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# SILVER WINGS

"Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 44, Issue 18

September 25, 2020

## Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

### COVID-19 General Info

The base is executing a measured approach to reopening in order to protect our people and our mission.

#### Permitted areas:

- Military personnel may travel two and a half hours outside of Columbus Air Force Base to obtain necessary goods and services and/or to engage in outdoor recreation.
- Salons, barber shops and other personal care/grooming establishments.
- State and local parks are allowed.
- Freedom park access from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. You must wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after playing at the park. 50 people maximum in line with Governor's outdoor guidance.
- The base pool is open under limitations.
- Overnight lodging facilities.
- Arts and Crafts, and bowling center with limitations.

#### Off-limits:

- No dining-in at restaurants, bars, casinos or breweries or similar establishments. Take out, drive-thru and outdoor seating at restaurants is authorized.
- Gyms, bowling centers, theaters, auditoriums and events off base are prohibited.

#### Gathering limitations:

- 20 people indoors and 50 people outdoors
- 6' physical distancing
- Personal hygiene is key
- Cloth face covering if physical distance can't be maintained



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

Bradford Freeman, assigned to 'Easy' Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, stand with members from the 43rd Flying Training Squadron at Freeman's residency Sept. 3, 2020 in Miss. The 43rd FTS flew an American Flag in each trainer airframe over Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. and raised the flag outside Freeman's House in honor of his service and sacrifice to the U.S.

## Band of Brothers member turns 96, CAFB helps him celebrate

**Senior Airman Keith Holcomb**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Bradford Freeman, a member of the famous 'Band of Brothers,' assigned to E Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division cele-

brated his 96th birthday with representatives of the 43rd Flying Training Squadron and received a special gift.

Team Blaze Airmen and members of the installation Honor Guard replaced a damaged American Flag with a new one

See **BAND OF BROTHERS**, Page 3

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Columbus AFB Facebook page



Columbus AFB Twitter



[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)



# COVID-19

## Coronavirus Disease 2019

# Department of the Air Force pushes fitness testing to Jan. 1

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Official physical fitness assessments across the Department of the Air Force will resume Jan. 1, 2021, officials announced Sept. 16.

To continue minimizing close contact among personnel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and ensure units and personnel are fully ready to resume, testing has been delayed from October to January, and testing in January will move forward without obtaining waist, height and weight measurements.

“We know people are staying fit regardless, but we want to give our Airmen enough time to prepare,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

Beginning Jan. 1, uniformed members are expected to test on the 1.5 mile run, 1 minute of push-ups and 1 minute of sit-ups. The body composition component (abdominal circumference), height and weight measurements are postponed until further notice. All members, including those with abdominal circumference exemptions, will receive maximum points for the AC component as part of their official score.

“This is an unprecedented situation and we’ve put a lot of work into assessing how and when we could safely resume fitness testing across the force,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “People have been juggling work, child-care issues, homeschooling, family separations, isolation, etc., and we know it’s been more challenging to maintain fitness. This delay gives our folks extra time to prepare for January, while also ensuring units have more time to implement additional COVID precautions.”

“We’re also aware our resumption occurs right after the annual holiday season that can be challenging for people’s fitness,” Kelly said. “Hopefully this change removes



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

**U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training trainee, Chris-Ann Wilmoth, 37th Training Wing Detachment 5, Flight 564, participates in a physical training session at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., July 1, 2020. To continue minimizing close contact among personnel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and ensure units and personnel are fully ready to resume, physical fitness testing has been delayed from October to January 2021. Testing in January will proceed without obtaining waist, height and weight measurements.**

some of the stress caused by the waist measurement, and gives us all a chance to start our New Year’s readiness and fitness resolutions on the right foot.”

Fitness assessment due dates in 2021 will primarily depend on the date and score of the last official test. Airmen and Space Professionals may determine their next fitness assessment due date by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers.

“This transition requires a careful and systematic approach,” Kelly said. “Our goal is to begin testing where it makes sense, but also give commanders the needed tools and flexibility to make decisions that make sense for their locations and their people.”

Fitness assessment cells, fitness center staff, physical training leaders and members performing fitness assessments will adhere to physical distancing protocols and other local precautions as determined by instal-

lation commanders. Commanders may delay official fitness assessments beyond Jan. 1, 2021, based on the recommendation of local public health officials, the continuation of closed fitness centers and extended state-wide restriction of movement and gatherings.

“We’re also taking advantage of this additional time to look at the long-term plan for the abdominal circumference component,” Kelly said. “We’re in discussion with our medical counterparts to determine the right place for the waist measurement, whether it be part of an annual health assessment or elsewhere. This is a great opportunity to make lasting changes that will improve our fitness culture.”

For more information, Airmen and Space Professionals should contact their fitness assessment cells and visit the COVID-19 Fitness Guidance page on myPers.

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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### Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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“After getting busted for possession of meth on June 24, 2015, my life has changed dramatically. I’ve gone from spending most of my time high, or trying to get high, to now passing every single drug test, working at a local animal shelter, and going to AA/NA meetings daily. My mental and physical health are better and most of my relationships have improved. My personal finances have also untangled. I wake up every day and I’m glad to be alive, when I once used to pray that I would die before I went to bed. Each day gets a little better. The pretrial diversion program probably saved my life. As crazy as it may sound, I’m grateful that I got arrested or I doubt that I would be alive today.”



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## COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 13)

### Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

These briefings are mandatory for active duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or for more information.

### Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

### Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1 - 2 p.m. This program provides military families and DoD civilian members individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### 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 (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

### Personal Financial Readiness

Need Help with Financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor

(PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411/434-2790.

### Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a CC’s program. The CC establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-2839.

### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they 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, please call (662) 434-2790.

### Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source’s MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://militarylearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0>. More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbliving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact 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.

### Instructors Needed

The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

### Space A Lodging

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

### Ride in Style

Information Tickets and Travel offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. For more information, contact 434-7861.

### Wood Shop is temporarily closed.

The Wood Shop is closed until the beginning of the New Year. Sorry for any inconvenience, please call 434-7836 for any questions.



## Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at [www.columbusafbliving.com](http://www.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.

## Get Connected with Your Base App!

As a way to connect people together, Columbus Air Force Base launched a new app to connect Airmen and families to the mission and community! The app is available on all app stores and can be found by searching 'Columbus Air Force Base'.

## FSS Base Events

All of the FSS Events have been cancelled until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a preventative measure to help minimize the COVID-19 spread. For continuous updates, please follow our Facebook, Columbus AFB Living.

## Live Games on Columbus Air Force Base Living Facebook

Tune in on the Columbus Air Force Base Living's Facebook for a live game every 2nd and 4th Thursday at noon. Live games such as Pictionary, Trivia, and Charades. Show off your quick thinking from the comfort of your own home and win a prize!

## Back to School Planning

During these times of uncertainty, we want you to be certain of one thing... Columbus AFB School Age Care (SAC) is here to support your needs. During the 2020-2021 School Year, SAC will be offering both after school and full day care services daily. Register today! Please call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

## Bowling Snack Bar

The Bowling Snack Bar is open and available for carry out. The hours have changed temporarily to: Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat & Sun: Closed. Breakfast is offered until 10:30 a.m. Menus are located online at [columbusafbliving.com/strike-zone-grill/](http://columbusafbliving.com/strike-zone-grill/) or located on the base app under Services > Dining > On-base menus > Strike Zone Grill. Please call and order ahead at 434- 3426.

## Bowling Center

The Bowling Center lanes are back open! Hours are Tuesday-Friday: 3 – 9 p.m., Saturday: noon – 6 p.m. Sign-up via the Bowling Center's Facebook page. Limited to 4 persons per lane. Maximum of 20 people in the facility. Only beverages and packaged snacks will be available during bowling hours. For more information, call 434-3426.

## Library Curbside Delivery

The library is offering curbside delivery. Find your book at [www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com](http://www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com). Email your order to the library at [14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil](mailto:14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil). A confirmation email will be sent when your order is ready! Orders received before 11 a.m. will be ready during 1 – 4 p.m. that same day. Before picking up, please make sure you get a confirmation email stating your book is ready for pickup. When you park in the back parking lot, please give the library a call at 434-2934 so the library knows you are there. When returning books, you can drop them off anytime at the book drop off located in the back parking lot of the library. To return DVDs and audiobooks, please call us at 434-2934 on Monday-Friday from 1 – 4 p.m. for an employee to meet you at the back parking lot to pick it up from your car. Please note, all rentals are first come, first serve.

## Johnny Appleseed Grab & Go Crafts

Arts & Crafts is providing a "grab-and-go" craft for ages 3-10.

All materials for a Johnny Appleseed story and craft will be provided in a bag and ready to pick up from Sept 9 at 10 a.m. through September 25 at 3:30 p.m. Please call 434-7856 to sign up your child.

## Arts and Crafts

Arts and crafts is open and offers custom engravings, framing, and much more! For more information, call arts and crafts at 434-7856.

## Fitness Center

The Fitness Center is open and back to normal hours of operations – Monday-Friday: 5 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Holidays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Currently serving Active Duty only during this initial phase. Space is limited! Patrons must sign up via SignUpGenius to secure a spot/access. The link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054caaab2aabff2-september>. There will be no 24/7 access. Please note some important things: 100% ID Card Check. Bathrooms only available. No showers or lockers for use. Bring gym necessities only. No rental equipment. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

## Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday, 9 – 10 a.m.. ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Don't miss the Shooting Tournament scheduled for 12 September. For more information, call ODR at 434-2505. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Get ready for Tandem Skydiving scheduled for 10 October for ages 19 and up! The cost is \$25/person which includes travel, instructors and equipment. Sign-Up deadline is 5 October. Contact ODR at 434-2505 for reservations. Space is very limited, first come first serve.

Halloween Havoc 6 vs 6 Paintball Tournament is coming 24 October 9 a.m. - noon! Free and open to ages 18 and up. Sign-Up at Outdoor Recreation or call 434-2505. Paintballs and Equipment included.

## Independence Pool

The Independence Pool season has been extended through September 27th! It is open Monday, Thursday, and Friday for Lap Swim Only from 6 – 9 a.m. It is open on Saturday and Sunday with Lap Swim from 6 – 9 a.m., Open Swim from 10 a.m. - noon, 1 – 3 p.m. and 4 – 6 p.m. Please note, after every swim block the pool will be closed completely to be sanitized prior to the next swim block. The maximum amount of people allowed in the pool is 50. In front of the pool there is a sign out front with green on one side and red on the other. Green signifies the pool can accept more people and red signifies they are at capacity. Daily "per visit" passes can be purchased at the pool, however, summer passes need to be purchased at Outdoor Recreation during their business hours. For more information, please call the Independence Pool at 434-2491 or Outdoor Recreation at 434-2507. Please note, any hours can be changed without notice due to COVID-19.

## Coffee House on 5th

Coffee House on 5th, located in the Blaze Commons, is back open to 50% capacity inside. Drive through or come in to enjoy a cup of coffee or a tasty treat. Their hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - noon. Call for more information at 434-2233.

## Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

Information, Tickets & Travel is back open! Hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Come by and check out their new location right by the Coffee House on 5th. For more information, call 434-7861.

## Assignment Night Transportation

Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact 434-7861.

## Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT? Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at [www.americaforcestravel.com](http://www.americaforcestravel.com) or visit your ITT office at 434-7861.

## CAFB Library

The Base Library is offering virtual story time, live craft demonstrations, book clubs and other activities on their Facebook page: @columbusairforcebaselibrary. For more information, contact 434-2934 or send them a direct message on their Facebook page, Columbus Air Force Library.

## FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

## Horse Boarding Available

The CAFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Bradford Freeman, assigned to 'Easy' Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, prepares to meet friends on his porch Sept. 3, 2020, in Miss. At 19 years old he flew over the beaches of Normandy and parachuted with his brothers in arms towards foreign soil. Bradford remembers his fellow soldiers every day and said every moment of that jump will stay with him forever.**

## BAND OF BROTHERS

(Continued from page 1)

outside of his home alongside many of his friends and family.

At 19 years old he flew over the beaches of Normandy and parachuted with his brothers in arms towards foreign soil. Bradford remembers his fellow soldiers every day and said every moment of that jump will stay with him forever.

"He was in every major engagement in Europe during World War II," said Rufus Ward, local historian and 43rd FTS honorary commander. "He's a true American hero and we need to honor those people ... we owe them more than we could ever repay them."

Freeman helped guide the realism on the television series on HBO "Band of Brothers," using his first-hand experience to make the show emulate the reality of Easy Companies struggles and successes.



Visit us online!  
[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**An old American flag gifted to Bradford Freeman after it was flown over Washington D.C. was flown in his front lawn for many years, but was retired to make room for a new flag from the 43rd Flying Training Squadron.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb

**Bradford Freeman, assigned to 'Easy' Company, 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, has memorabilia on his porch. The popular television show 'Band of Brothers' depicted Freeman and his achievements with the help of many Easy Company team members.**

*"This was an amazing opportunity for the men and women around you today," said Lt. Col. Jason Barlow, 43rd FTS commander. "We are so honored to be here with you today. This flag was flown in each aircraft on Columbus AFB in honor of you, your birthday, and your service to this country."*

The 43rd FTS was a bombing squadron in World War II and while Freeman and Easy Company controlled Adolf Hitler's famous "Eagles Nest," the 43rd flew the last bombing mission over Japan to end the war. Both the 43rd and Freeman's accomplishments helped end the Second World War and established themselves in the history books forever.

Freeman was not surprised when the old school Army replica Jeeps showed up with a new flag for him, he joked

nothing could surprise him anymore. He expressed his appreciation to the 43rd since he had been planning on changing out his flag "any day now."

"This was an amazing opportunity for the men and women around you today," said Lt. Col. Jason Barlow, 43rd FTS commander. "We are so honored to be here with you today. This flag was flown in each aircraft on Columbus AFB in honor of you, your birthday, and your service to this country."

## Commander's Action Line 662-434-1414

In an effort to stay Connected, the Commander's Action Line is your direct link to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

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 can be reached at 434-1414. Leave your name and phone number or email if you would like to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

If you would like to remain anonymous, please submit your inquiries through our base application in the 'Our Wing' then 'Contact the CC' tab or you can submit through the webpage at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Click "Contact Us" at the top left of the page and select "Commander's Action Line" in the Recipient drop down menu.





# Instructor pilot strengthens airfield readiness through beta app

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 50th Flying Training Squadron is Columbus Air Force Base's premier fighter pilot training squadron where students selected for the fighter/bomber track fly the T-38C Talon trainer jet in phase III of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students from the 50th FTS are among the best chosen for the fighter and bomber track. Before they can climb into the T-38C Talon to master the skies, they have to adhere to the conditions of the airfield.

An important aspect of flight training is receiving clearance to enter, also known as stepping, onto the flight line from the Operations Supervisor (Ops Sup). The Ops Sup must brief instructors and students of the condition and status of Columbus Air Force Base's and nearby airfields, as well as other pertinent information, for safety purposes.

To innovate and improve the process Capt. McKenzie Kane, 50th FTS Instructor pilot, has been designing an application over the past year to display such information called AF Status. The beta version of AF Status is now being used to replace a dated process to disseminate pre-flight information within the squadron and at Vance Air Force Base.

"The initial concept was developed a year ago, and is now in testing phases at the 50th FTS and Vance AFB," Kane said. "Having spent most evenings and weekends writ-



The AF Status application logo. The AF Status is an application made by Capt. McKenzie Kane, 50th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, used at the 50th Flying Training Squadron and Vance Air Force Base for quickly disseminating current airfield status information to aid pilots in faster and more efficient communication.

ing the framework and battling to find a way to deploy the application; it is rewarding to see the app in the test phase."

AF Status provides an array of information at the pilot's fingertips, such as weather, flying status, runway conditions, and operational notes. The real-time application displays airfield conditions on TVs throughout the squadron and on instructor pilot electronic flight bags (Apple iPads).

In the early production stages the app caught the eye of Senior Airman Jacob Traugott, who at the time was in the 71st Operation Support Squadron as the lead software developer at Spark Industries on Vance AFB. Together with Kane, they formed a small community to get the application to the next phase, which would incorporate different airframes, different squadrons and new automated features.

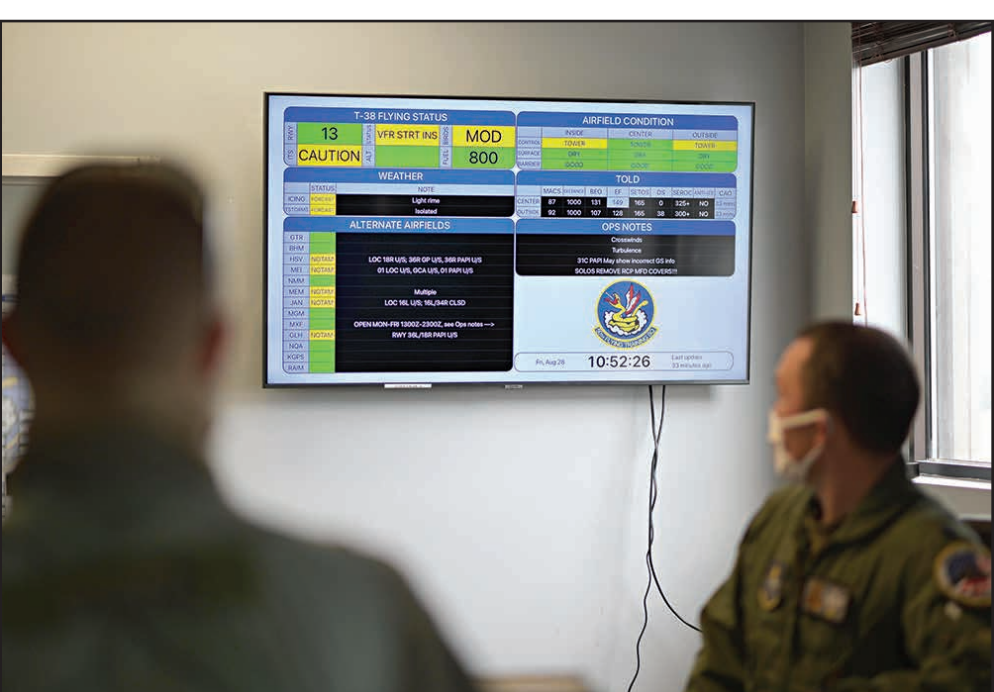
"This product has enabled a completely different take on accessing current flying status data throughout the base,"

*"The initial concept was developed a year ago, and is now in testing phases at the 50th FTS and Vance AFB," Kane said. "Having spent most evenings and weekends writing the framework and battling to find a way to deploy the application; it is rewarding to see the app in the test phase."*

Traugott said. "This would be an amazing solution for the Air Force to adopt. Once that happens it could go Air Force wide and has even more potential if adopted for pilots at any Flight Based Operations center."

It is now being used by the 33rd, 8th and 25th FTS at Vance AFB as their primary use for flying operations status. There are additional design improvements in the works for AF Status, such as the ability for the Supervisor of Flying to update data for an entire base.

"Innovation is the key to the AF's success in the future," Capt. Kane said. "The technology advancement pace is only speeding up and we must lead the charge or we will lose the next war before it even begins."



A pilot from the 50th Flying Training Squadron checking the airfield conditions at the step desk, August 28, 2020, on Columbus Air Force base, Miss. Pilots use the AF Status application readily available at the step-desk to check on weather conditions, alternate airfields and other pertinent information.



Capt. McKenzie Kane (left), 50th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, Capt. Anthony Olive (middle), 50th FTS student pilot and Capt. Kirk Jaunich (right), 50th FTS student pilot discuss the benefits of the AF Status application August 24, 2020, on Columbus Air Force base, Miss. Along with the AF Status application Kane designed other programs that focus on helping pilots gather information in an easy to read and functional format way.

## 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.)

"Please note events are subject to change due to COVID-19, so please contact A&FRC to confirm all events"

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Sep 29 from 8-9:15 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event's foundation is the base's mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held on Oct 1-2 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) will be providing assistance from noon-5 p.m. Oct 14; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct 15; and 8 a.m.-noon Oct 16 at the A&FRC. The Recovery Coordination Program (RCP) streamlines and improves the way care and support is delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a RCC 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 A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Oct 20 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

## Team BLAZE celebrates Air Force's 73rd birthday



Ret. Lt. Col. Richard "Gene" Smith and Airman 1st Class Juancarlo Nava cut the Air Force birthday cake on September, 18, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. As a tradition, the oldest and youngest Airmen will simultaneously cut the Air Force birthday cake.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30-11:15 a.m. Oct 22. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Oct 29 from 5-7:00 p.m. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov 2-6 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov 16-17 and will be held online. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Nov 18. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Bundles for Babies

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Nov 19. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support)

entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact 662-434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman's Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

### Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications and companies' employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check-out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic Services: 5 p.m. on Sun

Protestant Services: 10:45 a.m. on Sun

Daily Mass: 10 a.m. on Tues and Wed

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

See COMMUNITY, Page 15





# Medical Corner



## HEALTHY AGING

### Don't just switch, quit tobacco for good



Quitting smoking is the single best thing you can do to improve your health. Don't get confused by unproven claims made by tobacco and e-cigarette companies: QUIT SMOKING FOR GOOD.

Despite what e-cigarette companies want you to believe, switching to vaping (e-cigarettes) is not quitting smoking.

E-cigarettes are still tobacco products, and FDA has not approved any e-cigarette as a quit smoking device. In fact, the FDA must crack down on the unproven health claims made by the e-cigarette industry because it's confusing people who want to quit smoking.

#### What should I do instead of switching to e-cigarettes?

Talk to your healthcare provider about developing a quit smoking plan that includes medication plus counseling. Together, this combination results in the highest rates of success in quitting smoking for good.

Use quit smoking medications that are proven safe and effective such as nicotine gum, patches, nasal spray, inhaler and lozenges and the non-nicotine medications bupropion (Zyban®) and varenicline (Chantix®) to help relieve physical symptoms.

**Bupropion** is an FDA-approved prescription drug that contains no nicotine. It helps tobacco users quit by reducing the craving for nicotine.

- You'll begin taking bupropion while you are still using tobacco; about one to two weeks before your planned quit date.
- You'll take bupropion for seven to 12 weeks.

**Varenicline** is an FDA-approved prescription drug that contains no nicotine. It helps you quit tobacco by cutting the pleasure your brain gets from using tobacco and reducing the withdrawal symptoms.

- You'll begin taking varenicline while you are still using tobacco; one to two weeks before your planned quit date.
- Follow your health care provider's instructions. Your health care provider may change your dose to make sure you get the best results from this medicine.
- The standard length of time to take varenicline is 12 weeks. At the end of that 12 weeks, your health care provider will evaluate how you are doing and may prescribe an additional 12 weeks.

Don't Just Switch, Quit Tobacco For Good. Retrieved from <https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/ecigarettes-vaping/quit-dont-switch>  
MEDICINES TO HELP YOU QUIT TOBACCO. Retrieved from <https://www.ycq2.org/how-to-quit-tobacco/medicines-to-help-you-quit/>

### A personal message from your Health Promotion Team



Dear Health Promotion Team,  
Does smoking cause wrinkles?

Sincerely,  
Curious

Dear Curious,

Yes. So if you need another reason to motivate you to quit smoking, add premature wrinkles to the list.

Smoking can speed up the normal aging process of your skin, contributing to wrinkles. These skin changes may occur after only 10 years of smoking. The more cigarettes you smoke and the longer you smoke, the more skin wrinkling you're likely to have — even though the early skin damage from smoking may be hard for you to see initially. Aside from age, smoking is the strongest predictor of facial wrinkling in men and women.

And smoking doesn't cause wrinkles only on your face. Smoking is also associated with increased wrinkling and skin damage on other parts of your body, including your inner arms. While the skin wrinkles may not be reversible, you can prevent worsening of wrinkling by quitting smoking now.

How does smoking lead to wrinkles? The nicotine in cigarettes causes narrowing of the blood vessels in the outermost layers of your skin. This impairs blood flow to your skin. With less blood flow, your skin doesn't get as much oxygen and important nutrients, such as vitamin A.

Many of the more than 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke also damage collagen and elastin, which are fibers that give your skin its strength and elasticity. As a result, skin begins to sag and wrinkle prematurely because of smoking.

In addition, repeated exposure to the heat from burning cigarettes and the facial expressions you make when smoking — such as pursing your lips when inhaling and squinting your eyes to keep out smoke — may contribute to wrinkles.

Sincerely,  
Health Promotion Team

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/expert-answers/smoking/faq-20058153>

Got questions on other health issues related to sleep health, physical activity, tobacco, or nutrition? Share them with us and we will help you “Bust The Myths!” Send your questions to [usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil). Make sure to include in the subject line “Health Myth Buster.” For more online health tips visit the Air Force Health Promotion webpage <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Resources/Health-Promotion/>

How Smoking Can Affect The Elderly. Retrieved from <https://aginginplace.org/how-smoking-can-affect-the-elderly/>

### Social Security payroll tax deferral

In order to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was issued on August 8, 2020 and guidance followed from Internal Revenue Service on August 28, 2020, to temporarily defer Social Security (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)) tax withholdings. This change is effective through the end of the 2020 calendar year.

**Military Members** — Effective for the September mid-month pay, withholding of the 6.2% Social Security tax will be deferred if your monthly rate of basic pay is less than \$8,666.66. If your monthly rate of basic pay is at or above this threshold, your social security tax withholding will not be affected by the temporary deferral. Military members can use their August or prior LES as a good reference for their typical Social Security tax amount which can be found in the deduction section of the LES. The Social Security tax is generally calculated as 6.2% of basic pay for military members.

**Civilian Employees** — Effective pay period ending September 12, 2020, DFAS will temporarily defer your 6.2% OASDI tax withholding if your wages, subject to OASDI are less than \$4,000 in any given pay period. Employees can use the “Taxable Wages” on the LES as a good reference for whether they will have OASDI tax deferred.

The OASDI deduction is found on your LES under the deductions tab/section.

Military members **are not eligible to opt-out of the deferral** if their Social Security wages fall within the stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically.

Civilian employees **are not eligible to opt-out of the deferral** if their Social Security wages fall within the stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically.

Per IRS guidance, collection of the deferred taxes will be taken from your wages between January 1 and April 30, 2021 for both military members and civilian employees. Additional information on the collection process will be provided in the future.

If a military member or civilian employee separates or retires in 2020 before the Social Security tax can be collected in 2021, they are still responsible for the Social Security tax repayment. Additional information on the collection process will be provided in the future.

For questions on the temporary deferral of the 6.2% OASDI withholding:

- Visit the IRS page: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/guidance-issued-to-implement-presidential-memorandum-deferring-certain-employee-social-security-tax-withholding>.
- For more information on financial readiness:
- Visit [www.finred.usalearning.gov](http://www.finred.usalearning.gov).
- Visit your installation Military and Family Support Center to speak with a Personal Financial Manager or Counselor, or contact Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil> (1-800-342-9647).

Still have questions? See the FAQs for more information.

### 49FTS Graduates IFF Class 20-LBC



The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will graduate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 20-LBC on 18 September 2020. Seven members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the Combat Air Forces of the United States, Royal Saudi Air Force, and the Iraqi Air Force.

The 49th FTS is responsible for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and International flying training in the T-38C IFF aircraft. The 49th FTS provides training to fighter pilots and weapon system officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the F16, F15C, F15E, F-15S, F22, F35, and A10C.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and weapon system operators to basic fighter maneuvers (BFM) and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Wingmen bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then move on to basic surface attack (BSA) and surface attack tactics (SAT) phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the fighters these wingmen will soon fly in their follow-on training and one day employ in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen!

1st Lt Colt Constantino	F-35
1st Lt Levi Gardner	F-16
1st Lt Fred Metzger	F-16
1st Lt Dimo Doulamis	F-15E
1st Lt Reid Stack	F-15E
2nd Lt Sultan Almesfer	F-15S
2nd Lt Drew Jones	F-15C





#### THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
I AM A WARRIOR.  
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.  
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,  
A TRADITION OF HONOR,  
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,  
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,  
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,  
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.  
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:  
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.  
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,  
I WILL NEVER FALTER,  
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.



**Darren Amos**  
Fire Inspector

plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire. You should make a home escape plan, drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows, and practice that plan at least twice per year, during the day and at night. We recommend teaching children to escape on their own in

For easy planning, download NFPA's free escape planning grid (<https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning>). This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety planning in a non-threatening way.

Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbors house, a light post, or tree). Get outside immediately and stay out...never go back inside!

If you have a two/three-story home, you might consider purchasing an approved escape ladder that can be hung from the window ledge or you can tie bedsheets together with knots every few feet.

Upon arrival, direct firefighters to where the fire is located, if it is not obvious, and report any missing family members or friends immediately. Firefighters have skills and equipment to perform search & rescue.

*Data from National Fire Protection Association*

- 28 September (Monday)
  - Deliver Handouts in Housing Prior to Parade
- 2 October (Friday)
  - Wing/CC sign 2020 FPW Proclamation
  - FTW/CC & MSG/CC Live Fire Training 9 – 10 a.m.
- 3 October (Saturday)
  - Parade through housing 9 – 10 a.m.
- 4 October (Sunday)
  - No activities scheduled
- 5 October (Monday) **B-SHIFT**
  - CDC (Bldg 940) Reading with Sparky 9 – 10 a.m.
  - Sparky visit CE (Bldg 385)
  - Fire Drill at Education Center (Bldg 916)
  - Sparky visit Freedom Park
- 6 October (Tuesday) **A-SHIFT**
  - CDC Reading with Sparky 9 – 10 a.m.
  - Sparky visit MSG (Bldg 730)
- Sparky visit Freedom Park
- Fire Drill at A&FRC (Bldg 1114)
- 7 October (Wednesday) **A-SHIFT**
  - CDC (Bldg 940) Reading with Sparky 9 – 10 a.m.
  - Sparky visit Wing HQ (Bldg 724)
  - Fire Drill at SFS (Bldg 926)
  - Sparky visit Freedom Park
- 8 October (Thursday) **B-SHIFT**
  - CDC (Bldg 940) Reading with Sparky 9 – 10 a.m.
  - Sparky visit Clinic (Bldg 1100)
  - Fire Drill (Bldg 158)
  - Sparky visit Freedom Park
- 9 October (Friday) **B-SHIFT**
  - CDC (Bldg 940) Reading with Sparky 9 – 10 a.m.
  - Fire Drill at CES (Bldg 385)
  - Sparky visit Freedom Park



The RQ-4 Global Hawk is a high-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft with an integrated sensor suite that provides global all-weather, day or night intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability. Global Hawk's mission is to provide a broad spectrum of ISR collection capability to support joint combatant forces in worldwide peacetime, contingency and wartime operations. The Global Hawk provides persistent near-real-time coverage using imagery intelligence, signals intelligence and moving target indicator sensors.

Global Hawk is currently fielded in three distinct blocks and is flown by a Launch and Recovery Element and a Mission Control Element. The LRE is located at the aircraft base and functions to launch and recover the aircraft while en route to and from the target area. The MCE controls the Global Hawk for the bulk of the ISR mission. Like the LRE, the MCE is manned by one pilot, but adds a sensor operator to the crew.

Command and control data links enable complete dynamic control of the aircraft. The pilot workstations in the MCE and LRE are the control and display interface providing aircraft health and status, sensors status and a

The sensor operator workstation provides capability to task the sensor, dynamically update the collection plan in real time, initiate sensor calibration and monitor sensor status. The sensor operator also assists the exploitation node with image quality control, target deck prioritization and scene tracking to ensure fluid operations.

Global Hawk began as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration in 1995. The system was determined to have military utility and provide warfighters with an evolutionary high-altitude, long-endurance ISR capability. The Global Hawk has been deployed operationally to support overseas contingency operations since November 2001.

In the RQ-4 name, the “R” is the Department of Defense designation for reconnaissance and “Q” means unmanned aircraft system. The “4” refers to the series of purpose-built remotely piloted aircraft systems. The “E” in EQ-4 delineates the communication configuration of the BACN equipped aircraft.

**Thrust:** 7,600 pounds  
**Wingspan:** 130.9 feet (39.8 meters)  
**Length:** 47.6 feet (14.5 meters)  
**Height:** 15.3 feet (4.7 meters)  
**Weight:** 14,950 pounds (6,781 kilograms)

**Maximum takeoff weight:** 52,250 pounds (14,028 kilograms)

**Fuel Capacity:** 17,300 pounds (7,847 kilograms)

**Payload:** 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms)

**Speed:** 310 knots (357 mph)

**Range:** 12,300 nautical miles

**Endurance:** more than 34 hours

**Ceiling:** 60,000 feet (18,288 meters)

**Armament:** None

**Crew (remote):** three (LRE pilot, MCE pilot, and sensor operator)

**Initial operating capability:** 2011 (Block 30); 2015 (Block 40)

**Inventory:** active force, 33 (three more Block 30s purchased, to be fielded in 2017)



An RQ-4 Global Hawk sits static in a hangar Oct. 25, 2018, at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. The RQ-4 Global Hawk is a high-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft with an integrated sensor suite that provides global all-weather, day or night intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.



An RQ-4 Global Hawk takes off Oct. 24, 2018, at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. The aircraft can reach altitudes of 60,000 feet and stay airborne for more than 30 hours.

**Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.**



Absentee Voting Week  
27 September - 4 October 2020

SEND YOUR VOTE HOME!  
Columbus AFB Voter Assistance Office  
662-434-2701

# Absentee Voting Week 27 September - 4 October 2020

**James (Ronnie) Brady**  
Columbus AFB Installation Voting Officer

As Americans, we are fortunate to have many rights. Many of our rights didn't come easy, thus they must be protected. One of these rights is the right to vote, and as a uniformed service member, you not only enjoy this right, but you protect it... for yourself and all Americans. This year's National General Election will be held on 3 November 2020, and it's fast approaching.

The vast majority of service members physically live away from their state of voter registration, and therefore vote by absentee ballot. Hopefully you've had a chance to register and/or request your absentee ballot by now. Since service members tend to move frequently, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) recommends service members register with their state of legal residency annually and every time they have an address change to ensure they receive their absentee ballot.

If you have received your absentee ballot but have not completed and returned it, please do so now. You are welcome to drop your completed ballot off at the Installation Voter Assistance Office (IVAO) located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Building 1114, and an assigned voting assistance officer will gladly mail it for you.

If you have not received your absentee ballot, you should complete and return the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) immediately. You are welcome to drop the completed FWAB off at the IVAO, and we'll mail it for you.

The IVAO is open Monday through Friday, 0730-1630, and is closed for national holidays and command family days. We're here to help you register to vote, request an absentee ballot and notify your election officials of a change of address. We can help you fill in and mail your voting materials. Contact us at DSN 742-2701, Commercial (662) 434-2701 or E-mail [vote.columbus@us.af.mil](mailto:vote.columbus@us.af.mil). Additionally, your unit has at least one appointed Unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) to assist you. To find out who your UVAO is, check out our voting resources on Columbus AFB Living to include a complete list of 14 FTW voting assistance officers at <https://www.columbusafbiving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/voting-assistance/>.

In the event you are unable to contact your UVAO or the IVAO, 24-hour voting assistance is available from the Air Force Total Force Service Center at: DSN 665-0102, Commercial (210) 565-0102 or Toll Free 1-800-525-0102. You may access many voting-related questions and answers on the FVAP website at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

# Brown and Bass discuss PT tests, empowering Airmen and leading during pandemic

**Charles Pope**  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — With the future threat and fallout from coronavirus still uncertain, the Air Force will continue exempting Airmen from PT testing until Jan. 1, 2021, Chief of Staff, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass confirmed Sept. 16.

"We are pushing the PT testing to 1 January and that's really for the safety of our Airmen," Bass said in response to a question during a media briefing with Brown that coincided with the Air Force Association's 2020 Air, Space & Cyber Conference.

Brown and Bass said the extension was warranted and they said that a broader review of what it means to be "fit" in the Air Force should be examined. Until Wednesday's announcement PT testing was scheduled to resume Oct. 1.

"As we got closer to 1 October that's when the Chief and I just got into our jobs so there wasn't much time for us to assess and put our stamp on the way forward," Brown said during a 40-minute session with reporters.

"As Airmen I would like to see us in a place where we're not so much focused on the PT test as we are more about fitness and readiness. That is the continued message we push out as leaders that we need a fit force, we need a ready force and we need Airmen who are doing that regardless of a PT test," Bass said.

"In the meantime, we are also taking looks within on (the question) what does fitness look like for our force?" she said.

While that larger question remains open, Brown said that the way PT tests are conducted will change when they resume next year.

"We have to do it differently in a covid environment," he said. "For example, we will not be able to do the waist measurement. We're basically going to give everybody full credit for waist measurement but you still can do push-ups and sit ups."

In addition to the discussion of fitness and testing, the session also touched on issues ranging from the force's resilience and mental health, to how the Air Force will cope with budget uncertainty this fall and winter, diversity, and how to reshape the service to confront peer adversaries, among others.

Brown conceded that it's too early to know precisely what will be included in the short term budget known as the Continuing Resolution that will keep the government open past Sept. 30, when the fiscal year ends. He said, however, that the Air Force will communicate clearly with Congress about its needs.

He acknowledged that beyond the actual bud-

get number, "The unpredictability (means) you can't do pretty much anything new and it slows us down. ... That is something that doesn't help us accelerate change or being able to do things faster with some predictability," he said.

"I wish I had a crystal ball to be able to tell you" how the budget debate would play out. "It would make my job a lot easier but I don't," he said.

In response to a question about suicides and mental health, Brown said there have been 98 suicides in the Air Force this year, which is about the same number as this point the year before.

But this year coronavirus is making it even harder. "The stressors that we have this year are much different than the stressors we had last year. We don't have a chance for our Airmen to connect and be close to the folks they work with on a day to day basis. That creates a challenge," he said.

"We are pushing out a playbook to our leaders in the field to help them work through some of this. The other aspect to this is our ability to do mental health via tele med. ... We've got work ahead, I'll be honest with you. We've made some progress because the stressors are different but there's still much work to be done," he said.

In his opening remarks, Brown praised the quality and dedication of Airmen across the service, saying he "appreciates how awesome they are."

But he acknowledged that this year has been difficult for reasons that few could foresee – a pandemic that to date has killed 196,000 people in the United States. Wildfires of historic proportions are raging across the West at the same time that multiple hurricanes have already landed in the U.S. and the economy is gripped in recession. That's in addition to difficult conversations and heightened awareness of racial disparities.

Brown said that even with those challenges he and Bass are working to make sure that Airmen know they are valued and how each Airmen fits into the larger goals and purpose of the Air Force.

"When I talk to Airmen I want them to understand the National Defense Strategy and how they connect to the National Defense Strategy. We need to understand how we generate air power ... and how they contribute to generating air power," Brown said.

"This is a goal for me personally; I want to be smarter at the end of the day than I was when I walked in the door. I want all our Airmen to feel that way; that they learn something every day when they come to work. Bottom line, we want to develop and empower our Airmen to be leaders. That's what it's all about," he said.

# Doody Call

**Jan Patton**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Yes, that is the title of this article and that is not a typographical error. Our pets bring so much love and joy to our lives. But, along with that joy is the responsibility to clean up the waste they generate. It isn't a fun job, so here are a few of the reasons you really need to scoop that poop.

Pet waste is a pollutant. One dog can create as much as 7.8 Billion coliform bacteria per day. If left in the environment, it can wash into a storm drain then run to nearby lakes and rivers. It can also cause algae and weeds to grow in waterways.

Pet waste often carries parasites and bacteria. Some diseases transmitted in pet waste include, but are not limited to: Campylobacteriosis, Capnocytophaga, Coccidia, Leptospirosis, Giardia, Tapeworm, Hookworm, Roundworm, Salmonella, Toxoplasmosis, and E. coli. (Source: CDC) The hazards posed by these disease is greatest for children that often don't wash their hands while playing outside.

Pet waste also attracts bugs and rats as it is a food source for them. Scooping up the poop is a common courtesy. It is unsightly, stinky, and no one wants to step in it. Do your part as a responsible pet parent and pick up after your pet.

LOVE the DOG. NOT the POOP.  
Make SURE YOU SCOOP!

No one enjoys being surrounded by our loving dogs' land mines. If not picked up, pet waste can transmit many viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases, and can even infect our water.

Diseases transmitted by pet waste include, but are not limited to: Campylobacteriosis, Capnocytophaga, Coccidia, Leptospirosis, Giardia, Tapeworm, Hookworm, Roundworm, Salmonella, Toxoplasmosis, and E. coli. (Source: CDC)

STOP  
POO-LUTION

Contact 14 CES/CEIE @ 662-434-7958 for more information.

Buckle up!  
It's the law.

**LIBRARY**

September At-a-Glance

<b>Classical Music Month</b> September 1-30 Info on the world's classical composers!	<b>Learning English Group</b> September 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 1100 Easy conversations for anyone learning English, via Zoom!	<b>Fiber Arts Class</b> September 3 & 17 @ 1430 Build crocheting skills introduced in August!	<b>Finger Painting</b> September 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 1000 Finger paint with your toddler & interact with others via Zoom!	<b>College Colors Day</b> September 4 Wear & share your school colors with pride!
<b>Wildlife Day</b> September 4 See what animals & bugs you can find in your area!	<b>Literary Challenge</b> September 6-12 Read as many books as possible!	<b>American Gov: CLEP Study</b> September 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 1430-1630 Study sessions for the American Government CLEP exam.	<b>Teen Chess Club</b> September 14, 21, 28 @ 1430 The Library will host games via LChess.	<b>Kids Take Over the Kitchen</b> September 14 @ 1100 We will be sharing fun recipes to try!
<b>BLAZE Book Club</b> September 17 @ 1700 "American Spy" by Lauren Wilkinson	<b>Plane Day: Air Force Birthday</b> September 18 @ 1100 Share photos of how you celebrate!	<b>Comic Week</b> September 21-25 -Superhero training -Art contest -Costume contest	<b>Fox in Socks Challenge</b> September 30 @ 1400 Read "Fox in Socks" without stumbling!	<b>Submit photos of your activities or tune in on the Columbus AFB Library Facebook page!</b>

Call the Library at 434-2934 for details or activity-specific information.





T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

# SUPT Class 20-24/25 earns silver wings



1st Lt. Augustine DeMeulenaere  
Brookfield, Wisconsin  
T-6



1st Lt. Takumi Kataoka  
Shiga, Japan  
C-130



1st Lt. Johnathon Klebe  
Grand River, Ohio  
F-22

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-24/25 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

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

First Lt. Johnathon Klebe, 2nd Lt. Brett Bradford and 2nd Lt. Alisson Moraes 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 1st Lt. Sydney Sulte, 2nd Lt. Kamran Ali and 2nd Lt. Vince Clingman who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 20-24/25 recognized were Klebe, Bradford and Moraes for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

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, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. 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.

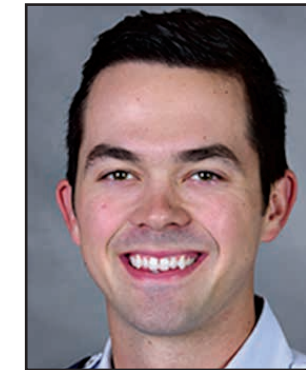
The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 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 20-24/25's pilot partners are BankFirst Financial Services, The Southern, CPR Cell Phone Repair and Mugshots Bar and Grill.



1st Lt. Joshua Lesoine  
Fernandina Beach, Florida  
C-17



1st Lt. Bradley Lewis  
Orange, California  
KC-10



1st Lt. Brian Macaluso  
Ocala, Florida  
KC-10



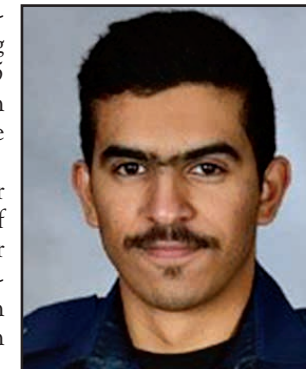
1st Lt. Aaric Rogers  
Pensacola, Florida  
F-16



1st Lt. Sydney Sulte  
Anchorage, Alaska  
A-10



2nd Lt. Rayan Alhaqbani  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
F-15SA



2nd Lt. Turki Al Jazi  
Abha, Saudi Arabia  
F-15C



2nd Lt. Kamran Ali  
Palm Beach, Florida  
C-17



2nd Lt. Abdullah Alotaibi  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
Eurofighter



2nd Lt. Brett Bradford  
Kenduskeag, Maine  
KC-135



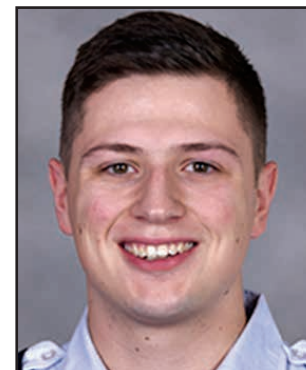
2nd Lt. Ryan Callaghan  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
E-3



2nd Lt. Vince Clingman  
Cullman, Alabama  
KC-135



2nd Lt. Juliana Coleman  
Reading, Pennsylvania  
KC-130J



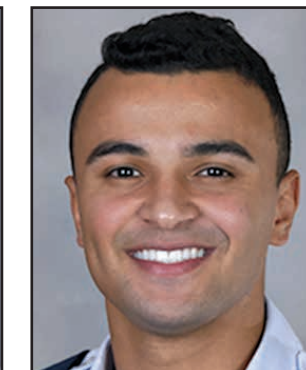
2nd Lt. Daniel Cunningham  
Arnold, Maryland  
T-1



2nd Lt. Stephen Hornish  
Townson, Maryland  
KC-10



2nd Lt. Trent Letz  
Lakeville, Minnesota  
C-17



2nd Lt. Alisson Moraes  
Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
KC-46



2nd Lt. Lorenzo Radi  
Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy  
TBD



2nd Lt. Andrew Spicer  
Seabrook, Texas  
KC-135



2nd Lt. Richard Waltman  
Columbia, Michigan  
F-16