

Weather

Friday



Partly Cloudy

High 63°F Low 37°F

Saturday



Sunny

High 66°F Low 42°F

Sunday



Partly Cloudy

High 70°F Low 38°F

Monday



Partly Cloudy

High 72°F Low 45°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. March 8 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel, spouses encouraged to attend.

SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-06 graduates at 10 a.m. March 11 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Air Force Assistance Fund begins

The Air Force Assistance Fund at Columbus Air Force Base runs until March 25. For more information about the program, contact your unit or group POC.



U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

Scott Colom, Mississippi District 16 District Attorney, speaks during the Black History Month luncheon Feb. 25 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. February contained a variety of activities in honor of Black History Month, including a cake cutting, a flight in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, a soul food tasting, and a Black History Month 5K fun run.

Columbus Air Force Base finishes Black History Month observances with luncheon

2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Scott Colom, Mississippi District 16 District Attorney, spoke at the Black History Month luncheon Feb. 25 at Columbus Air Force Base.

The luncheon, which was the culmination of a month's worth of observance activities, tied together the themes, namely that African American history is an integral and often under-represented part of American history.

See LUNCHEON, Page 2

Inside



Feature 8

The Buzzsaws of the 41st FTS are highlighted in this week's feature.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (16-15)	4.10 days	2.68 days	Apr. 1
41st (16-14)	1.82 days	2.28 days	Mar. 9

PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (16-06)	-1.29 days	1.99 days	Mar. 11
50th (16-06)	-0.43 days	1.08 days	Mar. 11

IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (16-EBC)	-4.85 days	0.07 days	Mar. 3

WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	237	235	12,111
T-1	96	75	3,907
T-38	82	84	3,868
IFF	36	26	1,670

The graduation speaker is Col. Uriel Bruce Strickland, retired Mississippi Air National Guard, former 286th Air Operations Group Commander.



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.

LUNCHEON
(Continued from page 1)

“You can’t tell the history of the United States military without including the story of the African American,” Colom said. “The first big public institution integrated was the United States military. Think about what difference that made for our country, to see blacks

and whites could fight together, could die together, and could live together.”

February saw a variety of activities in honor of Black History Month, including a cake cutting, a flight in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, a soul food tasting, and a Black History Month 5K fun run. The events were organized by a committee of employees of Columbus Air Force Base.

2016 Tax Center hours

The Columbus AFB 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 combined family income under \$58,000, then you may qualify for this free tax preparation service.

The hours of operation are:

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday by Appointment only (Friday afternoon scheduling varies upon volunteer availability)
- Walk-in hours are from 8 a.m. - noon on Mondays for simple 1040 returns.

Dorm residents may also contact Master Sgt. Jeffrey Randolph at 434-2392 to schedule on-site tax preparation with him.

The scope of our tax preparation is limited. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the updated Tax Center number at 434-7030.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
7 AFAE, runs through March 25	8 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	9	10 CAFB Wingmen's Reception, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	11 SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	12/13	Mar. 24: ALS Graduation Mar. 24: Hearts Apart Mar. 25: 16-07 Assignment Night Mar. 25: Air Force Assistance Fund ends Mar. 25: Dutchtown HS Base Tour Mar. 25: Happy Irby Golf Tournament Mar. 27: Easter Brunch Mar. 29: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 30: Women's History Lunch Mar. 31: 14th STUS Change of Command Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony Apr. 1: IFF Graduation Apr. 5: Retired Chiefs Luncheon Apr. 8: SUPT Class 16-07 Graduation Apr. 15: 16-08 Assignment Night Apr. 19: Wing Newcomers Orientation Apr. 29: First Quarterly Awards Ceremony
14	15	16	17	18	19/20	AFA/ Military Affairs ALS BBQ

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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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.

March 4 - 5

Enjoy three days of hot Mississippi Blues in honor of Blues legend Willie King! Live performances at the Rosenzweig Arts Center start at 7 p.m. on Thursday and feature The Bill Abel Band, The Nellie Mack Project and Big Joe and the Black Prairie Blues Band. For more information on Blues for Willie Festival 2016, visit columbus-arts.org or call 328-2787.

March 5

White House Champion of Change honoree and award-winning author, Tracey D. Syphax, will be the featured guest at a Book Signing Gala and Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.,

at Lion Hills Golf Club, 2331 Military Rd. Musical guest Shar J will perform, and refreshments will be served. Visit eventbrite.com for more information.

March 10 - 12

The Columbus Arts Council presents "Left Hand Singing," a play by Barbara LeBow, set in Mississippi beginning amidst the idealism and violence of Freedom Summer, 1964, and traveling across the next three decades. Directed by Melanie Hintz, performances will be 7 p.m. nightly with an additional 2 p.m. Saturday matinee. For more information, call 328-2787 or visit columbus-arts.org for more information.

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.

Homes

House for rent: Three bedroom, two full baths, full kitchen, electric washer/dryer included, two car garage, large yard, quiet neighborhood in Ridgeland Estates, less than 10-minute drive from base, any inquires please call 889-1814.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Sharp AQUOS TV, 52-inch 1080P HD, \$195. For more information call 356-4511.

Thai Siam
Thai Restaurant

10% OFF
Student & Military with I.D.

COLUMBUS LOCATION:
2212 Military Road
662-570-4639

STARKVILLE LOCATION:
303B Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. E.
662-320-7117

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Must be 21 for lounge admittance

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No Cover Charge

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Every Saturday Night at 8pm

Team BLAZE gives back to AF families with AF AF

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base is holding its annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign Feb. 29 to March 25.

The AF AF campaign was established with the purpose of providing financial assistance to charitable organizations that give support directly to Air Force members in need.

Team BLAZE's main goal is 100-percent contact.

The base's monetary goal for 2016 is \$37,521. Money raised during the AF AF campaign goes directly to four charitable organizations designed to benefit active-duty, reserve, guard, and retired Air Force personnel and their families. They are the Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation; Air Force Village Charitable Foundation; Gen. and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation; and the Air Force Aid Society.

The Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation was created to care for widows, widowers, and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel. The foundation acquired 379 housing units at two northwest Florida facilities. Here, widows of enlisted men live

among peers and share memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities.

Since 1970, the Air Force Village Foundation has provided over \$10 million in assistance. It was founded to provide surviving spouses of career retired officers with cost-effective living.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides financial support to widows of all retired Air Force personnel, regardless of where they live. Its main source of income is from the AF AF campaign. All money used to support spouses is given with no strings attached.

Finally, the Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force and was chartered to assist in relieving financial emergencies faced by active-duty members and their families. This organization provides interest-free loans or grants during personal and family emergencies, as well as education grants for children and spouses of active-duty personnel.

The goal of the AF AF campaign drive is to raise money so these charities may thrive and prosper in their missions to help the greater Air Force family. Ultimately, the campaign comes down to Air Force helping their own voluntarily.

If you'd like to donate to the AF AF campaign, contact your group or squadron representative to fill out a contribution form. All donations are given directly to the AF AF campaign. For further information, please visit the AF AF website at aassistancefund.org or contact your group POC.

Team BLAZE AF AF campaign POCs:

- 14th Flying Training Wing Staff Agencies
Capt. Regan Tillman
Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Kitchens
Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
- 14th Comptroller Squadron
Senior Airman Jean Amani
- 14th Operations Group
Capt. Amani Evensen
- 14th Operations Support Squadron
1st Lt. Timothy Jefferson
Tech Sgt. Stephenie Reynard
Tech. Sgt. Dustin Ashmore
- 14th Student Squadron
Capt. Thomas Hyde
- 37th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Bradley Beninati
1st Lt. Michael Butler
- 41st Flying Training Squadron

- 1st Lt. Jeff Leonard
- 48th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Zachary Overbey
- 49th Flying Training Squadron
Capt. Justin Address
- 50th Flying Training Squadron
1st Lt. Joe Hollway
- 14th Medical Group
2nd Lt. Jamion Lewis
- 14th Medical Operations Squadron
2nd Lt. Vikas Kumar
Tech. Sgt. Oshar Reid
- 14th Medical Support Squadron
Staff Sgt. Shayna Wasden
Staff Sgt. Logan Richey
- 14th Mission Support Group
Tech. Sgt. Raymond Billups
- 14th Civil Engineer Squadron
Staff Sgt. Brandon Foxx
- 14th Communications Squadron
Staff Sgt. Cory Johnson
- 14th Contracting Squadron
Betty Townsend
- 14th Force Support Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Cowart
- 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Senior Airman Henry Schultz
- 14th Security Forces Squadron
Staff Sgt. Ashley Corpron
Staff Sgt. Michelle Cardenas

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 Feb. 29 at the Columbus Club.

Promoted during the month of February were:

- Airman Gabrielle Achuff, 14th Medical Operations Squadron
- Airman Haley Jergensen, 14th Operations Support Squadron
- Senior Airman Tyler Wilson, 14th Contracting Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Farinas, 14th MDOS
- Staff Sgt. Bridget Holling, 14th OSS
- Staff Sgt. Darin Smith, 14th Security Forces Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Talavera, 14th Medical Support Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Roger Watrous, 14th OSS



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Eight of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony Feb. 29 at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

14th Medical Group accolades awarded 2015 - present



**2015 AETC Best Ambulatory Clinic Patient
Safety Program**
14th Medical Group

**2015 AETC Outstanding Aerospace and Operational Physiology Airman of
the Year Award**
Senior Airman Dawn Edwards

**2015 AETC Outstanding Base Bioenvironmental
Engineering NCO of the Year Award**
Tech. Sgt. David Bank

**2015 AETC Outstanding Ophthalmic NCO
of the Year Award**
Tech. Sgt. Esteban Puga

2015 AFMS Aerospace Physiology NCO of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hoffman

2015 AETC Outstanding Dental NCO of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. William Lodge

**2015 AETC Outstanding Public Health Airman
of the Year Award**
Senior Airman Dimitri Munoz

**2015 AETC Outstanding Dental Airman
of the Year Award**
Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Farinas

2015 AETC Flight Surgeon of the Year
Capt. Quinton Keigley

**Editor's note: This section was omitted from the previous week's
feature, we apologize for any inconvenience.*

Columbus AFB Top 3 Spotlight



Category: Airman/NCO
Nominee Name/Grade: Senior Airman Geoffrey Stanley
Unit: 14th Operations Support Squadron



Information:

1. **Home Town:** Aurora, Colorado
2. **Time in the Air Force:** three years
3. **Time at Columbus AFB:** two and a half years
4. **Career Short Term Goals:** I plan to study hard in order to make staff sergeant this next promotion cycle. Once I am an NCO, I want to complete my Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor training and eventually help manage a RAPCON crew.
5. **Career Long Term Goals:** I want to travel all over the world to meet both the Air Force needs and to satisfy my desires to experience different bases and cultures. Additionally, I want to continue to personally and professionally develop myself, seek different leadership jobs in the flight and to one day be promoted to Chief.
6. **Nominated by:** Master Sgt. Richard Babb
7. **Nomination reason:** Outstanding Performance

Columbus AFB congratulates senior master sergeant selects

Congratulations to the 14th Flying Training Wing senior master sergeant selects!

The master sergeants selected for promotion are:

- Master Sgt. Angel Alvarado Rivera, 14th Operations Support Squadron
- Master Sgt. Samuel Gutierrez, 14th OSS

Keeping the C-17 in the fight

**By Tech. Sgt. James
Hodgman**

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar (AFNS) — The C-17 Globemaster III is a versatile aircraft in high demand across the globe. The airframe is used to haul cargo, transport passengers and medically evacuate wounded service members.

The 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron maintenance team at Al Udeid Air Base helps keep the base's C-17 fleet mission ready by performing regular maintenance on each aircraft. The unit provides the only tier two C-17 maintenance capability in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility with the ability to replace engines and perform fuel cell work.

"Our goal is to maintain our C-17s so they're ready to go at a moment's notice," said Senior Airman Matthew Vanderbosch, a 8th EAMS C-17 crew chief from Buffalo, New York. "We need to make

sure the aircraft is crew ready. We configure the cargo bay for each mission, inspect everything on the aircraft and call in specialists, as needed, to fix problems quickly."

Conducting preflight inspections is one of the many responsibilities of 8th EAMS crew chiefs. During inspections, nearly a half dozen crew chiefs inspect every system on the aircraft, Vanderbosch said.

"We inspect the interior and exterior of the aircraft, all lights, computer systems, hydraulics, every brake and tire ... everything," said Staff Sgt. Robert Hill, a 8th

EAMS C-17 crew chief from Helena, Montana. "Each inspection consists of hundreds of items."

Ensuring the C-17, an aircraft called upon to evacuate 80 U.S. Embassy personnel from Yemen in February 2015, is mission ready is vital, Hill said.

"Everything we do here has an impact. Every time we support a jet launch we're making things happen," Hill said. "Whether it's moving passengers across the AOR, delivering munitions or delivering humanitarian aid like water, blankets or food to people in need; we are here to support all of that."

One day, Vanderbosch was informed of a C-17 waiting to takeoff to transport wounded Soldiers out of Afghanistan. The aircraft was fueled up, the pilot was ready to start engines and the aeromedical evacuation crew was ready to go. However, there was one problem — two tires needed to be replaced.

"Without hesitation, a team of us went out to the jet, jacked it up and replaced the tires," Vanderbosch said. "Behind every flight crew, there's a team of crew chiefs and specialists ensuring they can do their jobs, because if we don't do our jobs, the flight crews can't do their jobs."

"Knowing we were able to help bring those Soldiers home and get them the care they needed ... being a part of that, was pretty cool," he continued.

During his time at AUAB, Vanderbosch said he's replaced C-17 brakes, lights and more tires than any other time in his Air Force career.

The 8th EAMS maintainers

perform maintenance actions on a routine basis in an effort to ensure assets are available at the time of need, Hill said.

"We track the maintenance needs for every aircraft; we assign people as necessary, perform our inspections and focus on preventative maintenance so we take care of problems before they arise," Hill said.

The 8th EAMS currently has a logistics departure reliability rate of nearly 93 percent. That means for every 10 aircraft assigned to missions, nine take off on time.

The LDRR is one of many achievements made possible by the hard work of the 8th EAMS maintenance team, said Capt. Danielle Rogowski, a 8th EAMS maintenance operations officer from St. Cloud, Minnesota.

"Our guys understand the importance of what they're doing and they see the impact of what they do every day," she said. "When a C-17 is transporting service members across the AOR or when someone needs to get medevac'd out, that's possible because of the work my Airmen do."

Rogowski said she's impressed with the dedication her Airmen bring to the mission.

"I'm so proud of our people, to do what they do every day in extreme heat; I'm having to pull them off of stands to take breaks because they won't stop. If something is broke, they won't stop until it's fixed," she said. "To display such tenacity, that's impressive and they bring that tenacity every day. They come here ready to go, focused on getting the mission done."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

Airman 1st Class Jacob Chambers, an 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron C-17 Globemaster III crew chief, marshals in a C-17 Globemaster III at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Feb. 19, 2016. The 8th EAMS maintenance team performs maintenance actions on C-17s to ensure they're mission ready.

In 2015, the 8th EAMS supported more than 1,700 sorties delivering nearly 24,000 tons of cargo and more than 9,000 people to locations across the CENTCOM AOR.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Haseltine

Lt. Col. George Watkins, the 34th Fighter Squadron commander, drops a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb from an F-35A Lightning II at the Utah Test and Training Range Feb. 25, 2016. The 34th FS is the Air Force's first combat unit to employ munitions from the F-35A.

Hill's F-35s drop first weapons

By Nathan Simmons
388th Fighter Wing

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) — Airmen from the 388th and 419th fighter wings dropped laser-guided bombs at the Utah Test and Training Range the week of Feb. 25, marking the first time an F-35 Lightning II combat unit has deployed weapons from the F-35A.

Lt. Col. George Watkins, the 34th Fighter Squadron commander, said dropping weapons from the F-35 allows pilots to more fully engage the aircraft and confirm that everything works as planned.

"This is significant because we're building the confidence of our pilots by actually dropping something off the airplane instead of simulating weapon employment," Watkins said.

Air Force F-35s have dropped weapons in test en-

vironments, but this is the first time it's been done on jets designed to deploy once the Air Force declares initial operational capability, which it plans to do between August and December. IOC will be announced when the Air Force deems the F-35 combat capable.

Lt. Col. Darrin Dronoff, the director of Hill's F-35 Program Integration Office, said that while this achievement is a significant step toward Air Force IOC, the milestone goes beyond that mark.

"The pilots and weapons loaders in the 388th and 419th fighter wings are perfecting their skills not only to prove aircraft capabilities, but they'll also be the Airmen called upon to take the F-35 to combat, whenever that call may come," he said.

Hill's F-35 pilots will begin flying the F-35 in four-ship formations, which is the standard configuration flown in contested combat scenarios, as early as March.



U.S. Air Force photo/R. Nial Bradshaw

Airman Juan Rivas, Senior Airman Darion White and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Kalsbeek, all 34th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load crew members, prepare to equip an F-35A Lightning II with a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Feb. 23, 2016.



U.S. Air Force photo/R. Nial Bradshaw

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Kalsbeek and Airman Juan Rivas, both 34th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load crew members, prepare to equip an F-35A Lightning II with a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Feb. 23, 2016.

DOD Military Spouse Employment Partnership reaches milestone

By DoD News
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The Defense Department announced on Feb. 29 that the Military Spouse Employment Partnership program has now partnered with 300 employers, according to officials from the DOD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Office.

The program, launched in June 2011 by Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, is an employment and career partnership

connecting military spouses to partner organizations and companies who have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers.

"This is such an exciting and important milestone for the program and for the thousands of military spouses around the world who search for meaningful employment and career opportunities," said Rosemary Williams, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

"The Military Spouse Employment Part-

nership addresses the employment challenges facing military spouses while providing partner employers with access to a pool of highly qualified military spouses," she said.

The partnership includes corporations, small businesses and other organizations that post job openings on the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Career Portal, mentor military spouses and other employers, and provide employment data on military spouses hired, officials said.

"The talent of military spouses can

strengthen the economy, military families, the Defense Department and the nation," said Eddy Mentzer, the associate director of the family readiness policy for DOD's military community and family policy office. "Partnership companies and organizations have hired more than 90,000 military spouses."

The partnership is part of DOD's Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program, which seeks to reduce the significant unemployment rate and wage gap currently experienced by military spouses.

Strickland to speak at next graduation

A Team BLAZE T-1 simulator instructor pilot and retired Mississippi Air National Guardsman will speak at the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-06 graduation.

Upon retirement, Col. Uriel Bruce Strickland was promoted to the rank of brigadier general (non-Federal recognition) in the state of Mississippi.

Prior to retirement Strickland was commander of the 286th Air Operations Group, Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi Air National Guard assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Mississippi. As the commander he conducted the day-to-day operations of the 286th AOG. Strickland provided operational guidance for the training and readiness of the groups' three squadrons and personnel. He provided oversight for the financial and personnel matters and monitored plans and programs as they related to operational c-NAF support to both Air Forces Northern and Air Forces Central.

Strickland was responsible for providing a readily trained Air Force Forces augmentation staff to both Air Force Northern Command and Air Forces Central Command and was responsible for the standup of the 286th AOG and brought it forward to Initial Operating Capability statue. From 2010-2014, Strickland also served as the Joint Air Component

Coordination Element Director working directly for the Commander 1st Air Force and responded to all major defense support to civil authorities events such as Hurricane Sandy as well as work major homeland defense events and activities such as the President's State of the Union address.

Strickland entered active duty with the United States Army in June of 1977 and was the Senior Operations NCO for operations for the 108th Infantry Division until his departure in 1983. Strickland entered service with the Air National Guard in 1983 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in December of that year. Upon graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training at Williams AFB, Arizona, in 1984, Strickland attended Lead In Fighter Training at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and was assigned to the 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air Na-



Col. Uriel Bruce Strickland

tional Guard.

Strickland was selected as Vice Commander for the 286th AOG in October 2010. He has additionally served as the Director of Operations for the 15th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron directing close air support combat operations in MNF-C during the Surge in Iraq in 2008.

ASSIGNMENTS:

October 1983 – October 1984: Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training; Williams AFB, Arizona

November 1984-December 1984: Lead-in Fighter Training, Holloman AFB, New Mexico

January 1985 – March 1985: F-16 RTU, MacDill AFB, Florida

May 1985 – September 1985: C130 RTU, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas

September 1985 – June 1989: 145th Airlift Wing (C130B), Charlotte, North Carolina

June 1989 – March 2000: 169th Fighter Wing (F-16/C130H), McEntire ANGB, South Carolina

February 2005 – September 2010: 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, Key Field, Mississippi

October 2010-June 2014: 286th Air Operations Group, Key Field, Mississippi

WALK-A-THON

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- Flat Rate: no matter how many laps the walker walks, as long as they participate, the sponsor pays what they pledge
- Fixed Rate: pay a certain amount (ie. \$.25 or \$1) per lap.

50% of proceeds will go towards the 2016 Annual Awards Banquet.

Where: CAFB Fitness Center Track
When: 12 March 2016
Time: 0800-1100

AAC POC: A1C Brittani Amavizca-Waddington x2239
AAC Alternate: A1C John Day x7068

WALK

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2016

Working to Form a More Perfect Union
Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.

14th FSS offers FAA testing

The 14th Force Support Squadron offers Federal Aviation Administration testing, or FAA testing, conducted at the Education Office Mondays at 8 a.m. or Thursdays at 1 p.m. To schedule an FAA Exam, please e-mail europa.stone@us.af.mil.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: UH-N1 Twin Huey

Missions

The UH-1N Twin Huey is a light-lift utility helicopter used to support various missions. The primary missions include: airlift of emergency security forces, security and surveillance of off-base nuclear weapons convoys, and distinguished visitor airlift. Other uses include: disaster response operations, search and rescue, medical evacuation, airborne cable inspections, support to aircrew survival school, aerial testing, routine missile site support and transport.

Features

The UH-1N has a crew of three (pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer) and is capable of flight in instrument and nighttime conditions. When configured for passengers, the UH-1N can seat up to 13 people, but actual passenger loads are dependent on fuel loads and atmospheric conditions (may be less). The medical evacuation configuration can accommodate up to six litters. Without seats or litters, the cabin can carry bulky, oversized cargo. Access to the cabin is through two full-sized sliding doors.

Background

The UH-1N entered the Air Force inventory in 1970 to provide search and rescue capabilities. The missions expanded to include missile security, distinguished visitor, survival



U.S. Air Force photo

The UH-1N Twin Huey is a light-lift utility helicopter used to support various missions. The primary missions include airlift of emergency security forces, security and surveillance of off-base nuclear weapons convoys, and distinguished visitor airlift.

school and test support. HH-1H's and UH-1F's supporting missile wings were eventually replaced by the UH-1N due to the greater safety and capability offered by the twin engine.

Manufactured by Bell Helicopter/Textron Inc., the UH-1N is the military version of the Bell 212, one of the numerous variants of the original "Huey" first designed and flown in

1956.

The helicopter is assigned worldwide. Within Air Force Global Strike Command, UH-1N's are located at the 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and the 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

Other units include: 1st Helicopter

Squadron, Andrews AFB, Maryland; 36th Rescue Flight, Fairchild AFB, Washington; 459th Airlift Squadron, Yokota AB, Japan; 40th Flight Test Squadron, Eglin AFB, Florida; and 512th Rescue Squadron, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

General characteristics

- **Primary function:** light-lift utility
- **Contractor:** Bell Helicopter Co.
- **Power plant:** two Pratt and Whitney T400-CP-400 turboshaft engines
- **Maximum gross weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,763 kilograms)
- **Range:** 300-plus miles
- **Ceiling:** 15,000 feet (4,572 meters); 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) for gross weights above 10,000 pounds (4,536 kilograms)
- **Maximum speed:** 149 mph (130 knots) Cruise Speed: 103-115 mph (90-100 knots)
- **Length:** 57 feet, 3 inches (17.44 meters)
- **Width:** 9 feet, 5 inches (2.87 meters)
- **Height:** 12 feet, 10 inches (3.9 meters)
- **Diameter of main rotor:** 48 feet (14.63 meters)
- **Diameter of tail rotor:** 8 feet, 6 inches (2.6 meters)
- **Crew:** pilot with co-pilot and flight engineer, depending upon mission
- **Date deployed:** 1970
- **Inventory:** active force, 59; Reserve, 0; ANG, 0

SOAR offers active-duty education opportunity

Laurence Brooks, 14th Force Support Squadron Education and Training Chief

The Scholarships For Outstanding Airmen program offers active-duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission.

The program is for junior Airmen who can complete all bachelor degree and commissioning requirements in two to four years as an Air Force ROTC cadet.

SOAR packages should be sent electronically to the major command functional management no later than Sept. 15. Packages that are incomplete or ineligible will be rejected.

Applicants are ultimately responsible for the completeness and accuracy of their package. The Base Education Center may assist the members in an advisory capacity.

For program information, applicant requirements, selection process, eligibility, and the application process, visit the Air Force ROTC website au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/SOAR.asp.

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. March 7-8. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CAL-IBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants to make. To register and for more information call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. March 8 and 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. March 8. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. March 8, 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.

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

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

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.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon March 9. 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.

Support for 2017 air show ramps up



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

U.S. Marine Corps retired Maj. Gen. Tom Moore, Lowndes Community Foundation Board member, congratulates Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, on the Foundation's donation to the 2017 Wings Over Columbus Airshow and Open House. Despite the 14th FTW's efforts to secure an air show in 2016, Columbus Air Force Base announced Feb. 25 that there will not be a 2016 air show. Columbus Air Force Base sent representatives to the International Conference of Air Shows to compete for a headliner act such as the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds or U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 10-11. The Entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

This class 10 - 11:30 a.m. March 15, is a class that provides 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.

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.

Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

Catholic Community

Sundays:
3:15 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
Tuesdays:
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
11:30-12:30 p.m. - Holy Hour

Protestant Community

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

Ecumenical services

Wednesdays:
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

Dental Assistants Recognition Week starts March 6

14th Medical Operations Squadron

This year's Dental Assistants Recognition Week takes place March 6 - 12 and the American Dental Assistant Association's theme for this week long celebration is, "Dental Assistants: Our mission is to serve, our passion is to care."

This celebration is to acknowledge the commitment and unique and vital contributions dental assistants everywhere provide the dental profession.

At Columbus AFB, dental assisting continues to diversify and expand. Whether working chairside with the dentist, cleaning teeth, working at the front desk or in the dental lab, dental assistants are vital to the success of the dental clinic. They provide quality patient care, soothe patients' dental anxiety, and ensure the efficient operation of

the dental clinic. They are the ones who help make your visit to the dentist productive, safe and as comfortable as possible.

Team BLAZE's dental assistants are Master Sgt. Tisha Everett; Tech. Sgt. Earnest Everett; Staff Sgts. Thai Huong Vanover, Maria Schinella, and Nathaniel Farinas; Senior Airmen Brandis Dixon, Robert Woods, and Emily Miller; and Shaneka Hubbard.

"I would like to recognize the many contributions dental assistants everywhere provide the dental profession, especially the dental assistants here at Columbus AFB," said Lt. Col. Marie-Antonette Brancato, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Flight Commander. "They all do a great job and are the backbone to the Team BLAZE dental team. I salute you!"

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.

The Overrun Now Open Evenings
The Overrun is open each Wednesday and Thursday 4:30 – 8 p.m. and Friday 4:30 p.m. – midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Spring Break Camp
The Youth Center is offering Spring Break Camp registration until all slots are filled. Cost is based on total family income. Space is limited. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Free Open Karaoke
Join the Columbus Club for free Open Karaoke every Thursday in March from 6 – 10 p.m. Food and drink specials available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Glo ball Tournament
The Golf Course is offering a glo ball tournament March 4 at 6 p.m. 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. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Free Breakfast for Club Members
The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast for club members the first Monday of each month beginning March 7 from 6:30 – 8 a.m. Non-members pay \$8 per person. Become a Club Member and eat for free plus enjoy all the benefits of being a member. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Kick Butts Day
The Youth Center is offering Kick Butts Day March 8 from 3:45 – 5 p.m. Learn how to stand up, speak out, and seize control against tobacco. All ages welcome for this free event. For more information, contact 434-2504.

St. Patrick’s Day Beer Pairing
The Golf Course is offering St. Patrick’s Day Beer Pairing March 17 at 6 p.m. The cost is only \$35 per person for a four-course meal. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Basewide Spring Fling and Egg Hunt
The Youth Center is offering their annual Basewide Spring Fling and Egg Hunt March 19 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at Freedom Park. For more information, contact 434-2772.

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.

Golf Course Spring Open House
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering Spring Open House March 20 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Specials include free green fees



BREAKFAST CLUB
Start your day at the Overrun

Free for Club Members
\$8 for Non-Members
6:30-8 a.m.
Non-Member can eat free if they complete a Club Membership application, see staff for details

For More Information, contact 434-2489.

March 7
April 4
May 2
June 6
July 11

August 1
September 12
October 3
November 7
December 5

 **Become a Member of the Columbus Club & Save**

for golf and footgolf, half off golf cart rental, and 50 cent hot dog, chips, or drink. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Supply Drive for St. Jude and Baptist Hospitals
The Youth Center is collecting donations for St. Jude Children’s Hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital. Drop off school supplies at the Youth Center Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. April 1 – 30. For more information and a complete list of items needed, please contact 434-2504.

Easter Brunch
The Columbus Club is offering Easter Brunch March 27 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Brunch prices are: Club members, \$17; non-members, \$20; children (5 – 11), \$8; under 5, free. For more information, contact 434-2489.

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.

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.

Lawn Mower Repair
Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The

cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. For more information, contact 434-2507.

Columbus Club Reopens
We are excited to announce that your Columbus Club located in the Event Center is open. Lunch is available Monday - Friday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Monday – Mexican Buffet, Tuesday - Italian Buffet, Wednesday – Pizza and Wings Buffet, Thursday - Southern Buffet, Friday – Catfish and Spaghetti Buffet. Cost of buffet is only \$7.95 for Club members and \$8.95 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Gymnastics Instructor Needed
Gymnastics Instructors 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.

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

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.

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
Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Monday 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.

14th CS contract complaint system

By Clark Houston

14th Communications Squadron Operations Flight Chief

The 14th Communications Squadron manages three separate contracts in support of Columbus Air Force Base.

The three contracts are the Base Information Transfer Center, Base Network & Telephone System and the Cable One cable TV contract.

The BITC contract is the vehicle that supports the base’s official mail and inter-base transfer of documents requirements. The BNTS is the contract that delivers enterprise core services, Communications and Emissions Security programs as well as managing the Wing’s Information Assurance operations. The Cable One cable TV contract provides the Wing a cost effective vehicle for official Cable One cable TV drops in identified locations such as waiting rooms and operations centers. Cable One cable TV drops are tightly controlled and are closely scrutinized for mission needs.

If at any time a customer of one of the services feels the level of service is not on par with the expected level of professionalism or the contractor has not delivered to the expectation of the customer, an official complaint can be submitted. The process for submitting an official complaint is the same for all three contracts and is described below.

1. Draft an email giving the date and time of the incident resulting in the complaint, your organization, office symbol, building number, full name, phone number, nature of the complaint. Also, include the who, what, when, where and how specifics relating to the complaint.

2. Email this information to 14cs.workflow@columbus.af.mil.

Necessary actions will be documented by the Contractor Officer Representative and a response will be returned to the customer.

If you have any specific questions with regards to 14th Communications Squadron contract operations please contact the 14th CS Operations Flight Chief at 14cs.sco@columbus.af.mil.

Team BLAZE Airman wins AETC award



U.S. Air Force photo

Capt. Quinton Keigley, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, pauses before an F-16 Fighting Falcon sortie on the flightline at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Keigley is attending Top Knife II at Luke where flight surgeons and physiologists spend two weeks in academics, simulators and high “G” flight to better understand the effect of high “G” aircraft on aircrew members. Keigley was just recognized as the 2015 AETC Flight Surgeon of the Year.

VIEWPOINT

The Instructor’s Vision: Thoughts from the new ‘old guy’

Lt. Col. Josh Rogers
41st Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot

Sometimes I wonder what I have to offer as the token new, “old guy” or maybe even the old, “new guy.”

Either way, it definitely gets old being the new guy, but don’t we old guys love a new guy because of the fresh perspective they can offer?

Not long ago after flying a student sortie in that hot rod of a T-6 Texan II, a student asked during the debrief, “Sir, I think I’m supposed to perch around the SAC ramp. So, what’s a SAC ramp?” Well, aside from feeling really old at that moment, a couple of thoughts occurred to me. I’m not sure what we say as IP’s always makes sense to the student. To further illustrate this he also asked, “What do you mean by ‘incomplete flare?’”

I began to reflect on my instructor style after the debrief. As I did, I recalled a statement made by more than one instructor.

“You know we do a really good job of teaching folks how to fly the T-6, but not such a good job of teaching folks how to teach.” Interesting, but I see where unfortunately that can be true.

Then I thought, how can we be better instructors? It’s

pretty much right in front of me, three simple words. Hold on before you shout out, “Fear, Sarcasm, and Ridicule,” drop the microphone, and storm off the metaphorical stage of your mind. Let me submit three other words: “Humble, Approachable, Credible.”

I can’t take credit for coming up with this motto. This is something the Weapons Instructor Course has touted for years. The 41st Flying Training Squadron Buzzsaws have embraced this as our vision. It’s emblazoned on the archway we walk under to the squadron Supervisor of Flying’s desk, known as the Sup, serving as a gentle reminder to the likes of, “Fly Like a Champion Today.”

To be humble is simply to not overestimate your own ability as an instructor. You don’t feel the need to remind anyone of your accomplishments no matter how recent, and you don’t feel the need to remind everyone how good you are at your job. You aren’t so proud that you fail to learn from the younger squadron members, regardless of your experience level. Your commitment to service overrides your need for recognition.

To be approachable is to be the kind of instructor a student isn’t afraid to make a mistake in front of and when they do, they’re not afraid to ask you how to improve for fear of your

reaction. Being approachable lives out Teddy Roosevelt’s assertion, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

To be credible is to realize you don’t know it all, but you are committed to being the best instructor you can be. Realize you have to stay in the books and you’ve got to practice and sharpen your skills. In essence, to be an effective test giver, you need to know the testable material.

The vision of being humble, approachable and credible is lofty but worthy. It’s a vision that changes your perspective from viewing a student across your desk as a kid who’s just trying to get through the program, to seeing them as your next wingman, flight lead, fellow instructor pilot, and combat veteran.

How do we maintain this vision that sees further than ourselves and today’s schedule? Like my old man said, “This grass ain’t gonna mow itself,” which more clearly stated is, you have to make a conscious effort and you have to be intentional. So, take it from the new, “old guy,” or the old, “new guy,” as it were, be focused and deliberate to be an instructor who’s humble, approachable and credible. Be a cut above; it’s the vision of a cadre who knows the reason we are here is to “Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight.” Fly safe!



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

The 41st Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, conducts basic aviation flying training for SUPT phase two and T-6 Airman Leadership Program, and has since 1998. Their mission is to develop future Air Force pilots with a solid foundation of basic knowledge for flying using the T-6 Texan II.



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

Students in the 41st Flying Training Squadron discuss advanced avionics and techniques in class at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 41st FTS has six flights total; two flights are paired together to make a class.

Buzzsaws impart skill, officership

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

Every student pilot at Columbus Air Force Base starts somewhere.

That somewhere is flying the T-6 Texan II with the 41st Flying Training Squadron or the 37th Flying Training Squadron.

The 41st Flying Training Squadron, formerly known as the 41st Fighter Squadron Flying Buzzsaws, has a rich history dating all the way back to World War II.

The 41st FS flew anti-submarine patrols off the coast of Washington state from 1941-1942. The squadron then went on to fly combat sorties including patrol, escort and close air support in Pacific areas from 1942-1945. They also flew air defense of Japan during the Korean War.

The Buzzsaws now conduct flying training for student pilots, and has since 1998. Their mission is to

develop new Air Force pilots with a solid foundation of basic knowledge for flying.

“Our job is to make sure every student gets quality training,” said Capt. Eric Riethman, 41st FTS Flight Commander, Spaatz Flight. “They start here after academics and learn the basics of contact, instrument and formation.”

Students cover these primary categories of aviation during their stay in the 41st FTS before they can proceed in their training. With six flights total, the squadron pairs two flights together, teaching three classes of pilots at a time.

“A student’s first milestone is to solo,” Riethman said. “They advance to aerobatics and other advanced techniques. An important part of what they learn is instrument flight where they become able to fly by only reading their gauges and panels.”

The 41st FTS prepares student pilots for the next step in the program flying either the T-1 Jayhawk, the T-38 Talon or helicopters. Testing, flight performance

and attitude can determine which platform the student will advance to.

“There are four check rides throughout the syllabus here and each weighs heavily on an individual’s advancement to their next aircraft,” Riethman said.

Every flight room in the 41st FTS is named after a historic Air Force figure.

“I like how each flight inherits and contributes to the continued history,” Riethman said. “Just look at the name of my flight; Spaatz. (He was) a real pioneer of Airpower and a key player in our heritage.”

Not only are avionic techniques taught, but so are Air Force and aviation history and officership.

“As a flight commander, I also rank the student based on the Whole Person Concept,” Riethman said. “I look at the bigger picture of these students. A person with a great attitude and who is a team player goes a long way. Those who come through the program are officers first before pilots. We teach them to wear the wings on their chest and their rank on their shoulder.”



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

The Sawmill, which is the heritage room for the 41st Flying Training Squadron, houses relics of past aircraft flown with the 41st Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The display showcases a long heritage tracing back to World War II and most items were donated by personnel who were previously part of the 41st FTS.



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

The Sawmill is the heritage room for the 41st Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 41st FTS was formerly known as the 41st Fighter Squadron Flying Buzzsaws.