



# Columbus Air Force Base **SNAPSHOT**

A summary of facts and figures about Columbus Air Force Base. **October 2022**



## What We Believe ...

- **Core Values:** Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do
- **Mission:** Train World Class Pilots.
- **Vision:** A diverse and cohesive team that embodies the core values, are dedicated to the mission and find purpose in their shared identity as Airmen.

## CAFB Basics

- **Established:** Aug 12, 1941
- **Total Force Strength:** 2,697
- **Base Size:** 4,931 Acres
  - **T-6 Auxiliary Field:** 1,082 Acres  
Gunshy/Shuqualak

## Key Leaders

- **Commander:** Col. Justin T. Grieve
- **Vice Commander:** Col. Jeremy S. Bergin
- **Command Chief:** Chief Master Sgt. Antonio L. Cooper
- **Operations Group Commander:** Col. Alexander L. Heyman
- **Medical Group Commander:** Col James L. Weinstein
- **Mission Support Group Commander:** Col. Pedro Matos
- **Maintenance Director:** Mr. Johnny Smith, M1 Support Services

## CAFB Demographics

- Totals:** 2,806
- **Civilian:** 1,271
    - Contract: 747
    - Civil Service: 524
  - **Enlisted:** 443
  - **Officers:** 867
    - Students: 48
    - International: 38
  - **Reserves:** 86  
(Officer: 83, Enlisted: 3)

### Average Age:\*

- **Enlisted:** 28 yrs
- **Officer:** 35.5 yrs

### Average Total Service:\*

- **Enlisted:** 9.5 yrs
- **Officer:** 10.5 yrs

### Active Force (%):\*

- **Men:** 79
- **Women:** 21

### Race/Ethnic Group (%):\*

- **Caucasian:** 80.2
- **Black:** 12.8
- **Hispanic/Latino:** 1.4
- **Asian:** 2.9
- **Hawaiian/Pacific Is:** 1.2
- **Am Indian/Alaskan:** 1.5

\*Permanent party only, figures do not include student pilot population or Reserves.

## CAFB Economic Impact (FY21)

Total Impact: \$456.7 M

- Payroll: \$190.6 M (Military, Contract Personnel, Civil Service, Base Exchange, Commissary, Credit Union, Non-Appropriated Funds)
- Indirect Jobs (4,273): \$161.1 M
- Annual Expenditures: \$105.0 M
  - Contracts, Supplies, and Equipment: \$93.1 M
  - Construction: \$11.8 M

## Education Levels

### Enlisted-Highest Attained:

- AA or Equivalent: 32%
- B.A., B.S., or higher: 9%

### Officer-Highest:

- Advanced/Professional degrees: 35%

## Students Trained (FY21): 354

- **SUPT Graduates:** 347
  - ALP/Intl Graduates: 41
- **IFF:** 94
- Nations Represented: 17

## Columbus AFB Aircraft Inventory: 241 aircraft

- **T-6A Texan II:**..... 99
- **T-1A Jayhawk:**..... 47
- **T-38C Talon:**..... 84 (SUPT: 59, IFF: 25)
- **A-29 Super Tucano:**...11 (81 FS, Moody AFB)

## CAFB Sorties and Hours (FY 21)

### Sorties Flown

- T-6A Texan II: ..... 21,817
- T-1A Jayhawk: ..... 7,250
- T-38C Talon (SUPT): ..... 9,445
- T-38C Talon (IFF): ..... 4,088

- **Total Sorties:** .....  
**42,600**

### Hours Flown

- T-6A Texan II: ..... 29,827
- T-1A Jayhawk: ..... 16,702
- T-38C Talon (SUPT): ..... 10,025
- T-38C Talon (IFF): ..... 3,594

- **Total Hours:** .....  
**60,148**

## Columbus AFB History

On June 26, 1941 the War Department approved establishment of an Army Airfield for pilot training in the Columbus area. On Aug. 12, 1941, Columbus officials leased the tract of land to the United States for \$1 per acre per year. The base began as a training facility for fighters and bombers, controlled by Southeastern Air Corps Training Center at Maxwell Field, Alabama. On Jan. 13, 1942, 100 enlisted men arrived to form organizations on the base.

In 1942 the installation was named Kaye Field (pronounced "coy"), in honor of Capt Sam Kaye, a World War I flying ace from Columbus, but due to confusion with another airfield the name changed to Columbus Army Flying School in March of 1942. That year, 25 cadets entered training on Feb. 9 and graduated on March 6.

During World War II, 7,412 students received their wings and commissions at CAFS. During this time, they trained in the AT-8, AT-9, AT-10, and B-25. When the war ended in 1945, the base reached a peak of 2,300 enlisted men, 300 officers, and an average of 250 pilot cadets per class. The end of hostilities slowed training and in 1946 the base was inactivated.

Air Training Command activated Columbus AFB on Dec. 20, 1950 to handle increased pilot demand for the Korean War. ATC established the 3301st Training Squadron (Contract Flying) on March 1, 1951.

On April 1, 1955, HQ USAF transferred Columbus AFB from ATC control to Strategic Air Command (SAC) and Second Air Force. The base became the home of a B-52 squadron and a KC-135 jet refueling tanker squadron under the 4228th Strategic Wing.

In 1963, SAC inactivated the 4228th Strategic Wing and activated the 454th Bombardment Wing, Heavy. They conducted air refueling operations and trained in bombardment operation at Columbus AFB.

HQ USAF transferred Columbus back to ATC and its original mission of training pilots on July 1, 1969. ATC activated the 3650th Pilot Training Wing on Feb. 15. The first class, 71-01, entered training on July 17, 1969 flying the T-37 "Tweet" and the T-38 "Talon."

On June 1, 1972, ATC discontinued the 3650th and activated the 14th Flying Training Wing, which continues today as the home of the world's premier pilot training.

In the mid-1990s, Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) became Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) with the addition of the T-1A "Jayhawk." The first tanker and transport trainer aircraft arrived on January 25, 1996. Columbus AFB received the T-6A Texan II on October 12, 2006 and on April 2, 2008, the T-37 was officially retired.

On May 19, 2007, the 49th Fighter Training Squadron returned to CAFB from Moody AFB to teach the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals program in the T-38C.

The 14th FTW activated the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA on Oct. 1, 2014. The 81 FS, a geographically separated unit of the 14th FTW, trains pilots and maintainers from Afghanistan and Lebanon on the A-29 Super Tucano. These aircraft will return with the trainees to be flown in their home country.

## Where We Live

- **Off Base:** 58.1%
- **On Base:** 41.9%
- **On Base Population:** 1,211
  - **Active Duty Population:** 601

### Unaccompanied Quarters

- **Enlisted (UEQ):** 81
- **UEQ Capacity:** 94
- **Officer (UOQ):** 134
- **UOQ Capacity:** 429

### Privatized Housing:

- **Occupants:** 1074
- **Occupied Units:** 429
- **Total Privatized Units:** 453

## Columbus AFB Groups

### Wing Staff Agencies

- 14th Comptroller Squadron (CPTS)
- Public Affairs, Protocol, CAG
- Inspector General (IG)
- Wing Equal Opportunity Office (EO)
- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
- Wing Safety (SE)
- Wing Plans and Programs (XP)
- Command Post (CP)
- Wing Maintenance Authority (MA)
- Historian (HO)
- Chaplain (HC)
- Staff Judge Advocate (JA)

### 14th Operations Group

- 14th Operations Support Squadron (OSS)
- 14th Student Squadron (STUS)
- 37th Flying Training Squadron (37 FTS)
  - T-6 Texan II
- 41st Flying Training Squadron (41 FTS)
  - T-6 Texan II
- 43rd Flying Training Squadron (43 FTS)
  - Air Force Reserve Command
- 48th Flying Training Squadron (48 FTS)
  - T-1A Jayhawk
- 49th Fighter Training Squadron (49 FTS)
  - T-38C ZFF Talon
- 50th Flying Training Squadron (50 FTS)
  - T-38C Talon
- 81st Fighter Squadron (81 FS)
  - A-29 Super Tucano at Moody AFB, GA

### 14th Mission Support Group

- 14th Force Support Squadron (FSS)
- 14th Security Forces Squadron (SFS)
- 14th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES)
- 14th Communications Squadron (CS)
- 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS)
- 14th Contracting Squadron (CONS)

### 14th Medical Group

- 14th Healthcare Operations Squadron (HCOS)
- 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron (OMRS)

### Maintenance Directorate (Contract)

- M1 Support Services