

## Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Thunderstorms
High 95°F Low 70°F	High 94°F Low 69°F	High 90°F Low 68°F

## News Briefs

### Labor Day Holiday Weekend

Most base organizations will be closed Sept. 4 – 7 in observance of Labor Day Holiday.

### SUPT Class 15-14 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-14 is graduating at 10 a.m. Sept. 11 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is retired Col. Scott Manning, former commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp Detachment 009 at Yale University.

### International spouses meet and greet

A meet and greet luncheon is scheduled for international spouses 10 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Landings.

### SUPT Class 15-15 Assignment Night

Assignment night for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-15 is scheduled 5:30 p.m., Thursday Sept. 17 at the Kaye Auditorium.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The AFRC is highlighted in this week's feature.

# Save the Date



Trotter Convention Center  
Friday, Sept. 18, 2015

Social hour begins at 6 p.m.  
Dinner begins at 7 p.m.

Columbus Air Force Base  
brings you the

## AIR FORCE BALL

A TRADITION OF HONOR ★ A LEGACY OF VALOR

Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Richard M. Clark, Commander, Eighth Air Force  
Day care is provided at both the CDC and Youth Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## Save the Date: The Air Force Birthday Ball is almost here!

### Capt. Patrick Bruton

41st Flying Training Squadron  
Spaatz Flight Instructor Pilot

Columbus Air Force Base leadership invites Airmen to fill the seats in celebration of the 2015 Air Force Ball scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi.

The ball is an annual Air Force-wide tradition celebrating the heritage and history of the Air Force.

The National Security Act of 1947 became law on July 26, 1947, which created the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff positions. On Sept. 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington became the Secretary of the Air Force and on Sept. 26, Gen. Carl Spaatz became the U.S. Air Force's first Chief of Staff.

This year marks the 68th anniversary of the Air Force. The Air Force Ball pays tribute to the past and reaffirms our commitment to build upon what was started. Being the nature of the Air

See AIR FORCE BALL, Page 2

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-07)	0.96 days	-1.94 days	Sept. 3	48th (15-14)	1.69 days	0.92 days	Sept. 11	49th (15-LBC)	-1.62 days	0.50 days	Sept. 21	T-6	2,771	2,821	26,926
41st (16-08)	4.02 days	1.97 days	Sept. 28	50th (15-14)	-0.51 days	1.88 days	Sept. 11					T-1	889	949	14,518
												T-38	901	816	8,176
												IFF	439	407	3,850

The graduation speaker is Retired Col. Scott Manning, former Commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp Detachment 009 at Yale University.

## AIR FORCE BALL

(Continued from page 1)

Force Ball is a celebration, military attendees must dress up in their most formal Air Force uniform while the civilian attendees can wear coat and tie for men or formal/semiformal gowns for women.

We are less than three weeks out from the ball and the committee has been working diligently for months putting together cost-reducing fundraisers and coordinating the menu and entertainment to ensure everyone in attendance has a memorable evening. Speaking of the meal, Brian Michael's Catering Company has put together a wonderful selection of delicious fine foods. Each plate starts with a strawberry salad with mixed greens and a pomegranate vinaigrette dressing. When it comes to the main dish, there are three choices to choose from:

- Vegetarian Meal Choice: Pasta alfredo with mushrooms, fresh spinach and a cream sauce

- Beef Meal Choice: 14 oz. certified angus prime rib entrée
- Chicken Meal Choice: Butterflied chicken breast marinated with a sweet sun-dried tomato glaze

All meal choices will be served with scalloped potatoes au gratin, a dinner roll, and fresh green beans wrapped in bacon, for the non-vegetarian dishes. Dessert will be your choice of chocolate or white cake, made by Rachel Pitman.

Once we have had time to let our food settle, it will be time to enjoy some music from the band 'Poor House Bound Band.' The band formed from a multitude of bands and influences with the ability to play Classic Rock songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s with some newer Country thrown in for good measure. The band is sure to get you up out of your chair and on the dance floor. More information on the band can be found at [poorhousebound.com](http://poorhousebound.com).

For more information, please contact your unit representative or register online at <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=256266&k=0064440B7D51>.

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of Aug. 28, 38 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## Feds Feed Families

Feds Feed Families final donation standings:

14th Operations Group: 656.2 lbs.  
14th Medical Group: 990.3 lbs.  
14th Mission Support Group: 953.3 lbs.  
14th Wing Staff Agency: 1218.8 lbs.  
DECA/AFSA: 85 lbs.  
14th Flying Training Wing Total: 3903.6 lbs.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
7 Labor Day Holiday, most CAFB organizations closed	8	9 AETC/A-6 visit	10 AETC/PA visit	11 SUPT Class 15-14 graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	12/13	<p>Sept. 22: Wing Newcomers Orientation</p> <p>Sept. 26: Retiree Appreciation Day</p> <p>Sept. 28: Anheuser-Busch safety presentation</p> <p>Sept. 28-29: 14th FTW dissimilar photo</p> <p>Sept. 30: Wing Down day — Wing photo — Wing picnic — Enlisted Promotions</p> <p>Oct. 2: SUPT Class 15-15 Graduation</p> <p>Oct. 2-3: Autocross</p> <p>Oct. 12: Columbus Day Holiday</p> <p>Oct. 20: Newcomers Orientation Brief</p> <p>Oct. 23: SUPT Class 16-01 graduation</p> <p>Oct. 27: Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony</p> <p>Oct. 30: Enlisted Promotions</p> <p>Oct. 30: Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony</p> <p>Oct. 31: Zombie Run</p>
14 SAPR Large Group, 1 p.m. @ Kaye	15	16 International Spouses Meet and Greet, 10 a.m. @ Landings	17 15-15 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Kaye	18 POW/MIA Remembrance Day  Air Force Birthday Ball, 6 p.m. @ Trotter Center	19/20	

## 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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*Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.*

# NEWS AROUND TOWN

**Sept. 3**  
Columbus Main Street and the Columbus Arts Council partner to bring Art Walk Downtown where local artists are paired with downtown merchants for an evening of shopping fun from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Stroll the streets of downtown Columbus, shop in participating stores, purchase unique art and enjoy local entertainment.

The Columbus Arts Council presents Sarah McQuaid in concert starting 7 p.m. at Omnova Theater. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

**Sept. 3-7**  
The Tupelo Fair is open for business starting at 4 p.m. Sept. 3 – 4, and noon Sept. 5 -7. Adult admission is \$9; youth ages 5 to 12, \$5; children ages 4 and under get in free. Unlimited ride wristbands are \$20. For more information, visit online at bcsarena.com.

**Sept. 5**  
The West Point Prairie Arts Festival is held each year on the Saturday before Labor Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in West Point's downtown. It includes fine arts, crafts, down-home southern cooking, four stages of live music, classic cars, Kidsville, and much more.

**Sept. 6,8,9,11 and 12**  
The Tennessee Williams Tribute and tour of Victorian homes is scheduled to begin next week in downtown Columbus. For more information call 328-5413 or visit online at muw.edu/tennesseewilliams.

**Sept. 11**  
The Classic Music Festival is scheduled to host a bevy of R&B stars including Anthony Hamilton, Fantasia, Johnny Gill and Avery\*Sunshine starting 7:30 p.m. at Landers Center 4560 Venture Drive, Southaven, Mississippi. Ticket prices range from \$57+ depending on seats. For more information, visit online at landerscenter.com.

**Sept. 13**  
The World Wrestling Entertainment is scheduled to for a live performance starting 5 p.m. at the BancorpSouth Arena 375 East Main Street in Tupelo, Mississippi. The WWE event will be featuring Randy Orton, Mr. Money in the Bank Sheamus, Big Show, Intercontinental Champion Ryback, and Neville. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$100+ depending on seats. For more information, visit online at bcsarena.com.

**Sept. 17**  
The Price is Right gameshow is scheduled for a live performance starting at 7:30 p.m. at the BancorpSouth Arena 375 East Main Street in Tupelo, Mississippi. The live event is the hit interactive stage show that gives eligible individuals the chance to "Come On Down" to win. Prizes may include appliances, vacations and possibly a new car. Ticket prices range from \$33.50 + depending on seats. For more information, visit online at bcsarena.com.

**There for those who need us most.**



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1.800.899.0089  
VolunteersofAmerica.org

a CFC participant Provided as a public service.

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308 Chubby Drive ★ Columbus, MS  
662-329-4130

If you have served in the armed forces, you are eligible for membership!  
Army ★ Navy ★ Air Force ★ Marines  
**CALL TODAY TO JOIN!**

**Lounge Open to the Public**  
Open Monday-Thursday @ 2pm. Friday-Sunday @ 1pm  
Must be 21 for lounge admittance

**BINGO** Every Monday & Friday Night!  
Sales start at 6pm. Must be 14 or older to play, minors must be accompanied by adult

**VLC Machines** 7 Days a Week  
**Drink Specials**  
**Pool Tables**  
**No Cover Charge**

**Karaoke** with Eddie Hall  
Every Saturday Night at 8pm

**Labor Day Weekend Holiday hours**



Airman & Family Readiness Center.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Arts & Crafts, Wood Shop.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Back Gate.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Bowling Center.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Child Development Center.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Columbus Club.....	Closed for renovations
Commissary.....	Closed Sept. 7 - 8
Exchange.....	Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sept. 4 - 7
Fitness Center.....	Open 24/7 (register at front desk)
Golf Course.....	Open Sept. 4 - 7
Medical Group.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Military Personnel and Finance.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Multimedia.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Outdoor Recreation.....	Closed Sept. 7
Shoppette.....	Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sept. 4 - 7
Visitor's Center.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7
Youth Center.....	Closed Sept. 4 - 7



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin  
Eight of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony Aug. 31 at the Columbus Club.

# Eight enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

**14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs**

Eight of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony Aug. 31 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the month of August were:

- Master Sgt. Jeffery Randolph, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Master Sgt. Daniel Schell, 14th Operations Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Michael Anderson, 14th Medical Operations Squadron
- Senior Airman Nadia Armstrong, 14th MDOS
- Senior Airman Kyle Carpenter, 14th OSS
- Senior Airman Hailey Conway, 14th OSS
- Senior Airman Audriana Howard, 14th MDOS
- Senior Airman Alyssa Lien, 14th OSS

## Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Retirees, did you know the Exchange will match any priced item available with downtown merchants? Simply ask the cashier about the price match. Give them your price from the other merchant and that price will be matched. There is also no tax included, so your best deal as a retiree at a retail outlet is with your Exchange. For more information contact Mrs. Hazel Seichrist at the Columbus Air Force Base Exchange or contact your Retiree Activities Office at 434-3120.



**Retiree Appreciation Day**  
Saturday, September 26, 2015

At the McAllister Fire Department



Call the Retiree Affairs Office Now at 434-3120 to RSVP for this event. Early Registration is required due to limited space.

**Guest Speaker**  
Mr. John F. Merkle  
Tuscaloosa, Ala. VA Medical Center

## BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source

of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

**Transportation**

For Sale: Two IBM T61 Laptops with Intel 2.10ghz CPU, Windows XP, and 2g Ram; asking \$145 for the 120ghd and \$135 for the 80ghd. For more information, call 386-6981.

**Transportation**

For Sale: 2005 Honda CBR 600 motor-

cycle, 4,500 miles. Comes with two medium-size helmets and a medium-size riding jacket. \$4,500 or best offer. For more information, call 497-2120.

For Sale: 2001 Toyota Corolla LE, 130,000+ miles, \$2,500 or best offer. For more information, please call 574-7988.

For Sale: Camper for sale: 31 ft., comes with bumper pull large tip-out, two TVs, dishes, and cooking pots and pans. Reduced price of \$7,500. For more information, please call 251-7286.

**Buckle up! It's the law.**

# Retired Col. Scott Manning to speak at graduation

Team BLAZE welcomes retired Col. Scott Manning to Columbus Air Force Base as the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Training Class 15-14 on Sept. 11.



Manning was a Professor (Adjunct) at Yale University and he successfully led the reintegration of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp program to the Campus of Yale University after a 55-year absence. He is a Command Pilot with over 3,700 hours in the F-16C/CJ, A-10A, AT-38B, and T-38A aircraft.

Manning's distinguished career began in Reserve Officer Training Corps at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, where he earned his commission in the United States Air Force.

He has served as an instructor pilot in four different aircraft, and an evaluator in two, supervisor of flying, executive officer, flight commander, operations officer for current operations, chief of combat operations, chief of strategy division for the United Kingdom Joint Force Air Component Headquarters (exchange posting), Director of Operations for both the 77th and 55th Fighter Squadrons, Commander of the 79th Fighter Squadron, Deputy Group Commander for the 20th Maintenance Group, Commanded USAFE's Warrior Preparation Center, Commanded the Air Force ROTC at Norwich University and was the Dean of National Services at Norwich University. He holds a Master of Arts in International Relations/Defense Studies from King's College, University of London, UK, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Currently, Manning is the Vice President for Norwich University Applied Research Institutes. NUARI serves the national public interest through the study of critical national issues and the development of related educational and training programs. NUARI conducts rapid research, develops and deploys needed technologies, addresses related policy and technology issues to enhance a national capability for preparedness and response. NUARI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and accomplishes its mission through development of strategic alliances, partnerships, collaborations, and outreach programs with diverse public and private sector stakeholders; communities of governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions; and business and industry associations and entities.

# 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.

# U-28 visits Team BLAZE



A U-28A from the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Florida, is set up as a static display on the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flightline Sept. 1 for Team BLAZE members. A briefing was held by Capt. Jesse Ziegler, U-28 pilot, in Philips Auditorium after the display was available.

U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

International Spouses Group  
CAFB

Bring the whole family for an international lunch break!

**Meet & Greet**

September 16 @ 11am

Columbus Housing Community Center

New International Spouses, we want to meet you!

# F-22 inaugural deployment to Europe

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Public Affairs

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Four F-22 Raptors, one C-17 Globemaster III, and approximately 60 Airmen arrived at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, to train with allied air forces and U.S. services through mid-September.

This first-ever F-22 training deployment to Europe is funded by the European Reassurance Initiative, and provides support to bolster the security of our NATO Allies and partners in Europe. The F-22s and Airmen are from the 95th Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla. The C-17 is from the 60th Air-lift Wing, Travis AFB, Calif.

"This inaugural Raptor training deployment is the perfect opportunity for these advanced aircraft to train alongside other U.S. Air Force aircraft, joint partners, and NATO allies," said General Frank Gorenc, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander.

The training will prove that 5th generation fighters can deploy successfully to European bases and other NATO installations while also affording the chance for familiarization flight training within the European theater. It will also give them the chance to conduct combat air training with different aircraft like U.S. F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons.

"It's important we test our infrastructure, aircraft capabilities, and the talented Airmen and allies who will host 5th generation aircraft in Europe," said Gorenc. "This deployment advances our airpower evolution and demonstrates our resolve and commitment to European safety and security."



A pair of F-22 Raptors fly near the coastline of Panama City Beach, Florida.

Courtesy photo

# Civil Air Patrol joins total force 'Airmen'

Staff Sgt. Whitney Stanfield

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — When conducting missions for the Air Force as the official Air Force auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol is now included in the Air Force's definition of the total force. CAP has provided 74 years of support to emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs.

In August 2015, the Air Force updated Doctrine Volume 2, "Leadership," expanding the Air Force's descriptions of total force and Airmen to now consist of regular, Guard, Reserve, civilian and auxiliary members.

Historically, the broader term Airmen referred to uniformed and civilian members of the U.S. Air Force (officer or enlisted, regular, Reserve, or Guard) regardless of rank, component or specialty.

With this newest change, Air Force lead-

*"Civil Air Patrol enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that spans decades," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, the CAP national commander.*

ers should consider each part of the total force, including the auxiliary, when determining the most effective and efficient ways to complete the mission. CAP has approximately 57,000 volunteers and 550 aircraft assigned to more than 1,500 units stateside available or currently supporting non-combat missions on behalf of the Air Force.

"As a strategic partner, these unpaid professionals have boldly served our nation saving the Air Force almost 40 times the cost of using military assets for each hour served," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "Inclusion in the total force reflects

the continuing key contributions of this highly trained and equipped organization."

The auxiliary members, who fly the nearly 100,000 hours per year performing disaster relief, counterdrug, search and rescue, fighter interceptor training, aerial observation and cadet orientation flights, will now be included in the total force and referred to as Airmen during the performance of official duties in recognition of their contributions to the Air Force.

"Civil Air Patrol enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that spans decades," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, the CAP nation-

al commander. "Our ability to augment the Air Force is second to none. We provide 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions and disaster-relief support to local, state and national agencies as well as aerial reconnaissance for homeland security, and remain continually postured to offer more."

Beyond CAP's support to achieve its homeland responsibilities for non-combat operations, the organization has been recognized for their efforts to inspire hundreds of thousands of cadets and K-12 students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and training.

"Civil Air Patrol's increased exposure has a direct impact on attracting youth interest in STEM-based activities which are skills necessary to develop the innovative Airmen our Air Force needs," said Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III. "We proudly welcome the Air Force auxiliary by extending our badge of honor as Airmen."

# Airman author brings fictional, real heroes to life

**Staff Sgt. Darren Scott**

460th Space Wing Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — (This feature is part of the “Through Airmen’s Eyes” series. These stories focus on individual Airmen, highlighting their Air Force story.)

In stories, the hero is often called upon to accomplish a great task, to take on the weight of a burden they did not anticipate, even though they know that hardships may plague every step of their journey. For storytellers, joy often comes from seeing the hero overcome the many obstacles placed in front of them to emerge strong and victorious against the odds.

Senior Airman Brian McLean is the author of such stories. He is also, in his own way, the hero.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Darren Scott

**Senior Airman Brian McLean, a 11th Space Warning Squadron, Future Operations Flight staff instructor, is the main point of contact for HEO-3 training and operations. In his spare time, he writes fictional short stories.**

anything right now. It should just be up there, waiting for us to launch HEO-4, so we can take HEO-1 and 2 and do other things with them,” McLean said. “So the fact that it’s up in the air and actively in operations right now is great. It really is a point of pride to actually sit back, now that we have HEO-3 up and running and the operators I’ve trained are actually performing the mission. It’s exhilarating.”

Staff Sgt. Tim Lukenbaugh, the NCO in charge of future operations and McLean’s supervisor, says having an Airman like him is a vital asset to the mission and makes his job all the more enjoyable.

“It’s easy, he just goes,” Lukenbaugh said. “You give him one thing, and he’ll do everything you tell him to do better than you ask for. No arguing, no complaining, no negativity. You talk to any leadership in our squadron and they’ll give you the same answer: I’ll do anything for that guy. That’s the kind of reputation he has.”

Operations and training aren’t the only thing McLean authors. He is also a passionate writer, having minored in creative writing in college. Despite the high-speed work environment of his job, he still finds the time to practice what he loves.

“I have a great idea in my head and I need to get it out, that way I can breathe, exhale, walk away and do something

else,” McLean said. “It’s always something I’ve been passionate about. I’d love to write a book someday, even if it is just some project on the side.”

McLean treats his writing just as seriously as he treats his work, devoting himself to his writing with passion and drive. He said when he gets in the zone, it’s like when the HEO-3 got up and running; it’s a great feeling.

“When I’m in the zone, I don’t even notice the sun come up, I don’t notice the sun go down,” McLean said. “I’m completely in the moment for that story. When you actually get done with it, and you physically have something in front of you that you’re proud of, it’s a great feeling.”

McLean is proud of the work he’s done, and has confidence in the work he has yet to do. In a career field that often deals with spacecraft thousands of miles away, he says having something tangible to see is encouraging.

“It’s hard to shake that feeling of accomplishment when you sit there and see all the work just paid off. That’s where it is, right there. When I write a story, it’s the exact same way. I did something, I accomplished something that is my own voice, no one’s ever going to replicate it the same way I do.”

Whether he’s creating plans for new space operators or a new fictional world, McLean can rest easy knowing he not only can create a hero, but be one as well.

*“I have a great idea in my head and I need to get it out, that way I can breathe, exhale, walk away and do something else,”*  
McLean said.

As a 11th Space Warning Squadron Future Operations Flight staff instructor, McLean has been handed some heavy responsibility of his own, becoming the main point of contact for all things HEO-3, the newest highly elliptical orbit satellite in the Space Based Infrared System.

“It’s very exciting to be in charge of something like this,” McLean said. “At the time I didn’t really think much of it. I thought ‘cool, I’ll get some regular hours, get off shift, you know, do something more than just the routine day to day.’ To find out that you’re going to be the point of contact for everything HEO-3 is kind of terrifying. You sure? I’m only a senior airman, here.”

Aside from being the main point of contact for getting HEO-3 operational, McLean was also responsible for developing and implementing the training program for space operators working with HEO-3, as well as designing their evaluation system. For him, one of the most humbling aspects was that his leadership put their faith in him.

“To be completely trusted to handle all of this, at a senior airman level, that is just insane to me,” McLean said, “Having that kind of role and responsibility has been eye-opening. I’ve been in the military four years and this is where I am right now. That’s unheard of for someone at my level, so low on the totem pole. It’s intense.”

Not only did he head up this initiative, but McLean had an enormous impact on the overall mission. He ensured that HEO-3 was not only operational within one year of launching, but also two years ahead of schedule, securing one more piece of the space based missile warning mission. It’s an accomplishment he is quite proud of.

“The amazing thing is, HEO-3 shouldn’t even be doing

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby

**A KC-10 from McGuire AFB, New Jersey, resumes its flight pattern after receiving fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over Afghanistan March 17. The KC-135 crew, from the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, is currently assigned to the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Brian Dyjak

**KC-10 Extenders and C-17 Globemaster IIIs from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, taxi down the flightline during an emergency response exercise elephant walk. This is the first time C-17s and KC-10s have been paired in an exercise. Sixteen aircraft launched from McGuire on Friday, June 30, as part of the exercise.**

## 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.

The large cargo-loading door can accept most air forces’ fighter unit support equipment. Powered rollers and winches inside the cargo compartment permit moving heavy loads. The cargo compartment can accommodate loads ranging from 27 pallets to a mix of 17 pallets and 75 passengers.

### 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



**To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424**

# Bird feeders endanger CAFB

**Capt. Justin Cadwell**  
14th Flying Training Wing

As our Columbus Air Force Base aviators fulfill their mission on a daily basis, they constantly face the threat of wildlife strikes.

In 2014, several 14th Flying Training Wing aircraft struck 113 birds causing over \$370,000 in damages. Not only do bird strikes cost a significant amount of money, it results in the aircraft being unable to fly for some time which also prevents the base from accomplishing the mission of Producing Pilots.

The 14th FTW Safety Office puts a significant amount of time and effort into reducing the amount of bird and wildlife on the base and near the runways. The Bird/Animal Strike Hazard program, aka BASH, focuses on reducing the attractiveness of the airfield and the surrounding environment to wildlife that threaten our pilots and aircraft. Some examples of these efforts include, maintaining the grass around the airfield at heights that do not attract birds, using noise makers positioned around the airfield to scare off the birds and conducting bird depredation activities to remove hazardous birds.

In addition to these measures, personnel living and working on base can contribute to the BASH program simply by removing food, water and shelter sources for the animals such as bird feeders, bird baths and more. The Columbus Air Force Base Plan 91-202 prohibits bird feeders anywhere on base to include within base housing.

While birds are very enjoyable to watch as they come to feed, they become habituated to the local area and attract predatory birds, such as hawks, that prey on food sources with large populations of smaller birds. Hawks are a major threat to aircraft due to their size and tendency to fly at altitudes where aircraft are most vulnerable.

However, even small birds such as meadowlarks



and swallows endanger our aircraft and pilots. In January an eastern meadowlark caused over \$200,000 in damage when it was ingesting into a T-38 engine. Therefore, we ask that all Columbus AFB personnel join our BASH team by removing all bird feeders, bird houses and bird baths to reduce the attractiveness of the base environment to our winged friends and help ensure the safety of our aircraft and Airmen flying above and you below.

## The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior.  
I have answered my nation's call.  
I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage.  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.  
I am an American Airman.

Guardian of freedom and justice,  
My nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.  
I am an American Airman.  
Wingman, leader, warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind.  
I will never falter,  
And I will not fail.

## September religious holidays, events

14th Flying Training Wing Chapel

While this is not an all-inclusive list, the below is a basic list of major religious holidays within the month of September.

Airmen may request permission to participate in the holiday observances listed below. It is encouraged to approve religious accommodation requests while continuing to nurture an environment in your unit where such requests are welcomed.

Your Air Force Chaplain Corps stands ready to assist and advise you as needed.

**Krishna Janmashtami:** Sept. 5, Hindu - This day celebrates the birth of Krishna.

**Nativity of Mary:** Sept. 8, Christian - This day marks the celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary for Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox Churches.

**Elevation of the Life Giving Cross - Holy Cross Day:** Sept. 14, Christian - This is a day in recognition of the Cross as a central symbol of the Christian religion. It is one of the Great feasts of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox Churches.

**Rosh Hashanah:** Sept. 14 - 15 (begins sundown on Sept. 13), Jewish - Marks the Jewish New Year as a time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence. The story of Abraham is read, the ram's horn is sounded, and special foods are prepared and shared. Jewish personnel may ask to adjust their work schedule.

**Ganesh Chaturthi:** Sept. 17, Hindu - This festival honors the Hindu god of prosperity, prudence and success. Images of Ganesha are worshipped.

**Paryushana Parva:** Sept. 18 -25, Jain: This eight-day festival signifies human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement. It is marked by recitations from Jain's sacred writing and family exchange of cards and letters. The eighth day, Samvatsari, is most important and focuses on forgiveness.

**Waqf al Arafa - Hajj:** Sept. 22, Islam: This Islamic observance day during Hajj is when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy.

**Yom Kippur:** Sept. 23 (begins sundown on Sept. 22), Jewish: Yom Kippur, a day of atonement and a major fast day, is one of the most solemn days of the Jewish year. Prayer and fasting characterizes this day, with the fast commencing at sundown and ending the following night, after sunset. Some Jews may abstain from all food and water until after sunset; others may observe modified fasts. Evening services are part of this observance.

**Equinox Mabon - northern hemisphere/Ostata - southern hemisphere:** Sept. 23 (begins sundown on Sept. 22), Wicca/Pagan: Commemorates the time when the sun is directly above a point on the equator when day and night are of equal duration. The Equinox will be either Vernal or Autumnal depending on the hemisphere.

**Eid al Adha:** Sept. 23 - 26 (begins sundown on Sept. 22), Islam: It is the second of the two major Muslim holy days, the first being Eid Al-Fitr. This holy day, a day of sacrifice, is marked by prayers, feasting and the distribution of meat to the poor.

**Meskel:** Sept. 27, Christian: This is an annual religious holiday commemorating Queen Eleni for Ethiopian Orthodox Christians.

**Sukkot:** Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, (begins sundown on Sept. 27), Jewish: Dwelling in a "sukkah" booth, waving the palm bundle, and festive meals characterize this major festival. The first two days and the last two days are strict holy days in which special services are held. Also known as the Festival of Tabernacles, Orthodox Jews are required to abstain from work activities. This includes, but is not limited to writing, carrying, shaving, cooking, doing laundry, touching anything electronic, money or credit cards and operating a motor vehicle or being driven in one.

## 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.)*

### Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sept. 14 - 15. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants, to register or for more information call 434-2790.

### First Term Officer's PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop is required by AFI for all newly assignment personnel to their first station. The event will be 9 - 10 a.m. Sept. 15. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

### Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is 9 - 10:30 a.m. Sept. 16. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs, Call 434-2790 to register.

### Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon Sept. 16. It is an informational workshop for members pursuing or interested in a teaching career after the military. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

### Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. - noon Sept. 17. The Capstone is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/have not met their Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle, 1 - 2 p.m. Sept. 22, workshop allows the VA contractors to explain to service members; whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

### Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying

## MAC members enjoy time with Team BLAZE first sergeants



Courtesy photo  
**Members of the Military Affairs Committee stand with Team BLAZE first sergeants Aug. 29 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. First sergeants showed the MAC members their appreciation with a dinner at the home of Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief.**

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, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

## Base Organizations

Below workshops may be listed space permitting

### Learn How to Read Your LES

Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Finance has you covered. If you would like for Finance to come to your next CC call or Professional Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Senior Airman Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

### DRMO

Recycle first by using the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office as your facility's source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply. Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

### Last Look Area

Recycling is what the Last Look Area provides! Slightly used furniture and equipment is available to all Columbus Air Force Base facilities for free. Pick-up and delivery is the customer's responsibility. There is a three-day maximum for customers who wish to reserve items. Facility hours are from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Need more information? Contact Inspections at 434-7231 or 434-7332. Parking is available at the back of building 158.

### Zero Overpricing Program

Interested in saving the Air Force money and making a little yourself? As part of the Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness Program there are award incentives for price challenges that result in tangible savings. In accordance with AFI 38-401, responsible personnel will receive a monetary award. Personnel are encouraged to participate on any overpricing issues daily. Please call Customer Support at 434-7178 for any advice or guidance.

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

The ERAU office is open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is located in building 926, suite 124. ERAU is offering Master of Aeronautical Science and Master of Science in Management degrees. For more information contact the ERAU office at 434-8262 or Memphis.center@erau.edu.

### Saint Leo University

SLU offers on-base classes in psychology, criminal justice, and business administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by room 120 in building 926 (old Personnel building).

### IDEA Program

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness is looking for submissions of individual, group, or team ideas about how the Air Force can accomplish something more efficiently. Cash rewards for ideas are possible. Visit <https://ipds.randolph.af.mil> or call 434-2388.

### MPS Training Dates

The Military Personnel Section in building 730 holds in-house training on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during night flying weeks. They will offer appointments only on these days to accommodate this necessary training. If you have any questions, call 434-2611.

### School Liaison Officer

The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Officer works with local school districts, schools, parents and students on issues related to elementary and secondary education for the children of all personnel (civilian, military and contractor) assigned to the installation. As parents of school-age children are aware, there are many unique issues our children face as they transition to new schools. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families and ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. For assistance, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at [sl@us.af.mil](mailto:sl@us.af.mil).

## 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

**Sunday:**  
3:15 p.m. - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Chapel Annex)  
3:45 p.m. - Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)  
4 p.m. - Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)  
4 p.m. - Confession (or by appointment)  
5 p.m. - Mass w/Children's Church  
**Tuesday:**  
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass

### Protestant Community

**Sunday:**  
9 a.m. - Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)  
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service  
**Tuesday:**  
5 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)  
**Wednesday:**  
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Presented by the Columbus Club at the Bowling Center during Club renovations...



**JOHNSON VS DODSON 2**  
WORLD FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP  
SEP 5 SAT

**Doors Open at 1830** Pre-Fight at 1900  
Featured Fight at 2100

**Free admission to Club Members & to those who sign up for Club Membership**

**Non-Member Admission \$5**  
Club Members receive Preferred Seating & Food Discounts

**ENTER TO WIN A TRIP TO WATCH UFC LIVE IN VEGAS!**

**Food & Beverages** **Adult Themed Entertainment** **Door Prizes**

**Event Held @ The Bowling Center**  
(bowling will not be available)

For more information **662-434-2310**

from at the Youth Center's parking lot, weather permitting. All ages welcome. For more information, call 434-2504.

**Thursday Night Football Frenzy**  
Catch all the action at the Bowling Center and win big. You could win a \$50 gift card at each game and enter to win tickets to a regular season NFL game of your choice. Watch Denver Broncos v. Kansas City Chiefs Sept. 17 and Washington Redskins v. New York Giants Sept. 24. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact 434-1583.

**Superintendent's One Person Scramble**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a one person/two ball scramble Sept. 19. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is only \$40 per golf member and \$50 per non-member. Cost includes green fees, cart, prize fund, lunch and door prizes. Each participant receives a sleeve of golf balls and a glove. Scramble flighted based on number of entries. Prizes awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, contact 434-7932.

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

**White Wine Pairing**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a White Wine Pairing at 6 p.m. Sept. 24. The cost is only \$25 per person. The menu includes fruit and cheese paired with Reisling, shrimp pinwheels and oven fried mushrooms paired with Pinot Grigio, chicken wings paired with Sauvignon Blanc, and grilled salmon paired with Chardonnay. Space limited to 30 participants. Sign up by Sept. 10. For more information, contact 434-7932.

**GoPro Rental**  
Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero 3 from Outdoor Recreation. Cost is only \$10 for a two-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a two-day rental at no charge during Single Airman programming events. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**Play Paintball**  
Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**Volunteers Needed**  
The Fitness Center is offering the Third Annual Zombie Run Oct. 31. We want you to serve on the Zombie Run Planning Committee. Available opportunities include: check-in, set-up obstacles, zombie make-up artist, zombies, water stations, tear down obstacles; oversee adult run or kids run, and more. To volunteer or for more information, contact 434-2772.

**Free Pool Passes and FootGolf**  
Independence Pool Passes and FootGolf is included with Whispering Pines Golf Membership. If you have an individual golf membership, you receive an individual pool pass and FootGolf membership and if you have a family golf membership, you receive a family pool pass and FootGolf membership. Visit Outdoor Recreation for your free pool pass today. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**Story Time**  
The Base Library is offering Story Time each Friday at 10:30 a.m. for all ages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class**  
Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Fri-

**Pontoon Boat Special at CAFB Outdoor Recreation!**

For only \$250, you get...

- 4-hour rental
- Transport of boat to and from the dock
- Boat driver
- Gas
- Boat cleaning
- Extra hours for only \$25 each.



Please reserve at least 7 days in advance  
For more information call CDR @ 434-2507

OUTDOOR RECREATION  
AF SERVICES

day at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Wood Shop Self Help**  
Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

**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.

**Green Plate Special**  
The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

**Instructional Classes at Youth Center**  
Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

**Fitness on Request**  
CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

**Space A Lodging**  
The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

# Nuggets of wisdom from an old colonel

**Col. Pat Shope**  
Air Force Reserve Advisor to AETC Commander



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — So what does an old colonel, Airman and leader — one who has both studied and lived some of the history of our time — have to share with those who are just starting out in the Air Force and whose lives are now opening in front of them? So, I asked myself, with over 30 years of military experience, what nuggets of wisdom did I wish I had known as a newly minted Airman, a cadet, a 2nd Lieutenant?

The changes in the world that have marked my time have been truly historic, even revolutionary. I have absolutely no doubt your lifetimes will be marked by even more breathtaking change. Those of us considered elderly can reflect with pride on all of the positive changes. Despite the real and intense challenges we face, the world is a much more inclusive and open place than was the world I knew at your age. The Air Force has always led the way in that regard; nonetheless, there is much that remains to be done. Although some wring their hands about the future of the Air Force, I trust that it is — fine in your capable hands. As Airman, we share the common bond of our core values, so today I expound on the credence of integrity, service, and excellence.

Be super proud you are an Airman — you are a member of the 1% that embodies the highest calling “serving to protect our nation’s freedom.” That is a tall order, but one in which we cannot fail. Just like generations before you, each American carried a burden and, as history personifies, you will no doubt be called to combat evoking your oath of service.

When you are called, be ready. We are the preeminent Air Force in the world and it is not a coincidence we are the best trained. Do your part to keep it that way. Trust in your preparation. When you graduate initial skills training, you are largely equipped to conduct the mission. You probably don't feel ready, but you are. Of course you need to keep learning . . . always strive to sharpen your experience, gain more knowledge, and learn new things. Commit yourself to excellence in your career field. Ironically, we can never be sure when any of us will be called to duty . . . “always be prepared” is the best path.

The Air Force mission of Fly, Fight and Win succeeds because Airmen make it happen as a team. From the defenders guarding our gate, to the cooks at the dining facility, to the maintainers turning wrenches, to the medics keeping us healthy, to Airmen personally engaging the enemy . . . EVERYONE plays a vital part and no one person is more or less important than the other. Treat each other with dignity and respect; it makes the team stronger. Airmen have earned it by being your brothers and sisters in the profession of arms.

Communicate directly with your Airmen. You need to personally connect with your teammates and they need to understand your vision. Show them your care.

Be a wingman — the military support network takes care of fellow Airmen and their families. A shared burden eases the load.

Resilience requires continuous effort to maintain spiritual, mental, social and physical fitness. Each component of this four-legged stool maintains the whole person balance. Work a little on each every day.

You are a member of the long blue line, so honor your Air Force heritage. Fine examples of how to lead Airmen are imprinted throughout Air Force history. To think that you are the first warrior Airman to encounter difficulty, face challenges or forge a new trail is naïve. Embrace those courageous souls and leaders, learn from their example . . . the crusty Master Sergeant, the old Colonel, the unit historian, and the lessons learned archive are really good sources. Not

surprisingly, retired members often have the greatest insight.

Seek a mentor and be a mentor — “be the change you wish to see in the world.” Manage your career and those of the Airmen you supervise. Be actively involved in determining your path while helping Airmen understand their career options. Know that you will find the greatest personal and professional growth during challenging tasks, at undesirable locations or under demanding conditions. Human nature tempts us to avoid these areas; instead embrace these tests. I guarantee you will learn and grow from them.

Understand history. Study and assess how we arrived at the current state, ask why we “keep doing it the same way” or are blindly forging a new path. Recognize the full extent of the situation, underlying assumptions and cumulative risk taken by previous commanders.

Read literature related to the profession of arms. These articles and books are the gateway to enhanced learning and understanding. They help to appreciate history, understand current events and envision of future.

Be cautious of social media and take personal responsibility for what you share openly – your personal thoughts are easily taken out of context by the world at large. As Patton said, “you are always on parade.”

Lastly, take lots of pictures. They help you recall memorable events and, more importantly, the Airmen and their families with whom you serve. Pictures help old men like me remember the “good times” but, most of all, they bring smiles and memories for the friends, leaders and Airmen you have served alongside. The rack of medals looks nice, but the lasting takeaway is the leaders, subordinates and friends you had the privilege to be around during your career.

As I close my career, this old colonel's epilogue isn't earth shattering wisdom, just simple guidelines that ask for understanding, action, and ultimately your commitment. I hope you're proud to be an Airman, eager to serve, and prepared to answer our nation's call.

Good luck,  
Colonel Patrick Shope

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# What can AFRC do for you?

## Airman 1st Class John Day

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

When Columbus Air Force Base Airmen are preparing to deploy, are returning from a deployment, are having financial problems or are even just looking to volunteer for their local community, the Airman and Family Readiness Center is there to help.

The AFRC provides various classes and programs to help active duty Airmen, guardsmen and reservists on active orders, spouses and dependents, government employees working on the base and retired veterans.

"Stop in and see us for anything," said Master Sgt. Rodney McInnis, AFRC Readiness NCO. "Our mission is our people. We can help out with just about anything you might need and if we do not provide what you are looking for, we can certainly point you in the right direction."

Among the services the AFRC offers is absolutely interest free financial aid. This comes in many forms. They can help create a budget and spending plan, assist with taxes, get discounted airplane tickets for those in emergency situations and run many interest-free to sometimes totally free loans.

McInnis told the story of when he was a young Airman reporting to his first duty station and could not afford an apartment. He was referred to the AFRC by his supervisor and received financial assistance from the Air Force Aid Society.

A monthly scheduled event from the AFRC is Hearts Apart. Hearts Apart brings together spouses and children of Airmen who are deployed or on remote tours.

"Hearts Apart is a great event for families," McInnis said. "It gives them an opportunity to gather and support each other while having fun. Wing leadership also attends, letting them know the ones in charge, care about them and their well-being."

The members of the AFRC are here to serve the community in many ways that some Airmen may not be aware of or may even have second thoughts about asking. The AFRC section chief believes they can find what people may be looking for.

"We will not give you 'no' as an answer," said Emicosa Cox, AFRC section chief. "If you need anything at all come see us. If we don't know something, we will find out for you. We are here to serve our Team BLAZE Airmen and their families."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day

The Airman and Family Readiness Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, offers a wide variety of programs in support of members and their families during periods of separation due to temporary duty, deployment, remote assignments, evacuations and emergencies. The facility is in building 1114 across the parking lot from the 14th Medical Clinic.



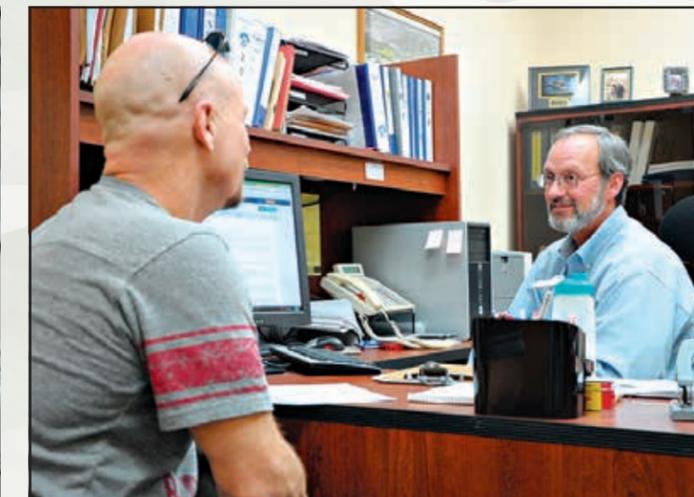
U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

Tech. Sgt. Theresa Booth, 14th Medical Group Pharmacy, reads a pamphlet for information on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Feb. 19, 2014. The readiness NCO provides pre-deployment briefings to ensure members are properly prepared before departure.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Charles Dickens

2nd Lt. Courtney Gallagher holds several Huggable Uniform Gifts made by volunteers at the Airman and Family Readiness Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Columbus AFB is the first base to offer these dolls free of charge to family members of deployed Airmen.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

Lt. Col. Larry Roof, left, speaks to Jeff Ellis, Airman and Family Readiness Center community readiness specialist, right, about his retirement opportunities at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Feb. 19, 2014. The AFRC offers many avenues for people to learn about military life.

## The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers many programs

The list below shows many of the AFRC's programs they offer.

### Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

### 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. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling (662) 434-2720.

### Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health

providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator 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 RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

### Sponsorship Training

Sponsorship Training is a web-based training available through Military Homefront made for all Unit Intro Monitors and sponsors.

### Bundles of Joy

Bundles of Joy is an Air Force Aid Society program for active duty military and or spouses assigned to Columbus Air Force Base who are pregnant or have a child up to four months of age. The program contains informational presentations about topics such as TriCare, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, Nutrition and Fitness during and after pregnancy, and Labor & Delivery.

### TAP/GPS Workshop

The workshop covers Seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, MS Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. It is Mandatory for all personnel separating; pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register, call AFRC.

### Volunteer Orientation/Training

Members can use this orientation to discuss volunteer job descriptions, and receive a brief overview of the base volunteer program. Training includes confidentiality, ethics and avoidance of conflict of interest.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This Orientation is mandatory for newly arrived Active Duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor at the Kaye Auditorium. For more information, call 434-2839.

### Heart Link

Are you new to Columbus Air Force Base or military lifestyle? Heart Link is a fun-filled spouse orientation program filled with information protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet other members new Columbus AFB.

### Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. Learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and AFRC.

### Ten Steps to a Federal Job

This workshop is for writing resumes, applications, and job search for federal employment.

All activities are offered at the Airman and Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email afrc@us.af.mil.