vaccinations, Kirby said, adding there may also be possible exemp-

tions on religious grounds.

Service members outside those two categories who still object will be offered a chance to sit down with a physician and have that physician communicate to them the risks that they're taking by being unvaccinated, Kirby said.

They'll also be offered a chance to sit down with those in their chains of command to talk about the risks that their objection will impose on the unit and on the force and on their teammates, he added.

"Commanders have a wide range of tools available to them to help their teammates make the right decision for themselves, for their families, and for their units, and the secretary expects that the commanders will use those tools, short of having to use the UCMJ," he said, referring to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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Terrence Howard, actor/musician



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GRADUATION

(Continued from page 1)

Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Michigan Air National Guard, assistant adjutant general. Teff is a seasoned pilot that has flown more than 3,600 hours, including 433 combat hours. He attended SUPT at Columbus Air Force Base in 1989.

"You're feeling that great sense of accomplishment," Teff said. "Here in a few minutes, you will be a world class pilot. You'll be a professional Air Force pilot, which requires constant work, dedication and commitment to improving over time."

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

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates followed an age-old tradition of breaking of their first set of pilot wings, according to custom the two halves must never be brought together again while the pilot is alive. One half is kept by the pilot, while the other is kept by a pilot's loved one.

"When you go to your follow-on training, you'll make tremendous progress... not only in your skills, but in your Airmanship and overall awareness," said Teff.

As the new pilots move onward in their careers, they will go to their respective bases and begin training on the aircraft assigned to them.

"You will have tremendous opportunity as a pilot in the Air Force," Teff stated. "Lead with positivity and accept those assignments as a challenge to be the best you can be."

Commander's Action Line
662-434-1414

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. Click "Contact Us" at the top left of the page and select "Commander's Action Line" in the Recipient drop down menu.

New guidance for base housing residents

Mr. Brian Windle
14 CES Military Housing Office

On June 1, 2021, the Air Force fully implemented the Department of Defense's Tenant Bill of Rights which was issued earlier in 2021. These new provisions will give housing residents access to a seven year maintenance history on their rental home, a comprehensive dispute resolution process, and a process for withholding of rent during the formal dispute resolution process. Columbus Family Housing tenants should contact their base Military Housing Office (MHO) and Columbus Family Housing Office (Hunt) for detailed information on these final rights. The Columbus Family Housing Resident Bill of Rights went into effect 1 August 2021.

The Air Force's priority is providing Airmen and their families with safe, and habitable housing.

The Tenant Bill of Rights empowers tenants to work with Hunt, MHO and Wing leadership to resolve issues quickly so they can maintain their focus on the mission. Tenants will be provided with the resources they need to address issues and resolve concerns at base level. The newly established rights guarantee; plain-language briefings at lease signing, military legal assistance, protection from non-refundable fees and clearly defined rental terms. Also newly implemented will be; a universal lease for tenants to guarantee continuity across Air Force bases, and a dispute resolution process with the ability to withhold rent while the issue is being resolved. The opportunity to withhold rent only applies during the formal dispute resolution process and cannot be implemented otherwise.

The Tenant Bill of Rights along with the Dispute Resolution Process can be found on the 14FTW app in the Housing/Dorm/Lodging section in the Military Housing Office tab.

Here are some frequently asked questions that may help you better understand the new implementations.

Q: How do I execute these new rights?

A: A tenant must go through the informal dispute process starting with the project owner property management staff. If the tenant is not satisfied with the staff response, they can engage directly with the MHO, their chain of command and the base Resident Advocate. The MHO can elevate the issue within the Columbus Family Housing's (Hunt) management structure or within the chain of command.

Q: What is the formal dispute resolution process?

A: The formal dispute resolution process for eligible housing disputes involves a physical inspection of the unit if the dispute is related to living or physical conditions. The MHO schedules and conducts the inspection which is attended by all parties to the dispute, to include the dispute resolution investigator. The investigator will consider reports from the Military Housing Of-

fice, project owner representative, tenant and any subject matter experts as necessary. The investigator will make a recommendation to the Installation Commander as the Deciding Authority who will issue a final written decision and direct any remedies as applicable. The complete formal dispute resolution process is laid out in Schedule 3 of the Universal Lease for new tenants. Any military member, their spouse or other eligible individual who qualifies as a "tenant" as defined in Section 2871 of title 10 of the United States Code. Most project owners will make this process available to existing tenants through updates to the resident guide or various social media announcements. For more information please contact your base MHO and/or your project owner.

Q: What is the criteria for a tenant to withhold rent from the project owner?

A: If an eligible housing dispute alleges failure to meet applicable maintenance guidelines and procedures prescribed under the terms of the lease agreement or applicable schedules and addenda, or the housing unit is otherwise alleged to be uninhabitable according to applicable state or local law, a tenant may request the owner to withhold all or part of the rent payments received by the owner during the dispute resolution process (not to exceed 60 calendar days), on the request form for dispute resolution process.

Q: How many years of maintenance history are required to be given under the final rights?

A: Tenants may request up to seven years of available maintenance history, no later than five business days before the prospective tenant is asked to sign the lease and not later than two business days after the prospective tenant requests additional information regarding maintenance conducted with respect to that housing unit during the previous seven years. An existing tenant who did not receive such maintenance information regarding that housing unit before signing the lease may request such maintenance information and receive it not later than five business days after making the request.

Q: What's included in the maintenance history?

A: Landlords must include the minimum following data: identification number for maintenance activity, severity classification of maintenance activity (emergency, urgent, routine), categorization of maintenance worked, brief description of maintenance activity and when the maintenance activity was completed. Prospective tenants can request for additional information, in which case the privatized owner (Hunt) must grant them two supplemental business days to review before signing the lease.

For more information, or any other questions regarding base housing, please contact the Columbus Military Housing Office at 662-434-2840.

Security and policy review

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

Special Emphasis Programs come to CAFB

14FTW Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing recently launched a program specifically tailored to address employment opportunities for special emphasis groups on Columbus AFB, which originates from Air Force Instruction 36-205, Affirmative Employment Program (AEP), Special Emphasis Programs (SEP) and Reasonable Accommodation Policy.

"The program goes back to 2010, but at the time it didn't have a lot of DoD (Department of Defense) elements. It fell directly under the EO (Equal Opportunity) program and it took years to pull it out," said Dr. Jackson Akwaowo, 14th Force Support Squadron Affirmative Employment Program manager. "It still falls under the Equal Opportunity program, but it is its own entity. The primary focus is employment advancement of individuals in those targeted groups in Federal government."

"When people think about EO, the first thing everyone thinks about is complaints. When it comes to the Special Emphasis Program, the purpose is educating people about the

special observances we have and discussing barriers to employment and advancement," said Akwaowo. "It's ensuring that we truly do level the playing field for everyone involved and create an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and is allowed to reach their full potential."

Special Emphasis Programs are integral to the overall Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program to enhance employment, career development, and advancement opportunities of all EEO groups. All Air Force employees are eligible to apply to become SEPM's (Special Emphasis Program Managers).

"In the future the impact this will have will be to bring to light any barriers here at Columbus," said Akwaowo. "If there are, then we'll work together to mitigate those barriers so that everyone is treated with respect."

A SEPM is responsible for the concerns of the represented group in the areas of hiring, training, mentoring, career development and retention. They serve as an advisor to both the workforce and to management officials, ensuring that all persons are enabled to participate in the full range of employment opportunities.

"They don't have to be a member of these specific groups,

it can be anyone on permanent assignment that is able to give the program a two year commitment," said Akwaowo. "Preferably someone who has leadership experience and is personable, but basically anyone who shows those leadership traits. They will have to go out and talk to people and manage people and expectations."

There are currently six vacant SEPM positions available:

- American Indian/ Alaskan Native Employment Program Manager (AIEPM)
- Asian American/ Pacific Islander Employment Program Manager (AAEPM)
- Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM)
- Black/ African American Employment Program Manager (BEPM)
- Federal Women Program Manager (FWPM)
- Disability Program Manager (DPM)

For information on becoming a SEPM or to submit ideas to promote equal employment contact the 14th Force Support Squadron, Affirmative Employment Program Manager office at 662-434-7302 or by email to: jackson.akwaowo@us.af.mil.

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COMMUNITY
(Continued from page 11)

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 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, re-

solve 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 program. 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/?p=SIS:2:0>: More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbiving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocaiton-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

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FSS
(Continued from page 12)

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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.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcos Sepulveda, 42nd Force Support Squadron, ALS Instructor, laughs with his students in the classroom, July 26 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Sepulveda welcomes his class back for the first time since the peak of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

Resiliency Defined for ALS Class 21-6 at Columbus AFB

2nd Lt. Peyton Craven
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-Eight Columbus AFB Airmen and two Maxwell AFB Professional Military Education instructors came together on July 23rd to conduct the first in-person Airman Leadership School (ALS) class at Columbus since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eight days later, all 28 students, two instructors, and one Public Affairs Officer were quarantined due to a positive COVID case within the class. Perseverance and resiliency are

terms that would prove to be the cornerstone for the Airmen of Class 21-6.

ALS is the first tier of Enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) that all Airmen experience as they progress through the ranks during their careers. ALS consists of 169 curriculum hours that span a wide range of topics from Air Force culture and leadership, to problem solving and critical thinking. The course also serves as the precursor to the rank of Staff Sgt., and prepares Airmen for the role and responsibilities of a frontline supervisor.

When the positive COVID case was confirmed, it forced

a quick change to instruction and lessons learned during the peak of the 2020 COVID pandemic were put into use.

The class was immediately placed into a 14-day quarantine, and the instructors pivoted to distance learning with instruction that was refined during 2020. Shortly before the quarantine, Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, implemented mandatory mask policies across the Department of Defense to combat the surge in COVID cases.

“Going back to virtual was an easy process, we always have a contingency plan,” said Staff Sgt. Andreus Denmark, 42nd

See **RESILIENCY**, Page 7

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”

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m., Sept. 8. 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.

Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 13-17 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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Sept. 21 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.

Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m., Sept. 23 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.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track

Airman Leadership School graduates



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Duncan-Doublin
24 Airmen from the 14th Flying Training Wing, graduate from Airman Leadership School (ALS) , Aug. 25, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. ALS is used as a tool to help Airmen develop as leaders.

Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 27-28 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.

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 on Oct. 21-22 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.

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 So-

ciety will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-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.

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.

See **COMMUNITY**, Page 13

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11am and 5pm on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11am Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30am 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!

BLAZE Hangar Tails: CV-22 Osprey

Mission

The CV-22 Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft. Its mission is to conduct long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions for special operations forces.

Features

This versatile, self-deployable aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft, enabling Air Force Special Operations Command aircrews to execute long-range special operations missions. The CV-22 can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. The CV-22 takes off vertically and, once airborne, the nacelles (engine and prop-rotor group) on each wing can rotate into a forward position.

The CV-22 is equipped with integrated threat countermeasures, terrain-following radar, forward-looking infrared sensor and other advanced avionics systems that allow it to operate at low altitude in adverse weather conditions and me-

dium- to high-threat environments.

Background

The CV-22 is the Special Operation Forces variant of the U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey. The first two test aircraft were delivered to Edwards Air Force Base, California, in September 2000. The 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, began CV-22 aircrew training with the first two production aircraft in August 2006.

The first operational CV-22 was delivered to Air Force Special Operations Command in January 2007. Initial operational capability was achieved in 2009. A total of 51 CV-22 aircraft are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2019.

General characteristics

Primary function: special operations forces long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply

Power plant: two Rolls Royce-Allison AE1107C turbo shaft engines

Thrust: more than 6,200 shaft horsepower per engine

Wingspan: 84 feet 7 inches (25.8 meters)

Length: 57 feet 4 inches (17.4 meters)

Height: 22 feet 1 inch (6.73 meters)

Rotary diameter: 38 feet (11.6 meters)

Speed: 277 mph (241 knots) (cruising speed)

Ceiling: 25,000 feet (7,620 meters)

Maximum vertical takeoff weight: 52,870 pounds (23,982 kilograms)

Maximum rolling takeoff weight: 60,500 pounds (27,443 kilograms)

Armament: one .50 Cal Machine gun on ramp

Range: combat radius of 500 nautical miles with one internal auxiliary fuel tank

Payload: 24 troops (seated), 32 troops (floor loaded) or 10,000 pounds of cargo

Crew: four (pilot, copilot and two flight engineers)

Builders: Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., Amarillo, Texas; Boeing Company, Defense and Space Group, Helicopter Division, Philadelphia

Deployment date: 2006

Unit cost: \$90 million

Inventory: active duty, 46; reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

A CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft approaches the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) during exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2018 in the Baltic Sea, June 4, 2018. BALTOPS is the premier annual maritime-focused exercise in the Baltic region and one of the largest exercises in Northern Europe enhancing flexibility and interoperability among allied and partner nations.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joseph Pick

Four CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Group Detachment 1 fly above Tokyo, Japan, April 5, 2018. Approximately 100 Air Commandos and five Ospreys deployed to Yokota Air Base to participate in regional exercises.



U.S. Air Force photo by Second Lieutenant Peyton Craven

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcos Sepulveda and Staff Sgt. Andreus Denmark, 42nd Force Support Squadron, Airman Leadership School instructors, pose for a photo in the classroom, July 29 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Sepulveda and Denmark are teaching in person for the first time in months.

RESILIENCY

(Continued from page 16)

Force Support Squadron, Maxwell AFB, PME instructor.

Senior Airman Anthony Connors from the 14th Force Support Squadron, described what it was like for his class to transition to virtual instruction suddenly.

“It was definitely unfortunate, it sort of put a damper on our cohesiveness, but we were able to push through,” said Connors. “The instructors provided all the resources we needed during virtual time and allowed everyone to have a voice.”

The instructors for Class 21-6 spent the last two years combined instructing in a virtual environment. Their experience provided invaluable knowledge of how to adjust and ensure the course curriculum and schedule was not interrupted.

Staff Sgt. Marcos Sepulveda, Class 21-6’s

second ALS instructor also from the 42nd Force Support Squadron at Maxwell AFB, AL spoke on his experience teaching with Denmark in primarily virtual environments prior to Class 21-6.

“The transition back was easy since the students were already used to the virtual equipment. Before this class, Staff Sgt. Denmark and myself mainly taught in virtual environments,” said Sepulveda. “We did face some challenges that come with teaching in the virtual environment, like distractions in the

student’s homes, but we adapt and find ways through it.”

The instructors admired Class 21-6’s ability to acclimate to sudden changes. “We have some pretty resilient Airmen and they were easy to work with,” said Denmark.

Connors also spoke on his class returning in-person for the final days of the course. “I think it was a blessing for us to come back together as a class. Being able to bond with everyone made going through ALS a lot easier,” said Connors.



U.S. Air Force photo by Second Lieutenant Peyton Craven

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andreus Denmark, 42nd Force Support Squadron, Airman Leadership School instructor, speaks with his students in the classroom, July 26 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Denmark discusses the importance of reading terms and conditions in a lesson with his class.

Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, had a message for the students of the class. “ALS is not a box to be checked, there are expectations for you to be a leader,” said Cooper. “Not only is there an educational aspect to the course, but also a networking element for the students.”

Class 21-6 received their diplomas from Col. Seth Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, August 25th, 2021.

Award winners are as follows:
John Levitow – Senior Airman Jose Guillen
Academic Achievement – Senior Airman Anthony Connors
Commandant – Senior Airman Krystal Darden
Distinguished Graduate – Senior Airman Krystal Darden
Distinguished Graduate – Senior Airman Mikarah McGuire

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U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen
U.S. Air Force Col. Brent Drown, 340th Flying Training Group deputy commander, salutes Lt. Col. David Easterling, incoming 43rd Flying Training Squadron commander, during the 43rd FTS Change of Command ceremony, Aug. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. During wartime, or in the event of hostilities, the 43rd FTS is mobilized to offset anticipated losses of experienced active duty pilot contributions to the instructor pilot training programs.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Barlow, 43rd Flying Training Squadron outgoing commander, gives his remarks at the 43rd FTS Change of Command ceremony at the Walker Center, Aug. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 43rd Flying Training Squadron administers and executes the AETC/AFRC Associate Instructor Pilot (IP) Program and provides Active Guard Reserve (AGR) and Traditional Reserve (TR) IPs to augment the cadre of active duty pilots conducting pilot training.

Easterling accepts command of Firebirds

Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jason Barlow relinquished command of the 43rd Flying Training Squadron to Lt. Col. David Easterling Jr., during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Easterling is a seasoned pilot with over 5,600 flying hours in the T-38 Talon, at Randolph AFB, Texas, Williams AFB, Arizona, and Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

“Firebirds, you are why we are the best squadron in the Air Force,” said Easterling. “Dedication, expertise, longevity. Those are just a few of the qualities that make you amazing. You are why I am still in the Reserves. It is an honor and privilege to be your commander.”

The 43rd FTS administers and executes the Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Reserve Command, Associate and Instructor Pilot (IP) Program. The program provides Active Guard Reserve and Traditional Reserve IPs to augment the resident active duty instructor pilots conducting pilot training.

“Firebirds, you are why we are the best squadron in the Air Force,” said Easterling. “Dedication, expertise, longevity. Those are just a few of the qualities that make you amazing. You are why I am still in the Reserves. It is an honor and privilege to be your commander.”

Barlow is a career pilot has been flying for approximately 21 years and was the first T-6 instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, spending the majority of his career with the 43rd Firebirds, working his way through the ranks and eventually becoming the Squadron commander.



“Firebirds, you are the reason we do what we do,” said Barlow, out-going 43rd FTS commander “It has been truly an honor and I appreciate it.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen
The 43rd Flying Training Squadron T-38 Talon flagship name is unveiled during a 43th FTS Change of Command ceremony, Aug. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Squadron Flagships are named after the current commander and are revealed during Change of Command ceremonies.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. David Easterling, incoming 43rd Flying Training Squadron commander, gives a speech at the 43rd FTS Change of Command ceremony at the Walker Center, Aug. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 43rd FTS is an Air Force Reserve unit providing Active Guard Reserve (AGR) and Traditional Reserve (TR) instructor pilots to aid in creating pilots.