

Return Service:
The Commercial
Dispatch
P.O. Box 511
Columbus, MS
39703

SILVER WINGS

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 39705
PERMIT NO. 98
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”
Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 41, Issue 29


July 28, 2017


BEAUTIFUL LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT
62 CHAPMAN COVE - COLUMBUS
Approximately 3600 SF, 4 large bedrooms/2.5 baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, den, game room, office, laundry room, front porch & deck.
\$1500 per month/\$1500 Deposit
Contact: Dr. Jackie Stennis
662-574-1720

New Salem Baptist Church
welcomes you!
7086 Wolf Road
3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
www.newsalembaptistcaledonia.com
Pastor: Bro. Mel Howton
SUNDAY
Worship Service - 8:00 & 10:30 am
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:15 am
SUNDAY EVENING
Youth Drama & AWANA - 4pm
Discipleship Training - 5pm
Evening Worship - 6pm
WEDNESDAY
Kid's Drama - 6 pm
Adult/Youth Bible Study, RAs, GAs & Mission Friends - 6:30 pm
Nursery available for all services.

Certificate of Completion from USA Cares Military Housing Education Program

RENASANT
MORTGAGE LENDING
Understanding You.
Jimmy McPherson
Senior Mortgage Banker
NMLS # 261277
905 Main Street
Columbus, Mississippi
jmcpherson@renasant.com
O: 662.245.5168 C: 662.574.0092


St. Paul's Episcopal Church
318 College Street • Columbus
Holy Communion
at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday
(childcare provided)
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Anne Harris
328-6673 • www.stpaulscolumbus.com

CURE | PREVENT | TREAT

A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.
jdrf.org

Weather

Friday AM Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 73°F	Saturday Partly Cloudy High 89°F Low 69°F
Sunday Partly Cloudy High 89°F Low 68°F	Monday Partly Cloudy High 90°F Low 70°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OWS Weather Flight

Air University gets schooled at Columbus AFB

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

Air University's Air Command and Staff College had 27 instructors visit Columbus Air Force Base July 24 to learn about the Air Force's pilot training mission and to better understand the level of effort and resources it will take to increase pilot production Air Force wide.



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

The AU members included retired Lt. Gen. Allen G. Peck, current Assistant Professor and Faculty Advisor in Air Command and Staff College's Department of Airpower, and retired Col. (Dr.) Edwin Redman, current Assistant Professor of Military and Security Studies at Air University's Air Command and Staff College Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Retired Lt. Gen. Allen G. Peck, an Assistant Professor and Faculty Advisor at Air University's Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, talks with Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, July 24, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, about an operation they both took part in earlier in their careers. Pilots and combat controllers work hand in hand, communicating between the ground and air to accomplish the mission.

The group, made up of both military and civilian instructors, were given the opportunity to see first hand what pilot production consists of.

from aerospace physiology to the [radar approach control] and [air traffic control] tower to what's going on in the squadrons has had steady improvement from the way we used to do things," Redman said, "but at the end of the day it's also still doing the same thing it's been trying to do for the past three decades."

News Briefs

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony/Quarterly Awards

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions Ceremony is at 3 p.m. July 31 at the Columbus Club and the Quarterly Awards will take place immediately after the promotion ceremony.

Free Club Dinner

The Columbus Club will host a pasta bar dinner from 5-8 p.m., Aug. 1. The pasta bar includes, three pastas, three sauces, bread sticks and dessert. Free for members and \$8.95 for nonmembers. For more information call 434-2489. For more information see page 12.

BCC Luncheon

The BCC luncheon takes place at the Columbus Club and is open to BCC members and officer, enlisted and civilian Airmen of the 14th Flying Training Wing. The Italian Lunch Buffet is \$14 and RSVPs are required for seating by calling 434-7068 or e-mailing 14ftw.pa@us.af.mil. See related story on page 6.

Inside



Feature 8
SUPT Class 17-12 graduates at 10 a.m. today at the Kaye Auditorium.



Benjamin Caro Jr.,
Chief Master Sargent
U.S. Air Force


Culverhouse
College of Commerce
Executive MBA

Earn your MBA while attending class every other weekend for 17 months.

★ ★ ★
You may be qualified to have our GMAT/GRE requirement waived!

★ ★ ★

Application Deadline: October 27
Classes Start: November 28

For more information visit emba.ua.edu or call 205.348.4501

Application fee waived for MILITARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE												WING SORTIE BOARD			
PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	T-6	T-1	T-38	IFF
37th (18-07)	-5.24 days	2.11 days	Sept. 5	48th (17-13)	-5.42 days	-1.74 days	Aug. 18	49th (17-KBC)	-5.03 days	-2.96 days	Aug. 18	2,211	593	832	338
41st (18-06)	4.44 days	2.89 days	Aug. 11	50th (17-13)	-1.93 days	0.40 days	Aug. 18	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				2,309	422	821	348
The graduation speaker for SUPT Class 17-12 graduation on July 28 is retired Col. Michael Speer, a Boeing 767 captain for Federal Express.												26,122	6,870	9,135	3,857

To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

New annual Mental Health Assessment requirement begins July 31

Peter Holstein

Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs Office



Starting July 31, 2017, Airmen undergoing their annual Periodic Health Assessment may notice something new. A Mental Health Assessment will now be part of every annual PHA, to help ensure that Airmen suffering from undiagnosed mental health issues are referred to the necessary care.

routine for everyone reduces stigma and makes it easier for Airmen suffering from mental health problems to obtain care.”

Mental health issues are a serious problem for U.S. Armed Forces and for the Air Force. These illnesses are often not visible to others, making them difficult to diagnose and leading to unnecessary suffering. By implementing yearly screening, more Airmen in the early stages of mental illness will be identified and referred for treatment, helping them heal and improving overall medical readiness.

The annual MHA fulfills a requirement of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, and uses established Department of Defense questions for early detection of mental health issues. The questions included in the MHA are the same that Airmen see on their pre- and post-deployment health screenings. Completing the annual MHA can even substitute for specific post-deployment screenings.

“This assessment gives Airmen an annual opportunity to review their mental health with a medical provider and discuss any concerns they may have,” said Col Steven Pflanz, Air Force Director of Psychological Health. “Making the process

Airmen will continue to fill out the DD form 3024 online for their annual PHA, which already includes the mental health questions. Airmen will speak with a trained healthcare provider or licensed mental health professional to complete

the person-to-person component. Most flight personnel will meet face-to-face, and most non-flight personnel will complete this section over the phone.

Members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will begin the annual MHA later in August. For Airmen stationed at bases with MTFs belonging to other Services, efforts are underway to ensure transfer of PHA questionnaires between the Services. Until this process is complete, the Air Force will utilize existing Base Operational Medical Clinic protocols to accomplish these PHAs.

Airmen who underwent a PHA in 2017 prior to July 31 do not have an additional requirement to retake it this year. Their 2018 PHA will include the MHA interview with a medical provider.

Airmen can monitor their individual medical readiness using their MyIMR page at <https://imr.afms.mil/imr/MyIMR.aspx>. This page also contains location specific information, instruction, office hours and phone numbers to help Airmen meet their IMR requirements.

Student loan forgiveness takes effect in October

Richard Salomon

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force courtesy graphic

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The first forgiveness of student loan balances under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program goes into effect for government employees this October.

The program offers forgiveness for remaining balances due on William D. Ford federal direct loans after employees have made at least 120 loan payments after Oct. 1, 2007, while employed full-time by certain public service employers.

“This program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full time in public service jobs, including the military, in lieu of seeking higher-paying private sector jobs,” said Dawn Byrd, the Air Force Personnel Center business process owner for education services policy.

Loan forgiveness is available only for direct loans; however, loans made under other federal student loan programs may become eligible for the program if they

The first forgiveness of student loan balances under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program goes into effect for government employees in October 2017.

are consolidated into a direct consolidation loan.

Visit Federal Student Aid for eligibility requirements and for additional information.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions.

LION HILLS
EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2331 Military Rd. • Columbus, MS • 328-4837

\$2 OFF Adult Sunday Brunch

Maximum 1 adult per coupon, must have original coupon, no copies. Not valid with any other offers or kids price. Expires 10/01/2017.

Free Child's Meal
With purchase of 2 Adult Entrees

Friday night dinner only, dine in only, not valid with any other offers, must have original coupon. Expires 10/01/2017.

HAD AN ACCIDENT?

NO WORRIES! TAKE IT TO

BOB'S
PAINT & AUTO BODY
83 E. Plymouth Rd. • Columbus • 662-327-1221

Call Us For Quality Work And Friendly Service!



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Michael Weaver, a History Professor at Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and Airman 1st Class Queneth Salazar, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology technician, demonstrate the graveyard spiral July 24, 2017, on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. AOP Airmen teach student pilots about spatial disorientation, the inability to determine one's position in an open space which can cause aircraft accidents.

AIR UNIVERSITY

(Continued from page 1)

base, he was the graduation speaker in May of 2009 for class 09-09 when he was the Air University commander. Throughout the tour, Peck was very engaged, studying everything with fascination reflected on his face.

“The pride of everyone who we met, the pride of the Aerospace Physiology flight, the pride of the instructor pilots, the maintainers, everyone we spoke to all had pride and saw their impact in producing the world's greatest pilots,” Peck said.

At the end of the tour the instructors thanked Columbus AFB for allowing them to experience the behind the scenes of pilot training and all the components to the year-long process.

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, thanked them for coming out and enjoying what Columbus's mission was all about.

“This machine is one of the national treasures that nobody really thinks about,” Peck said. “It's important work that has to get done. We can't take for granted what it takes to create the world's greatest pilots.”



Retired Lt. Gen. Allen G. Peck, an Assistant Professor and Faculty Advisor at Air University's Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, prepares to fly the GYRO Integrated Physiological Trainer II July 24, 2017, on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. He currently serves as an instructor in the Genesis of Airpower and Modern Airpower core curriculum courses and also serves as faculty research advisor for an ACSC seminar.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Four members from Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, talk to a pilot July 24, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Twenty-seven instructors from Air University visited Columbus AFB to learn about the pilot training mission and what it will take to increase the Air Force's pilot production.

Memorandum for all AETC personnel

FROM: Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC Commander

SUBJECT: Operations Tempo

1. Over the past year, our Operations Tempo has risen significantly as we increased student production to meet the Air Force's rated aircrew needs. Whether you are aircrew, maintainer, or operations support, I appreciate the effort you have put forth to safely accomplish the mission.

2. The Air Force is the smallest it has been in our 70-year history. Despite this, operations continue as they did when we operated with a lot more Airmen. Because of this, we cannot afford to lose a single Airman to a preventable mishap. The impact of a loss on the mission is critical, but more importantly, the impact on your family and friends is devastating.

3. Keys to a successful safety program are maintaining discipline, enforcing standards, assessing and managing risk, holding people accountable, and ensuring every Airman has the ability to call a “knock-it-off.” Even our most inexperienced Airmen should feel empowered to be able to say, “OK, stop. This is not right. We're going to hurt somebody or break something.” While we may be short on people, time, and resources, we should never let that drive us to compromise safe mission execution. Doing the mission right the first time is critical.

4. Please don't feel so pressured to get something done for mission accomplishment that it will compromise someone's life. There is no training event in AETC that is more important than the lives of the people doing it.

5. Let's stay safe out there! And remember... Airpower... Starts Here!

DARRYL L. ROBERSON
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

70 years of airpower, innovation

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Since 1947, courageous Airmen have refined the Air Force mission to fly, fight and win through their blood and sacrifice, ensuring the unique contributions of airpower will endure long

into the future. As a service with joint origins, the Air Force is the foundation for multi-service, interagency and coalition operations. It provides the joint team the ability and freedom to fight in the air, on the ground and at sea.

Later this year, the Air Force will celebrate its 70th birthday. Throughout the next seven weeks, each generation of airpower,

from 1947 to today, will be highlighted. Barriers the Air Force has overcome to dominate the air, space and cyberspace domains will be showcased, while looking toward the future of multi-domain command and control and the Airmen who will help to keep the U.S. Air Force the greatest on the planet.

(Editor's note: This article has been edited to fit the needs of Silver Wings.)



Civil Air Patrol cadets get taste of pilot life

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

About 40 cadets from the Civil Air Patrol visited Columbus Air Force Base July 22-30 to train as if they were a pilot undergoing Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

The cadets went through a national program called SUPT Familiarization Course.

SUPTFC is a program which allows 15-18-year-old CAP cadets to get a realistic perspective of the U.S. Air Force's SUPT course.

"It's like a weeklong overview of what undergraduate pilot training is, we will be going through simulators, learn ops-limits, emergency procedures, and things like that," said Cadet Dennis Blaschke, a CAP member from South Carolina.

Cadets experienced more than a week of academics and flight simulations to learn exactly what it takes to become a pilot in the world's greatest Air Force.

"We are basically being taught leadership and help promote the military and specifically the Air Force to our generation along with the piloting," said Cadet David Dimella, a CAP member from New Jersey.

While educated on the basics of piloting and military leadership, the cadets were tested and graded by the CAP instructors to see who was in the top percentage of performers. The top cadets earned a flight with Columbus AFB pilots.

Like SUPT students, the cadets were scored and ranked during the course, and celebrated their own aircraft "assignment night" where they were "assigned" to aircraft frames based on their performance, Blaschke said. They also attended their own graduation ceremony at the end of the week.

The CAP is the official auxiliary force of the U.S. Air Force. It provides assistance with humanitarian and search and rescue missions.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Civil Air Patrol instructors and cadets pose for a photo July 25, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. From July 22-30, CAP cadets went through a national program called Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Capt. Whitt Hollis, 41st Flying Training Squadron Class Flight Commander, speaks to Civil Air Patrol cadets July 25, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cadets saw static displays of all three Columbus AFB aircraft and learned about the process of becoming an Air Force pilot.



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

Civil Air Patrol cadets prepare for their simulated T-6A Texan II flights July 25, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cadets are familiarized to the instruments, emergency procedures and more throughout the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course.

Security Forces: Did you know?



The carrying of a privately owned weapon(s) open or concealed on Columbus Air Force Base is not authorized, except in a vehicle between privatized housing and an entry control point. Violating this policy could result in criminal charges, Uniform Code of Military Justice action, and/or initiation of installation debarment procedures. Reference located within Columbus AFB Integrated Defense Plan. Please direct any questions and concerns to the Security Forces Operations section at 434-3154.

Commander's Action Line 434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

Diversity program honors Tuskegee Airmen

Senior Airman Greg Nash
23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Approximately 100 10-19-year-olds took to the Valdosta skies to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the historic Tuskegee Airmen during the Eyes Above the Horizon diversity outreach program, July 22, in Valdosta, Georgia.

The program is designed to instill ambition amongst minority youths to achieve higher accomplishments and consider military careers within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical fields.

"In honor of the Tuskegee Airmen and their legacy of breaking color barriers, Eyes Above the Horizon focuses on mentoring and familiarizing underrepresented minorities with basic flying fundamentals," said Maj. Aaron Jones, 81st Fighter Squadron AAF flight commander and EAH event coordinator.

"The program's three-tier structure raises aviation awareness, orients the students with hands-on piloting experience and prepares them to reach new heights by applying the learned principles," Jones added. "It's important to give kids an opportunity to engage in aviation environments with people that resemble themselves, and the Legacy Flight Academy provides that needed representation and mentorship."

The LFA launched the program in 2012 in hopes to counter the lack of programs that introduces certain demographics to the aviation world. According to Jones, this underrepresentation is partly why African-Americans make up less than 2 percent of the commercial and military pilot industry in the United States, which is significantly less than Tuskegee Airmen more than 70 years ago.

During this year's outreach efforts, Valdosta Regional Airport welcomed approximately 30 Airmen and other agencies to mentor the youth on character development, collegiate and career education opportunities.

As the participating students explored the education and recruitment booths, a team-building exercise station and aircraft, every student received a STEM briefing from one of Team Moody's own.



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Greg Nash

A Legacy Flight Academy pilot taxis a T-6A Texan II during the Eyes Above the Horizon diversity outreach program, July 22, 2017, in Valdosta, Georgia. The Valdosta Regional Airport welcomed approximately 100 10-19-year-olds as they took the Valdosta skies to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the historic Tuskegee Airmen. The EAH program focuses on mentoring and familiarizing underrepresented minorities with basic flying fundamentals.

tion opportunities.

"Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are extremely important in both the Air Force and the civilian sector," said Maj. Sherrod Brown, 23d Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering flight commander. "[STEM] solutions are required to find innovative ways to get the mission done with less resources such as budget or manning constraints, particularly in the Air Force."

As a Bioenvironmental Engineer, Brown conducts health risk assessment recommendations to control health hazards in base workplaces. He said that if a health hazard can be engineered out of an industrial process, then that's an optimum solution. However, although an engineering solution may not exist, innovative individuals with STEM backgrounds can design new solutions to existing problems.

Additionally, Brown articulated that Eyes Above the Horizon sim-

ilarly counters long-standing and current difficulties with its new approaches. He said its ability to reach the youth without a military background is a huge advantage.

"Children who don't have a parent affiliated with the military may never get introduced to aviation and Air Force careers without this program," said Brown. "While the goal is to have maximum participation for youth interested, if only one kid is impacted and pursues their interest in Air Force aviation or STEM opportunities, then count it a success."

"I would have loved to be introduced to a program such as [Eyes Above the Horizon] as an adolescent," Brown added. "Role models are formed from events such as this, which is a good alternative versus the athletes and entertainers that youth aspire to be today."

Landing on the runway after channeling their pilot aspirations, the awestruck students geared up to apply their lessons learned and share their experiences. Before they could follow in the footsteps of the Tuskegee Airmen, the event's guest speaker, Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, 48th Flying Training Squadron



Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, 48th Flying Training Squadron commander, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, commends attendees for learning basic flying principles during the Eyes Above the Horizon diversity outreach program, July 22, 2017, in Valdosta, Georgia. The Valdosta Regional Airport welcomed approximately 100 10-19-year-olds as they took the Valdosta skies to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the historic Tuskegee Airmen. The program focuses on mentoring and familiarizing underrepresented minorities with basic flying fundamentals.

commander, Columbus AFB, Mississippi, concluded the event by relating to the students that the sky is the limit.

"It's extremely important to know, live, and grow the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen," said Gilliam. "By knowing our history, we ensure a bright future for our nation, especially the young people in our communities. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics stimulate innovation across the full spectrum in America and around the world."

"We encourage the youth to pursue these challenging career fields to not only increase the quality of life for individuals and their family, but to also help strengthen our nation," Gilliam added. "This event has reinforced legacy values of the Tuskegee Airmen. By coming out today, you all have shown your loyalty, excellence and goals necessary to have the winning attitude, courage and integrity to accomplish the mission. Continue the tradition and long live the legacy."



Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, 48th Flying Training Squadron commander, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, holds a Silver Wings badge to commemorate the Tuskegee Airmen and explains the significance of their World War II efforts, as a part of the Eyes Above the Horizon diversity outreach program, July 22, 2017, in Valdosta, Georgia. The Valdosta Regional Airport welcomed approximately 100 10-19-year-olds as they took the Valdosta skies to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the historic Tuskegee Airmen. The program focuses on mentoring and familiarizing underrepresented minorities with basic flying fundamentals.

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus_afb_living, or visit our website at 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.

Free Club Dinner

The Columbus Club will host a pasta bar dinner from 5-8 p.m. Aug. 1. The pasta bar includes, three pastas, three sauces, bread sticks and dessert. Free for members and \$8.95 for nonmembers. This is also a time for club members to learn how to “get connected” and control their membership. Not a member? Join and connect today. For more information call 434-2489.

Alabama Splash Adventure

A youth back-to-school water park trip is Aug. 2 for ages 9-18. The group departs at 7 a.m. For more information call 434 2504.

End of Summer Bash

An End of Summer Bash is from noon-5 p.m. Aug. 4 at Freedom Park. The event offers free snacks, beverages, games, music and more! This has been approved as an alternate duty location.

Citrus Chicken Tacos on the Flightline

Chicken tacos are available from 11 a.m.-1 pm. Aug. 9 at the picnic area by the 14th Operations Group building. Tacos are free for club members and \$7 for nonmembers, cash only. Tacos will be available while supplies last. This is also a time for club members to learn how to “get connected” and control their membership. Not a member? Join and connect today. For more information call 434-2489.

Kids Bowl Free

Children are able to bowl free every Monday and Tuesday in from noon-5 p.m. in August.

Youth Center Walk/Run

A free youth fitness walk/run starts at 8 a.m. Aug. 26. The walk/run is for all ages, and participants must sign-up at the Youth Center by Aug. 18.

Summer Fest Bowling

Every Friday in July, enjoy 15 percent off bowling from 5:30 p.m. to close. Call 434-3426 for more information.

Library Summer Reading Program

The Library Summer Reading Program ends soon. Please see the Library for the schedule of activities.

The Overrun Lunch Menu gets an Upgrade

The Overrun’s lunch menu is fresh and improved. The Overrun is located in the Columbus Club and is open from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The Café at Whispering Pines is Open

The café is now open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with a fresh new lunch menu.

BLAZE Commons Coffee House on 5th

The BLAZE Commons Coffee House on 5th is open from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and serves coffee items, smoothies, breakfast and lunch items. Drive-thru service available as well as call ahead. Call 434-CAFÉ (2233). The Commons also houses the Library; an Information, Tickets and Tours, and Outdoor Recreation kiosk; a computer lab; and a FedEx drop-off point.

Library Hours

The Library is open from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursdays; and from 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays. The Library is closed Sundays and holidays.

Base Pool Hours

The Independence Pool is open from noon-7 p.m. daily. The daily rate is \$3 for non-Club members and \$2 for members. Summer passes are available based on family size. Call 434-2505 for more information.

The Overrun Open Friday Nights

The Overrun is open from 4:30-11 p.m. Fridays. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, call 434-2419.

Story Time and Circle Time

The Base Library offers Story Time at 11 a.m. every Friday for all ages up to four years old. For more information, call 434-2934.

Laser Bowling Special

The Bowling Center offers laser bowling for only \$12 per person from 5-8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night. You also may purchase individual games for \$3 per game with purchase of \$1.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

Wood Shop

The wood shop is now open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. Self-help bicycle repair is also available. For more information, call 434-2507.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? For more information, call 434-7836.

Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, call 434-2772.

Skeet & Trap

Skeet and trap is available at Outdoor Recreation. Call 434-2507 for more information.

Play Paintball

Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, call 434-2505.

Need Money for College?

Enter to win scholarship money from Air Force Clubs. Visit MyAirForceLife.com/clubs for more information.

Take & Bake Pizzas at the Bowling Center

Grab-and-go ready pizzas for you to take home and bake yourself are available at the bowling center. Save \$2 per pizza. Large and medium pizzas only.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? For more information, contact 434-7836.

Interested in Sponsoring with Columbus AFB?

Want your business to reach the 18,000 active-duty military, family members, civilian employees and retirees living and working at Columbus AFB? If you are interested in event sponsorship or donations, please contact our sponsorship coordinator at 434-2337.

Free Fitness Classes

Free classes are available at the fitness center. Classes range from P90X, Hot Fusion, jujitsu and Floor Core & More. For more information on class schedules, call the Fitness Center at 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.

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Youth programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Fitness on Request

CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Call the lodging desk at 434-2548.

RIDES supports military families through therapeutic horse riding

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

CALEDONIA, Miss. – Members of the Exceptional Family Member Program from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, embarked on a therapeutic horse-riding experience with the help of volunteers from the Riding to Improve, Development, Esteem, Strength and Spirit Program July 21 in Caledonia.

The 14th Force Support Squadron applied for EFMP members to attend the camp and was allotted funds for the event by the Air Force Personnel Center.

“This is such a great program,” said Jillian Secules, wife of

2nd Lt. Andrew Secules from the 14th Student Squadron. “The kids get to connect with the animals and it is therapy for them and the horses.”

Children started the day by brushing and grooming horses to prepare them for riding. Grooming helps prevent injury to horses by removing dirt and sweat before placing a saddle on the horse.

Children then split into two groups after the grooming. The first group put on helmets and rode around in an arena with small obstacles while the other group stayed busy either making arts and crafts, or continued grooming the horses.

RIDES volunteers and parents assisted the children as they rode around the arena.

Some RIDES volunteers also have special needs and the

program allows both riders and volunteers a chance to push past their disabilities. The program is dedicated to providing a therapeutic outlet for riders, volunteers and family members.

“The volunteers really enjoy helping the riders,” said Patty Hudgins, the RIDES Program Director. “It brings immediate pleasure to the volunteers and the riders and it is a blessing to watch the riders interact with the horses.”

Therapeutic horse riding is one way the 14th FSS assists EFMP members. The squadron picks regular events that allow EFMP members a chance to enjoy themselves and in the process receive therapy for their disability. There are also educational opportunities available where guest speakers talk with EFMP families about how to live with and care for their family members.



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

Members of the Exceptional Family Member Program from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, ride horses July 21, 2017, in Caledonia, Mississippi, as part of a Riding to Improve Development, Esteem, Strength and Spirit Program function. Volunteers ensured riders were safe and enjoyed themselves.



Avery, son of Lt. Col. Erin Knightner, 14th Medical Group Chief Nurse, rides a pony in the Riding to Improve Development, Esteem, Strength and Spirit arena July 21, 2017, in Caledonia, Mississippi. Parents were encouraged to walk beside their children so they could enjoy the therapy as well. Exceptional Family Member Program members from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, were able to participate in a therapeutic horse riding session provided by the RIDES Program.



Camerin Lewis, stepdaughter to 2nd Lt. Andrew Secules of the 14th Student Squadron, brushes and grooms a horse while waiting to ride July 21, 2017, in Caledonia, Mississippi. The horses must be groomed before riding to prevent injury, and it also gives riders a chance to bond with the horse.



Don't text while driving

FAIPs receive next assignments

Tanker/Transport

Name	Current Aircraft	Aircraft	Location
Capt. Edgar Acosta	T-1	C-130J	Yokota AB, Japan
Capt. Zachary Bennett	T-6	KC-10	JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
Capt. Ian Ellington	T-1	AC-130J	Hurlburt Field, Fla.
Capt. Michael Griffin	T-6	EC-130H	Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
Capt. Mathew Herten	T-1	C-17	JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.
Capt. Alexander Kauth	T-6	KC-135	Fairchild AFB, Wash.
Capt. Blake Liddle	T-1	KC-135	Macdill AFB, Fla.
Capt. Ryan McCluskey	T-6	E-3	JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
Capt. Ian McDougal	T-6	RC-135	Offutt AFB, Neb.
Capt. Zachary Overbey	T-1	KC-135	RAF Mildenhall, England
Capt. Ty Payne	T-6	C-130J	Yakota AB
Capt. Ian Pryce	T-1	E-3	JB Elmendorf-Richardson
Capt. Karen Miller	T-6	KC-10	Travis AFB, Calif.
Capt. Brian Weeks	T-1	KC-135	McConnell AFB, Kan.
Capt. Luke Williams	T-1	KC-10	JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Fighter/Bombers

Name	Current Aircraft	Aircraft	Location
Capt. Chad Aukerman	T-6	F-16	TBD
Capt. Bradley Beninati	T-6	F-16	TBD
Capt. Michael Butler	T-6	F-16	TBD
Capt. Adela Caple	T-38	F-15E	TBD
Capt. Bradley Harris	T-6	F-16	TBD
Capt. Jonathan Harris	T-6	F-22	TBD
Capt. Parker Herrington	T-6	F-16	TBD
Capt. Brian Hudanich	T-38	B-2	TBD
Capt. Travis Jackson	T-6	A-10	TBD
Capt. Carlo Mancini	T-6	B-2	TBD
Capt. William Reams II	T-38	F-35	TBD
Capt. Sean White	T-6	F-15E	TBD

Supreme Court Justice shares WWII POW story

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base hosts a Base Community Council luncheon Aug. 11 to release its Fiscal Year 2016 Economic Impact Report and to hear a presentation about local World War II prisoners of war by Chief Justice Sharon Lee of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Her story begins in 1944 in the skies over Europe.

The following is the story of former Staff Sgt. Rufus Ward, Sr., the tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, "Smokey Stover Jr.," written by his son Rufus Ward Jr., Golden Triangle resident and Treasurer for the BCC.

During World War II, my father, Rufus Ward Sr., was a B-17 tail gunner in the 337th Squadron of the 96th Bomb Group based at Snetterton Heath, England. His first combat mission was to Berlin. His last ended 72 years ago on May 12, 1944, when his plane, Smokey Stover Jr., was shot down over Frankfurt, Germany. He was captured and held as a German POW until he was liberated on April 26, 1945.

Like so many other members of the "Greatest Generation," my parents reacted immediately when Pearl Harbor was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941. My father was living in Washington, D.C., where he was attending George Washington University and working as a clerk for the FBI. He immediately enlisted in the Army Air Corps. My mother was attending Virginia State Teachers College, now Longwood University, and came back to Columbus to attend MSCW and work at the base hospital at Columbus Army Air Field.

My father would seldom talk about his war time experiences, and when I would ask him about them he always just said "there were so many stories of heroism that were unknown outside of the POW camps because those stories could not be passed along and were thus lost to time." It was not until after he died that I found out his story was one of them.

It was only about a month after he died that I started learning his story. A letter from a member of his crew appeared in the 96th Bomb Group Historical Association newsletter describing what he had done. Several years later I heard from Chief Justice Sharon Lee of the Tennessee Supreme Court, whose father, Charles Lee, was waist gunner on Smokey Stover Jr.

On May 12, 1944, tail gunner Staff Sergeant Rufus Ward, Sr. was on a mission to bomb oil refineries at Brux, and Zwickau, Czechoslovakia. The plane was assigned to fly in the "Tail End Charlie" slot of the bomber formation's "Purple Heart Corner." Near Frankfurt, Germany, the squadron was attacked by about 50 German ME-109s, FW-190s and even some ME-210 jet fighters. Smokey Stover Jr. was heavily damaged

— its left wing was almost shot away and two engines were on fire. A lost aircraft report description stated, "left wing destroyed and went down out of control." Communications had been cut to the tail, and Ward did not hear the pilot's orders to bail out. He was still firing his 50-caliber guns at a German fighter when he suddenly saw his pilot and co-pilot parachute past his window. He went to his escape hatch to bail out but saw the waist gunner and the ball turret gunner lying wounded further inside the plane. He crawled into the waist of the burning, out of control plane and assisted each of them with their parachutes, helping them out of the aircraft before he bailed out.

Justice Lee related what her father had told her happened when Smokey Stover Jr. was shot down: "The pilot rang the bell and ordered everyone to bail out of the plane but he (Charles Lee) lay unconscious. The tail-gunner of the plane, Rufus Ward, would not leave him and worked with him as the plane was going down. He saved Charles' life by placing a parachute on him and getting him out the door." Twelve of the 26 aircraft from Snetterton on the May 12 mission were shot down. Ten aircraft had been lost on a bombing mission on May 8. In that five-day period the air base at



Courtesy photo

The Aug. 11 Base Community Council luncheon will introduce two of the crew members of the B-17 Flying Fortress, Smokey Stover Jr.

Snetterton had lost half of its aircraft and crews. The survival expectancy of an air crewman at the base was six missions, and my father had been on his sixth mission. The month of May 1944 had seen the 96th Bomb Group suffer almost 125 percent casualties. Men and planes were being lost almost faster than replacements could be brought into action.

Ward was captured and sent to Stalag Luft IV, a German POW camp which was located in present-day Poland. The camp had opened in May of 1944 and was designed to hold up to 6,400 air corps POWs. However, more than 10,000 American, British and Canadian airmen were sent there. Conditions there were anything but good. Charles Lee, the Smokey Stover's waist gunner, told his daughter, "... food was very limited. It was mostly a soupy mixture of rotten cabbage and bread made from saw dust... The barracks were made for 16 but usually contained 25 men." He also recalled horrible infestations of lice in the barracks. Red Cross documents confirm Lee's descriptions, even mentioning that the bread was made from rye and beets but contained about 30 percent sawdust and straw.

As the war neared its end and Russian troops were fast approaching from the east, the Germans decided to abandon Stalag Luft IV. On February 5, 1945, in the midst of one of the century's coldest winters, 10,000 POWs were marched out of the camp with limited supplies and little warm clothing. It was a 500-mile forced march, in often blizzard conditions, across Germany that became known as "The Black March."

On April 26, 1945, my father was liberated at Bitterfeld, Germany, by a unit from the U.S. 104th Timberwolf Division. Records show that when Ward was liberated he only weighed 91 pounds. He has been honored by Columbus Air Force Base naming a street after him in 2007. It is the only street on the base named after an enlisted member.

Lee has said she feels grateful for the courageous actions of Ward Sr.; if not for him she would not be speaking at the BCC Luncheon.

The BCC luncheon takes place at the Columbus Club and is open to BCC members and officer, enlisted and civilian Airmen of the 14th Flying Training Wing. The Italian Lunch Buffet is \$14 and RSVPs are required for seating by calling 434-7068 or e-mailing 14ftw.pa@us.af.mil.

Professional Organization Corner

Company Grade Officers Council

The council — second and first lieutenants, and captains — promotes the development of CGOs throughout the 14th Flying Training Wing. They maintain an informational network to enhance the professional development and officer camaraderie the throughout the wing.

Meets first Friday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

President: 1st Lt. Jamion Lewis; **Vice President:** Capt. Sheila Butler

BLAZE Top 3

The Top 3 establishes and maintains a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all senior NCOs, encourage an attitude of unified purpose and set an example for all enlisted personnel according to the standards, traditions and customs of the Air Force.

Meets the third Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at the Columbus Club.

President: Master Sgt. Carmina Beedle; **Secretary:** Master Sgt. Jimmy Kitchens

BLAZE 5/6

The 5/6 represent motivated staff and technical sergeants. They provide an opportunity to meet Airmen, and to network with peers. The organization mentors junior enlisted, assist other private organizations, and are heavily involved with community relations.

Meets the last Wednesday of every month at noon at the Columbus Club

President: Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder; **Vice President:** Jeffrey Vanrees

AFSA Chapter 651

The Air Force Sergeants Association is the only association solely dedicated to representing enlisted men, women and their families. AFSA has a by-name seat at the influential tables in Congress and the Pentagon to help shape the tough policy decisions affecting the enlisted corps today. Members do not have to be an NCO.

Meets the third Thursday of the month at noon at the Columbus Club

President: Master Sgt. Kristina O'Meara; **Vice President:** Master Sgt. Eric Severs

First Four

The Airman's Activity Council functions as a social and professional organization established to enhance morale, esprit de corps, and cooperation between members from the E1-E4. This is accomplished through fundraisers, on and off base, volunteer opportunities, and events or trips for those eligible to become members.

Meets the last Friday of every month at noon at the Montgomery Village

President: Senior Airman Brittani Amavizca-Waddington; **Vice President:** Airman 1st Class Katelyn Jaime

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.)

Resume and Cover Letter

The Resume and Cover letter workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Aug. 2. The workshop helps with preparing and writing an effective civilian resume and cover letter. To sign up, call 434-2839/2790.

Club Membership Breakfast

There will be a free breakfast for club members from 6:30-9:30 a.m. Aug. 8 featuring an omelet station.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The orientation is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 8, and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Heart Link for Spouses

This event is from 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 10 at the Columbus Club. It's for spouses new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. 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. To register and for more information, call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Aug. 15. The class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from the Travel Management Office, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, TRICARE, medical records, and the Airman and Family Readiness Center. To register, call 434-2790.

Bundles of Joy

The Bundles of Joy workshop is 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 17 for active-duty families assigned to Columbus AFB who are expecting or have a child up to four months of age. It is an Air Force Aid Society program with presentations about topics such as Tri-Care, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, Labor and Delivery. For more information or to register, 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 takes place daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Tech. Sergeant Release party



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

Nine technical sergeant selects are recognized at the Columbus Club during a 2017 technical sergeant release party July 21, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The party featured a roast for each promotee, music, food and a photo booth with props.

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings 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. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

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 (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling 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 martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health pro-

viders. 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details

are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1_ctr@us.af.mil.

Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact 662-998-0411, or 434-2790 for an appointment. Get help managing finances, resolving financial problems and reaching long-term goals such as getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement.

Learn How to Read Your LES

Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Finance has you covered. If you would like for Finance to come to your next CC call or Professional Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Staff Sgt. Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

Saint Leo University

SLU offers on-base classes in psychology, criminal justice, and business administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by room 120 in building 926 (old Personnel building).

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)
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass w/Children's Church Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the 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
Tuesdays:
5 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesdays:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

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

End of Summer Bash offers food, fun for all

Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder
37th Flying Training Squadron

It is that time of year, the long days of summer are coming to a close and the reality that school starts soon and cooler temperatures are coming begins to sink in.

For those of you who need just a little more and are not ready to let go of summer, an End of Summer Bash is scheduled for noon-5 p.m. Aug. 4 at Freedom Park.

So grab your family and friends for a 100-percent free afternoon of fun and come strengthen your Social pillar of Comprehensive Airman Fitness! This event has been designated an alternate duty location and promises to be the perfect opportunity to soak up some sun and focus on friends and family.

There will be free food, live music, bouncy castles, corn hole, a dunk tank, and a children's talent show at 3 p.m. Bring your basketball, kickball, Frisbee or softball equipment and challenge your unit to a game!

Again, it is 100-percent free. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder at 434-7666.



Hunt Housing tip of the week

Do you anticipate an upcoming permanent change of station? Try using a parts box to make your move 10 times easier. You will thank yourself later when you arrive at your new duty station.

Designate a box for the movers to put all of the parts from your furniture in. You may find it to be helpful to put the parts in zip lock bags to label them i.e., the parts to the bed in your guest bedroom and label it guest bed (unless you just know where each part goes to what furniture piece). We also suggest taking the box along with you in the car to ensure it doesn't get misplaced during the move.



VIEWPOINT

14th MDG Commander gives parting thoughts

Col. Imelda Reedy

14th Medical Group Commander

You are coming to Columbus! These were the five words enthusiastically voice messaged at 10 p.m. on a Friday, in the fall of 2014 while stationed at the 96th Medical Group hospital on Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

I was shocked, stunned, surprised and tickled pink! Of course, like many others, the first thing I did was Google map to see exactly where in the heck Columbus AFB and the 14th Flying Training was located, and to my surprise, a bit too close to Saban's Tide, but still in SEC country (GEAUX Tigers)!

What a wild ride this tour has been ... Columbus' mission is not just 'great' ... but 'awesome!' My command tour has come full circle.

I must admit, I like to be busy and have multiple projects juggling all the time; yet, I wasn't quite ready for the flurry and high ops-tempo of social activities which I was about to enter. I must have been feeling super crazy motivated when I scheduled our permanent change of station move. Arriv-

ing just after Eglin hospital's accreditation inspection, on a sweltering hot Saturday with a door-to-door move, Steve and I settled into the house over the weekend and in-processed Monday. Tuesday through Thursday zipped by with a hand-off of the 14th MDG. On Friday morning embarked my command marathon, the starting gun was shot in the Fitness Center gym with the change of command!

That evening, I attended my first assignment night with class 15-13; to conclude my marathon command I will attend my last assignment night Aug. 4 with class 17-13, which has passed by more like a 200-meter sprint.

Thirteen must be my lucky number, double this number (for those Spanish majors $13 \times 2 = 26$) and it yields the number of graduations I've attended, with only two of those dinners not ordering the beef!

Here are my parting thoughts to share. First, have grit. Stay true to yourself, especially in the face of adversity. Stick to your long-term goals with conviction even if it's not the easiest option. Ultimately, you live for your eulogy, not your resume.

Next, be driven to give. The road is different for everyone, and life's destinations has many travelers. Everyone has at least one talent, use your God given gift(s) to help others, whatever it may be, use it generously and whole heartedly to serve others.

Third and most importantly, you can never say thank you enough. So, remember to thank those who have sacrificed from the very beginning – your roots, your family and your past. Together with present Air Force members and awe-inspiring Columbus wingmen, we are graced today because of their perseverance which laid the foundation made of their inspiration, blood, sweat and tears.

Columbus AFB is a special place rooted in a total community concept. Everyone is instilled with pride and honor in what we produce, who we advance, and how we fit into the Air Force fight.

The 14th FTW prepares everyone to be successful, reminding us never to forget where you came from, to be resolved in present endeavors, and ultimately be "All In" to future chapters forthcoming in life.

As I exit next week, to join the mission at the 88th MDG hospital at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, I would like to thank each member of Team BLAZE for your grit and the honorable ways we have worked together through every challenge and profoundly appreciate your generosity, talent and time committed to serve with the men and women of the 14th MDG. As a graduating group commander from the No. 1 pilot training base in the world, I will always have a special place in my heart for the 14th FTW and will carry forward the Team BLAZE spirit.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: C-17 Globemaster

Mission

The C-17 Globemaster III is the newest, most flexible cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force. The C-17 is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area. The aircraft can perform tactical airlift and airdrop missions and can transport litters and ambulatory patients during aeromedical evacuations when required. The inherent flexibility and performance of the C-17 force improve the ability of the total airlift system to fulfill the worldwide air mobility requirements of the United States.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Cargo and troop transport
Prime Contractor: Boeing Company
Power Plant: Four Pratt & Whitney F117-PW-100 turbofan engines
Thrust: 40,440 pounds, each engine
Wingspan: 169 feet 10 inches (to winglet tips) (51.75 meters)
Length: 174 feet (53 meters)
Height: 55 feet 1 inch (16.79 meters)
Cargo Compartment: length, 88 feet (26.82 meters);

width, 18 feet (5.48 meters); height, 12 feet 4 inches (3.76 meters)

Speed: 450 knots at 28,000 feet (8,534 meters) (Mach .74)
Service Ceiling: 45,000 feet at cruising speed (13,716 meters)

Range: Global with in-flight refueling

Crew: Three (two pilots and one loadmaster)

Aeromedical Evacuation Crew: A basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added for aeromedical evacuation missions. Medical crew may be altered as required by the needs of patients

Maximum Peacetime Takeoff Weight: 585,000 pounds (265,352 kilograms)

Load: 102 troops/paratroops; 36 litter and 54 ambulatory patients and attendants; 170,900 pounds (77,519 kilograms) of cargo (18 pallet positions)

Unit Cost: \$202.3 million (fiscal 1998 constant dollars)

Date Deployed: June 1993

Inventory: Active duty, 187; Air National Guard, 12; Air Force Reserve, 14

Background

The C-17 made its maiden flight on Sept. 15, 1991, and

the first production model was delivered to Charleston Air Force Base, now known as Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, on June 14, 1993. The first squadron of C-17s, the 17th Airlift Squadron, was declared operationally ready Jan. 17, 1995. The Air Force originally programmed to buy 120 C-17s. Current budget plans increased the total number to 223 aircraft.

The C-17 is operated by Air Mobility Command at Travis AFB, California; Dover AFB, Delaware; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

The Air National Guard flies C-17s from the 172d Airlift Wing, Jackson, Mississippi, and the 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart ANGB, New York. Additionally, Air Force Materiel Command operates two C-17s at Edwards AFB, California, and Pacific Air Forces operates aircraft at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

The Air Force Reserve Command operates aircraft at March Air Reserve Base, California, and Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio. Air Education and Training Command has 17 aircraft at Altus AFB, Oklahoma.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

A C-17 Globemaster III rests on the SAC Ramp July 24, 2015, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The C-17 came to Columbus AFB to motivate and inspire student pilots to pursue flying the C-17 or a similar airframe.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sean M. Worrell

A C-17 Globemaster III from the 437th Air Wing, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, flies away from a KC-10 Extender after being refueled off the coast of North Carolina. During Rodeo 2000, teams from all over the world competed in areas including airdrop, aerial refueling, aircraft navigation, special tactics, short field landings, cargo loading, engine running on/offloads, aeromedical evacuations and security forces operations.



Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about
Columbus AFB agencies
and other important information.





T-1A Jayhawk

SUPT Class 17-12 earns silver wings



T-38C Talon



Capt. Michael Speer
Charleston, S.C.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



1st Lt. Samuel Ayers
Canandaigua, N.Y.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



1st Lt. Alec Benoit
Hampden, Maine
MC-130J, RAF Mildenhall, U.K.

Twenty officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to become Air Force pilots.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-12 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Retired Col. Michael Speer, former Vice Commander of the 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, is the graduation guest speaker.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

First Lt. Joshua Burress, T-38C Talon, and 1st Lt. Joshua Hunt, T-1A Jayhawk, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to Burress and 1st Lt. Samuel Ayers, T-1A. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Burress and Hunt were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 17-12.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turbo-prop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross

country navigation flying. Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 17-12 pilot partners are Financial Concepts and Thai by Thai Restaurant.



1st Lt. Morgan Evans
Windsor, Calif.
KC-135, March AFB, Calif.



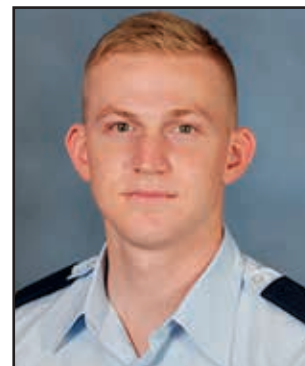
1st Lt. Shohei Hashimoto
Fukui, Japan
C-2, Miho AB, Japan



1st Lt. Takuya Hashimoto
Hyogo, Japan
F-2, Matsushima AB, Japan



1st Lt. Alexander Piratzky
Atlantic City, N.J.
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



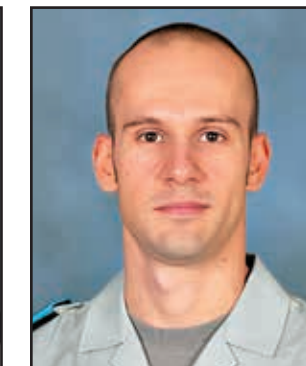
1st Lt. Tyler Schleif
Atlanta, Ga.
KC-135, Birmingham ANGB, Ala.



1st Lt. Breck Stewart
Tacoma, Wash.
T-38A, JB Langley-Eustis, Va.



1st Lt. Ippei Tachiwada
Miyazaki, Japan
F-15J, Nyutabaru AB, Japan



1st Lt. Aleksandar Velinov
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
L-39ZA, TBD, Bulgaria



2nd Lt. Christopher McCoy
Las Vegas
E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Mitchell Williams
Charlotte, N.C.
C-17, JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.



2nd Lt. John Wood
Richmond, Va.
C-130J, Yokota AB, Japan



1st Lt. Joshua Burress
Greensboro, N.C.
A-10C, Davis-Monahan AFB, Ariz.



1st Lt. Joshua Castagnetta
Huntsville, Ala.
T-38C, Columbus AFB, Miss.



1st Lt. William Clarke
Chicago, Ill.
C-17, Dover AFB, Del.



1st Lt. Joshua Hunt
Williamsburg, Va.
C-17, JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.



1st Lt. Keigo Iizuka
Chiba, Japan
F-15J, Nyutabaru AB, Japan



1st Lt. Koki Inayoshi
Toyokawa, Japan
C-2, Miho AB, Japan