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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 41, Issue 44

November 9, 2017

## FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

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## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  Partly Cloudy High 65°F Low 42°F	<b>Saturday</b>  Partly Cloudy High 68°F Low 48°F
<b>Sunday</b>  Cloudy High 67°F Low 44°F	<b>Monday</b>  Rain High 67°F Low 43°F

Forecast provided by the 14<sup>th</sup> OSS Weather Flight

## News Briefs

### Veterans Day Parade

The 2017 Veterans Day Parade will start at 10 a.m. Nov. 11 at the Municipal Complex in Columbus, Mississippi, and end at the Lowndes County Courthouse. A wreath laying ceremony will be at 11:11 a.m. at the courthouse and will be followed by a flyover.

### Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet

The Columbus Club is offering a Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 16. The cost is \$7 for club members, \$9 for non-members, \$5 for ages 5-11 and free for ages 4 and under.

### Dormsgiving

A Thanksgiving themed dorm dinner will be at 5 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Montgomery Village. Supervisors and families are encouraged to provide a dish.

### SUPT Class 18-02 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-02 graduates at 10 a.m. Nov. 17 at the Kaye Auditorium.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

Capt. Christian Litscher, 14th Operations Group Commander's Action Group officer, speaks to cadets about what pilot training is like on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 3, 2017. The students were split into groups; some of them got a close-up look at Columbus AFB's three aircraft while others received tours of the flying training squadrons as they spoke with experienced Air Force pilots.

# Cadets see operational Air Force at Columbus AFB

### Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

About 80 Mississippi State University U.S. Air Force ROTC Detachment 425 cadets visited Columbus Air Force Base Nov. 3.

The cadets stepped outside their normal training program

regimen to see how an operational Air Force wing operates. Visiting numerous squadrons, they were presented the mission at Columbus AFB and how Airmen work to produce pilots.

In ROTC, cadets are in a training environment, living differently than the operational lifestyle they will be living when

See MSU CADETS, Page 3

## 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 (18-11)	1.04 days	-1.3 days	Dec. 12	48th (18-02)	2.65 days	3.33 days	Nov. 17	49th (18-BBC)	5.43 days	3.25 days	Nov. 17	T-6	753	603	4,057
41st (18-10)	2.06 days	2.25 days	Nov. 16	50th (18-02)	-0.97 days	-1.8 days	Nov. 17					T-1	192	142	943
												T-38	222	250	1,439
												IFF	103	109	580

The graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-02's graduation on Nov. 17 is Brig. Gen. David Hicks, Director of Strategy, Concepts, and Assessments, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

## Veterans Day Observance Holiday hours

Airman & Family Readiness Center.....	Closed Nov. 10
Arts & Crafts.....	Closed Nov. 10
Back Gate.....	Closed Nov. 10
Bowling Center.....	Closed Nov. 10
Child Development Center.....	Closed Nov. 10
Columbus Club.....	Closed Nov. 10
Commissary.....	Open normal hours
Exchange.....	Open normal hours
Fitness Center.....	10 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 10, normal weekend hours
Medical Group.....	Closed Nov. 10
Military Personnel and Finance.....	Closed Nov. 10
Multimedia.....	Closed Nov. 10
Outdoor Recreation.....	Closed Nov. 10
Shoppette.....	Open normal hours
Visitor's Center.....	Closed Nov. 10
Youth Center.....	Closed Nov. 10

**In Observance of the Holiday  
Thanksgiving Day  
November 23, 2017**

**Commissary Hours of Operation are:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Noon-6 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>10 a.m.-7 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>10 a.m.-6 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>9 a.m.-6 p.m.</b>

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 59 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.*

## Silver Wings

**How to reach us**  
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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.*



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Sunday School (all ages) - 9:15 am

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Youth Drama & AWANA - 4pm  
Discipleship Training - 5pm  
Evening Worship - 6pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
Kid's Drama - 6 pm  
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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
13	14 Club Member Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.-9 a.m. @ Club Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ Zachary's	15 Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ A&FRC	16 Thanksgiving Brunch, 11 a.m. @ Club  Dormsgiving, 5 p.m. @ Montgomery Village	17 SUPT Class 18-02 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	18/19 18th: Mercer vs. Alabama	Nov. 30: Enlisted Promotions Dec. 1: SUPT Class 18-03 Assignment Night Dec. 2: Holiday Parties Dec. 5: Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade Dec. 7: Holiday Brunch Dec. 12: Air Force Community Partnership Meeting
20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving All AAFES facilities closed	24 AETC Family Day, most offices closed  Exchange opens at 6 a.m.	25/26 25th: Exchange opens at 9 a.m.	Dec. 14: Hearts Apart Meeting Dec. 14: Daedalians Meeting Dec. 14: Happy Fund Shop and Wrap Dec. 15: SUPT Class 18-03 Graduation

## Pre-Black Friday Sale

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# NEWS AROUND TOWN

## Nov. 10

A Veteran Recognition Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the Drill Field on the Mississippi State University Campus in Starkville, Mississippi. The event is hosted by Dr. Mark Keenum, MSU's 19th president.

Embark on a ghostly tour of historic Columbus Nov. 10 and 11 at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center 300 Main Street, Columbus, Mississippi. Tour times are 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance from the Columbus Arts Council, \$12 at the door. Bus tours sell out quickly, so advance tickets are strongly recommended and can be purchased at the CAC's Rosenzweig Arts Center, 501 Main Street, or online at columbus-arts.org/events/ghosts-legends/. For more information, call (662) 328-2787.

## Nov. 27

The annual Columbus Christmas tree lighting event will be from 5:30-7 p.m. Nov. 27, near the Riverwalk and Pedestrian Bridge in downtown Columbus, Mississippi. For more information, contact Columbus Main Street, www.columbusmainstreet.com or (662) 328-6305.

**CHRISTMAS IN COLUMBUS DOWNTOWN**

- November 3, 4 & 5  
Downtown Christmas Open House  
Friday and Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Sunday 1 - 5pm
- November 18  
Holiday Farmers' Market  
9am to Noon
- November 25  
Small Business Saturday  
10am to 2pm
- November 27  
City Christmas Tree Lighting  
5:30 to 7pm
- December 1  
Wassail Fest  
5 to 8pm
- December 4  
Christmas Parade  
7pm

Contact Columbus Main Street for any additional information.  
www.columbusmainstreet.com OR 662-328-6305

## 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:** Lightly used KingPad 8 GB touch screen 7.1-inch tablet PC with Android 4.4.4 operating system, Wi-Fi, front and rear camera with case for \$29. If interested, call (662) 327-1205.

**For Sale:** A pair of Red Hat Society

17-by-8-inch pillows with a 4-by-5 inch royal purple flower and a 3-inch high ribbon for \$39. A 48-by-48 inch long Red Hat Society throw blanket with a 4.5-inch long ribbon fringe with assorted Red Hats and a royal purple background with the reverse side being dark purple for \$19. If interested, call (662) 327-1205.

**For Sale:** Seasoned firewood, standard pickup load (5.5-foot bed) for \$60. If interested, call Ed Marallo at 702-885-4353.

### The Dispatch is looking for an ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE.

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Original or Thin Crust. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 12/31/17.

**Online Code: PS142MED**  
**\$14 Two Medium**  
2 toppings each  
Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 12/31/17.

## MSU CADETS

(Continued from page 1)

they are officers.

"The big benefit of them coming to an operational base and seeing how things actually work is they get to put it together," said Capt. Amanda Barrett, Detachment 425 Operations Flight Commander. "It puts everything we are teaching them into perspective."

The students were split into groups. Some of them got a close-up look at Columbus AFB's three aircraft while others received tours of the flying training squadrons as they spoke with experienced Air Force pilots.

A small portion of cadets are chosen to become Air Force pilots, and the few who had earned a pilot training slot were asking many questions, another benefit of their visit.

Others cadets who have not decided their career, were able to speak with members from other squadrons on Columbus AFB.

Almost every squadron had a representa-

tive from their enlisted or officer career field to answer any questions or concerns the cadets had regarding their job opportunities within the respective squadron or unit.

"Allowing us to come to Columbus and see some of our jobs, and how they do it, it shows the training value, it shows us how to implement those skills," said Eric Henry, a senior and cadet at MSU. "For me ROTC has given me so many opportunities. I have definitely been able to see every Air Force career field and really made it an easy decision making process."

The MSU ROTC program visits Columbus Air Force Base two times a year, offering cadets the ability to see the lifestyle and ask questions that operational officers can answer right away.

At the end of the tour the seniors of the class were given pieces of paper with facts about another cadet in the detachment. The seniors had to find the correlating cadet who then gave the seniors the Air Force Specialty Code they each will prepare to move to.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
Cadets take turns flying in T-38 Talon simulators during a base tour Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. At the end of the tour the seniors of the class were given pieces of paper with facts about another cadet in the detachment. The seniors had to find the correlating cadet who then gave the seniors the Air Force Specialty Code they each will prepare to move to.

## Volunteers needed for tax season

Columbus Air Force Base is seeking volunteers for the 2017 tax season, starting in February 2018. We expect to be open three mornings 8 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday, per week. Accounting experience is a plus, but is not a requirement. Childcare fees may be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Capt. Casey Keppler or Senior Airman Anna Miller at 742-7030 for more information or with any questions.

# Volunteer victim advocate training coming in January 2018

### 14th Flying Training Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

If you are interested in becoming a trained and certified Air Force volunteer victim advocate, the next training is scheduled for Jan. 8-12 at building 926 in room 213; the classes will take place daily from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Those who are interested must register by Dec. 15. This is a 40-hour training course and those attending must be available to attend all 40 hours to earn their certification.

The Columbus Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program team would like to thank those that are interested in advance for supporting those affected by the crime of sexual assault and assisting their team.

If you know other active-duty members, Defense Department civilians, Reserve or Guard personnel in active statuses that want to serve as a Volunteer Victim Advocate please pass this information.

**2.8.** According to AFI 90-6001 these are the eligibility and requirements to serve as a Volunteer Victim Advocate (VVA).

**2.8.1.** Only Reg AF military personnel, AF Reserve or ANG personnel in active status, and DoD civilian appropriated fund employees may serve as volunteer victim advocates (VVAs). Reserve Personnel assigned to the RMU may serve as VVAs if they have no patient-related duties. See Section 2.2.1. precluding some military members and civilians from serving as SARC; these individuals are also precluded from serving as VVAs.

**2.8.1.1.** The SARC and SAPR VA will determine if any VVA has or develops a conflict of interest and reassign accordingly (T-3). Civilian (appropriated fund) VVAs must be in the grade of GS-07 or higher

(T-1). Military VVAs must be E-4 and above and at least 21 years of age for enlisted and a minimum of O-2 for officers; however officers in the grade of O-1 that were prior enlisted are eligible to become VVAs (T-1). VVAs that hold a current D-SAACP credentialing, prior to the date of this instruction, are grandfathered into the program and may remain as VVAs.

**2.8.1.2.** Civilian VVAs must have their supervisors document their volunteer status and duties, to include hours performing VA duties, in their personnel files consistent with current procedures managed by the Civilian Personnel Office (T-1). Civilian VVAs are expected to maintain acceptable performance in their non-VVA job. A record of unacceptable performance by their primary supervisor results in the employee no longer participating as a VVA until their work is acceptable.

**2.8.1.3.** All VVAs must comply with initial and ongoing screening requirements.

**\*Note:** Volunteer Victim Advocates can serve in three capacities. They can serve as a responder (added to hotline and work with victims) trainer, (assist with training and briefings) or both. All members are required to attend the 40-hour training, but responders will have to obtain additional certification after the training. If interested in participating in any of the capacities please feel free to sign up for the training.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:  
Carla Neal Bush, SAPR Victim Advocate, at 662-434-1329 or 662-364-7473, or Dr. Marcia Stewart, SAPR Program Manager at 662-434-1228 or 662-242-2105.

\*If you would like to make a report of sexual assault or just have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the SAPR Hotline@ 662-364-0822.



Visit us online!  
[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)

# Tupelo unveils Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall replica

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

TUPELO, Miss. — The city of Tupelo, and Mississippi politicians and veterans from around the state gathered to unveil a 60-percent scaled sized Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at the Veteran's Memorial Park Nov. 2.

The wall is an exact replica of the one that sits in Washington D.C., and stemmed from an idea a group in Tupelo had to build something that represented all the lives lost and impacted from the Vietnam War.

During the opening remarks Don Lewis, Tupelo Chief Operations Officer, emphasized how important the names on the wall are and spoke about some of the resounding numbers.

He said as of May 2017 there are 58,318 names on the wall. Among those names, 997 service

members were killed on their first day in Vietnam and 1,448 were killed on their last day.

"For most Americans who hear this, they will only hear the numbers of the Vietnam War ... and what the Vietnam War created," Lewis said. "To those who survived the war and to the families who did not, they see the faces that feel the pain."

Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton was among some of the state representatives who spoke during the unveiling ceremony.

*"This [was a group] of private citizens who went to the government and we partnered together to do something great for not just the city of Tupelo, but the entire state of Mississippi, and for our veterans all over the nation," Shelton said.*

"As a mayor, I've seen firsthand that government can do good things, I've seen firsthand that government can improve the lives of our citizens," Shelton said. However, he said most great things in the U.S. start in the private sector, and thus was the case with the wall creation.

"This [was a group] of private citizens who went to the government and we partnered together to do something great for not just the city of Tupelo, but the entire state of Mississippi, and for our veterans

all over the nation," Shelton said.

Among numerous veterans who served during the Vietnam War and attended the ceremony was retired Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris. During a mission in 1965, Harris's F-105 Thunderchief was shot down and he became a prisoner of war for the next eight years.

A resident of Tupelo, Harris said seeing the wall established as

a permanent memorial of the park was great to see.

"It's awesome and it's a tribute not to Tupelo, or Mississippi, this is a wonderful wonderful thing for people from all over to come see," Harris said.

When visitors leave the park, Harris said he hopes they take away a sense of the "awesome valor" America's service men and women have.



Visitors view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Nov. 2, 2017, at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Tupelo, Mississippi. The city of Tupelo, and Mississippi politicians and veterans from around the state gathered to unveil a 60-percent scaled sized wall of the one that sits in Washington D.C.



Greg Underwood, Jim Henley and Cindy Bourassa scratch etch the name of Dennis J. Coll from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall onto a piece of paper Nov. 2, 2017, at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tupelo unveiled the wall during a ceremony Nov. 2; the wall had been a project in the works for numerous years.



Visitors view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Nov. 2, 2017, at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Tupelo, Mississippi. The city of Tupelo unveiled the wall Nov. 2 and as of May 2017 there are 58,318 names on the wall.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross

# A/TA Symposium highlights mobility readiness, innovation

**Capt. Kimberly Erskine**

ORLANDO, Fla. — The 2017 Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium, held Oct. 26-29, 2017 in Orlando, focused on readiness, joint operations, multi-domain tactics and innovation to further develop the 125,000 mobility Airmen.

The symposium featured multiple key note speakers from the Air Force and across the Defense Department who focused on this year's theme of "Mobility Airmen, Ever Present: Agile, Innovative and Ready to Roll."

Under Secretary of the Air Force Matthew P. Donovan's opening address highlighted efforts currently underway to increase Air Force capabilities and grow capacity and readiness for the future.

"You are all the backbone of the American way of war," Donovan said. "For decades the United States has relied on the global, strategic and theater mobility that you provide. You give our nation one of its greatest strategic abilities, the ability to quickly project power anywhere across the planet."

Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, Air Mobility Command commander, later introduced Gen. Robert B. Abrams, U.S. Army Forces Command commander, who introduced the effects AMC has on joint partnerships from the Army's vantage point.

"In 35 plus years of service, I have never been on a mission with Army forces alone," Abrams said. "I've never executed a mission without the United States Air Force. We train and we fight as a joint team and that's what makes us the best military on the planet."

Abrams talked about relying on refuelers to execute Army missions saying that tankers operate in the same contentious space delivering critical air refueling support to joint and coalition aircraft all over the world.

"Tankers enable the rest of the entire global flying joint force to engage precisely, attack globally and retain our air superiority," Abrams said. "They, more than anyone, enable our operational strategic reach, which gives our country decisive advantage across multiple domains against any adversary."

Referencing the story of an Army officer who suffered major injuries when his aircraft faced a malfunction that led to



Under Secretary of the Air Force Matthew Donovan speaks at the Airlift/Tanker Association and Air Mobility Command Symposium in Orlando, Florida, Oct. 26, 2017. This year's conference theme, "Mobility Airmen: Agile, Innovative and Ready to Roll," provides Air Force leadership, industry experts and academia an opportunity to work together with current and former Mobility Airmen from around the world to discuss issues and challenges facing America and the Air Mobility community.

its crash, Abrams lauded the AMC aeromedical evacuation teams who provided life-saving care to ensure he made it home.

Men and women in the Armed Forces know they will be taken care of if they sustain an injury on the battlefield and to them, aeromedical evacuation has a personal face, Abrams said.

"There is no room for error in our missions and we, as Soldiers, know that when the chips are down, our Air Force will be there with us," Abrams said. "Together we are the best in the world at what we do."

Another keynote address was provided by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

One of Goldfein's enduring themes is squadron revitalization and the importance of empowering all levels of leader-



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jodi Martinez  
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein speaks during the Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in Orlando, Florida, Oct. 26, 2017. Goldfein stressed the importance of taking control of the space mission, working more cognitively to defeat adversaries and taking care of Airmen.

ship in the decision-making process.

"To me it's a warfighting imperative that we push the decision authority down, across our Air Force so that squadron commanders, who are entrusted with the mission of the U.S. Air Force, have the ability to make those decisions so that we're not only training like we fight but perhaps more importantly, fighting like we train," Goldfein said.

Goldfein also discussed the need to understand and leverage various cultures to ensure mission success.

"Every service has its own culture," he said. "We do our best work when all of those cultures are represented. We can build the creative options and the solutions for our secretary and commander-in-chief that has the Airman's viewpoint in the dialogue. When we talk about building joint leaders and teams, it's understanding that it's no longer about our badges, it's about our obligation."

## Benefits Delivery at Discharge program redesigned for faster results

**Richard Salomon**

Air Force's Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Benefits Delivery at Discharge program was recently redesigned to allow most service members to receive disability benefit decisions the day after their discharge.

These changes will allow Veterans Affairs to conduct exams, review medical evidence and process ratings before Airmen

are released from active duty. In most cases, VA benefit decisions will be provided the day after discharge instead of weeks later under the previous program.

Airmen using the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program can submit their claim for a service-connected disability 90 to 180 days before being discharged from active duty. Before Oct. 1, 2017, it was 60 to 180 days before discharge.

"This extra time is needed to ensure medical exams can be conducted and evaluated, and that the claims are rat-

ed prior to the separation," said Wendy Link, Transition Assistance Program manager at the Air Force's Personnel Center. "This change will allow Airmen to get the benefits they have earned and deserve as quickly and accurately as possible."

To participate in the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program, Airmen must attend a VA examination 45 days after the claim is submitted.

To more effectively focus resources on the Benefits Delivery at Discharge pro-

gram, the Quick Start program will be eliminated. Quick Start allowed Airmen who did not meet the Benefits Delivery at Discharge window to submit their claim and evidence up until one day before discharge from active duty. While Airmen can still submit their claim with 89 days or less prior to their discharge, the claims will not be processed until after their separation.

For more information, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/predischarge> or call the Veterans Affairs Call Center at 1-800-827-1000.

# America Recycles Day

Updated by Mike Blythe  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Did you know that every Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day?

Initiated in 1997, this day is set aside to raise recycling awareness throughout the United States and to identify the benefits of making resources available to future generations.

We live in a bountiful and beautiful country, but too often we squander our resources by not making sure that those things that can be recycled get used more than once. It's staggering how much we dispose in landfills and in our waste water systems and it's a waste of America's natural wealth, as well. In these times of economic uncertainties, nothing should be wasted that can be recycled.

Sadly only 25 percent of all American households actively recycle. In 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash of which about 87.2 million tons of this material was being recycled and composted, resulting in only 34.3 percent of all materials diverted from landfills.

Our country's lack of environmental awareness is costing all of us money and energy that we shouldn't be losing. Look at these examples of savings:

- If every household in America re-used a paper bag for groceries at least one shopping trip, 60,000 trees would be saved.
- Every ton of mixed office paper recycled saves 380 gallons of oil.
- Recycling just one ton of aluminum cans conserves more than 1,665 gallons of gasoline.
- Over 150 million cell phones are sitting unused in our homes and offices waiting for recycling. If we recycled just one million of these phones, we would save enough electricity to power almost 2,000 homes for a year.

Here are some examples from of what individual recycling efforts can do to help make our base more sustainable:

- Recycling one aluminum can will save enough energy to run a television for three hours, and if the TV is an LCD or LED model, it would be powered for even longer.
- Recycling just seven 20-oz. plastic bottles could allow you to run a ceiling fan for 7.4 hours.

- A 60-watt light bulb can be run for almost 10 hours on the amount of energy saved by recycling one daily newspaper. This increases to 45 hours for a 60-watt compact fluorescent bulb.

- Recycling one gallon plastic milk jug can save enough energy to run your clothes washing machine for over an hour – more than enough for a full load of clothes.

Here are a couple of examples of what some Columbus Air Force Base is doing to save money and how individuals here can collect rewards for recycling:

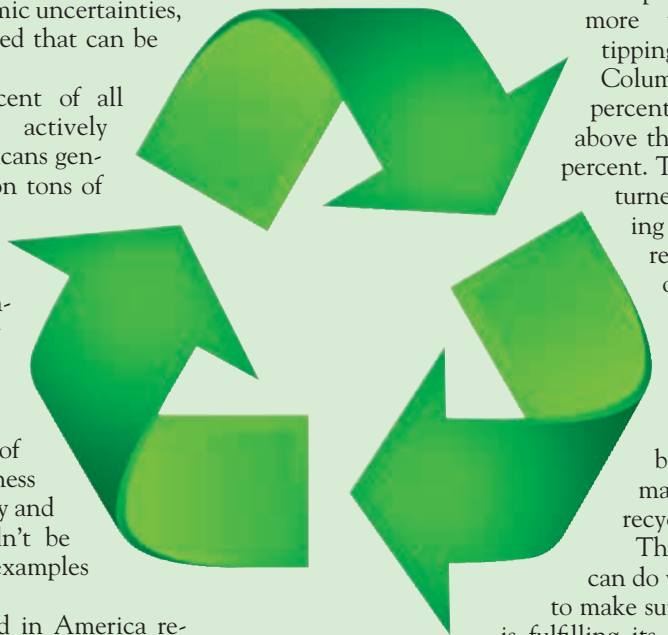
In fiscal year 2016, Columbus AFB recycled more than 619 tons of material, preserving natural resources and landfill space, and saving the base more than \$14,550.00 in tipping and disposal fees. Columbus AFB was at 54 percent diversion which is above the Air Force goal of 50 percent. The money that was returned to the base from selling products is used for the recycling contract and other recycling equipment. We also used some of the proceeds to install a 24/7 drop off for your recyclables. So it's not just being a good citizen, it makes economic sense to recycle.

Think of it this way, you can do your part as an Airman to make sure that Columbus AFB is fulfilling its mission in saving our country's resources and economic viability by doing something small and simple like recycling or increasing the amount that you already recycle. To learn more about "America Recycles Day," contact Mike Blythe at 434-7353 and ask him about how you can help.

The Air Force is dedicated to protecting and respecting the natural resources of our country and our world. As part of the service's ongoing Win the War against Waste campaign, an initiative to reduce solid waste, active-duty members, civilian employees and their family members are encouraged by renewing their commitment to recycle on Nov. 15.

Make your pledge today for America Recycles Day at <http://americarecyclesday.org> or Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AmericaRecyclesDay>).

*(Editor's note: Content from this story was originally published by the staff at Air Force Center of Engineering and the Environment)*



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# Dental Flight helps Produce Pilots, 'Feed the Fight'

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The 14th Medical Operations Support Squadron's Dental Flight ensures Columbus Air Force Base continues to produce pilots and "Feed the Fight" by keeping Airmen's teeth in check.

"Our job is to keep people ready to deploy and keep them in good dental health so they can keep doing their job in the Air Force," said Capt. John Ensley, 14th MDOS General Dentist.

With Columbus AFB being one of three pilot training bases, dental care is very important; pilots and student pilots can't worry about a bad tooth distracting them when they are flying or in class learning the fundamentals of flying.

"We've got to keep people on flight status so they can do the training and we also make sure people are deployable," Ensley said. "Certain dental issues can also keep you from being deployed."

The Dental Flight sees about 1,700 patients a year. The office is capable of performing general operative procedures, crowns and bridges, oral surgeries, wisdom teeth extraction, some gum surgeries, root canal and preventative measures such as cleanings, exams and X-rays. As Columbus AFB is only assigned a general dentist, more complex dental procedures are usually sent to off base dental offices.

The Dental Flight is unique because there are only two dentists, which allows them to



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

**Capt. John Ensley, 14th Medical Operations Squadron General Dentist, and Shaneka Hubbard, 14th MDOS dental assistant, operate on a patient Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th MDOS Dental Flight has two dentists to provide care for the entire base population as well as Guard and Reserve units.**

work closely to help provide quality patient care. Ensley said the pilot training and the foreign national programs have had some very unique cases he wouldn't have seen elsewhere.

To cater to the pilot training program, the Dental Flight has come up with a specialized routine for new incoming pilot classes.

"One of the unique processes that we have here is the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot

*"One of the unique processes that we have here is the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Day, which allows us to get a new pilot class in and make sure they all have their annual exams and fix any issues," said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Farinas, 14th MDOS dental assistant. "This allows them to not miss class and focus on training."*

Training Day, which allows us to get a new pilot class in and make sure they all have their annual exams and fix any issues," said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Farinas, 14th MDOS dental assistant. "This allows them to not miss class and focus on training."

Farinas said the best part about being in the Dental Flight is meeting and talking everyone on base. He said hearing everyone else's stories and journeys keeps him going to help ensure the 14th Flying Training Wing is healthy and able to Feed the Fight and Produce Pilots.



**Staff Sgt. Maria Schinella, 14th Medical Operations Squadron dental laboratory technician, carves a mold of teeth Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Dental Flight helps ensure the 14th Flying Training Wing is able to produce pilots and deploy Airmen by maintaining their dental health.**



**Staff Sgt. Maria Schinella, 14th Medical Operations Squadron dental laboratory technician, carves a mold of teeth Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The mold is used to help dental technicians fit dentures, posts and implants.**



**Capt. John Ensley, 14th Medical Operations Squadron General Dentist, operates on a patient Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th MDOS Dental Flight is capable of performing simple dental procedures.**

# Gosney tells EMCC why he is proud to be an American

**Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

MAYHEW, Miss. — Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke at East Mississippi Community College during their “Proud to be an American” program Nov. 7.

The event has taken place for 15 consecutive years and this year it was held with Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, in mind because of the 70th anniversary of the Air Force and the 75th anniversary of the base.

“This time helps us to stop and reflect to think about something that unifies all of us,” said Cathy Kemp, Dean of Students and Campus Director at EMCC. “We’re just so appreciative of the service members’ presence here, it does a world of good to our students to see the service and dedication.”

With some classes paused or postponed, students were able to attend the event.

Gosney took the stage, thanking the staff, choir and Junior ROTC students for their hard work putting together the event.

“Our men and women in uniform go through quite a lot during and after their time in uniform and to know they are appreciated truly means a lot to them, I can tell you that for sure,” Gosney said.

He mentioned the heroes are not only uniformed members, but those who support the uniforms, and those who support their fellow Americans.

Gosney then talked about why he chose to serve and why he has pride in what he does.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, stand during the Air Force song Nov. 7, 2017, at the East Mississippi Community College campus in Mayhew, Mississippi. The choir sang before Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke at the ‘Proud to be an American’ event.**

He told the stories of two pilots from Columbus AFB who make him proud to be an American, and why he’s proud to be a service member.

Both pilots earned medals for their incredible service, notably Lt. Col. Joe Jackson who had earned the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam.

“Those in uniform [then and] today stepped up to answer our nation’s call,” Gosney said. “They are providing security and comfort in these faraway places so others can live in peace, free of oppression and brutality. Our willingness to



**Dr. Thomas Huebner, President of East Mississippi Community College, and Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, talk during the Proud to be an American event Nov. 7, 2017, on the EMCC campus in Mayhew, Mississippi. Gosney spoke about the reasons he is proud to be an American and explained the many types of heroes America has outside of the Department of Defense.**

help others by way of risking ourselves and our own way of life makes me proud to be an American.”

Leaving the podium Gosney received a standing ovation and applause from the audience finalizing the day’s event.

“At the end of the day we are all trying to live by our core values whether we are in or out of the uniform. After 30 years in the uniform I can still say I’m proud to be an American,” said retired Chief Master Sgt. (Dr.) Rita Felton, who helped give advice throughout the event’s planning process.

# Politically incorrect, historically distorted

**Michael Jago**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Few Americans know anything about their great-grandparents. Four generations is a long time ago to a nation obsessed with youth and self-indulgent cultural pursuits.

The protests by the Sioux over the oil pipeline are all but forgotten already, when barely 18 months ago it was front page news. This short attention span allows us to absorb terrible news, and adapt to social and technological changes, then get on with our lives, but at a cost: as Americans, we forget our past.

People that have kept close ties with their tribe can tell histories that go back 5,000 years or more. The Chickasaw and Choctaw that inhabited this place before us, have long memories of it, even today. Their history and conversation wrap

around the past and the present in ways that confuse the first time listener. To be raised in the culture means not only learning a second language, but to have a distinct break in how time is discussed and thought about. For those that live on the reservation in Texas or Oklahoma, stories of deeds and events on the Luxapallila River, where Columbus now stands, are still told. The Luxapallila was a dividing line for the Chickasaw and the Choctaw and as such, a battle line.

The treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 removed the Choctaw, but not the Chickasaw. Locally this meant the early settlers were likely to encounter the “American friendly” Chickasaw as late as 1890.

Many of the Chickasaw gained “proper title” to their farms and are still here. As such, these are the part of the tribe that re-

nounced their status as Indians and became Americans. At the time it was a big deal. Not everyone was a fan of Indians “going white,” to include the parts of the tribe that went to Texas and Oklahoma on the reservation. More than a few Native American families very successfully made the transition, becoming successful businessmen, farmers, professionals and basically blending in. But they lost their tribal sense of time and history, just like the rest of us do.

The 190-year time-lapse has done several things. Primarily, it has dispelled the phobia about Indians to the point that we don’t even remember it, or the major impacts it has had on our past. We don’t identify place names with the tribes that gave us the words like Mississippi, Luxipillila, Delaware, Alabama and hundreds of other name places.

We have gone from aggressively anti-In-

dian, to completely oblivious. So how now, do we start to bridge this gap? In an effort to repair some of the sociological damage done by the past 190 years of tribal isolation, the federal government has empowered agencies that hold large tracts of land, like the forest service and Department of Defense, to start reaching back to the original peoples that occupied their lands.

The process took 190 years to get here, and it will take a while to develop in a positive way. Early contacts made by the cultural resources officer have highlighted the separation of time and distance. As such, current events on Columbus Air Force Base have little impact on the tribal concerns in Oklahoma. The most frequent request from the contacted tribal offices, was that the installation take discovery of tribal artifacts seriously and respectfully. This is a request we can and will honor.

## 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.)*

### 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, 434-2790 for more information.

### Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

### Career Technical Training

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

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This orientation will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Nov. 14 and 26. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2790.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is from 1-2 p.m. Nov. 14 allows the Veterans Affairs 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 434-2839/2790.

### Bundles of Joy

This workshop is 1-3:30 p.m. Nov. 15 and is for active-duty families assigned to Columbus Air Force Base who are expecting or have a child up to 4 months of age. It is an Air Force Aid Society program with presentations about topics such as TRICARE, child care, breastfeeding, car seat safety, and labor and delivery. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

### Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program 5-7 p.m.

## CREATE honors Columbus Air Force Base Airmen with Partnership Award



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross  
**Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, speaks at the annual CREATE meeting Nov. 2, 2017, after accepting the Community Partner Award at the BancorpSouth Arena Conference Center in Tupelo, Mississippi. More than 110 Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, spent several days showing more than 7,000 eighth-grade students, from 17 northeast Mississippi counties, some of the vast career opportunities the Air Force offers during the Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo Oct. 3-5.**

Nov. 15, 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. Call 434-2790 to register.

### Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Dec. 6 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This workshop gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and cover letters. To sign up call 434-2839/2790.

### Marketing Yourself for A Second Career

This workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 6, and prepares you to market yourself. The workbook includes resume information, interviewing preparation, networking tips and negotiation strategies. Conducted by MOAA, call 434-2790 to register.

### Smooth Move

This class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, TRICARE, medical records, and A&FRC. For more information, please call 434-2790 to register.

### Heart Link for Spouses

This event is from 8 a.m.-noon Dec. 7 at the Columbus Club. The event is for spouses new

to Columbus Air Force Base or the military life-style. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus AFB. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is from 1-2 p.m. Nov. 14 allows the Veterans Affairs 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 434-2839/2790.

### Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. 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 Jamey Coleman, SBP counselor, at (662) 434-2720.

### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

The Military and Family Life Counselor Program counselors provide a non-medical counsel-

ing 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 counselors 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.

### Personal Financial Resources

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor can help you and your family; manage finances; resolve financial problems; and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are no cost, private and confidential. For more information, call the PFC at (662) 998-0411 or 434-2790, or email PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com; the PFC is also located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

### Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m., Airman & Family Readiness Center. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

## 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) Start date TBA  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)  
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)  
5 p.m. – Mass  
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every 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  
**Wednesdays:**  
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal  
**Thursdays:**  
5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)

### 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 at @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at www.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.

**Suggested Reading at the Base Library**

Stop by the Base Library during normal business hours during the month of November and check out a book for your reading pleasure. Suggested reading will feature books related to Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Air Force Art Contest**

It's time to show off your art skills! The 2017 Air Force Art Contest is open Nov. 1-30 to eligible adults and children ages 6-17. Amazon gift cards awarded to the top three winners in each category. For more information, contact the Arts and Crafts Center at 434-7836 or www.myairforcelife.com/artcontest.

**Free Children's Morning Matinee**

The Base Library is featuring a new family friendly movie at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month. Bring your family and watch "Cars 3" Dec. 2. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**BLAZE Teen Book Club**

Interested in reading and discussing popular books? Stop by the Base Library and pick up "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio during normal business hours. The BLAZE Teen Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 for discussion. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Airman Free Movie Night**

The Base Library is featuring a new movie at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Everyone is invited to watch "Wonder Woman" Dec. 7. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Free Breakfast for Club Members**

Start your morning at the Overrun. The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. Nov. 14 for Club members and \$8 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**NAF Sale**

Enjoy huge savings on a wide variety of items during the Non-Appropriated Funds Sale. Preview sale items Nov. 14 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Active duty in uniform may purchase items from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. and everyone with base access may purchase items from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 15. Sale items located at Outdoor Recreation. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. No checks please. All items must be removed at the time of purchase. For more information, contact 434-2505 or 434-2548.

**School Age Thanksgiving Holiday Camp**

The Youth Center is currently accepting registration for the School Age Thanksgiving Holiday Camp from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 20-22. Please register by Nov. 15. The cost is based on annual family income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet**

The Columbus Club is offering a Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 16. The menu includes: turkey, ham, dressing, green bean casserole, turnip greens, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potato pie, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy. The cost is \$7 for club members, \$9 non-members, \$5 ages 5-11 and free for ages 4 and under. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Breakfast with Santa**

The Youth Center is offering Breakfast with Santa from

★★★★★  
**NAF SALE**  
November 15  
8-9AM Active Duty in uniform  
OPEN TO EVERYONE WITH BASE ACCESS  
9AM-3PM

(Preview Day Nov 14 11am-1pm)

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
Building 152

Come out for great deals on used furniture, televisions, and more!

WE ARE DOING SOME FALL CLEANING

Cash and credit cards will be accepted.  
Some items are limited to two (2) per customer.  
All items must be removed at the time of purchase.

For more information call  
**434-2505 or 434-2548**

FORCE

**Grill on the go**

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

**Lance Orsborn, Executive Chef at the Columbus Club, prepares a meal for the Grill on the Go initiative Nov. 7, 2017, in front of the 14th Operations Group on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The menu consisted of Korean beef skewers and rosemary grilled red potatoes. Stop by and grab lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. during Tasty Tuesdays! Menus and locations include: ultimate cheeseburger and BBQ beer beans Nov. 14 at L3 parking lot across from building 640; whiskey brown sugar turkey burger and BBQ beer beans Nov. 28 at the OG between building 268 and building 230. Cost is \$6 members and \$8 non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.**

**Play Paintball**

Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book twenty-four hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**The Overrun Open Friday Nights**

The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until Midnight. For more information, contact 434-2419.

**Library Hours of Operation**

The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair**

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. For more information, contact 434-2507.

**Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed**

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. 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.

**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.

**14th CES members recognized for excellence at AETC level**

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Master Sgt. Kevin McGinnis, 14th CES Superintendent of Readiness and Emergency Management; and Senior Airman Deangelo Wallman-Sims, 14th CES firefighter, were recently recognized at the Air Education and Training Command level.

The following categories are the ones in which they represented:  
2017 Outstanding Civil Engineer Small Unit Category: 14th CES  
2017 Major General Eugene A. Lupia Award, Airman:

Wallman-Sims  
2017 Emergency Manager of the Year Award (Military): McGinnis  
The unit, McGinnis and Wallman-Sims will now move on to compete at the Air Force level.

**Hicks to deliver speech at SUPT Class 18-02's graduation**

Brig. Gen. David W. Hicks, the Director of Strategy, Concepts, and Assessments, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., is the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-02's graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. Nov. 17 at the Kaye Auditorium.

He is responsible for developing and synchronizing Air Force Strategy and Strategic Planning efforts and assessing alignment of planning products with strategic guidance.

He supports the Air Force Chief of Staff, leading Air Force transformation by developing, exploring and advocating Joint/Combined force employment concepts and executes the CSAF's Title 10 Futures Capabilities and Unified Engagement Wargames.

General Hicks is a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. His assignments include flying duties as an A-10 pilot, instructor pilot, weapons officer and operational test pilot. He has commanded at the squadron and wing levels. General Hicks has extensive operational experience in Southwest Asia, Far East Asia and Alaska as well as combat tours in Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He is a command pilot with over 3,800 flying hours, including over 500 combat hours, more than 3,600 of which are in the A-10. Prior to his current assignment, General Hicks was the Commanding General, Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air and Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan.

**EDUCATION**

1989 Bachelor of Science, Engineering Mechanics, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
1995 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama  
2002 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence  
2004 Master of Science, Systems Engineering, Air Force

Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio  
2007 Air War College, by correspondence

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- September 1989 - December 1990, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, Mississippi
- January 1991 - May 1991, A-10 fighter training course, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
- May 1991 - July 1992, A-10 Fighter Pilot, 74th and 76th Tactical Fighter Squadron, England AFB, Louisiana
- July 1992 - May 1995, A/OA-10 Instructor Pilot, 11th Tactical Air Support Squadron and 355th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska
- May 1995 - March 1998, A-10 Operational Test Pilot, Chief of A-10 Operational Test, 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nevada
- March 1998 - June 1999, 51st Fighter Wing Chief of A-10 Weapons and Tactics, Osan Air Base, South Korea
- June 1999 - June 2002, A-10 Weapons Instructor Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, 66th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB
- June 2002 - August 2003, Executive Officer to the Commander, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, Nellis AFB
- August 2003 - September 2004, Student, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB
- September 2004 - May 2006, Deputy Chief of Weapons and Tactics Branch, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Virginia
- May 2006 - June 2007, Director of Operations, 66th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB
- June 2007 - January 2009, Commander, 66th Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB
- January 2009 - June 2009, Deputy Commandant, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB
- June 2009 - June 2010, Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow, General Dynamics
- June 2010 - July 2011, 451st Expeditionary Operations Group Commander, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan
- July 2011 - June 2013, Commander, 53rd Wing, Eglin AFB, Florida
- June 2013 - May 2014, Vice Director of Operations, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado
- June 2014 - June 2016, Vice Commander, 1st Air

Force (Air Forces Northern), Tyndall AFB, Florida  
19. June 2016 - June 2017, Commanding General, Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air (TAAC-Air) and Commander, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan  
20. July 2017 - present, Director, Strategy, Concepts, and Assessments, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command pilot  
Flight hours: More than 3,800 hours  
Primary aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38, A-10A, OA-10, A-10C, A-29  
Other aircraft flown: F-15, F-16, B-1, HH-60, HC-130, C-130, MQ-1, MQ-9, MC-12

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster  
Bronze Star  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with silver and bronze oak leaf clusters  
Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Meritorious Unit Award with Valor device and silver oak leaf clusters  
National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Korean Defense Service Medal

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant May 1, 1989  
First Lieutenant May 1, 1991  
Captain May 1, 1993  
Major Aug. 1, 2000  
Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 2005  
Colonel Sept. 1, 2009  
Brigadier General Nov. 10, 2014  
(Current as of August 2017)

# WWII veteran pays visit to Columbus AFB

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Jim-Bob McCarty

This past Friday, Nov. 3, Columbus Air Force Base had an honored guest to visit us, Andrew “Clyde” Neaves of Saltillo, Mississippi, who is 96 years young! Clyde is a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps where he spent over two and a half years in various locations throughout the South Pacific.

In 1942, as a 21-year-old recruit, Clyde served with the 1804th Aviation Ordnance, Supply and Maintenance Company as a Weapons Repair Specialist.

In a personally written letter from his Commander, dated Nov. 2, 1945, and which was later used in his narrative for a commendation medal, his Commander wrote, “I wish to commend you and express my sincere appreciation for your sustained excellence in the performance of your duty of the past 30 months. Your work was in direct support of our wartime combat crews. Without your splendid efforts, it would have been impossible for our Airmen to have delivered the final knock-out blows which caused the Japanese Empire to capitulate. Thus you made an invaluable material contribution to the acquisition of the cherished peace which is now ours.”



Courtesy photo  
**Andrew “Clyde” Neaves stands by a T-6A Texan II on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, during a base visit Nov. 3, 2017. Clyde is a World War II veteran having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.**

Extremely powerful words and even more powerful and amazing is the fact that Clyde is still going strong yet to-

day, over 75 years later.

Adding to the irony of Clyde’s visit is the fact that he is the grandfather of one of our very own here at Columbus AFB, Maj. Brittanie Neaves who is an internal medicine physician here with the 14th Medical Group. Neaves and her husband Joshua, (Clyde’s grandson), just arrived here at Columbus AFB one year ago. Then this past February they had the pleasure of adding one additional new member to our Columbus AFB Team BLAZE family by bringing their firstborn, and Clyde’s 13th great-grandchild into the world.

Neaves and Joshua hosted Clyde for a luncheon on Nov. 1 at the Club. They also stated they would very much like to thank 2nd Lts. Marcello Peray-Genoverse and David Yelton, from 14t Flying Training Wing Public Affairs. These gentlemen both worked to include Clyde in a static display tour which was taking place for the ROTC from Mississippi State University that afternoon. Clyde stated he thoroughly enjoyed getting to see these latest aircraft up close and personal and that it really brought back some wonderful memories. Thanks to the Team BLAZE family for helping to make his visit so special.

# Gosney congratulates Team BLAZE

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and other members of Team BLAZE accepted CREATE’s Community Partner Award during an annual CREATE meeting in Tupelo, Mississippi, Nov. 2.

The following is a message from Gosney, congratulating members of Team BLAZE on this honor.

*Team BLAZE,  
Please join me in congratulating- YOU! Team BLAZE was recognized last week with the CREATE Foundation’s “Community Partner Award” at the foundation’s annual meeting in Tupelo, MS. This award is not given out every year, in fact, it has not been given out in several years. Instead it is reserved for organizations that have made a huge impact in the local area and the praise for Team BLAZE could not have been higher last week when we were honored with this prestigious award.*

*Special thanks to Lt. Col. Nathan Miller, who led the wing’s participation in the CREATE Foundation’s “Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo” which exposed over 8,000 North Mississippi 8th grade students to a wide variety of career pathways. Team BLAZE was well represented at the Expo, with 114 Airmen volunteers, representing 7 pathways and 19 career fields during the 3-day event. Our Airmen did an incredible job interacting, engaging, educating, and inspiring these 8th graders and their teachers.*

*My hat’s off to our amazing volunteers- they truly did an amazing job. If you were not able to participate last year or this year, I encourage you to make time to volunteer next year. I promise that you will get more out of it than you put into it.*

*Well done!  
-BLAZE 1*



# Members of Columbus AFB learn investigative photography skills



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert, 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs photojournalist, listens to Melissa Doublin, 14th FTW PA photographer, Nov. 1, 2017, during the Investigative Photography and Documentation Course hosted by the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area at the Columbus City/County Firing Range in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of the public affairs team and other units from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, participated in the three-day course learning how to shoot investigative photography.**

# Experience leads to new appreciation

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver  
14th Medical Group Superintendent

As we head into Veterans Day weekend I would like to share an experience I had recently. I had the opportunity to ride in a T-38C Talon, which I willingly chose to do and without reservation!

Before my flight I got to interact with several different areas on base to include the Flight Medicine Clinic in the 14th Medical Group. They performed my flight physical to make sure I was cleared to fly and did not have any conditions that would preclude me from taking flight.

After getting cleared I went to Aerospace Operations and Physiology to learn what my body would be experiencing during my flight and how I might respond.

Immediately following my brief from AOP I received a brief from Aircrew Flight Equipment to learn about the equipment I would require during my flight.

Next up was egress training, which was very thorough and I learned how to get the heck out of dodge if needed. The pilot teaching the egress class went over how to get strapped into the aircraft seat, what levers to set and which pins to pull out. We also went over what to do if the parachute got bunched up and how to navigate if we were going to get stuck in a tree on the way down.

From there I went over to the 50th AFE shop. The Airmen in AFE made sure that my flight suit and gear were the exact fit for me. All of these folks took great care to make sure I had what I needed before my flight.

So, here it is, the day of my flight. I was so excited and nervous all at the same time. I arrived at the 49th Fighter Training Squadron and all of my equipment that was left at the 50th AFE was waiting for me now at the 49th FTS. I got dressed in my flight suit and met up with the pilot that would be taking me up that day. The pilot did his mission brief and then when it was time for us to head out to the aircraft we went to the step desk.

There we were, cleared to proceed out to the flight line. Once we were at our plane the crew chief did some final checks of the aircraft and made sure we had what we needed before takeoff. Soon we were taxiing down the runway in preparation for the flight and in communication with tower personnel to make sure we were on track and safe while in the air. This was the first time during my 27-year career that I had flown in a high performance aircraft and I was digging the speed!

Once we were airborne I started concentrating on what was happening and taking in the view. Then, after about 20 minutes of flight and upon reaching Tuscaloosa, it happened. I felt faint and started to seriously doubt my decision to fly. The instructor pilot was gracious enough to tell me to put my



Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver

oxygen at 100 percent and to “suck it up buttercup!”

Not really, but he did offer to take me back to base but I wanted to continue my flight and experience this before I no longer had the opportunity to do so. The feeling of fainting subsided but at times I was unsure of what was happening to my body. I had complete confidence in my pilot and the crew that had helped prepare me for this experience. I may have been too prepared though because all I kept thinking about was my egress training and concentrating way too hard

on when to eject rather than when to tighten my legs while pulling Gs.

I asked the pilot how he was able to tolerate this experience so often, because during my incapacitated state, I could not fathom anyone volunteering to do this all the time and do it well enough to be an instructor pilot. After he informed me that he has never gotten sick in an aircraft ... he guessed people just got used to it after time.

I am proud to say that I was able to stick it out and was able to complete a descent, which is upside down, a barrel roll and pull 5.2 Gs among other maneuvers. After my flight I was even more amazed at the mission we have here at Columbus Air Force Base and at the caliber of Airmen (active-duty members, contractors and government employees) that come together as a team to complete our mission and that ultimately got us in the air that day.

Every member from every group on base contributes their skills and talents to carry out the 14 FTW’s mission every day. They are working hard from the start during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training in-processing and throughout the entire 13 months of pilot training, taking care of Instructor pilots and the entire base populace to keep everyone safe, paid, healthy and flying. The fact that we come together to complete 56,642 sorties comprised of 77,298 flying hours to graduate 427 SUPT students, IFF students and International students each year is monumental.

For me, my familiarization flight was a real eye opener and a chance of a lifetime. We have a popular saying today “The struggle is real!” and for me, that day, I did struggle but it was worth it, I survived and had a blast in the process, plus I looked really cool in my helmet and flight suit, until after the flight. And I profusely apologize for the condition in which I returned my flight suit and helmet!

All of us at some point or another experience difficult times but it is important to remember that the struggle you are faced with today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow! Sometimes we need to “Suck it up Buttercup” and move on because that time will pass. I am very fortunate that I had the 14th Flying Training Wing team of experts behind me to help me through my temporary struggle! With Veterans Day upon us I want to remember and thank the men and women who have gone before us. I know they had endured hard times and struggles but lucky for us they never gave up and kept pressing forward. It is because of them we are able to complete our jobs and carry out our mission in the fashion we do today. I hope this weekend you will think about our history and how much our force has grown in capability and airpower. Know that you are a huge part of what makes the U.S. Air Force the strongest air force in the world and that you make a difference simply by doing your job to the best of your ability every day! 14th FTW, I salute you!

Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-3 Sentry (AWACS)

## Mission

The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft with an integrated command and control battle management, or C2BM, surveillance, target detection, and tracking platform. The aircraft provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center. AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an area of responsibility, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

## Features

As an air defense system, E-3s can detect, identify and track airborne enemy forces far from the boundaries of the United States or NATO countries. It can direct fighter-interceptor aircraft to these enemy targets. Experience has proven that the E-3 Sentry can respond quickly and effectively to a crisis and support worldwide military deployment operations.

AWACS may be employed alone or horizontally integrated in combination with other C2BM and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance elements of the Theater Air Control System. It supports decentralized execution of the air tasking order/air combat order. The system provides the ability to find, fix, track and target airborne or maritime threats and to detect, locate and ID emitters. It has the ability to detect threats and control assets below and beyond the coverage of ground-based command and control or C2, and can exchange data with other C2 systems and shooters via datalinks.

With its mobility as an airborne warning and control sys-

tem, the Sentry has a greater chance of surviving in warfare than a fixed, ground-based radar system. Among other things, the Sentry's flight path can quickly be changed according to mission and survival requirements. The E-3 can fly a mission profile approximately 8 hours without refueling. Its range and on-station time can be increased through in-flight refueling and the use of an on-board crew rest area.

## Background

There are 31 aircraft in the U.S. inventory. Air Combat Command has 27 E-3s at Tinker. Pacific Air Forces has four E-3 Sentries at Kadena AB, Japan and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

As proven in operations Desert Storm, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector the E-3 Sentry is the world's premier C2BM aircraft. AWACS aircraft and crews were instrumental to the successful completion of operations Northern and Southern Watch, and are still engaged in operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. They provide radar surveillance and control in addition to providing senior leadership with time-critical information on the actions of enemy forces. The E-3 has also deployed to support humanitarian relief operations in the U.S. following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, coordinating rescue efforts between military and civilian authorities.

The data collection capability of the E-3 radar and computer subsystems allowed an entire air war to be recorded for the first time in the history of aerial warfare.

In March 1996, the Air Force activated the 513th Air Control Group, an AWACS Reserve Associate Program unit which performs duties on active-duty aircraft.

During the spring of 1999, the first AWACS aircraft went

through the Radar System Improvement Program. RSIP is a joint U.S./NATO development program that involved a major hardware and software intensive modification to the existing radar system. Installation of RSIP enhanced the operational capability of the E-3 radar electronic counter-measures and has improved the system's reliability, maintainability and availability.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** airborne battle management, command and control

**Contractor:** Boeing Aerospace Co.

**Power plant:** four Pratt and Whitney TF33-PW-100A turbofan engines

**Thrust:** 20,500 pounds each engine at sea level

**Rotodome:** 30 feet in diameter (9.1 meters), 6 feet thick (1.8 meters), mounted 11 feet (3.33 meters) above fuselage

**Wingspan:** 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters)

**Length:** 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters)

**Height:** 41 feet, 9 inches (13 meters)

**Weight:** 205,000 pounds (zero fuel) (92,986 kilograms) Maximum Takeoff Weight: 325,000 pounds (147,418 kilograms) Fuel Capacity: 21,000 gallons (79,494 liters)

**Speed:** optimum cruise 360 mph (Mach 0.48)

**Range:** more than 5,000 nautical miles (9,250 kilometers)

**Ceiling:** Above 29,000 feet (8,788 meters)

**Crew:** flight crew of four plus mission crew of 13-19 specialists (mission crew size varies according to mission) Unit Cost: \$270 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars) Initial operating capability: April 1978

**Inventory:** active force, 32 (one test); Reserve, 0; Guard, 0

# 14th OSS flight RAWS into existence

## Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah

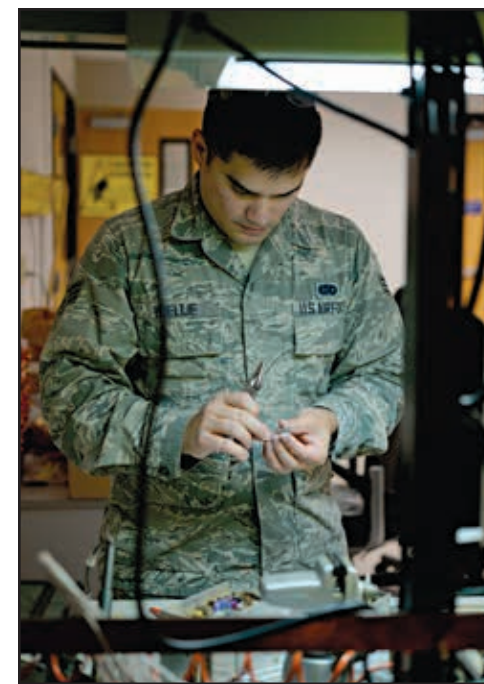
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Though callers to a particular 14th Operations Support Squadron may be caught off guard if they hear a soft roar on the other end, they will no longer be confused as to who exactly they are calling.

As of Nov. 1, the 14th OSS Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems Flight is now the Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight.

Though the name is changing, the service the flight provides is not. The flight provides around-the-clock support of base and regional radar equipment, ground-to-air radios and weather systems that support Air Traffic Control, The National Weather Service, and command and control across the wing.

"Everything on the flight line that doesn't take off, we maintain," said Tony Clements, RAWS Flight Chief. "The name ATCALs was partly correct for our base-level support functions, but it left out a lot, like the weath-



Senior Airman Jacob Hoeltje, 14th Operations Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight (RAWS) technician, fixes a communications piece Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th OSS Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems Flight changed its name to the RAWs Flight Nov. 1, 2017, when the Air Force merged the 1C8X1 Radar and 1C8X2 Airfield Systems career fields.



Courtesy graphic  
The new 14th Operations Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight mascot and logo.

er radars. Now, RAWS basically says everything we take care of – radar, airfield and weather systems."

The flight's name change is due to the creation of the 1C8X3 RAWs career field, created by the Air Force's merger of the 1C8X1 Radar and 1C8X2 Airfield Systems career fields.

"This merger aligns our specialty closer with the Federal Aviation Administration construct," Clements said. "It's built off of our job, so it better matches what we do. It will also help the career field maintain a steady rate of Airmen coming from technical training and eliminate surges."

Staff Sgt. Andrew Snyder, 14th OSS RAWs Assistant NCO in Charge, said the best part is that the merger also means more



Two 14th Operations Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight (RAWs) technicians watch a C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, prepare to land Nov. 2, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The RAWs Flight technicians work to maintain the radar and communication equipment that allows aircraft to land safely and efficiently on Columbus AFB.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

Senior Airman Jacob Hoeltje and Mark Kenner, 14th Operations Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight (RAWs) technicians, fix a communications piece Nov. 3, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Staff Sgt. Andrew Snyder, 14th OSS RAWs Assistant Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, said the 1C8X1 Radar and 1C8X2 Airfield Systems career fields merger Nov. 1, 2017, means more qualified technicians are now able to be spread across the RAWs mission.

qualified technicians are now able to be spread across the RAWs mission.

"Before, when someone called with a job, we would have to find a specialist," Snyder said. "This gives us cross-utilization between the radar and airfield systems technicians,

which means instead of possibly waiting for someone, we can now ask either section." He said this is crucial at a base where even a 30-minute delay in flying can impede the mission.

At Columbus Air Force Base, the career field change also came with a "mascot." The endearing, locally developed image includes the name of their flight, silhouettes of some of the equipment they maintain, and a mountain that represents Lima Site 85, which speaks to their history. Lima Site 85 was a top-secret radar site attacked during the Vietnam War.

Clements said he challenged the flight to work together to develop the image.

"I wanted to give them something to help them feel like they had a part in the merger here," he said. "It's taken off and has spread across the community."

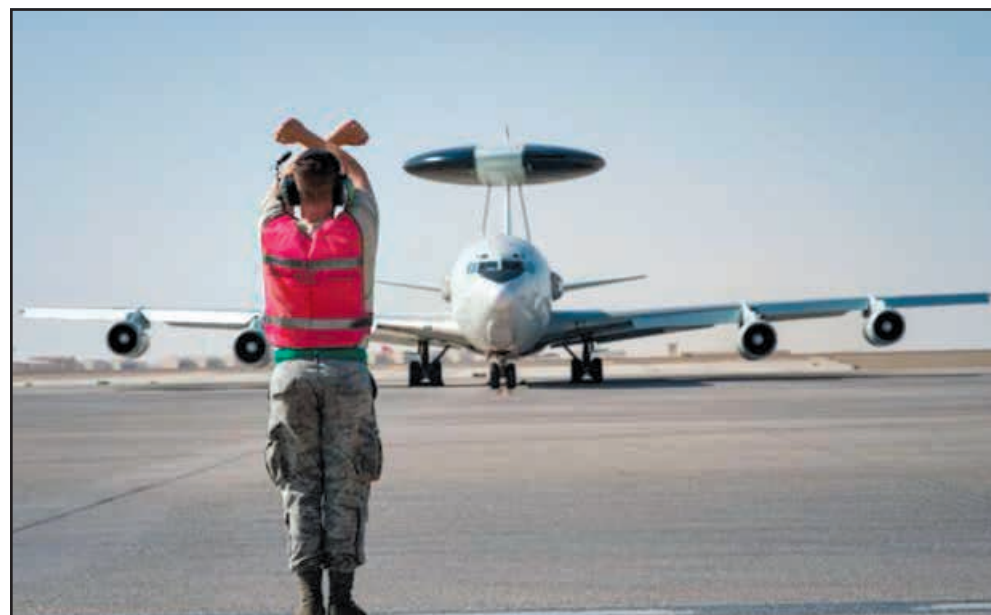
Otherwise, and to customers, the flight name will be the only change. The same people will answer the same phone numbers and fix the same equipment.

"We will make every effort to stop answering the phones saying 'ATCALs,' and instead will attempt to say 'RAWs' in a non-threatening way," Clements said with a smile.



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

A 961st E-3 Sentry (AWACS) taxis down the runway during an elephant walk for a no-notice readiness exercise April 12, 2017, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. These training exercises ensure Airmen are ready to perform any operational task at a moment's notice. The 18th Wing and its associate units are responsible for providing forward power projection with integrated, deployable combat power, to maintain peace and stability as the Pacific theater's premier joint platform for threat deterrence.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tyler Woodward

Airman 1st Class Mitchell, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, signals an E-3 Sentry (AWACS) before completing a sortie in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 1, 2017.

# 49th FTS produces high-quality wingmen



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Brian Mead, 43rd Flying Training Squadron Assistant Flight Commander, and Maj. John Cotman, 43rd FTS instructor pilot, walk along the T-38C Talon parking area Nov. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Both pilots are in the Air Force Reserve and are currently instructor pilots attached to the 49th Fighter Training Squadron.

RIGHT: The 49th Fighter Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is home to the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) program. IFF transforms new pilots into high-quality combat aviators.



## Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Instructor pilots from the 49th FTS teach the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals program, which lets instructor pilots with combat experience pass on what they know about flying in the Combat Air Force.

"We produce high-caliber wingmen, who have a sound foundation and go on to be effective on their weapon system," said Maj. Sean Corrigan, 49th FTS Chief of Stan/Eval. "We are unique because we are the last stop between [Air Education and Training Command] pilot training and a fighter cockpit."

Students who recently graduated SUPT have two months to learn all the fundamentals of being a fighter pilot.

"We take someone who has learned how to take a jet from point A to point B and then teach them how to use that jet as a weapon," said Capt. John McGowan, 49th FTS Executive Officer.

Corrigan and McGowan said the training is very fast paced and is like drinking from a firehose, a lot of knowledge has to be taught in only two months before the new pilots are ready to take on their next aircraft.

There are two pieces to the training, learning how to engage another jet, or dogfighting, and administra-

tive flying such as formation flying and learning to be on the right frequencies. The IPs said they know the new pilots have never been in a dogfight so they have to explain slowly and make sure it clicks.

"One of the biggest challenges is remembering how to relate things to the students," McGowan said. "A lot of the IPs are coming from the Combat Air Force and it's easy to talk over the unexperienced students' heads."

The 49th FTS recently helped train some joint terminal attack controllers in Gulfport, Mississippi. Both IPs and JTACs benefitted from the event. The IPs were able to be back in a tactical environment, and the JTACs learned how to coordinate with aircraft that is not as advanced as some of the newer models. The IPs also took a few students along to see what they have to look forward to.

The 49th FTS does more than just pilot training, they are also involved in the local community.

The Palmer Home for Children is a charity the squadron regularly helps out by donating funds and bringing children to events on base. The squadron has also participated in the Pilot for a Day program, CREATE Expo and talking to the Mississippi State University Air Force ROTC cadets about pilot training.



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Ryan Youngblood, 43rd Flying Training Squadron Assistant Director of Operations, performs post-flight checks before exiting a T-38C Talon Nov. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Most instructor pilots have been in the Combat Air Force and share their knowledge with their students.

LEFT: A 49th Fighter Training Squadron T-38C Talon aircraft sits on the flight line Nov. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 49th FTS trains new pilots how to become a highly efficient fighter pilot through the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals program.



U.S. Air Force photos by  
Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

