

CORE VALUES

Integrity First
Service Before Self
Excellence in All We Do

AIR FORCE MISSION

To fly, fight, and win... airpower
anytime, anywhere.

14 FTW MISSION

Train World Class Pilots

VISION

Better Every Day

PRIORITIES

Mission, Team, Community

14 FTW/CC VECTORS

Safety
Unity
Professionalism
Teamwork



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING

Public Affairs: (662) 434-7068
Command Post: (662) 434-7020
14ftw.pa@us.af.mil



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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 **August 1, 2025**

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 (AFB), 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 South-east 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 To meet its goal of producing 1,500 pilots per year, the US Air Force is testing a new Initial Pilot Training (IPT) model to provide a comprehensive program within a faster time frame. The IPT is designed to train pilots in basic airmanship, instruments and multi-engine flying competencies.

Next comes the revised Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in the T-6A Texan II. A narrowed focus in the T-6A phase -- enabled by all students arriving already FAA-certified with instrument and multi-engine ratings -- significantly reduces the resources required to train common aviation competencies. Upon completion of the new IPT and revised UPT programs, students earn their military pilot wings.

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.



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 3,488
Base Size 4,931 Acres
T-6 Auxiliary Field 1,082 Acres

AIRCRAFT INVENTORY	FY23	Δ	FY24
T-6A Texan II	99	0	99
T-1A Jayhawk	26	0	26
T-38C Talon (GPT)	60	0	60
T-38C Talon (IFF)	27	0	27

SORTIES AND HOURS

Sorties Flown	FY22	FY23	FY24
T-6A Texan II	24,287	25,704	23,393
T-1A Jayhawk	9,521	6,928	3,681
T-38C Talon (GPT)	9,669	9,423	8,845
T-38C Talon (IFF)	<u>4,285</u>	<u>4,044</u>	<u>3,523</u>
Total Sorties	47,762	46,099	39,962

Hours Flown	FY22	FY23	FY24
T-6A Texan II	34,676	38,008	35,271
T-1A Jayhawk	21,089	13,777	7,439
T-38C Talon (GPT)	10,388	10,123	9,530
T-38C Talon (IFF)	<u>3,761</u>	<u>3,577</u>	<u>3,161</u>
Total Hours	69,914	65,485	55,401

STUDENTS TRAINED	FY22	FY23	FY24
Winged Graduates	384*	356	354
Int'l Graduates**	55	57	41
Nations Represented	12	18	17
IFF Graduates	90	71	94
Total Graduates	474	427	448

* Most Pilots Graduated in 36 Years.

** International Graduates are included in totals.

Our Team

TOTAL	3,488	AVERAGE AGE	
Officer	998	Officer	33 yrs
Permanent Party	338	Enlisted	26 yrs
Students	660	Civilian	49 yrs
Enlisted	436	AVERAGE TOTAL SERVICE	
Civilian	1,375	Officer	11 yrs
Contract	758	Enlisted	8 yrs
Civil Service	617		

GENDER

Officer		Off Base	55.5%
Male	82%	On Base	44.5%
Female	18%	On Base Population	1,173

Enlisted

Male	69%	AVAILABLE QUARTERS	
Female	31%	LODGING	12

EDUCATION LEVELS

Enlisted-Highest Attained		UNACCOMPANIED DORMS	
AA or Equivalent	31%	Enlisted UEQ Capacity	94
B.A., B.S., or higher	22%	Officer UOQ Capacity	234
Officer-Highest Attained		PRIVATIZED HOUSING	
Advanced Degrees	30%	Total Privatized Units	453

Medical Care During FY24

Avg. time for Active Duty Primary Care appointment: <1 day
 99% of referrals off base are for providers within 1-hr drive
 78% of referrals off base are seen within 28 days

#1 in DHA for Overall Satisfaction
 #1 in DHA for Courtesy, Helpfulness and Respectfulness
 #1 in AETC for Referral Management Timeliness

OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT (FY24)

ANNUAL PAYROLL

\$222M

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

\$156M

ANNUAL INDIRECT JOBS

\$148M

FY24 ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$547M

\$2.7M in end-of-year unfunded requests