

Weather



News Briefs

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 2 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Columbus Club. The fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony will directly follow the Enlisted Promotions Ceremony.

Columbus Club Opening

The Columbus Club is reopening and will be open for a weekday buffet lunch starting this Monday, Feb. 1.

Annual Awards Ceremony

The Annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Columbus Club. A reception before the ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

Inside



Feature 8

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron is highlighted in this week's feature.

Owens challenges SUPT Class 16-04 to greatness

Airman 1st Class John Day
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The National Commander of the Order of Daedalians, and former Air Education Training Command Vice Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-04 during their graduation ceremony Jan. 22.

Retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens began by thanking the audience and addressing not only the graduating class, but some of their guests as well.

“Today, on a joyous occasion as this, you 16 join the ranks of the likes of Billy Mitchell, Tooe Spatz and Hap Arnold,” Owens said. “It is really an honor to be here with all of you that have worn the cloth, of whatever color in support and defense of our nation. The graduation of these young Americans here today, honors you, as they stand on your broad shoulders, and for that, I applaud you for being here today.”

He recounted some of his relevant Air Force stories and history, touching upon what made them great Airmen.

“All of these people that I have mentioned are aviators of great skill and courage,” Owens said.

“Each of them rose up to face the extraordinary circumstances that found them. Most of them didn’t go looking for trouble, but they met those circumstances when the time came. I have no doubt that the same potential rests right here in these seats before me.”

In the same vein of history, he brought up the topic of the 25th anniversary of Desert Storm/Shield. Owens said that his was among the first A-10 squadron to

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U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, National Commander of the Order of Daedalians, and former Air Education Training Command Vice Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-04 during their graduation ceremony Jan. 22 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During the speech, Owens recounted some of his Air Force stories and from them gave the newest pilots lessons to drive their careers and lives.

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 (16-13)	0.58 days	0.90 days	Feb. 16	48th (16-05)	1.28 days	1.40 days	Feb. 19	49th (16-DBC)	-1.46 days	-0.25 days	Feb. 1	T-6	1,836	1,677	8,616
41st (16-14)	4.21 days	3.36 days	Mar. 10	50th (16-05)	-2.68 days	2.15 days	Feb. 19					T-1	714	536	2,876
												T-38	630	624	2,931
												IFF	324	296	1,259

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-05 is scheduled to graduate Feb. 19.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 50 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.

OWENS

(Continued from page 1)

fight in that conflict and reflected upon those days and the following years that continues to see that same action.

“Our Air Force has been engaged in combat and contingency operations since I deployed in support of Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990,” Owens said. “Over 25 years, nonstop. Our airpower is just tremendous. Today, we are postured to put at risk anyone who would threaten us and to bring hope around the world to those who have none.”

With a sad note, he reiterated the events of Dec. 21, 2015, near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where six Airmen were killed, drawing a parallel to the high cost of our continued freedom.

“The price of our freedoms is extraordinarily high,” Owens said. “You are now committed to that cost in a way that makes you part of something much more than any of you are individually. Every day you put on that flight suit, look at yourself in the mirror and reflect on that.”

Owens explained how the Core Values guided his career and what they mean to him.

“It is your character and integrity that is the foundation of our nation’s strength,” Owens said. “It is your commitment and that of your families that embodies service before

“It is your character and integrity that is the foundation of our nation’s strength,” Owens said.

self. It is your professionalism and skill that is the mark of your excellence that sets us apart from others.”

Owens finished with an invitation to join his brotherhood and a final thanks to the class for not just what they had done, but also for what they would do in the years to come.

“I am privileged to represent the Daedalians, the national fraternity of military pilots,” Owens said. “We extend an invitation to all pilots to join our ranks as we honor those who flew and those who fly today in defense of our nation.

“There is nothing more honorable than to serve a need greater than yourselves. On behalf of the more than 11,000 Daedalians, I welcome you into the fold. Thank you and congratulations again, you’re in for a wild ride.”

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
1 Club reopening for lunch, 11 a.m.	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 Black History Month Ribbon/Cake Cutting, 11 a.m. @ BX	5 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 10:14 a.m. @ Club 16-05 Assignment Night, 2 p.m. @ Kaye Annual Awards Reception and Ceremony, 6 p.m. @ Club	6/7 7th - Super Bowl Party, 4:30 p.m. @ Club	Feb. 15: Washington’s Birthday Holiday Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation Mar. 8: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 11: SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation
IFF Class Class 16-DBC Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th						Mar. 29: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 31: 14th STUS Change of Command Apr. 8: SUPT Class 16-07 Graduation Apr. 19: Wing Newcomers Orientation
8 T-X vendor site visit	9 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	10 Blood Drive, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. @ Fitness Center	11 Bulk Shred Truck, 9-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 926 parking lot	12 Bishop Neal Buckon visit Community Commons (old Library) groundbreaking ceremony, 10:14 a.m. @ old Library Former POW Col. Smitty Harris repatriated, 1973	13/14	

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

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.

Feb. 6
Twin Kennedy will be in concert at the Rosenzweig Arts Center Omnova Theater, Columbus, Mississippi, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Visit columbus-arts.org or call 662-328-2787 for more information.

Upcoming EVENTS

CPR Classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. February classes will be held on Monday, Feb. 8 and Feb. 22. Pre-registration is required. Call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Baptist Golden Triangle will hold its third annual **fundraiser for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life**. Valentine Gift Baskets will be on display in front of the main cafeteria, 10a-2p, Friday, Feb. 12. Tickets are \$1 each. Drawing at 2 p.m. For more information call 662-244-1132.

Baptist Cancer Center offers **free prostate PSA screenings** for men over 40 the last Friday of each month. February PSA screenings will be held in Columbus. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.


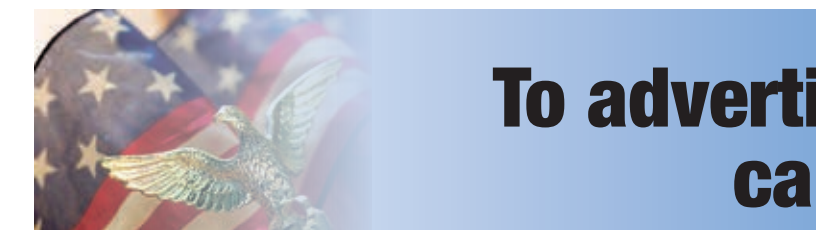
Baptist Golden Triangle is offering **discounted bone density screenings** each Saturday in February, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Outpatient Pavilion. 15 minute, non-invasive scan for people age 40 and over. \$50 cash or check only. To make an appointment call 662-244-2979, or 800-544-8767, ext. 2979.

Baptist Golden Triangle offers **childbirth classes** each month. Classes are held on each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Diabetes Self Management Education Class meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Baptist Golden Triangle Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center. Physician referral is required. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

BMH-GT Diabetes Support Groups - day classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, and evening classes are the 2nd Thurs. each month, 6-7 pm, rooms 4 & 5 PT. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

For more information contact the numbers listed above or email info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org.

Feb. 9
The Mississippi State University Student Association will host Dr. Buzz Aldrin in Lee Hall’s Bettersworth Auditorium. The event will begin at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Though admission is free, tickets are required.

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@us.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.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Gold’s Gym Space Saver

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General admission tickets are sold out, but tickets to the simulcast event held in the Union Ballroom are available. Visit <http://www.thestudentassociation.com/#!Global-Lecture-Series-Buzz-Aldrin/cd23/569e304f0cf20b5fa8ea6191> for more information.

Treadmill for sale, hardly used, 10 incline settings, several programmed walking programs, cushioned track. must sell, \$195. For more information call 356-4511.

For Sale: Samsung stainless steel and black slide-in stove; four burners (two-dual) with one center warming center, three years old, \$800 firm. For more information call (719) 290-5440.

Transportation

Wanted: Looking for used vehicle compact four-door with no more than 40,000 miles in excellent condition. immediate availability required. If available please call 329-1843.

For Sale: 1994 Jeep Cherokee, 86,000 miles. Garage kept, very clean inside and out. Must see to appreciate. \$2,500 firm. Call 241-0058.

KC-46A

(Continued from page 14)

tion is night and day different from laying on your belly in a KC-135. The system advances being rolled into the KC-46 will give the operator great awareness.”

Lt. Col. Donevan Rein, also with Detachment 1 in Seattle, Washington, was the Air Force pilot onboard the KC-46A during the test sortie.

The Air Force contracted with Boeing in February 2011 to acquire 179 KC-46A tankers to begin recapitalizing the aging tanker fleet. The program is currently working to meet the required assets available date, a milestone requiring 18 KC-46A aircraft and all necessary support equipment to be on the ramp, ready to support warfighter needs, by August 2017.

National Guard forces continue post-storm assistance

Cotton Puryear
Virginia National Guard

STAUNTON, Va. — Virginia National Guard Soldiers on state active duty have been using Humvees and medium tactical trucks to provide mobility support to help Virginia State Police and local first responders reach residents requiring assistance after a historic snowfall blanketed the state.

More than 100 Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force are also on duty in Richmond, Sandston and Fort Pickett, where they are providing mission command, administrative and logistical support for the overall mission.

Since they began operations Jan. 22, Virginia Guard members have escorted or transported 49 law enforcement, emergency medical and fire rescue personnel to emergency locations as well as transported 26 essential medical and support personnel to their place of work.

Guard members assisted in saving at least two lives in Virginia. They also provided mobility support to citizens and law enforcement personnel for non-emergency



Courtesy photo

Two Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Fredericksburg-based Company F, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team use their medium tactical truck to assist an Arlington County Fire Department ambulance stuck in heavy snow Jan. 23, 2016, in Rosslyn, Virginia.

situations, transported essential medical supplies, towed fire trucks stuck in the snow and conducted health and welfare checks.

“Working so closely with the Virginia State Police and local government emergency response officials under the guidance of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management has proven to be very effective,” said Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the adjutant

general of Virginia.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe authorized up to 500 personnel for state active duty in his initial emergency declaration, and then he increased that to 700.

Delaware Guard response

The Delaware National Guard activated nearly 300 Soldiers and Airmen to support the citizens of Delaware who were affected by the

blizzard that hit the Eastern Seaboard.

The National Guard leaned forward before the storm, prepositioning operators and tactical vehicles such as Humvees, 5-ton trucks and wreckers to each county's emergency operations center. From each EOC, troops and vehicles were dispatched to local fire houses and state and local police departments.

Officially, troops supported nearly 100 missions and 165 individual citizens across Delaware. Missions included transporting medical professionals and first responders to and from work shifts and moving people to safety from flooding or effects of the snowstorm.

Because of flooding in Sussex County, the Guard helped evacuate approximately 40 residents from the Oak Orchard/Long Neck area to area shelters or homes of friends. In New Castle County, due to the snowfall, the Delaware Guard helped dozens of people who needed emergency medical care or were stranded on the road.

Included in those missions were efforts to recover an ambulance and a fire truck, along with an aerial

assessment of the flood damage in Sussex County, which was reported to Gov. Jack Markell and other state officials.

“Even though the Delaware National Guard has troops deployed around the world, we were able to provide the necessary support to our great state,” said Army Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, the adjutant general of Delaware.

In addition to helping 165 Delawareans on official missions, Soldiers and Airmen “unofficially” assisted countless stranded motorists and moved abandoned vehicles for Department of Transportation workers to plow roads and first responders to complete their missions.

Guardsmen helping elsewhere

Guard members were activated in other states as well. Their personnel strength numbers as of Jan. 25:

- Washington, D.C., about 100
- Kentucky, more than 75
- Maryland, more than 500
- New Jersey, more than 120
- Pennsylvania, more than 300
- West Virginia, more than 120

KC-46A Pegasus conducts 1st in-flight refueling demonstration

Daryl Mayer

88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The KC-46A Pegasus successfully transferred fuel through its boom to an F-16C Fighting Falcon Jan. 24 to demonstrate aerial refueling operations in advance of its first production decision later this spring.

The KC-46A passed 1,600 pounds of fuel to an F-16C piloted by Lt. Col. Daniel Alix of the 416st Flight Test Squadron, 412th Test Wing out of Edwards AFB, California, who characterized the mission as a complete success.

Officials said it was a big step forward for the program and for the tanker capability that will serve as the backbone of Air Force global operations over the coming decades.

“I'm extremely proud of the entire industry and government program team that made today happen,” said Brig. Gen. Duke Z. Richardson, the Air Force program executive officer for tankers, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. “This aerial refueling marks the first of many, and represents years of hard work beginning to pay dividends.”

The tanker has a robust in-flight refueling demonstration schedule over the coming weeks. The test with the F-16C fulfilled

the requirement to connect to a light/fast receiver. The remaining tests with the boom will use an A-10 Thunderbolt II as the light/slow receiver and a C-17 Globemaster III as the heavy receiver.

Flight tests employing the centerline drogue system and wing aerial refueling pods will use an F-18 Hornet as the light/fast receiver and an AV-8B Harrier as a light/slow receiver. The KC-46A will also have to demonstrate its receiver capability by taking fuel from a KC-10 Extender.

These refueling demonstrations represent the significant remaining test hurdles before proceeding to a Milestone C low rate initial production decision. Program officials anticipate awarding the first production contract shortly thereafter.

“These are exciting times for the KC-46A program,” said Col. Chris Coombs, the KC-46 system program manager, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. “We have had plans on paper and data from simulation labs, but this in-flight demonstration shows we are truly making progress on bringing this capability of the next generation of tankers to the warfighter supporting our global missions for years to come.”

Master Sgt. Lindsay Moon, a 13-year veteran boom operator, operated the boom controls passing fuel for the mission.



Boeing photo/Paul Weatherman

The KC-46A Pegasus performs its first-ever aerial refueling Jan. 24, 2016, passing 1,600 pounds of fuel to an F-16 Fighting Falcon.

“This mission was a significant event towards certifying this new tanker,” said Moon, who is assigned to the 418th Flight Test Squadron Detachment 1 in Seattle, Washington. “Controlling the boom from the Air Refueling Operator Sta-

See **KC-46A**, Page 15

Columbus AFB recognizes major selects

A promotion party for captains promoting to the rank of major begins at 4 p.m. Jan. 29 in the newly renovated Columbus Club.

Congratulations to the captains listed below.

Capt. Justin Andress, 49th Fighter Training Squadron

Capt. Ryan Bagby, 81st Fighter Squadron

Capt. Gregory Bine, 48th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Matthew Bittner, 81st FS

Capt. Christopher Black, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Capt. Eric Browning, 48th FTS

Capt. Caleb Philip Campbell, 49th FTS

Capt. Craig Clark, 14th Student Squadron

Capt. Kevin Fobian, 48th FTS

Capt. Daniel Gill, 14th STUS

Capt. Matthew Greenspan, 37th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Jason Greer, 14th Flying Training Wing

Capt. Gregory Hollohan, 14th Operations Group

Capt. Ronald Lee Johnson, 14th STUS

Capt. Jonathan Koch, 37th FTS

Capt. Andrew Long, 50th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. John McDaniel, 48th Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Justin McWilliams, 41st Flying Training Squadron

Capt. Nathan Moseley, 41st FTS

Capt. Michael Orzel, 48th FTS

Capt. Justin Perkins, 37th FTS

Capt. Robert Reed, 48th FTS

Capt. Matthew Romig, 41st FTS

Capt. William Scharfenberg, 48th FTS

Capt. Christian Smelser, 41st FTS

Capt. Dallas Varwig, 14th STUS

Capt. Danielle Varwig, 37th FTS

Capt. Patrick Weekly, 48th FTS

Capt. Jacob Yates, 37th FTS

Capt. Marshall Ziemanski, 14th STUS

Capt. Timothy Zishka, 48th FTS

19th Air Force Command Chief visits Columbus AFB

Airman 1st Class John Day
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Boyer, 19th Air Force Command Chief, accompanied Maj. Gen. James Hecker, 19th AF Commander, Jan. 20-21, to spend time with Team BLAZE Airmen here.

“Every time I visit Columbus I am very impressed with the people on this base,” Boyer said.

During his visit, he interacted with enlisted Airmen at several venues including lunch, the tower, the clinic and more. He listened to the concerns of Airmen and interacted with them in their everyday lives.

Boyer explained his philosophy on the core values and advocated using the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence to develop and shape these values.

“PACE brings no-cost tools to everyone at the flight, squadron, group and wing level,” Boyer said. “It gives us relevant tools to understand issues. Not only do PACE tools help with training, but they give us quick lessons to take away on a great deal of subjects.”

Going further into the program, he shared the driving question that PACE answers.

“How do we invest in human capital?” Boyer said. “The scenarios in these tools make us better people, which in turn makes us better Airmen.”

Boyer emphasized the value of education and its benefits over the course of an Airman's career.

“The need for education is a high priority, but not the only priority,” Boyer said. “First and foremost, you need to be good at your Air Force Specialty Code. Without job proficiency, not much else



U.S. Air Force photo/Richard Johnson

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Boyer, 19th Air Force Command Chief, fires at the Columbus Lowndes County Small Arms Range in Columbus, Mississippi, Jan. 21 alongside a Columbus Air Force Base Airman during his visit to the base Jan. 20-21. During his visit, he interacted with enlisted Airmen at several venues including lunch, the tower and the clinic.

matters. Off duty and ancillary education should enhance and support your career as an Airman.”

He said two types of education were important for success.

“Education can be broken down into scholastic education and into real experience,” Boyer said. “Both are vital and play off each other.”

It was recently released that for the first time since the days of the Army Air Corps, enlisted Airmen would fly. Boyer supports the idea of enlisted Airmen flying Remotely Piloted Aircraft, and thought it was great how the enlisted career field is expanding.

“Adding enlisted Airmen into the

RPA career field will help address issues with manning and increase the capacity for our mission while offering more opportunities,” Boyer said.

Boyer also explained how he views an Airman's legacy.

“You can look at a legacy in a couple different ways,” Boyer said. “I view it as what you impacted during your time. On a personal level, I ask what I did in my tenure to carry on the aspects I thought were of most value.

“At the end of your ride, I would love you to say, ‘I took something from those I served with, made it a part of who I am, and shared it with others.’ That is the measure of the legacy you leave.”

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

19 AF/CC discusses future of airpower

Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. James Hecker, 19th Air Force Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Boyer, 19th AF Command Chief, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Jan. 20-21 to speak with Airmen and community leaders, and see the 14th Flying Training Wing mission firsthand.

During an all call, Hecker talked about the importance of Four Fs: Flying, Family, Fitness and Faith. However, most of his visit focused on the 14th FTW units and flying.

Columbus Air Force Base is one of three pilot training bases in the United States. Training over 200 pilots every year, Columbus AFB is one of the busiest air fields in Air Education and Training Command. While 200 pilots may seem like a lot, training demand for pilots is expected to rise over the next few years.

"The demand for pilots is dependent on what our country demands of us," Hecker said. "The numbers are going to continue to grow. Over the next three years AETC will increase the number of pilots by about 200, across all undergraduate pilot training wings. Increased training at Columbus will help deliver airpower that meets the nation's needs for decades to come."

With this task Columbus is going to be busy meeting the mission.

"Standards must remain the standards," Hecker said. "We have to keep producing Airmen who know how to get the job done and get home safely."

Hecker also discussed the future of UPT and the aircraft to get there.

The T-X will replace the T-38C Talon, which is part of Phase 3 of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. The T-X program, otherwise known as the Advanced Pilot Training program, is a replacement for the T-38, capable of meeting the Air Force's pilot training mission at bases like Columbus AFB for fifth generation aircraft.

"We are still in the early acquisition phase of the T-X," Hecker said. "The



U.S. Air Force photo/Richard Johnson
Col. Matthew Baugh, 14th Operations Support Squadron Commander, talks with Maj. Gen. James Hecker, 19th Air Force Commander, Jan. 20 during Hecker's visit to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Jan. 20-21. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Boyer, 19th AF Command Chief, accompanied Hecker.

T-X is going to replace an aircraft that is 50 years old, but continues to get the job done. With the advanced capabilities of the T-X, not only will we be able to produce more pilots with more sorties, but more capable pilots."

Hecker said the T-X will make the transition to fifth generation aircraft easier.

"We are looking for something that is a replica of the F-22 or F-35 avionics to train pilots to that capability," Hecker said. "The T-38 doesn't have the ability to get to or sustain high Gs. The T-X will enable pilots to learn this skill in a two-seat aircraft, which is an added safety factor."

In addition to the T-X, another change to flying operations and the future of airpower is remotely piloted aircraft.

Currently, students are selected in SUPT and from commissioning sources, such as Officer Training School, to attend RPA training. Recently, Air Force leaders announced the opportu-

nity for selected enlisted members to fly as part of the RPA program.

"We already have enlisted operators flying satellites. The flight controls of the Global Hawk are very similar," Hecker said. "In a complex, global environment, RPA pilots will always be in demand."

Hecker recognized two enlisted Airmen from the 14th Operations Group who will be part of the RPA program after OTS and help meet the demand.

During the tour, Hecker visited various wing units, from the 14th Operations Group to the newly remodeled Columbus Club and Fitness Center.

"By upgrading facilities such as the fitness center and the medical facility, Columbus Air Force Base leaders have done a great job improving the lives and morale of the Airmen stationed here," Hecker said.

"We really appreciate you showcasing your wing to us," Hecker said. "We're impressed with the motivated Airmen getting the mission done."

Bulk shredding service available Feb. 11



Bulk shredding service is available from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 11 in the building 926 (Old Personnel Building) parking lot. Please bring any FOUO or sensitive documents and records that you need shredded to the marked shred truck in the parking lot. Documents may be in binders and folders.

Digital media (CDs, discs, tapes) will also be accepted. Cardboard cannot be accepted. If you have any questions, contact Katrina Watkins at 434-7301 or Mike Blythe at 434-7353.

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AETC Command Chief culminates 31-years of service to Air Force, people

Tech. Sgt. Beth Anschutz
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, command chief for Air Education and Training Command, retires Jan. 22 after a 31-year Air Force career.

Before his final salute, Tapia took a moment to reflect on his time as an Airman and what he will miss most about serving his nation and taking care of Air Force people.

Tapia, an El Paso, Texas, native, started his career in Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in 1985, after which he completed the Basic Personnel Course at Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

Tapia said he appreciates his humble beginnings, filing paperwork as the "A through G guy" in a military personnel flight at Travis AFB, California, because it set the stage for his career. After cutting his teeth in the file room, Tapia served as an accessions clerk with the 3507th Airman Classification Squadron at BMT. It was here he gained confidence and learned the importance of standards. At the age of 19, he was responsible for in-processing briefings for groups as large as 150 people. As a representative of his squadron and because of the proximity of basic trainees, young Airman Tapia was held to high standards.

"Our shoes were shined. Our uniforms were sharp and our haircuts were clean," Tapia said. "To this day, I will not bring home an Air Force uniform that has not been tapered or without the pockets sewn down. These standards have stayed with me for my entire career."

Tapia went on to hold duties in personnel management offices at the base and major command level. He worked for the Air Force Personnel Center and held a joint duty assignment at Headquarters Alaskan Command.

Tapia said each assignment helped him expand his experience and knowledge in his field, but it was his opportunities to help people that gave him the tools to be a leader.

During an interview for his first command chief position, Tapia was asked if his personnelist background would hinder him in a fighter wing, surrounded by flyers and maintainers. He told them what he knew.

"I said, 'Sir, after 23 years, no one has ever asked me for my opinion on whether a block 52 [engine] or a block 40 is better on an F-16, but every single day people ask me about peo-



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jimmie D. Pike
Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, Air Education and Training Command command chief, shares a laugh with the 47th Medical Group at the base clinic on Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 9, 2014. The clinic's team members spoke to him about how they train and maintain standards, supporting mission readiness.

ple," Tapia remembered with a smile.

According to Tapia, it was this understanding of how to care for people, combined with a tour as a special assistant to two chief master sergeants of the Air Force, that set him up for success as command chief.

"There are a lot of people in the maintenance field for 20 plus years, when they become a command chief, who have to learn all of a sudden how a Basic Housing Allowance is set or what happens in a promotion board, or how to manage dormitories, or how the assignment system works" he said. "But for me, that was all second nature. My background helped to propel me in the right direction."

Tapia joined the AETC team in January 2013 after tours as command chief for the 49th Wing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and then at 12th Air Force at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He said he did not take his new responsibilities at AETC lightly; he was coming on board at a critical juncture for the command.

"I knew, coming into this position, my number one priority would be to restore the nation's trust and confidence in our institution and especially in our Basic Military Training," Tapia said. "At the end of the day, I needed to give parents confidence that we would take care of their sons and daughters."

Tapia was instrumental in two significant changes to BMT during his time at AETC —

the shift of military training instructor duty from a volunteer force to a vetted, Developmental Special Duty, and the institution of Airmen's Week.

As a member of the Enlisted Board of Directors, a round table of MAJCOM command chiefs and selected chiefs from the Air Staff who support the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Tapia was able to participate in key working groups instrumental to the transformation of BMT. One of those groups focused on the Developmental Special Duty process.

"We recognized there are some special duty assignments, like military training instructors, recruiters and military training leaders, that require a little more service and sacrifice from Airmen," Tapia said. "We worked to change how we manned those positions, so we can find the individuals who have the right attributes and disposition for those jobs."

Tapia said that finding the right people for these jobs meant a lot to him, as AETC owns the majority of these influential positions.

"AETC owns almost 4,000 technical school instructors, 547 MTI positions, 1,200 recruiter positions, 650 MTL positions," Tapia said. "It is our responsibility to vet, assign and train the leaders of tomorrow."

Tapia was also a critical force behind the creation of Airmen's Week, which is the first

training Airmen receive after graduating the previous Friday from BMT. Tapia said a review of BMT identified "white space" during the eight weeks of training that equated to a week of time they could re-invest in our newest Airmen. The Airmen's Week is spent reinforcing the Air Force core values and what "integrity, service and excellence" mean in the daily life of every Airman.

"We are going to see the payoff to Airmen's Week for years and years to come," Tapia said. "This is not the last week of basic training; it's the first week of the rest of these Airmen's Air Force careers."

Tapia's hope for Airmen's Week is that it fosters the moment when Airmen buy-in to what it truly means to be an Airman. This sentiment hits home for Tapia. He often tells the story of how he actually "joined" the Air Force in 1989, four years after he first signed on the dotted line. Near the end of his first enlistment, he found himself on the verge of not being able to re-enlist, but one leader gave him a second chance.

"If I told you that 18-year-old, Airman Basic Tapia would have seen himself sitting here after a 30-year career, I would be lying. I was literally a signature away from being back on my mom's couch," Tapia said. "My best advice for Airmen, if they really want to go far in this Air Force, is don't let four years go by where they're not in. You've got to be in from day one."

Tapia said he has many fond recollections from his career, but it is the simple moments spent with fellow Airmen that hold a special place in his heart.

"Because of where I've worked, I've had some incredible experiences. I've been able to ring the bell to open a day of trading at the New York Stock Exchange. I've been on Air Force One. Some people never get the chance to do these things," Tapia said. "But those experiences pale in comparison to the time I've spent with Airmen. Those are my most cherished memories and those are the things I will miss the most."

Always Airman Tapia, the chief signed off with his promise to all Airmen, not just those in AETC.

"I will continue to serve however I can," he said. "From this point, I have to stop coming into work, but I will never ever stop being an advocate for you. I'm going to move from the field to the stands and I will be your biggest cheerleader, your biggest advocate and the person who will be thinking and praying for you every single day."

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

Matt the Knife Magic Show

Join the 14th Force Support Squadron for a free night with Matt the Knife, Illusionist/Comedian/Mentalist, at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Kaye Auditorium. For ages 18 and older due to adult situational material. For more information, contact TSgt. Victoria Thornton at 434-2611.

Columbus Club Reopens

We are excited to announce that your Columbus Club reopens Feb. 1. A Lunch Buffet is available Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The buffets are: Monday – Chef Special; Tuesday - Italian or Mexican; Wednesday – Pizza and Wings; Thursday - Southern; Friday – Catfish and Spaghetti. Buffet prices are \$7.95 for Club members; \$8.95 for non-members. A full menu is also available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Super Bowl Party

The Columbus Club is offering a Super Bowl Party Feb. 7. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; game starts at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy an All You Can Eat Buffet and a chance to win \$5,000 in great prizes.

Purchase your advance tickets Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Event Center. The cost is only \$8 for Club members; \$10 for non-members. Tickets purchased at the door are \$10 for Club members; \$12 for non-members. Ticket prices for children ages 5 – 12 is \$5; under 5 is free.

Become a Club member during the Super Bowl Party and receive three months of free membership dues. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Youth Super Bowl Party

The Youth Center is offering a Youth Super Bowl Party at 4 p.m. Feb. 7. The cost is only \$15 per person; refreshments provided. Youth to guess closest to the final score will win a prize. Must have 15 registered by Feb. 2 to offer. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Youth Sports Registration

The Youth Center is offering registration until Feb. 12 for the following sports: youth spring soccer, baseball, T-ball and girls softball. The cost is only \$35 for ages 3 – 4; \$40 ages 5 – 18. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Youth Pre-Valentine's Day Dance

The Youth Center is offering a youth Pre-Valentine's Day dance from 6 – 10 p.m. Feb. 13 for ages 9 – 18. Enjoy music, refreshments, and lots of fun. The cost is only \$5 per person. Must have 15 registered by Feb. 8 to offer. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Valentine's Day Brunch

The Columbus Club is offering a Valentine's Day Brunch from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14. Reservations are required by Feb. 10. Brunch prices are \$17 for adult Club members; \$20 for non-members. Children (5 – 11) are \$8 and under 5 are free. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Wee Babies

The Base Library is offering Wee Babies at 11 a.m. Feb. 16. This program is for 0 – 4 years old and promotes rhythm, kinesthetic and body awareness using song, dance and activities. For more information, contact 434-2936.

Youth Photography Competition

The Youth Center is offering a Youth Photography Competition from 3 – 6 p.m. Feb. 18 for ages 6 – 18. Categories include: culture and tradition, surroundings, portraits, and one of a kind. Submit photographs by Feb. 16. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Monster Jam Tickets

Information, Ticket and Tours is offering Monster Jam tickets for purchase. This event will be held at the Bancorp South Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 or at 2 or 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20. The cost is only \$19 per adult ticket; kids 2 – 12 years are \$13. Tickets must be paid for in advance no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 5. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Glo ball Tournament

The Golf Course is offering a glo ball tournament at 6 p.m. Mar. 4. The cost is only \$35 plus cart per member; \$45 plus cart per non-member, and includes 18 holes of glo ball golf and chili dinner prior to play. Must have 24 participants paid by noon Feb. 5 to offer. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Base Library Relocation

The Base Library has relocated to the Education Center, building 916, rooms 3, 4, and 6. Hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and Sundays 1 – 5 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Story Time at the Library

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

Bowling Center Party Specials

The Bowling Center is offering two options for all your party needs. Option 1 includes two hours of unlimited bowling and shoe rental for only \$8.50 per person. Option 2 includes two hours of

unlimited bowling, shoe rental, and a child meal for only \$11.50 per person. Choice of meal includes chicken tenders, hot dog, corn dog, or grilled cheese served with fries and drink. You may bring in a cake, cupcakes, and ice cream. No other outside food and drinks allowed. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Cosmic Bowling Special

The Bowling Center is offering Cosmic Bowling for only \$12 per person every Friday and Saturday night from 5 – 8 p.m. You also may purchase individual games for \$3 per game with purchase of \$1.50 shoe rental. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Gymnastics Instructor Needed

Gymnastics Instructors are needed at the Youth Center. For more information, contact Kayline Hamilton at 434-2503.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? For more information, contact 434-7836.

Volleyball Open Play

The Fitness Center offers volleyball open play every Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Referees Needed

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

GoPro Rental

Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero 3 from Outdoor Recreation. Cost is only \$10 for a 2-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a 2-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 9 or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

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.

Make Your Shopping Easier

Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style. Purchase your gift card at one of the following locations: Bowling Center, Golf Course or Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 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.

Biomedical Sciences Corps celebrates 51st anniversary

Capt. Sharon Elliott

14th Medical Operations Squadron,
Aerospace Physiology Flight Commander

There are five branches of the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps: Nurse Corps, Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Service Corps, and Biomedical Sciences Corps.



A serpent-entwined rod, also known as the "Staff of Asclepius," has been a symbol of healing and medicine ever since the year 300 BCE. Men and women in the BSC bring the representations found in the Staff of Asclepius to life daily.

Air Force combat capability and effectiveness by providing world-class customer service and scientific expertise, resulting in peak performance, productivity and quality healthcare to our beneficiary population.

With roots dated back to World War I, it originated from the Sanitary Corps which was established to combat infectious diseases on May 18, 1917. Over the next three decades, several transitions occurred including the elimination of different corps that spanned multiple scientific specialties supporting the war effort and enhancing efficiency across scope of practices, i.e., pharmacy changed to dietetics and industrial hygiene to entomology.



14th Medical Group Airmen who are part of the Biomedical Sciences Corps pose for a photo Jan. 27 in the Koritz Clinic lobby on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. These Airmen gathered to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the creation of the BSC.

In 1947, the Army Medical Service Corps was born, which served both the U.S. Army and the newly created Air Force. In the summer of 1949, The AFMS was established and comprised of six major corps: Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Nurse Corps, Veterinary Corps, Medical Service Corps, and Women's Medical Specialist Corps.

It wasn't until Jan. 28, 1965, that the vision of Col. Alvin Meyer Jr. to have a scientific and engineering corps was recognized as the Biomedical Sciences Corps. On March 15, 1965, the corps was officially created, appointing Meyer as the first BSC chief. This new corps combined all the scientific and technical personnel from the MSC with personnel from the MSC, previously called the Women's Specialist Corps.

To date, there are roughly 2,400 officers constituting approximately four percent of all Air Force Officers who are supported by 5,800 enlisted members in parallel career fields. BSC members can be found at 81 locations around the world.

At Columbus Air Force Base's Koritz Clinic, Lt. Col. An-

drew Cruz, the 14th Medical Operations Squadron Commander, leads 23 officers and 61 technicians fulfilling the dynamic and diverse roles of being a BSC specialist. Their career fields span a large spectrum from audiology, bioenvironmental engineering, biomedical laboratory, clinical psychology, clinical social work, pharmacy, physician assistants, physical therapy, public health and optometry to aerospace and operational physiology.

In addition to specialty roles, BSC specialists are embedded across the continent and deployed abroad to operational units to serve at every level of medical command and research investigation, as well as lead staffs of the major commands, forward operating agencies, and Headquarters Air Force.

Please join the 14th Medical Group in celebrating a half century worth of outstanding BSC excellence by thousands of skilled men and women who have dedicated their lives to enhancing health, optimizing performance and providing trusted medical care to support our most cherished resource, Airmen and their families.

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.

2016 Tax Center Opening

The Columbus AFB Tax Center will open Feb. 8 and trained volunteers will prepare your tax returns through April 8 free of charge.

The Tax Center is located on the first floor of the old Personnel Center, bldg 926, room 105.

If you are an active-duty member, retiree, or dependent with a rank of E-5 and below, or your combined family income is under \$58,000 then you may qualify for this free tax preparation service.

The hours of operation are as follows:
• 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday by appointment only

• Walk-in hours are from 8 a.m. - noon on Mondays for simple 1040 returns

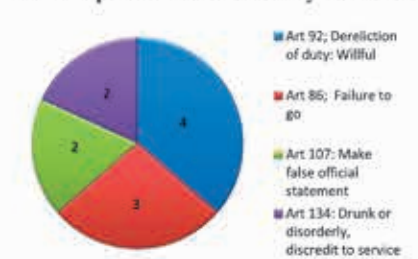
We will also provide on-site tax preparation at the Enlisted Dorms from 4 - 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3 - 4.

The scope of our tax preparation is limited. However, starting this year, a self-service kiosk will also be available in the tax center to prepare and file your own taxes. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Tax Center at (662) 434-7613.

Justice Times January 2016

STATUS OF DISCIPLINE BY THE NUMBERS 1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER, 2015

19 AF Top Four Offenses Tried by Article 15



Luke	4 Courts-Martial / 5 Article 15s
Altus	1 Courts-Martial / 3 Article 15s
Columbus	0 Courts-Martial / 1 Article 15s
Laughlin	1 Courts-Martial / 2 Article 15s
Vance	0 Courts-Martial / 2 Article 15s
19 AF Totals	6 Courts-Martial / 13 Article 15s

Columbus AFB's Article 15

A1C received a suspended reduction to Amn, 14 days extra duty, and a reprimand for being derelict in the performance of her duties. A1C had failed multiple room inspections and received multiple LORs before receiving an Article 15 for the same offense.

JUSTICE FACTOID: Commanders have many punishment methods at their disposal, to include suspended punishments, which will not go into effect unless the member fails to maintain good order and discipline after the Article 15 has been served.

Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™



Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™ is a professional development institute designed to inform concerned adults about military-connected children with exceptional needs and the issues they may face as they transition from school to school.

Save the Date!
REGISTER TODAY

Feb. 25 & 26, 2016
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

East Mississippi Community College
8731 South Frontage Road
Mayhew, MS 39753

- Learning Outcomes:**
- Identify the amplified transition challenges that impact mobile military-connected students with exceptional needs
 - Analyze processes that support transitioning children with exceptional needs
 - Design methods to ease transitions for military children with exceptional needs

Register here:
www.MilitaryChild.org/training

For more information about this training, other professional development opportunities, or support, please contact:

Myriam Virella at (254) 953-1923 x 1119 or
Myriam.Virella@MilitaryChild.org

Sponsored by:



There is no cost to participants



Upon completion of the training (12 clock hours) participants may apply for continuing education credits for a fee of \$25.00. CE credit applications must be received within 12 months from the completion of the training.

For additional information visit: www.MilitaryChild.org/professionals/programs/continuing-education-graduate-credit

Military Child Education Coalition
909 Mountain Lion Circle • Harker Heights, Texas 76548 • (254) 953-1923 • www.MilitaryChild.org

The Military Child Education Coalition® solely exists to help the military and veteran-connected child thrive in the face of transition and separation. "Military Child Education Coalition®," "MCEC™" and associated trademarks and design elements are owned by the Military Child Education Coalition. © 2015 Military Child Education Coalition. All Rights Reserved

2014 AIR FORCE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE

1 DEDICATED HELPING AGENTS By The Numbers

- 118 SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS
- 79 FULL TIME VICTIM ADVOCATES
- 2,000 VOLUNTEER VICTIM ADVOCATES
- 33 SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSELORS
- 9 SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT SENIOR TRIAL COUNSELS
- COMMANDERS, MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, & SPIRITUAL SUPPORT PROVIDERS

2 EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

- RESTRICTED REPORTS:** Filing a restricted report will not initiate an investigation
- SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL:** A lawyer is dedicated to represent the victim in legal proceedings
- EXPEDITED TRANSFER:** The victim may be transferred upon request and in the best interests of the Air Force
- NON-RATED PERIOD:** Victims with significant difficulties may elect to have a non-rated period
- NON-MEDICAL ESCORTS:** Victims may have an Air Force-funded escort to trial and testimony for emotional support

3 CONFIDENCE IN COMMAND

- 98% of Airmen believe their chain of command would take steps to protect the safety of a person making a report of sexual assault
- 57% of Airmen believe their chain of command would take corrective action to address factors that may have led to a sexual assault
- 96% of Airmen believe their chain of command encourages victims to report sexual assault
- 94% of Airmen believe their chain of command would forward a report of sexual assault to criminal investigators
- 92% of Airmen trust their chain of command creates an environment where victims feel comfortable reporting sexual assault
- 92% of Airmen trust their chain of command creates an environment where victims feel comfortable reporting sexual assault

4 WE SERVE AIRMEN

- MEN & WOMEN
- ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD & RESERVE
- ADULT DEPENDENTS OF UNIFORMED AIRMEN
- AIR FORCE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

5 100% OF UNRESTRICTED REPORTS ARE INVESTIGATED

100% OF AIRMEN WHO COMMIT THE CRIME OF SEXUAL ASSAULT UNDERGO DISCHARGE PROCESSING

VISION: ESTABLISH A NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR RECOVERY AND ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT THROUGH EMPOWERED & ENGAGED AIRMEN.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN BE PREVENTED

The Air Force SAPR Mission
Develop, implement and assess policies and programs to eliminate sexual assault and empower every Airman to serve as a catalyst for behavior and attitude change that fosters an environment free from sexual harassment, sexual assault and its effects.

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.)

Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Feb. 3, gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and Cover Letters. For more information, call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. – noon Feb. 9. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club; for more information, call 434-2839.

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 is 9-10 a.m. Feb. 9. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. Feb. 9, 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.

Air Force JROTC Program Instructors

This workshop is held 10:30 a.m.-noon Feb. 10. It explains the AFJROTC Program and provides information on being an instructor for the Air Force Junior ROTC program. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m.-noon Feb. 10. 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.

Smooth Move

This class, 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 16, is a class providing relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon Feb. 18. 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.

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.

2015-2016 Deer hunting season still underway



Courtesy photo
Robert Gable, 14th Contracting Squadron, poses with his kill November 2015 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Controlling the deer population on-base significantly reduces the probability of deer entering the airfield area where they could endanger our pilots and aircraft. The Mississippi hunting season will close Jan. 31. Turkey season will remain open at Shuqualak until May 1.

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 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, 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.

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.

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.

The Chapel offers the following weekly programs:
6 p.m. – AWANA, a religious education program for children ages three years old to 6th grade
6 p.m. – Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John
6 p.m. – Youth Group

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
Wednesday:
11:30-12:30 p.m. – Holy Hour

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

Columbus Club to reopen Feb. 1

Col. Kurt Kayser
14th Mission Support Group
Commander

I am excited to announce that your completely renovated Columbus Club/Event Center re-opens Feb. 1, after being closed for the last several months.

Initially, the Club was closed last May to undergo a desperately-needed \$1,600,000 heating and ventilation system renovation. The HVAC project dramatically upgrades the antiquated system that could never quite keep up with the temperature extremes of the seasons.

While closed, we also took advantage of the opportunity to provide a complete facelift to the dated look of this important facility. New ceilings and fixtures, fresh coats of paint, new furniture, reframed pictures and an updated and renamed bar and eatery, "The Overrun," were all part of the refresh. A committee of representatives from virtually every organization on base contributed to this incredible effort of making our Club something we can all be proud of.

The newly renovated building is a perfect venue to have lunch, host important events and bring your families to celebrate significant life/professional milestones. For those of you who have seen the previous look, you will be stunned by the transformation. Those who will see it for the first time will see a modern club facility they are proud to be a part of. Special care was taken by the committee to preserve the rich heritage of our base throughout the facility, while still recognizing the cutting edge, modern technology of our service branch.

History runs deep with every base and their club; Columbus is no different. The club at Columbus has been at its current location since 1958, when the building was originally constructed. Prior to Department of Defense efforts to consolidate its club system, the current Event Center/Columbus Club was a separate Officer's club. The Enlisted club, which closed its doors in 2006, was located at the corner of Imes and 7th Street.

The Columbus Wingman program began in 1993 by Gen. Robert Foglesong during his tenure as Commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing. Portraits of all Columbus Wingmen are featured prominently in the entrance to the ballroom.

The "Columbus Wingman" continues to be an honorary designation that esteems

members of the community who have made exceptional contributions to the base and provide ongoing support for the 14th FTW/CC. General Foglesong inducted four members at the inception of the program and two more when he departed. Each commander names one or two wingmen before departing the base.

One of the Wingmen is George "Happy" Irby, who contributed greatly to Columbus AFB and the community. Happy's Lounge was named in honor of George "Happy" Irby in 2009, when he passed away. Happy Irby began working on Columbus Air Force Base in 1958 at the Officer's club where he progressed from a handy-man to Customer Relations Specialist. Mr. Irby believed in giving back to his community and helping those in need in any way possible.

In 1952, Happy and his wife Sara began saving tip money to provide donations which helped underprivileged students stay in school. What began as the couple's small effort has expanded into what is currently known as the "Happy Fund," an all-volunteer program which collects \$10,000 annually and provides over 300 Christmas gifts to the needy. In addition to Christmas gifts, the fund has provided food and assistance to locations struck by natural disasters.

The flag and rank structure on display in the lounge was donated to the base by Jan Catton and Brenda Hainsey. Mrs. Catton is the wife of Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, USAF retired, and a former Wing Commander at Columbus. Mrs. Hainsey's husband, Mike, was in the 50th Flying Training Squadron while assigned to Columbus and was recognized as a Columbus Wingman.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy's Battle Dress Uniform jacket, which hangs just inside the small ballroom, was donated to the club by Chief Roy. His tenure as chief master sergeant of the Air Force was from June 30, 2009, until January of 2014 and he notably served as Command Chief of our 14th FTW from September 2000 until September 2002.

The Daedalians room is named in honor of The Order of Daedalians, which honors all World War I commissioned officers rated as military pilots no later than the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. Since its founding, the Daedalians have expanded into a worldwide network of flights encompassing Women Airforce Service Pilots, commissioned, warrant and flight officer military pilots. The Daeda-

**CLUB MEMBERS!
LEAP INTO A JEEP!**

GRAND PRIZE: 2016 Jeep Rubicon
PLUS: Daily \$100 & \$25 Winners
All Club Members Automatically Entered
STARTING: Feb. 1, 2016

Become a Club Member during the Super Bowl Party and receive 3 Months FREE Dues!

Club Member Benefits...
Must show Club Card to receive benefits

- Columbus Club**
 - Club Members receive Priority
 - 10% discount on private parties
 - \$1 discount on any Lunch purchase
 - \$2 discount on Brunch/Special Theme Dinner
 - Discount on All Club Entertainment and Special Events
 - Free Membership Appreciation Night
- Outdoor Recreation**
 - 10% discount on equipment rental, RV storage and paintball fees
- Swimming Pool**
 - 10% discount on seasonal passes, lessons, and private parties.
- Arts and Crafts Center**
 - 10% discount on framing, classes, engraving, resale merchandise, and plaques
- Golf Course**
 - \$1 discount on any Snack Bar Combo purchase of \$7 or more
- Base Library**
 - Free Bookmarks
- United States Air Force**
 - Access to Air Force Clubs Worldwide
 - Air Force Scholarship Program
 - No Interest and Fees incurred during Deployment
 - Special Club Member Events and Promotions
- Bowling Center**
 - \$1 discount on any Snack Bar Combo purchase of \$7 or more
 - Free Shoe Rental

For information on becoming a Club Member, stop by the Columbus Club or contact 434-2489.

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

lians have numerous awards and scholarship programs which promote safety of flight, excellence in the performance of military duties and studies in aerospace disciplines.

If you are not currently a Club member, I would ask you to consider it strongly. All Airmen (military and civilians) are a part of our unique and proud profession of arms. We are not employees with routine jobs in a Fortune 500 company.

Members of a profession have special skills and training setting them apart from others. All professions – doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. – have affiliated social organizations providing opportunities to socialize, network and have deeper ties to their profession.

Currently, only 10 percent of our Columbus officers and 22 percent of our enlisted Airmen are registered as Club members. Benefits to Club membership are extensive and shown in the attached flyer.

The Columbus AFB Club will re-open for lunch beginning next week on Feb. 1. The official grand opening ceremony will take place at 10:14 a.m. Feb. 5 where Col. John Nichols, 14th FTW Commander, will cut the ribbon to the facility. That evening, we will celebrate our Annual Award Banquet in style, followed by the epic Superbowl 50 party on Feb. 7. I look forward to seeing you at many of these big events at your newly renovated and vastly improved Club!

BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-8C Joint STARS

Mission

The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, is an airborne battle management, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform. Its primary mission is to provide theater ground and air commanders with ground surveillance to support attack operations and targeting that contributes to the delay, disruption and destruction of enemy forces.

Features

The E-8C is a modified Boeing 707-300 series commercial airframe extensively remanufactured and modified with the radar, communications, operations and control subsystems required to perform its operational mission. The most prominent external feature is the 27-foot long, canoe-shaped radome under the forward fuselage that houses the 24-foot long, side-looking phased array antenna.

The radar and computer subsystems on the E-8C can gather and display detailed battlefield information on ground forces. The information is relayed in near-real time to the Army and Marine Corps common ground stations and to other ground command, control, communications, computers and intelligence, or C4I, nodes.

The antenna can be tilted to either side of the aircraft where it can develop a 120-degree field of view covering nearly 19,305 square miles and is capable of detecting targets at more than 250 kilometers. The radar also has some limited capability to detect helicopters, rotating antennas and low, slow-moving fixed wing aircraft.

As a battle management and command and control asset, the E-8C can support the full spectrum of roles and missions from peacekeeping operations to major theater war.

Background

Joint STARS evolved from Army and Air Force programs to develop, detect, locate and attack enemy armor at ranges beyond the forward area of troops. The first two developmental aircraft deployed in 1991 to Operation Desert Storm and also supported Operation Joint Endeavor in December 1995.

Team JSTARS men and women have contributed tremendously to overseas contingency operations, flying more than 85,000

combat hours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn Odyssey Dawn, and Unified Protector. Their operational resume includes support of six Combatant Commands including U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Europe Command.

Team JSTARS was the first organization in the U.S. Air Force to activate under the Air Force's Total Force Initiative as a "blended" wing. America's first "Total Force" wing, the former 93rd Air Control Wing, an active-duty Air Combat Command unit, and the 116th Bomb Wing, a Georgia Air National Guard unit, were deactivated Oct. 1, 2002. The 116th Air Control Wing was activated blending Guard and active-duty Airmen into a single unit. In October 2011, the Active Associate construct was formed by the newly activated 461st Air Control Wing as a member of Team JSTARS.

Team JSTARS through the 116th ACW is the only unit that operates the E-8C and the Joint STARS mission.

General Characteristics

Primary function: airborne battle management

Contractor: Northrop Grumman Corp.
Power plant: four Pratt and Whitney TF33-102C

Thrust: 19,200 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters)
Length: 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters)
Height: 42 feet, 6 inches (13 meters)
Weight: 171,000 pounds (77,564 kilograms)

Maximum takeoff weight: 336,000 pounds (152,409 kilograms)

Fuel capacity: 155,000 (70,306 kilograms)
Payload: electronic equipment and crew
Speed: 449 - 587 mph (optimum orbit speed) or Mach 0.52 - 0.65 (390 - 510 knots)

Range: nine hours
Ceiling: 42,000 feet (12,802 meters)

Crew: (flight crew), four; (mission crew) normally 15 Air Force and three Army specialists (crew size varies according to mission)

Unit Cost: \$244.4 million
Initial operating capability: December 1997

Inventory: total force, 16



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Lasky

An E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System from the 93rd Air Control Wing flies a refueling mission over the skies of Georgia. The E-8C is an airborne battle management and command and control platform that conducts ground surveillance to develop an understanding of the enemy situation and to support attack operations and targeting that contributes to the delay, disruption and destruction of enemy forces.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Shane Cuomo

The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) is a joint Air Force - Army program. The JSTARS uses a multi-mode side looking radar to detect, track, and classify moving ground vehicles in all conditions deep behind enemy lines. The aircraft is the only airborne platform in operation that can maintain real-time surveillance over a corps-sized area of the battlefield.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Staff Sgt. Joshua Kenney, Senior Airman Nathan Deline and Jason Kislow, all from the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, battle a blaze during the live plane burn at the Fire Prevention Week Open House Oct. 3, 2015, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The plane was set on fire multiple times while a large crowd watched the 14th CES Fire Department demonstrate how quickly and efficiently they can put out a jet engine fire.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Sparky the Firedog interacts with children at the Fire Prevention Week Open House Oct. 3, 2015, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. In addition to the daily upkeep of all facilities and utilities, the Fire Emergency Services Flight is also part of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron team.

Civil Engineers 'lead the way'

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron is behind the scenes, seven days a week, keeping the 14th Flying Training Wing's facilities and runways operational.

It takes all of the squadron's five flights and 200 military, civilian and contractor Airmen to ensure the wing's mission of Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen, and Feeding the Fight is achieved.

"On a normal day our engineers are involved in many activities across the base," said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Harwood, 14th CES Commander. "Whether fire is responding to an in-flight emergency, craftsmen are checking airfield lights, aircraft barriers, and runway pavements or we're overseeing construction on the airfield or a quality of life project, Engineers touch every aspect of the base in order to ensure the SUPT mission succeeds."

The 14 CES provides planning, design, con-

struction, operations and maintenance support, as well as fire and environmental protection and emergency management response support across the base. This is done through management of 5,981 acres, 4 runways, 168 buildings, 328 dormitory units, and all base infrastructure.

In addition, the squadron partners with the Hunt management team to provide housing management and maintenance to 453 housing units. It is also responsible for maintaining three different Columbus AFB sites: main base, Greenwood Springs Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) site, and Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield.

The 14 CES Operations Flight is responsible for preventive maintenance and repair of all facility infrastructure including centrally managing and controlling the heating and cooling systems. This flight has all the skilled craftsmen including carpenters, plumbers, interior/exterior electricians, locksmiths, heavy equipment operators, HVAC & generator production technicians,



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Senior Airman Nickolas Candiano, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management, pours a sample from a beaker while demonstrating the unit's capabilities Jan. 27 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Readiness and Emergency Management flight's primary focus is preparing the wing for natural disasters and CBRNE incidents, providing command and control for emergency operations and preparing Airmen to Feed the Fight downrange.

who work day-in and day-out to expertly maintain and repair all the facility infrastructure on base to ensure the mission of Columbus AFB continues without a delay or failure.

These professional craftsmen are on-call, ready to respond to off-duty emergencies, in order to preserve the 14 FTW mission and to care for our Airmen and their families. In addition to their facility maintenance and repair duties, they provide management and oversight of the grounds maintenance, custodial and refuse/recycling contracts.

In addition to the daily upkeep of all facilities and utilities, the Fire Emergency Services Flight is another part of the CES team. They work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide world-class fire, aircraft in-flight emergency response and

initial medical response for all flying and main base operations, including privatized housing.

The Engineering Flight conducts the long-term planning, programming, design and construction of the base infrastructure. Additionally, they manage the base energy program, airfield waivers, space utilization, and community planning functions.

With few exceptions, the major construction on the base is overseen by the 14 CES Engineering Flight. This team handles the cradle-to-grave requirements of renovating, demolishing and/or constructing facilities and infrastructure too large to be done in-house.

The Installation Management Flight handles a multitude of areas to include the base environmental program, real estate requirements, oversight of

privatized housing, and officer/enlisted dormitory management. They are also the financial, computer support and manpower hub for all squadron activities. The flight manages the squadron's annual budget and is vital to all squadron activities.

The Readiness and Emergency Management Flight's primary focus is preparing the wing for natural disasters and CBRNE incidents, providing command and control for emergency operations and preparing Airmen to Feed the Fight downrange.

Together, these flights work together to lead the way in achieving their mission of providing the best possible facilities, environment, emergency response and preparedness training for the Columbus BLAZE community.



U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Tech. Sgt. Andrew McAnally and Ben Sala, both 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Construction Management, look over plans for the Community Commons project Jan. 27 in the CE building on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Construction Management team handles the cradle-to-grave requirements of renovating, demolishing and/or constructing facilities and infrastructure.