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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

February 24, 2017

Vol. 41, Issue 7

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Weather

Friday Partly Cloudy High 79°F Low 48°F	Saturday Cloudy High 61°F Low 33°F
Sunday Partly Cloudy High 63°F Low 41°F	Monday Partly Cloudy High 71°F Low 54°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony
The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Columbus Club.

Wing Newcomers Orientation
A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. March 7 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

SUPT Class 17-06 Graduation
Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-06 graduates at 10 a.m. March 10 at Kaye Auditorium.

Inside

Feature 8

The 48th FTS is highlighted in this week's feature.

Shellman achieves Youth of the Year Award



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens
Lt. Col. Daniel Akeredolu, 14th Force Support Squadron Commander, presents Naterika Shellman, daughter of Stanley and Natarsha Shellman, with the 2017 Youth of the Year Award for Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Feb. 8, 2017, at the Youth Center. Naterika participated in the statewide competition Feb. 15-17 in Jackson, Mississippi, where she placed second in the state. Her goal is to attend Mississippi State University in Business and Fashion Merchandising.

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 (17-14)	1.71 days	3.17 days	Mar. 8	48th (17-06)	-1.33 days	3.88 days	Feb. 24	49th (17-EBC)	-2.09 days	1.65 days	Mar. 2	T-6	1,967	1,971	11,996
41st (17-15)	6.43 days	3.84 days	Mar. 31	50th (17-06)	-0.68 days	-3.67 days	Feb. 24					T-1	538	499	3,054
												T-38	632	703	4,081
												IFF	277	305	1,735

* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Craig Wills, Director of Strategic Plans, Requirements and Programs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 39 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.

Columbus AFB Youth Center brings home championship



Courtesy photo
The Columbus Air Force Base Blazers, a youth basketball team ages 11-14, traveled to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, to participate in a basketball tournament Feb. 18, 2017. The Blazers went against Maxwell AFB and Fort Rucker. After six games, the Blazers moved on to the championship game. The Blazers were able to secure the championship with a 29-26 victory.

Silver Wings

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

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
27	28 Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club	1	2	3	4/5	Mar. 13-17: Local School Spring Break Mar. 23: Enlisted Dorm Dinner Mar. 24: Happy Irby Golf Tournament Mar. 27 - May 5: AFAF Mar. 28: Wing Newcomers Mar. 30 - Apr. 8: Annual Spring Pilgrimage Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotions
6 TAP workshop, 7:30 @ AFRC	7 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	8	9	10 →	11/12	Mar. 31: Ryan Daniels Concert Apr. 6: BCC Luncheon Apr. 7: SUPT Class 17-07 Graduation Apr. 18: Wing Newcomers Apr. 28: SUPT Class 17-08 Graduation Apr. 28: Enlisted Promotions/Quarterly Awards

Feb. 24-25
The Columbus Arts Council is hosting an Indoor Yard Sale 5 - 7 p.m. Feb. 24 and 7 a.m. - noon Feb. 25. Call 328-2787 or visit columbus-arts.org/events/ for more info.

Feb. 24-26
The new Mugshots Grill & Bar in Columbus hosts a benefit for the Palmer Home for Children with seating from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Feb. 24-26. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 662-798-0879.

March 3 - 4
Mississippi University for Women presents Music by Women Festival Concerts in Poindexter Hall, Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium. The performances are free and open to the public starting at noon, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on both days. For more information, go online at visitcolumbusms.org.

March 4
Check-in for the Bikin' For the Blues motorcycle ride benefit for the Richard E. Holmes II Memorial Foundation and Columbus Arts Council begins at 11 a.m. at The Hitch-

ing Lot/Farmers Market. Rain date is March 11. Registration is \$20 per bike. Forms are available at Columbus-arts.org or at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. For more information, call 328-2787.

March 25
A golf tournament benefit for the New Hope robotics team begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. on the Lion Hills Golf Club course. Cost is \$75 per player or \$275 per team and includes green fees, cart, range balls and lunch. Registration is due by March 13. For more information, email tracy.doyle@lowndes.k12.ms.us.

Upcoming EVENTS

CPR Classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6:30 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. March classes will be held on the 6th and 20th. Call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Baptist Cancer Center holds a **support group for cancer survivors** and their families the third Friday of every month from noon-1pm. The next meeting will be held March 17th, room 5PT, past the gift shop. For information call 244-2923 or 800-544-8767, ext. 2923.

Baptist Cancer Center offers **free prostate PSA screenings** for men over 40. Screenings will take place every other month at the Columbus location (April, June, August and September). April PSA screenings will be held from 8-11:45a and from 1-2p. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Dr. Richard Heard will discuss "Colon Cancer: It's more common than you think." at Baptist Golden Triangle's free community education luncheon Tuesday, March 21, noon-1p, rooms 4 & 5 PT, near the Gift Shop. Lunch provided. Seating is limited; call 662-244-1132 to register by March 14.

Join us for a weekly education/support group meeting for people with **congestive heart failure** at Baptist Golden Triangle. Program runs on a 6-week cycle, you may begin at any time. Held each Thursday, 11am-noon, Outpatient Pavilion Board Room. For information call 244-1953 or 244-2132.

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.

BMH-GT Diabetes Support Group - classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, room 6 PT. For more information call Lacy Smith at 244-1392 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1392.

Baptist Golden Triangle is seeking caring, compassionate people to join an elite group of volunteers to help in a variety of hospital settings. For more information, call 244-1165.

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

BAPTIST
goldentriangle.baptistonline.org

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: Large collection of Naruto and Rurouni Kenshin manga for sale, \$100 or best offer; Guitar Hero PS3 guitar controller, \$25 or best offer; collection of Japanese video game strategy guides, \$30 or best offer; Large collection of Skylanders and the video games. For more information, call 270-850-7666.

Transportation

For Sale: 1978 Triumph Spitfire with extra parts and hard top for sale, \$3,000. For more information call Danny at 549-5188 or 434-7317.

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Robotic arm tool poised to save costly inspection time

Holly Jordan

Air Force Research Laboratory

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — A common problem for aircraft maintainers may soon be a thing of the past, thanks to an Air Force Research Laboratory advanced inspection robotics research effort.

AFRL researchers recently traveled to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to demonstrate the Remote Access Nondestructive Evaluation (RANDE) system. Developed through a contracted effort with OC Robotics of Bristol, United Kingdom, RANDE is a flexible, robotic snake-arm tool that can reach into confined areas to perform required inspections, or simply look into tight spaces.

Typically, when military depot or field personnel perform routine inspections on hard-to-reach components such as the interior of aircraft wings, they first have to remove the wing, then remove additional structure within the wing so that inspectors can reach in with specialized equipment. With RANDE, the need to remove the wing for inspection can be eliminated. Instead, maintainers only need to remove the necessary external access panels and maneuver the snake arm through an access hole as small as three inches in diameter. This simplified process results in reduced maintenance hours — due to quicker inspection preparation — and eliminates the possibility of maintenance-induced damage from the pre-inspection processes.

At the end of the snake arm is a multi-axis maneuverable head that includes multiple lights, small cameras, and a port to which inspectors can easily attach a variety of interchangeable nondestructive inspection tools, including eddy current probes. The system is easily portable and can be wheeled to the inspec-



U.S. Air Force photo by Charles Buynak

The Remote Access Nondestructive Evaluation Snake arm system is shown inspecting fasteners during a recent demonstration at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

tion area for quick setup and use. A laptop computer records the full robotic motion, video camera images, and inspection data; as the robotic arm is easily maneuvered with the use of a familiar joystick game controller.

In January, AFRL demonstrated the RANDE Snake Arm tool at Hill AFB to engineers in the NDI laboratory and wing shop, allowing them to experience its capabilities, range of motion, and ease of operation.

RANDE is poised to become an important tool for maintainers performing nondestructive eddy current testing. The testing method, which employs the principle of electromagnetic induction to detect flaws in materials, is one of the most effective means by which inspectors can assess the state of aircraft structural materials.

Typically, inspectors manually run handheld eddy current probes over a material surface to search for defects or surface cracks. However, these handheld inspection probes can be tedious to use, and the inspections subject to human factors. When used with conformal eddy current probes developed in an earlier AFRL program, RANDE fully automates the positioning and surface contact, increasing the inspection reliability and probability of detection.

RANDE can be used in many hard-to-reach spaces and can be fitted with a variety of probes to inspect flat areas as well as raised head fasteners and edges, comparable to traditional eddy current inspection procedures.

“With RANDE, we’re offering a new and better depot and deployable field solution to the NDI engineers and inspectors that we depend upon so heavily to keep our aircraft safe and in service. This capability will enable them to look forward with labor- and cost-efficient possibilities in their toolbox” said Charles Buynak, the AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate senior program manager.

In addition to reducing the time required to complete inspections, RANDE greatly reduces labor and aircraft downtime, which equates to substantial cost savings. Additionally, due to decreased aircraft disassembly needs, potential aircraft damage is reduced. Maintainer health and safety is also increased since inspections no longer require climbing onto an aircraft or wedging into tight spaces.

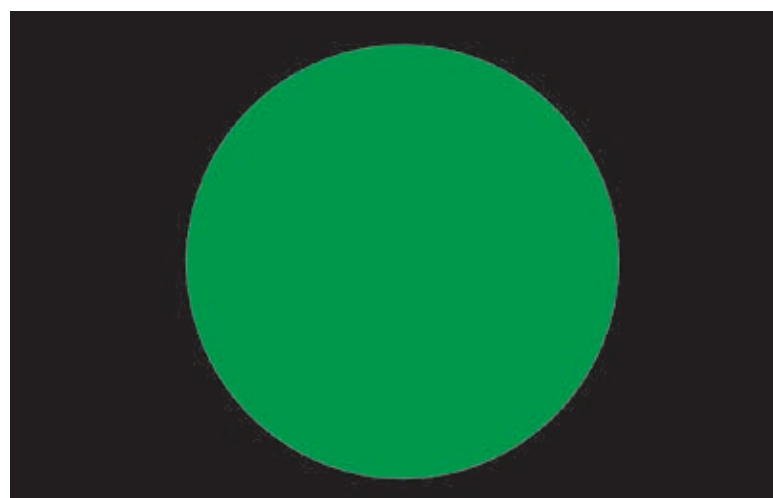
Following the successful demonstration at Hill AFB, the RANDE Snake Arm system will be closely examined by the 809th Maintenance Support Squadron engineering staff to gain experience with the snake arm system and identify its breadth of application for access-challenged inspections across various weapon systems.

Team BLAZE Airman with SecDef Mattis



Courtesy photo illustration

Tech. Sgt. Karl Stefanowicz, 14th Security Forces Squadron Kennel Master, and Military Working Dog Nnora pause for a photo with James Mattis, U.S. Secretary of Defense, downrange. Stefanowicz is deployed to an undisclosed location.



U.S. Air Force photo by Randy Martin

Civilian employees with the newly activated 12th Maintenance Group activate the group’s three squadrons during a ceremony Feb. 10, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The group is the first civil service maintenance directorate in Air Education and Training Command to reorganize as a group.

hole,” said West to a gathering of hundreds of civilian employees and Airmen from throughout the 12th Flying Training Wing.

“We have an identity, something to build a heritage around, and a structure that is recognized by everyone in the Air Force,” West said.

West believes name recognition will translate into more applicants for vital jobs maintaining airplanes.

“A lot of people, when they go into USA Jobs and they are looking for a maintenance job, they don’t know what a directorate is. Now they’ll see 12th Maintenance Group and they’ll say, ‘I know what that is and I want to do that job.’”

West expects maintenance directorates at Altus Air Force Base and Laughlin AFB may also reorganize as groups.

Naval Air Station Pensacola and two squadrons at JBSA-Randolph. Each squadron is led by a civilian director.

“The Air Force organizes in wings, groups and squadrons so everything revolves around those types of units. We can officially take our place next to the 12th Operations Group and the 479th and the 306th Flying Training Groups instead of being a block of 600 manning positions of the wing staff,” West said.

The reorganization comes at a time when Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein has placed more focus on squadrons as “the basic building block organization in the Air Force.”

“It works right into the Chief’s plan. We were really getting tired of being a square peg in a round

Randy Martin

12th Flying Training Wing

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH-Texas — The first civil service aircraft maintenance organization in AETC to become a group is the 12th Maintenance Group.

An activation ceremony was held inside Hangar 41 at Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Feb. 10. The group was formerly a directorate.

“We have been working on this reorganization forever,” said Robert West, 12th Maintenance Group director. West and his team has spent six years on the initiative to transform an organization that supports pilot and combat systems officer training in two states.

The group has a squadron at

IFF Class 17-EBC to graduate March 2

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will graduate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 17-EBC March 2.

Seven members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots and weapon systems officers in the Combat Air Forces of the U.S. Air Force.

The 49th FTS is responsible for active duty, guard, reserve and international flying training in the T-38C IFF aircraft. The Squadron provides training to fighter pilots and weapon systems officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the A-10C, F-15C, F-15E, F-35, F-16 and F-22.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and weapon systems officers to basic fighter maneuvers and air-to-air

employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Wingmen bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to basic surface attack and surface attack tactics phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighter aircraft these wingmen will fly in their follow-on training and employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen:

Capt. Brent Rist	F-16
1st Lt. Ben Harmon	F-16
2nd Lt. Badar Alshyea	Saudi Arabia
2nd Lt. Rocky Bair	F-15E
2nd Lt. Zarinah Blockton	F-15E
2nd Lt. Bradley Chiseck	F-16
2nd Lt. Cody Steele	F-16

Recycling Center adds convenience, saves money

Senior Airman John Day

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The Recycling Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, recently added in deposit slots for common recyclable items.

Though the slots are now available, they prefer any recyclable items be brought in during normal business hours from 6 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and to use the deposit slots as a 24-hour after-hours drop-off slot.

“Recycling is saving the environment,” said Lance Clardy, Recycling Center Facility Manager. “It not only saves our non-renewable resources, but also our land by putting less into landfills and less trees being cut down.”

The Recycling Center collects from the blue recycling boxes all across base weekly and takes drop-off items to sort them accordingly. From there, they are put into baler machines and are loaded onto pallets for pickup and sale. On an average month, they pick up 20,000 to 25,000 pounds of recyclable materials.

“Doing this really makes a difference,” Clardy said. “A job where you make a difference in the world. Not just on a small scale, but for the entire planet.”

The Air Force saves money



U.S. Air Force photo by Richard Johnson

Duke Parrett, Park Ranger, drops off recyclable materials off in the Recycling Center Feb. 15, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Personnel from all over base participate in helping the environment by recycling their used items at Columbus AFB.

through this venture by selling the recycled items based on volume of the bales. This turns enough profit to keep the Recycling Center open and the pickup and drop-off services available.

Recycling is not just limited to those who are assigned to Columbus AFB.

“Anyone who can get onto base can use the Recycling Center,” Clardy said. “We will take recycling from anyone willing to drop it off.

There is a misconception among the populace we will only recycle Air Force materials. That is absolutely not true.”

The facility takes a wide variety of recyclable items including, but not limited to metals, plastics, all papers, glass, aluminum, cardboard, shrink wrap, used electronics, ink printer cartridges, used oil, and batteries.

For more information about the Recycling Center call 434-7353.

Airman & Family Readiness Center has support, resources

Mark Horning

Airman & Family Readiness Center Director

On Feb. 14, then Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody spoke during the U.S. Air Force presentation before the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee.

“Our Airman and Family Readiness Centers serve as a crucial bridge with our families and military missions, encompassing 14 core programs to ensure the resiliency and readiness of Airmen and their families,” he said.

The Columbus Air Force Base AFRC is the service organization for base families and is a one-stop location where individuals can obtain reliable information and assistance on a wide range of important topics.

Our mission is “To promote, educate and facilitate, readiness and resiliency for airmen and their families.” Our team strives for excellence in customer service/support. We assist Airmen and their families with relocation, family readiness, volunteering, personnel financial readiness, local employment, Exceptional Family Member Program, casualty services/survivor benefits and information and referrals.

We have core activities and programs that apply to you, whether you are married or single, officer or enlisted, military or civilian. These are just a few of the core programs the AFRC offers.

Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the U.S. Air Force. It promotes the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance to members and their families, sponsoring educational assistance programs, and offering a variety of base community enhancement programs that impact member/family welfare.

Casualty Services

The Columbus AFB Casualty Services Program’s primary goals are to provide prompt, accurate reporting, dignified and humane notification, and efficient, thorough, and compassionate assistance to the next of kin for as long as needed.

Survivor Benefit Plan

Military pay stops when a member dies. The SBP is a government program that makes it possible for retiring members to ensure after their death, their eligible survivors receive a portion of their military retired pay in the form of a monthly annuity.

Employment/Career Focus Program

Searching for a new job? The Airman and Family Readiness Center is the right place. The Employment Readiness Program provides no cost consultations, programs and services to help families in the job search process.

Exceptional Family Member Program

Military family members with special needs face unique and often times stressful situations. Every Air Force family needs to know that enrollment in EFMP is mandatory for all active duty with a family member of special needs.

Family Life Education

There exists a strong correlation between a military member’s ability to accomplish the mission successfully and the quality of his/her family experience. Because of this, the AFRC offers activities to promote a healthy family/work life.

Family Readiness

Resilience is the ability to respond successfully to the challenges of life, and our program provides tools to help you anticipate and manage the challenges associated with the deployment cycle. Our goal is to ensure you and your family are fully prepared for your deployment, remote or extended TDY.

Key Spouse Program

Spouses may remember what it felt like to be new to a base or to the Air Force. The Key Spouse Program is a chance to assist others, so they don’t travel the same bumpy road.

Military and Family Life Consultant

The Military Family Life Consultant program provides

non-medical, short term, situational, problem-solving counseling services to address issues that occur across the military lifestyle and help service members and their families cope with normal reactions to the stressful and often adverse situations created by deployments and reintegration.

Personal Financial Readiness Program

Money should make lives better, not create stress. The AFRC can help customers develop sound financial skills and obtain consumer information through one-on-one counseling and/or financial workshops.

Relocation Assistance Program

The Relocation Assistance Program at Columbus AFB will assist with information and education to ease the personal and family stressors military families experience with a permanent change of station.

Transition Assistance

The AFRC can help navigate through transitions by utilizing “Goals, Plans, Success,” a program also known as Transition GPS. It is the Department of Defense’s transition program redesigned to ensure service members are better prepared to transition from military to civilian life.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers provide invaluable support to the base and community, donating thousands of hours each month. Opportunities range from Columbus AFB Medical Center to the Airman’s Attic.

Air Force Families Forever

A long-term aftercare program established to provide proactive outreach to family members who have lost a loved one who, at the time of death, served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

For more information about the AFRC and its programs, call 434-2790 or visit online at columbusafbliving.com.

QF-16 takes flight at Holloman AFB

Senior Airman Emily Kenney
49th Wing Public Affairs

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The QF-16 drone took its first flight at Holloman Air Force Base Feb. 10, 2017.

The manned sortie was the first for the QF-16 at Holloman AFB since the retirement of the QF-4 Phantom in 2016.

“The first flight is significant because it is the first step for us in standing up the QF-16 program,” said Lt. Col. Ronald King, the commander of Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron. “Manned flying is critical in our development of the remote control and unmanned mission capabilities necessary for us to provide QF-16 full-scale aerial targets to our Defense Department and foreign military sales customers.”

The upgrade to the QF-16 allows customers to test weapons systems in real-world scenarios before reaching the battlefield.

“Our mission stays the same,” King said. “However, the QF-16 increases the capabilities we can offer our customers. The QF-16 is a fourth-generation fighter, while the QF-4 was a third-generation fighter. The QF-16 offers more realistic threat replication in performance, maneuverability and capabilities.”

The QF-16 can fly manned or unmanned, depending on the mission and customer’s needs.

“Our flying missions at Holloman are

“The first flight is significant because it is the first step for us in standing up the QF-16 program,” said Lt. Col. Ronald King, the commander of Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron.

driven by our customer’s requirements,” King said. “Sometimes, when a system is brand new, we may just be flying straight and level with no maneuvers. As a system matures, the complexity of the missions will increase to test and validate the new system.”

The 82nd ATRS is part of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group at Eglin AFB, Florida. The group provides the personnel and infrastructure to test and evaluate weapons utilized by the combat air forces of the U.S. and its allies. It operates the only full-scale aerial targets in the DOD. In accordance with U.S. law, Title 10, Section 2366 of the U.S. Code, a missile system must undergo lethality testing before it can enter full-scale production. The 82 ATRS maintains DOD’s sole capability to execute the Title 10 requirement with full-scale aerial targets.



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Emily Kenney. A QF-16 drone flies over Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, Feb. 10, 2017. Lt. Col. Ronald King, the commander of Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, piloted the drone during the first flight at Holloman since the transition from QF-4 Phantoms to QF-16s. The QF-16 serves as a full-scale aerial target to test next-generation weapons systems.



Lt. Col. Ronald King (left), the commander of Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, and John Anderson, the maintenance lead for the Det. 1, 82nd ATRS, perform a preflight inspection on a QF-16 drone before flight Feb. 10, 2017, at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. King piloted the drone during the first flight since the 82nd ATRS transitioned from QF-4 Phantoms to QF-16s. The QF-16 serves as a full-scale aerial target to test next-generation weapons systems.



A QF-16 drone sits on the flightline before its first flight at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, Feb. 10, 2017. Lt. Col. Ronald King, the commander of Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, piloted the drone during the first flight since the 82nd ATRS transitioned from QF-4 Phantoms to QF-16s. The QF-16 serves as a full-scale aerial target to test next-generation weapons systems.

Deer hunting season closes

Frank Lockhart

14th Civil Engineer Squadron

The Mississippi deer hunting season officially closed Jan. 31.

Fifty-one hunters from Columbus Air Force Base participated in the 42-day hunting season.

Eighteen deer were harvested on Columbus AFB: one eight-point buck, one seven-point buck, one six-point buck, two four-point bucks, and 13 does. Two fawns, which were hit on Independence Ave, didn’t count toward the total kills for the

hunting program.

Hunters aren’t the only ones who benefited from this year’s harvest. Controlling the deer population on-base significantly reduces the probability of deer entering the airfield area where they could endanger pilots and aircraft. It also helps eliminate the danger of roadway collisions.

The latest deer survey by the USDA indicated between 25 and 30 deer remain on-base and continually enter from off-base property. The 2017-2018 hunting season will open on Oct. 1, 2017.

Commander’s Action Line

434-1414

The Commander’s Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander’s Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander’s Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.



AF begins migrating email to cloud-based system in 2017

Capt. Shawn Walleck
Air Force Space Command
Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The dreaded “your mailbox is full” message is soon to be a thing of the past under a recent directive by the Air Force Space Command to realign resources to more critical priorities and outsourcing services like email.

The Air Force Lifecycle Management Center (AFLMC) and Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) partnered with industry under the Collaboration Pathfinder project to test the Air Force’s ability to outsource collaborative tools such as email, Lync, and SharePoint to cloud-based services.

Email is the first of the Microsoft Office 365 services the Air Force is migrating to a cloud-based service. An initial test began with AFNIC last year and the team recently completed migrating the first full Air Force base.

“The goal of the project is to increase capability and flexibility for our users,” said Markus Rogers, the AFNIC executive director.

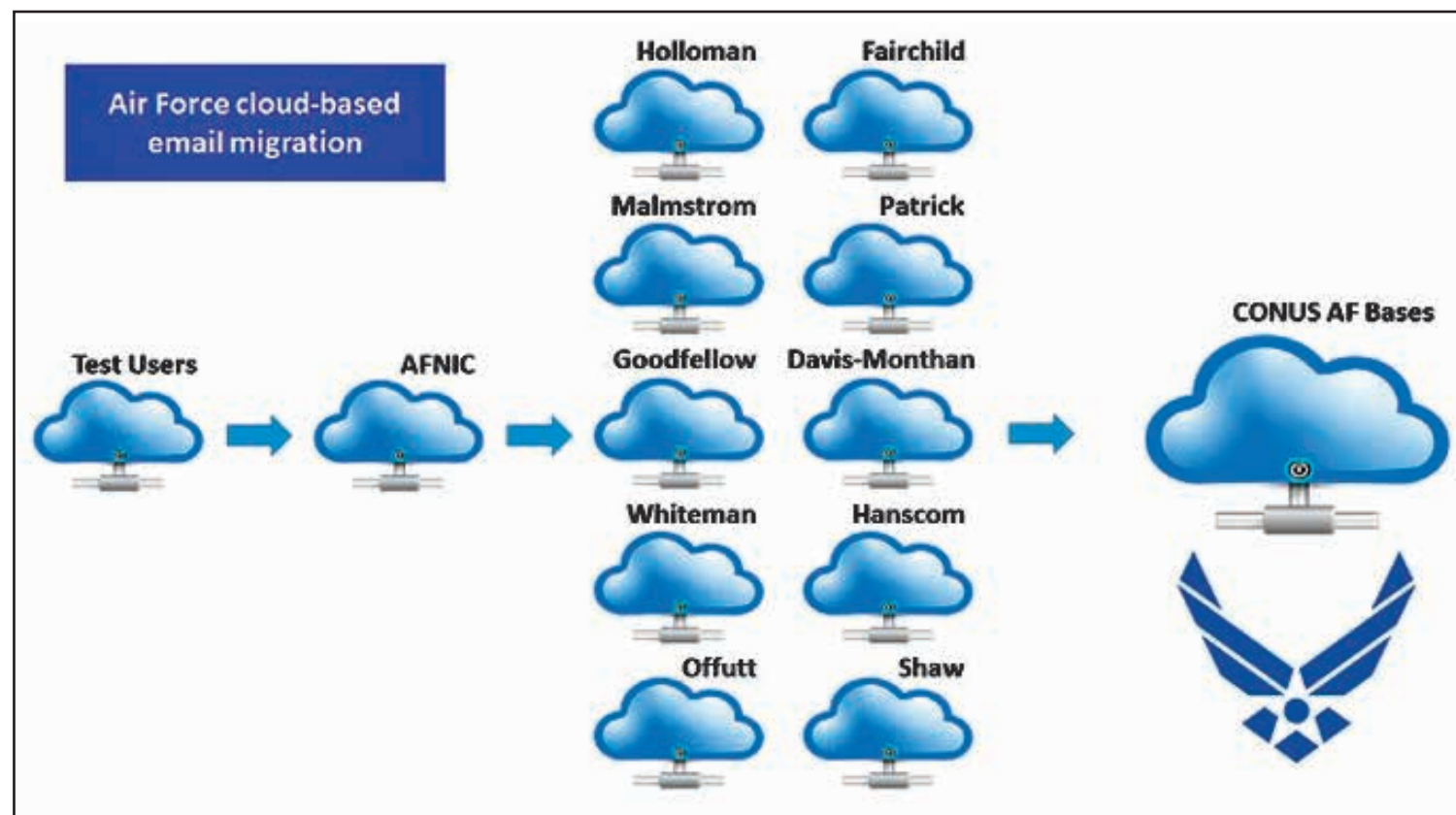
One key benefit of moving email service to the cloud is an exponential increase of individual storage capacity. More than 200 AFNIC users who previously had 100-megabyte mailboxes in the Air Force Network (AFNet) now have 100-gigabyte capacity, plus an additional 100 GBs of archive storage, in the cloud. As a result, they will now be able to hold 2 million normal emails in their mailbox and another 2 million in their archive.

“For the typical Air Force user, that’s an increase of 2,000 times the current capacity, which is like going from a two-drawer filing cabinet to an entire warehouse,” Rogers said.

Feedback thus far has been positive during testing and initial migration.

“I’m extremely pleased with the migration so far. I have used only 8 GB of my mailbox so it is nowhere near full, which is unlike my former account. The search function seems more robust and finds emails more accurately and I’m able to access everything from home, which has been extremely beneficial,” said Robert Poulin, a test user for AFSPC.

“We’ve completed the ‘first-to-test’ phase of agencies, and have started migrating 10



Courtesy graphic

“For the typical Air Force user, that’s an increase of 2,000 times the current capacity, which is like going from a two-drawer filing cabinet to an entire warehouse,” Rogers said.

other continental United States Air Force bases: Holloman, Malmstrom, Goodfellow, Offutt, Whiteman, Fairchild, Patrick, Davis-Monthan, Shaw, and Hanscom,” Rogers said.

Holloman AFB in New Mexico became the first installation to fully migrate on Jan. 27. When all those installations come online, that will equate to approximately 68,000 registered users.

No major system migration is without its share of challenges in the initial phase, which is why gathering information and applying lessons learned from users throughout the

migration process will help lessen conversion issues as other bases are brought online.

To better understand the migration, AFNIC tested the system first.

“With an effort of this magnitude, we thought it best to test the waters and identify any major pitfalls here at AFNIC before affecting the broader base of our users,” Rogers said.

This experience has helped to plan the implementation of other cloud collaboration tools such as SharePoint, One Drive, and Skype for Business (which replaces Lync).

“We’re taking a deliberate-phased ap-

proach and don’t plan on accelerating migrations until we are confident that the key capabilities and tools required for a positive user experience are fully operational in the cloud environment,” said Lt. Col. Randy Flores, the AFLCMC Program Management Office program manager.

In addition to resolving conversion issues, testing the system also revealed some unanticipated solutions within AFNet.

“We’ve identified and fixed systemic problems on the AFNET and are pioneering audits and remediation processes to improve service in the future, which is a great example of why change is good,” said Dennis Polansky, the AFNIC Service Transition project manager.

The new cloud-based system will offer greater storage options, along with support for mobile devices and thin clients, without compromising strict security requirements while adding redundant power, facilities, and components with a 99.9 percent uptime reliability rating.

Security and policy review

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

2017 Tax Center Hours

The Columbus Air Force Base Tax Center is open for active duty, retiree, or dependent members with a combined family income under \$58,000. This service is executed by trained volunteers who will prepare your tax returns through April 8 free of charge by appointment only. The Tax Center is located on the first floor of the old Personnel Center, bldg. 926, room 105.

The hours of operation are Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. – noon. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the Columbus AFB Legal Office at 434-7030.



The Department of Defense has designated Feb. 27 to March 4, 2017, as the kick-off of the 2017 Military Saves Campaign. This is part of a nationwide America Saves Campaign and is conducted in cooperation with the Consumer Federation of America, one of the Department's official financial readiness nonprofit partners.

Military Saves Week is an opportunity for the military community to join forces with federal, state, and local partners, and installation banks and credit unions to focus on the financial readiness of Service members and their families, including the reduction of debt and saving towards personal and family goals.

Wednesday Feb. 22, 10 - 11:30 a.m. AFRC, Blended Retirement System, Thrift Savings Plan, and TSP Funds and Budgeting Workshop

Thursday, Feb. 23, 1 - 3 p.m. AFRC, Financial Aid for Education, Student loans and Student loan repayment and/or forgiveness.

Friday, Feb. 24, 10 - 11:30 a.m. AFRC, Understanding Credit Reports and Scores.

Monday, Feb. 27, 10 - 11:30 a.m. AFRC, Military Saves—BRS, TSP and TSP Funds Workshop, Military Saves encourages the military community to Build Wealth, Not Debt. Learn how to start saving for retirement early.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, TBD, Youth Center, Military Saves for Youth, Teach Children and youth to be creative and learn fun ways to save money.

Wednesday, March 1, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Exchange Mall, Military Saves Display at BX Mall, Information on encouraging the military community to Build Wealth, Not Debt, TSP, TSP funds, and BRS.

Thursday, March 2, 1 - 3 p.m. AFRC, BRS, TSP and TSP Funds workshop.

Friday, March 3, 10 - 11:30a.m. AFRC, Home buying workshop with Military Saves, encourages the military community to Build Wealth, Not Debt when looking at buying a home.

March 6-10 Personal Financial Counselor will be available for one on one appointments or unit presentations.

Friday, March 10, TBD, AFRC, 75th Anniversary AFAS

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

BLAZE Hangar Tails: U-2S Dragon Lady

Mission

The U-2S Dragon Lady provides high-altitude, all-weather surveillance and reconnaissance, day or night, in direct support of U.S. and allied forces. It delivers critical imagery and signals intelligence to decision makers throughout all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, low-intensity conflict, and large-scale hostilities.

Features

The U-2S is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Long and narrow wings give the U-2 glider-like characteristics and allow it to quickly lift heavy sensor payloads to unmatched altitudes, keeping them there for extended periods of time. The U-2 is capable of gathering a variety of imagery, including multi-spectral electro-optic, infrared, and synthetic aperture radar products which can be stored or sent to ground exploitation centers. In addition, it also supports high-resolution, broad-area synoptic coverage provided by the optical bar camera producing traditional film products which are developed and analyzed after landing.

The U-2 also carries a signals intelligence payload. All intelligence products except for wet film can be transmitted in near real-time anywhere in the world via air-to-ground

or air-to-satellite data links, rapidly providing critical information to combatant commanders. MASINT provides indications of recent activity in areas of interest and reveals efforts to conceal the placement or true nature of man-made objects.

Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts. The low-altitude handling characteristics of the aircraft and bicycle-type landing gear require precise control inputs during landing; forward visibility is also limited due to the extended aircraft nose and "taildragger" configuration. A second U-2 pilot normally "chases" each landing in a high-performance vehicle, assisting the pilot by providing radio inputs for altitude and runway alignment. These characteristics combine to earn the U-2 a widely accepted title as the most difficult aircraft in the world to fly.

Background

Built in complete secrecy by Kelly Johnson and the Lockheed Skunk Works, the original U-2A first flew in August 1955. Early flights over the Soviet Union in the late 1950s provided the president and other U.S. decision makers with key intelligence on Soviet military capability. In October 1962, the U-2 photographed the buildup of Soviet offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba, touching off the Cuban Missile Crisis. In more recent times, the U-2 has provided intelligence

during operations in Korea, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. When requested, the U-2 also provides peacetime reconnaissance in support of disaster relief from floods, earthquakes, and forest fires as well as search and rescue operations.

General characteristics

Primary function: high-altitude reconnaissance
Contractor: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Power plant: one General Electric F118-101 engine
Thrust: 17,000 pounds
Wingspan: 105 feet (32 meters)
Length: 63 feet (19.2 meters)
Height: 16 feet (4.8 meters)
Weight: 16,000 pounds
Maximum takeoff weight: 40,000 pounds (18,000 kilograms)
Fuel capacity: 2,950 gallons
Payload: 5,000 pounds
Speed: 410 mph
Range: more than 7,000 miles (6,090 nautical miles)
Ceiling: above 70,000 feet (21,212+ meters)
Crew: one (two in trainer models)
Unit cost: classified
Initial operating capability: 1956
Inventory: active force, 33 (5 two-seat trainers and two ER-2s operated by NASA); Reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds

The U-2S Dragon Lady aircraft provides continuous day or night, high-altitude, all-weather, stand-off surveillance of an area in direct support of U.S. and allied ground and air forces. It provides critical intelligence to decision makers through all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, crises, low-intensity conflict and large-scale hostilities.



U.S. Air Force photo

The U-2S Dragon Lady aircraft is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts.

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.)

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. March 6 - 10. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommended attendance is 8 - 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 13 - 14 and explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is 10 - 11:30 a.m. March 14. The class 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop March 15 is on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using US-AJobs. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program, from 5- 7 p.m. March 23, is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty personnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop from 1-2 p.m. March 28 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. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Team BLAZE celebrates BHM with Taste of Soul



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

Team BLAZE Airmen, civilians and spouses enjoy southern cooking at the Taste of Soul lunch Feb. 16, 2017, at the Chapel Annex on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Taste of Soul was just one event put together to celebrate Black History Month.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. March 28 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 or to register call 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 3 - 7. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance is 8 - 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

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.

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.

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.

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 marital 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.

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:
 3:45 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
 Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
Tuesdays:
 11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
 11:30-12:30 p.m. - Adoration

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

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

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

Battle of the Bulge

The Fitness Center is running the Battle of the Bulge now - March 3. Contact Health and Promotion for more information and to sign-up at 434-1688.

Texas Hold'Em

The Columbus club will host a Texas Hold'em series event at 5:30 p.m. March 2. Prices are \$5 for club members and \$10 for non-club member buy-ins. Member must be 18 or older to join. For more information call 434-2489.

Fitness/Time Out Child Care

The Child Development Center offers child care from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is only \$4 per hour. Sign up one week in advance at the CDC or contact 434-2479 for more information.

The Overrun Open Friday Nights

The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Story Time and Circle Time

The Base Library offers Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. for all ages. Circle Time is offered each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Cosmic Bowling Special

The Bowling Center offers 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.

Free Wood at the Golf Course

Wood is available at the Golf Course on Sundays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact the Golf Course Monday-Friday to arrange pick-up. Call 434-7932 for more information.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recre-

ation. The cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. Self-help bicycle repair is also available. For more information, contact 434-2507.

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.

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.

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.

Take & Bake Pizzas at the Bowling Center

Grab-and-go ready pizzas for you to take home and bake yourself are available at the bowling center. Save \$2 per pizza. Large and medium pizzas only.

Interested in Sponsoring with Columbus AFB?

Want your business to reach the 18,000 active-duty military, family members, civilian employees and retirees living and working at Columbus AFB? If you are interested in event sponsorship or donations, please contact our sponsorship coordinator at 434-2337.

Free Fitness Classes

Free classes are available at the fitness center. Classes range from P90X, Hot Fusion, Jiu Jitsu and Floor Core & More. For more information on class schedules, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

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.

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

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

Fitness on Request

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

Space A Lodging

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

Ride in Style

If you don't want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Call 434-2505 for more information.

Airmen, seek support with our resources

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver
14th Medical Group Superintendent

If you attended the 14th Flying Training Wing's Annual Awards Banquet, you had the pleasure of hearing the guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencaak, Commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

While speaking about the world's greatest Air Force, he mentioned we all essentially joined the Air Force for the same reason, to achieve or acquire something more.

I grew up in a small town in Ohio and there were not a whole lot of viable job options there, so I also found myself trying to figure out my future. Luckily I was steered toward the Air Force. So here I am, 26 years later. Best decision I ever made, I truly love meeting new people, taking care of Airmen and helping out whenever I can.

As luck would have it, I was assigned to the physical ther-



apy career field where I was able to help people overcome their injuries and resume normal activities. I loved my job, but I wanted to serve in another capacity. Subsequently I was selected to be a first sergeant. It was in this special duty I was able to make a difference and impact people's lives, something I hope to continue in my current role as the 14th Medical Group Superintendent.

As a first sergeant, I learned a lot about a whole host of different Air Force services offered to military members and their families and utilized them on a regular basis. These services included education and commissioning programs; Airman and Family Readiness Center; Transition

Assistance Program; Personal Financial Management; Air Force Aid; Casualty Assistance; legal services such as notaries, Power of Attorneys, Last Will and Testaments, and general legal assistance; Exceptional Family Member Program; Youth Programs; Outdoor Recreation and the list goes on.

As Air Force members, we have several resources available to help out in just about any situation. If you ever find yourself in a tough spot where you are unsure of what to do or where to turn, reaching out to an available Air Force helping agency could alleviate many of the worries or anxieties you might be experiencing. If you don't know where to start, a first sergeant could definitely point you in the right direction.

We all run into situations and issues along the way and it is nice knowing our Air Force family is there to help with whatever we may need. These are more reasons I love the Air Force, serving with the people I've had the opportunity to meet and the camaraderie associated within the world's greatest Air Force.

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.*

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

Alley Cats focus on people, accomplish mission



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

The 14th Flying Training Wing conducts a mass launch of 12 T-1A Jayhawk aircraft from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Aug. 24, 2015, practicing the combat capability of safely and swiftly launching a large number of aircraft. The 48th Flying Training Squadron launched six two-ship formations to conduct off-station training.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

The 48th Flying Training Squadron sits near the flightline Feb. 22, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 48th FTS trains one-third of the Air Force pilots that will go on to fly aircraft such as the C-5, C-17, C-130, KC-135, B-1, B-2 and B-52.



Courtesy photo

The 48th Squadron Association's 2016 reunion culminated in a banquet Oct. 29, 2016, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Seventy-six members and guests gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 48th Flying Training Squadron here. The 48th Squadron lineage goes back 99 years and several members representing the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron era were in attendance.

Senior Airman John Day

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force operates the largest number of airlift, bomber and tanker aircraft in America.

This feat would not be possible without the efforts of the 48th Flying Training Squadron Alley Cats.

The 48th is one of the oldest squadrons in the Air Force and was created in 1917 in World War I.

It was equipped with the P-38 Lightning in 1941 and assigned to Hamilton Field, California, where it deployed to the European Theater of Operations in to fly escort missions of B-17 and B-24 heavy bombers as part of VIII Fighter Command.

The Alley Cats participated in the Allied invasions of Sicily and Italy and the subsequent drive of the United States Fifth Army up the Italian peninsula. It was engaged primarily in tactical operations, supporting ground forces and attacking enemy targets of opportunity such as railroads, road convoys, bridges, strafing enemy airfields and other targets. They continued offensive operations until the German capitulation in May 1945. The unit was demobilized during the summer and fall 1945 in Italy and inactivated.

The 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was activated in 1946 to the new Air Defense Command to perform air defense of the eastern United States with P-47 Thunderbolts. In 1947, a transition into P-84B Thunderjets was completed. These were flown until the unit was temporarily inactivated in 1949.

It reactivated in 1952 at Grenier Air Force Base, New Hampshire, with F-47 Thunderbolts, replacing the New Hampshire ANG's 133d FIS. A relocation to Langley AFB was completed in early 1953 along with a transition into F-84Gs and then the F-94C Starfire. In 1957, the squadron completed a transition into F-102A Delta Daggers followed by another in the fall of 1960 to F-106 Delta Darts.

The 48th FIS flew F-15A Eagles from 1982 to 1991, where many of the F-15 were transferred to the Missouri and Hawaii Air National Guard units. The 48th continued training and operational exercises until inactivation in 1991. In 1996, it became part of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

"Our mission is to train the world's best pilots," said Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, 48th FTS Commander. "Our single goal is to get wings on the chests of our new pilots so they can go out from here to do the Air Force mission."

The 48th FTS trains Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students in Phase III of training.

"When students track into the T-1, they learn all the sys-

tems of their new aircraft, the basics of getting that aircraft from point A to point B," Gilliam said. "This is their transition phase from the T-6."

Pilots learn to fly the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions.

"After their transition phase, we teach them navigation," Gilliam said. "That's where we stretch out their legs and take them out further away from the base. After that is mobility fundamentals. It prepares students to operate tactical airlift systems, strat air, as well as tankers."

Instructor pilots of the 48th FTS come from nearly every airlift, bomber and tanker aircraft in the Air Force inventory.

"We have a diverse group of instructors ranging from super experienced, to FAIPs right out of pilot training, with a goal of training the next generation of Air Force pilots," said Capt. Blake Liddle, 48th FTS IP and scheduling officer.

Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1.

"What I love most about the squadron is the people," Gilliam said. "I think we have the absolute best squadron in the Air Force. We have a group of people here who don't care about rewards, recognition or accolades who are selfless ser-



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

Mugs belonging to 48th Flying Training Squadron personnel hang on the wall of the 48th FTS heritage room Feb. 17, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Mugs are hung backwards for their fallen brothers and sisters.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

A lighted stained-glass mural glows in the 48th Flying Training Squadron heritage room Feb. 17, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The mural depicts the patch of the 48th FTS in its prior incarnation as the 48th Fighter Squadron.

vants who go out there and accomplish our mission."

The 48th FTS trains one-third of the Air Force pilots that will go on to fly aircraft such as the C-5, C-17, C-130, KC-135, B-1, B-2 and B-52.

"I liken our guys to offensive linemen," Gilliam said. "You never see their name in a paper or see them score a touchdown, but if they weren't there, the team would not be successful. That's what we have here in the 48th — a team of linemen that make our Air Force better."

The IPs work hard to instill the knowledge, skill, ingenuity, leadership and confidence needed to fulfill Columbus AFB's mission of Producing Pilots.

"This is a very tight-knit group," Liddle said. "We are all focused on these students. IPs put their blood, sweat and tears into the students. There is so much dedication to what we do here and that's what makes this squadron so special."



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day

The wall of the 48th Flying Training Squadron heritage room depicts the various patches related to the 48th FTS Feb. 17, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 48th is one of the oldest squadrons in the Air Force and was created in 1917 in World War I.