



Columbus Air Force Base **SNAPSHOT**

A summary of facts and figures about Columbus Air Force Base. **October 2024**



What We Believe ...

Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do

Mission: Train World Class Pilots.

Vision: Better Every Day

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. James J. Blech
- Vice Commander:** Col. Jon B. Cato
- Command Chief:** Chief Master Sgt. Todd Rosenzweig
- Operations Group Commander:** Col. Anthony McKee
- Medical Group Commander:** Col Fransico Català
- Mission Support Group Commander:** Col. Scott Ryder
- Maintenance Director:** Mr. John Balbier, M1 Support Services

Our Economic Impact

ANNUAL
PAYROLL

\$204M

ANNUAL
EXPENDITURES

\$123M

ANNUAL INDIRECT
JOBS

\$204M

FY23 ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$531M

\$8.1M IN END-OF-YEAR-REQUESTS

Medical Care (FY23)

- Average time for Active-Duty Primary Care appointment is < 1 day
- 99% of referrals off base for providers are within a 1-hour drive.
- 78% percent of referrals off base are seen with 28 days.
- #1 in DHA for Overall Satisfaction
- #1 in AETC for Referral Management Timeliness

Columbus AFB Aircraft Inventory: 185 aircraft

- **T-6A Texan II:** 99
- **T-1A Jayhawk:** 26
- **T-38C Talon:** 60

Education Levels

Enlisted-Highest Attained:

- AA or Equivalent: 31%
- B.A., B.S., or higher: 22%

Officer-Highest:

- Advanced/Professional degrees: 30%

CAFB Sorties and Hours (FY 23)

Sorties Flown

- T-6A Texan II 25,704
- T-1A Jayhawk 6,928
- T-38C Talon (GPT) 9,423
- T-38C Talon (IFF) 4,044

- **Total Sorties:** **46,099**

Hours Flown

- T-6A Texan II 38,008
- T-1A Jayhawk 13,777
- T-38C Talon (GBT) 10,123
- T-38C Talon (IFF) 3,577

- **Total Hours:** **65,485**

Students Trained (FY23): 354

- **UPT Graduates:**356
- **IFF:**71
 - ALP/Intl Graduates: 41
 - Nations Represented: 17

COLUMBUS AFB HISTORY

World War II was underway when the War Dept 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, and the first aircraft arrived not long after. 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 training at Columbus and received their wings. Columbus was inactivated in 1946, and 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). Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, SUPT, a 55-week program, became the Air Force flight training standard in 1992. The syllabus utilized three phases - 1) Academics, 2) Primary, and 3) Advanced with specialized tracks to create winged aviators. Primary flight training was accomplished in the T-6 Texan II (or T-37 Tweet 1972-2008). Advanced flight training continued in the T-1 Jayhawk, T-38 Talon, T-44 at Naval Air Station Corpus, or UH-1 Huey at the Army's Fort Novosel.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Pilot training has transformed! Our entire curriculum has undergone change and revisions to modernize and enhance pilot production. SUPT was modified by "UPT 2.5" efforts in calendar year 2022. Today, all CAFB students earn their Air Force wings flying the T-6 Texan II in Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT). They then advance to graduate training in one of two new programs— 1) Air Mobility Fundamentals (AMF), or 2) Fighter/Bomber Fundamentals (F/BF). These new programs, like UPT, capitalize on and incorporate modern training tools and methods. AMF currently leverages the "Mid-Tier Device," a simulator that replicates the T-1A Jayhawk, to prepare graduates for mobility or tanker platforms. The Air Force's first-ever F/BF class began at CAFB in June 2023. The new program both combines and streamlines legacy T-38 Graduate Pilot Training (GPT) and T-38 Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) into a unified syllabus for graduates continuing to fighter or bomber platforms. Planned for arrival in 2028, the Air Force's revolutionary new aircraft, the T-7A Redhawk, will bring F/BF 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, the Military Star School program, and several partnerships with Mississippi State University enhance life for all- on and off base.

Where We Live

- **Off Base:** 55.5%
- **On Base:** 44.5%
- **On Base Population:** 1,173

Unaccompanied Quarters

- **Enlisted (UEQ):** 81
- **UEQ Capacity:** 94
- **Officer (UOQ):** 134
- **UOQ Capacity:** 234

Privatized Housing:

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

CAFB Demographics

Totals:	3,488
Civilian:	1,376
Contract:	758
○ Civil Service:.....	617
Enlisted:	506
Officers:	1,607
○ Permanent Party:.....	490
○ Students:.....	1,117
Reserves:	86

Average Age:

Enlisted:	27 yrs
Officer:	34 yrs
Civilian:	49 yrs

Average Total Service:

Officer:	11 yrs
Enlisted:	7.5 yrs

Gender:

Officer:	
○ Male:.....	83%
○ Female:.....	17%
Enlisted:	
○ Male:.....	69%
○ Female:.....	31%

Race/Ethnic Group (%)

Caucasian:	80.2
Black:	12.8
Hispanic:	1.4
Asian:	2.9
Hawaiian:	1.2
Am Indian/Alaskan:	1.5