

14 FTW MISSION

Train World Class Pilots

VISION

Better Every Day

PRIORITIES

Mission

Team

Community

LINES OF EFFORT

Take Care of Airmen & Families

Lead Through Change



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING

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14TH FLYING TRAINING WING

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

TRAINING WORLD CLASS PILOTS



WWW.COLUMBUS.AF.MIL

(662) 434-7068



Current as of **February 1, 2026**

COLUMBUS AFB HISTORY World War II was underway in Europe when the War Department approved an Army flying school in Columbus, Mississippi to train pilots. On January 13, 1942, the first 100 enlisted personnel arrived to set up base organizations.

The first 25 student pilots transferred in from Barksdale, Louisiana on February 9, 1942, to complete their last month of training. By the war's end, 7,412 pilots had trained at Columbus and earned their silver wings.

Columbus was inactivated in 1946, then reactivated in 1950 following North Korea's incursion into South Korea. Renamed Columbus Air Force Base (CAFB), pilot training was conducted by California Eastern Airways until April 1, 1955, when Air Training Command (ATC) moved pilot training to Moore Field in Texas.

Between 1955 and 1969, CAFB operated as a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base and was home to B-52 and KC-135 squadrons under the 454th Bombardment Wing. Beginning in the summer of 1965, the 454th joined SAC combat forces in the Pacific and Southeast Asia in support of the Vietnam War.

CAFB was transferred back to ATC in 1969 and resumed its original mission of training pilots as the 3650th Pilot Training Wing. ATC discontinued the 3650th on June 1, 1972, activating the 14th Flying Training Wing (14 FTW).

In 2025, Air Education and Training Command (AETC) began to phase out the multiengine T-1A in preparation for arrival of the Air Force's newest training aircraft, the T-7A Red Hawk. The last student T-1A sortie at CAFB took place on December 5, 2025.

THE FUTURE IS NOW To meet its goal of producing 1,500 pilots per year, the Air Force implemented a new Initial Pilot Training (IPT) model to provide a comprehensive program within a faster time frame.

Following IPT, next comes the revised Future of Undergraduate Pilot Training (FUPT) in the T-6A Texan II. A narrowed focus in the T-6A phase significantly reduces the resources required to train common aviation competencies. Upon completion of the new IPT and revised FUPT programs, students earn their military pilot wings.

Planned for arrival in 2028, the Air Force's revolutionary new training aircraft, the T-7A Redhawk, will bring Fighter Bomber Fundamentals training in line with current fifth generation fighter capabilities, and beyond.

The 14th Flying Training Wing continues to ace execution of our strategically important mission to Train World Class Pilots while prioritizing the development of our entire team. These efforts are bolstered by the continually strengthening ties with our local community. The Base Community Council, STARBASE, Military Star School program, and several partnerships with Mississippi State University enhance life for all—on and off base.



COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

Commander Col James Blech
Deputy Commander Col Jesper Stubbendorff
Command Chief CMSgt Lebaron King

BY THE NUMBERS

Established Aug 12, 1941
Total Force Strength 2,700
Base Size 4,931 Acres
T-6 Auxiliary Field 1,082 Acres

AIRCRAFT INVENTORY	FY23	FY24	FY25
T-6A Texan II	99	99	99
T-1A Jayhawk	26	26	26
T-38C Talon (GPT)	60	60	60
T-38C Talon (IFF)	27	27	27

SORTIES AND HOURS

Sorties Flown	FY23	FY24	FY25
T-6A Texan II	25,704	23,393	23,624
T-1A Jayhawk	6,928	3,681	4,014
T-38C Talon (GPT)	9,423	8,845	9,235
T-38C Talon (IFF)	4,044	3,523	3,013
Total Sorties	46,099	39,962	39,886

Hours Flown	FY23	FY24	FY25
T-6A Texan II	38,008	35,271	34,080
T-1A Jayhawk	13,777	7,439	8,498
T-38C Talon (GPT)	10,123	9,530	9,904
T-38C Talon (IFF)	3,577	3,161	2,764
Total Hours	65,485	55,401	55,246

STUDENTS TRAINED	FY23	FY24	FY25
Winged Graduates	356	354	342
Int'l Graduates*	57	41	41
IFF Graduates	71	94	36
Total Graduates	427	448	419

*International Graduates are included in totals.

**17 Nations represented.

Air Force's 3rd Busiest Airspace, AETC's #1!

Our Team

TOTAL	2,700	AVERAGE AGE	
Officer	1,076	Officer	33 yrs
Permanent Party	370	Enlisted	26 yrs
Students	706	Civilian	49 yrs
Enlisted	448	AVERAGE TOTAL SERVICE	
Civilian	1,176	Officer	11 yrs
Contract	652	Enlisted	8 yrs
Civil Service	524		

GENDER

Officer		Off Base	55.5%
Male	83%	On Base	45.5%
Female	17%	On Base Population	1,173

Enlisted

Male	76%	AVAILABLE QUARTERS	
Female	24%	LODGING	12

EDUCATION LEVELS

Enlisted-Highest Attained		Enlisted UEQ Capacity	94
AA or Equivalent	40%	Officer UOQ Capacity	234
B.A., B.S., or higher	20%	PRIVATIZED HOUSING	
Officer-Highest Attained		Total Privatized Units	451
Advanced Degrees	26%		

Outstanding Medical Care

Earned DHA's "Best of the Best" for Patient Satisfaction

#1 in AETC for Family Medicine Access-To-Care

Services 13.5K beneficiaries across three states

FY25 ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT:
\$647M

