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# SILVER WINGS

“Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT”

Vol. 44, Issue 2

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

January 24, 2020



## Team BLAZE hosts 2019 Annual Awards

The 2019 Annual Awards social hour begins at 6 p.m., Feb. 7 in the Columbus Air Force Base Fitness Center. Please RSVP by Jan. 31. Go to the Columbus AFB Facebook Events page for info on how to sign up. See page 3 for more information.

## News Briefs

### Wing Newcomers

A Wing Newcomers event will begin at 8 a.m., Jan. 28 in the Kaye Auditorium. Newcomers is mandatory for all newly arrived military and Department of Defense civilian personnel. This base-wide connection orientation includes a guided base tour. Participants must register with unit command support staff to attend due to limited space on the bus.

### Enlisted Promos

Join fellow Team BLAZE members at 3 p.m., Jan. 31 in the Columbus Club to celebrate and congratulate our newly promoted Airmen.

## Inside



### Feature 8

SUPT Class 20-06/07 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
Col. Samantha Weeks (far left), 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James (far right), 14th FTW command chief, stand with new honorary commanders following the Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony Jan. 21, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The program connects the base and the community in a more intimate and personal way, forming relationships that allow both entities to learn and grow together.

# 14th FTW inducts newest honorary commanders during ceremony

### Airman Davis Donaldson

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing hosted an induction ceremony Jan. 21 at the Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, to recognize its newest honorary commanders.

The Honorary Commander Program strengthens the relationship between the wing and the surrounding community. The program connects the Air Force base and the community in a more intimate and personal way, forming relationships that allow both entities to learn and grow together.

As honorary commanders, local leaders will be fully immersed in the Air Force culture and experience the wing's mission of cultivating, creating pilots and connecting first hand; while in turn, military commanders will gain more insight into the culture of the surrounding region.

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Thomas Moore was the guest speaker for the induction ceremony. He shared words of gratefulness and encouragement for the new honorary commanders.

See COMMANDERS, Page 3

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

**PHASE II**  
Squadron  
37th (20-21)  
41st (20-19)

Track Select  
Feb. 26  
Jan. 27

**PHASE III**  
Squadron  
48th (20-06)  
50th (20-07)

Graduation  
Jan. 24  
Jan. 24

**IFF**  
Squadron  
49th (20-DBC)

Graduation  
Jan. 31

### SUPT CLASS 20-06/07 GUEST SPEAKER

Gen. James Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, Joint Base Langley-Eustus, Virginia, is the guest speaker.





# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 42 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

*Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.*

## 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron earns unit award

Congratulations to the 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron for earning AETC's 2019 Daedalian Major General Warren R. Carter Logistics Effectiveness Award.

## Commissary Upgrades

The commissary will begin replacing existing belted lanes and Self-Checkout lanes on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, but only four belted lanes will be available to process customer purchases.

The Commissary will be open normal business hours on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, but only four belted lanes will be available to process customer purchases.

Once the upgrade is complete, the commissary will go from five belted lanes to three belted lanes and three self-checkout lanes.



## Shred truck arrival

The shred truck will be in the parking lot across the street from lodging in the Security Forces Squadron (Bldg. 926) parking lot Jan. 30 at 9-11 a.m. The truck is open to all base personal and authorized for PII destruction.

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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14th Flying Training Wing  
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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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*Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14 FTW Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

*The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.*

*Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.*

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## WARNING SIGNS

Type 1 diabetes may occur suddenly and includes:

- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Drowsiness or Lethargy
- Increased Appetite
- Sudden Weight Loss
- Sudden Vision Changes
- Sugar in the Urine
- Fruity Odor on the Breath
- Heavy or Labored Breathing
- Stupor or Unconsciousness

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**jdrf.org**

*"The 12 Steps have put me in touch with a power greater than myself and for that I am grateful."*



Photo for illustration purposes only.

"I came to the Pines at a point when I was physically addicted to alcohol. I was in a suicidal state and chose treatment over the other option. I relapsed in treatment when I went on a weekend pass because I was triggered by my anger. Today, I use the 12 Steps as a way of dealing with my problems. I make a meeting every day, attend aftercare, and have two sponsors. Working with others is the best way for me to get outside of myself and find purpose. The 12 Steps have put me in touch with a power greater than myself and for that I am grateful."



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### REGISTERED NURSE NEEDED IN:

- ER
- CRITICAL CARE
- PROGRESSIVE CARE
- MED/SURG

- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Behavioral Health/Psych
- OR/PACU
- Oncology

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### 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 New 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'.

### Assignment Night Transportation

Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is \$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.

### Martial Arts

Martial Arts classes are available at the Youth Center every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. receive two free introductory classes, contact the Youth Center for more information at 434-2504.

### 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.america-forcetravel.com](http://www.america-forcetravel.com) or visit your ITT office at (662) 434-7861.

### Storytime Schedule

The Base Library is offering Storytime on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for ages 3-6 years, Fridays at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for ages birth-2 years, and 10 a.m. on Saturdays for all ages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

### FSS Gift Cards

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

**Parent's Night Out**

Celebrate an early Valentine's Day with your sweetheart while the CDC takes care of your kids!

**February 7**  
from 1800-2200

**\$20 per child**

Registration Deadline: January 27

Children must have shot records and AF form 1181 filled out; payment required in advance. For ages 6 weeks-5 years old.

**CDC**  
Child Development Center

Call 434-2479 for more information!

### Horse Boarding Available

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

### Free Mango Languages

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

### Play Paintball

Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book twenty-four hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

### The Overrun is Open Friday Nights

The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m.-Midnight. Excluding Graduation nights. For more information, contact 434-2489.

### Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. For more information, contact 434-2507.

### Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. For more information, contact 434-7836.

### 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.

### Fitness on Request

The Fitness Center offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with 119 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. 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.

### Laser Bowling

The Strike Zone offers laser bowling every Friday and Saturday night starting at 5 p.m. Stop in for a great time! Call 434-3426 for more information.

**CAFB**

**DRAFT**

**2019**

**2019 ANNUAL AWARDS**

**7 February 2020**  
**Social Hour 1800-1900**  
**Awards Ceremony 1900-2130**

**LOCATION: CAFB GYM**  
**UOD: ABUS/OCPS**  
**POC: SSGT JASMINA JAYAKARAN**  
**COMM: 434-3140**

**Who Will Be The #1 Draft Pick...**

"I love my life and all the things it has to give. Like having all the apps I need, right at my fingertips. Friends, photos, and my mobile banking app. I can pay bills, check my balance, even deposit a check, right on my mobile phone. It's awesome. I just **tap the app.**"

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### COMMANDERS

(Continued from page 1)

"If you don't know about aviation, we don't go anywhere in combat without a wingman," Moore said. "You are always with someone looking out for your six and the enemy. This program established here in Columbus brought together a number of members of the community and our job is to look out for our elite aircraft."

Moore said he and his wife spent a lot of time in the West Coast, East Coast and Hawaii. During his travels, he said he has never seen a base-community relationship as strong as the one between Columbus AFB and the City of Columbus.

To close his speech, Moore gave a last motivating remark to the honorary commander inductees.

"As you step in as honorary commanders, your part of a program that is ongoing right now and by bringing you in, we think it will enhance the base and certainly enhance the community relations," Moore said. "You will gain an understanding what our Airmen do for our nation each and every day."

After Moore's speech, Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th FTW commander, spoke about her vision for the Honorary Commander Program going forward.

Weeks said in most cases around the county, the public has very little direct interaction with the military, and she hopes this program provides the new commanders an understanding of what the wing and base does on a daily basis.

"We hope this is a two-way relationship where we can learn as much about your job and role in the com-



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson

**Col. Samantha Weeks (center), 14th Flying Training Wing commander, smiles as Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James (left), 14th FTW command chief, gives a certificate to an honorary commander inductee on Jan. 21, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. As honorary commanders, local leaders will be fully immersed in the Air Force culture and experience the wing's mission of cultivating, creating pilots and connecting first hand.**

munity," Weeks said. "Our goal is to make the Golden Triangle Region even better with our partnerships and teamwork together."

Following Weeks' remarks, the new honorary commanders along with previous ones, Columbus AFB Wingmen and other community partners were able to socialize and network.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson

**Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Thomas Moore speaks to those in attendance at the Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony Jan. 21, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Moore was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1973 through Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va., and has lived in Columbus since 2008.**

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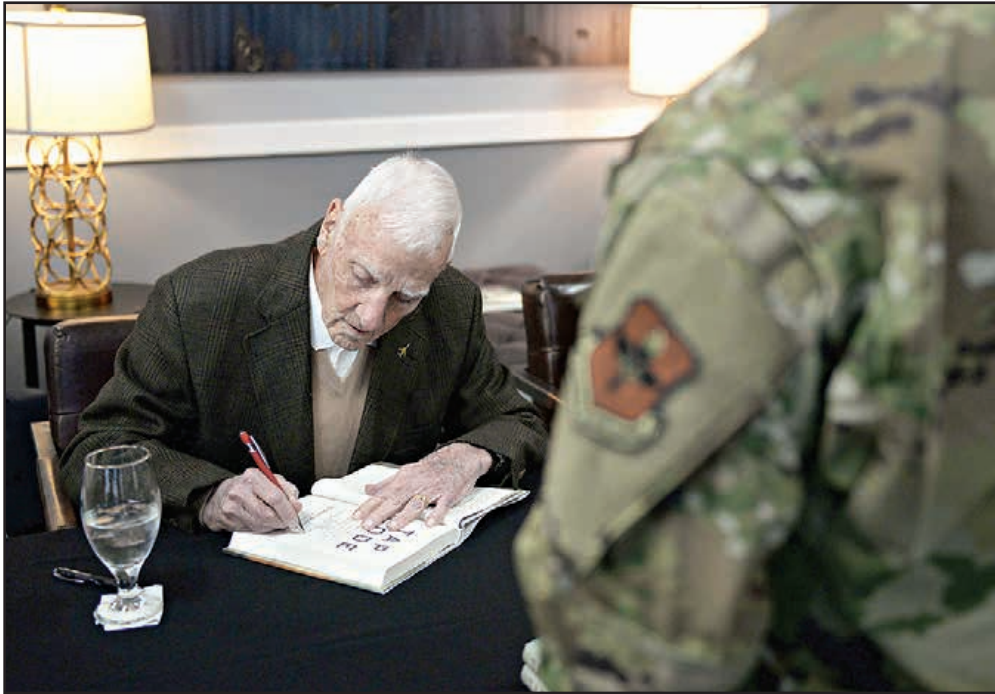
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U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

Members of the 14th Flying Training Wing wait in line during a book signing Jan. 10, 2020, at the Columbus Event Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Retired Air Force Col. Carlyle “Smitty” Harris, originally from Preston, Maryland, now living with Louise in Tupelo, Mississippi, released a book titled “Tap Code: the Epic Survival Tale of a Vietnam POW and the Secret Code That Changed Everything.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

Retired Air Force Col. Carlyle “Smitty” Harris signs a book for an Airman during a book signing, Jan. 10, 2020 at the Columbus Event Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. More than 130 books were signed by Smitty and his wife Louise for members of Team BLAZE.

# Tap Code: Former POW, wife connect with Columbus AFB Airmen

**Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Retired Air Force Col. Carlyle “Smitty” Harris and his wife Louise signed more than 130 books for members of Team BLAZE at the Columbus Event Center here Jan. 10.

Smitty, originally from Preston, Maryland, now living with his wife Louise in Tupelo, Miss. released a book titled “Tap Code: the Epic Survival Tale of a Vietnam POW and the Secret Code That Changed Everything.”

“It’s a huge opportunity, a once in a lifetime opportunity, to interact with somebody who has been there and has experienced things like this,” said Capt. Joshua Castagnetta, 50th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot. “It’s a chance for us to learn from their experiences so that we can carry it on and pass it to the next generation.”

The book, written from the perspectives of Smitty and Louise, shares never-before-told details of underground operations during the Vietnam War while showcasing a true story of having the strength, dignity and resolve necessary to endure challenging circumstances.

The story begins when Smitty was shot down over Vietnam on April 4, 1965, having no idea what awaited him in the infamous Hoa Lo prison, also known as the ‘Hanoi Hilton.’ Smitty was the sixth American Prisoner of War captured in the air war over North Vietnam.

In the midst of the struggle, Smitty remembered learning the Tap Code from an instructor pilot during his time in an escape and evasion school. Unlike Morse Code, consisting of variously spaced dots and dashes or long and short sounds used for transmitting messages by audible or visual signals, Tap Code is based on a five-by-five alphabet matrix, where each letter was communicated by tapping two numbers: the first designated the horizontal row and the second designated the vertical row.

Simple and effective, this code was covertly taught by Smitty to many POWs, which quickly spread throughout the prison and became one of the most covert ways for POWs to communicate without their captors’ knowledge. It became a lifeline, morale booster and was instrumental in helping them prevail over a brutal enemy.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Bean

Louise Harris, wife of Retired Air Force Col. Carlyle “Smitty” Harris, signs her name during a book signing Jan. 10, 2020, at the Columbus Event Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The book, written from the perspectives of Smitty and Louise, shares never-before-told details of underground operations during the Vietnam War while showcasing a true story of having the strength, dignity and resolve necessary to endure challenging circumstances.

## 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.)

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation is from 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 28. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. This base-wide connection orientation begins at the Kaye Auditorium and includes a guided base tour. The event’s main foundation is a mobile App, so if you plan to attend, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. To register, please contact your unit CSS, or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 30 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 bring and ask any relocating questions you may have during this event.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. Jan. 30. 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.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 30-31. 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

A Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) will be providing assistance from noon-5 p.m. Feb. 12; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb 13; and 8 a.m.-noon Feb. 14 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

## Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson

Members of the Columbus community eat breakfast at the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Jan. 20, 2020, in Columbus, Miss. King Jr. was a social activist who played a role in the American civil rights movement.

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.

### Bundles for Babies

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the A&FRC. 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.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mar. 2-4 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.

Enjoy the Fun!

Blaze Chapel

Represent your team

Bring Your Favorite Chair

Free Food!!!

Darty 2 Feb 2020 (starts 30 min before Kickoff)

## Department of Labor Employment Transition Track

The next DoL Employment Transition Track is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mar. 5-6. This workshop assists transitioning military members with career exploring, job search, resume writing, federal job applications, interviewing, evaluating job offers and closing the deal.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Mar. 11. 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.

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mar. 16-17 in the A&FRC. 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.

## 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.

### Bible Study

**Thursdays:**  
5:30 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. - Enlisted Dorms Bible Study

### Protestant Community

**Sundays:**  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. - Community Worship Service (Fellowship Following)  
Wednesdays:  
5:30 p.m. - AWANA: Sept-May (Open to all denominations)  
6:00 p.m. - Ignite Youth Group Ages 13-18 (Open to all denominations)

### Catholic Community

2nd Saturday of each month at 12 p.m. - Faith Ablaze  
**Sundays:**  
3:30 p.m. - Religious Education, Grades K-9 (Aug-May)  
4:00 p.m. - Confession (or by appointment)  
5:00 p.m. - Mass  
1st and 3rd Sundays- Fellowship after Mass  
**Tuesdays:**  
10 a.m. - Daily Mass (Philips Auditorium)  
**Wednesdays:**  
10 a.m. - Daily Mass (Philips Auditorium)  
10:30 a.m. - Adoration (Philips Auditorium)



# Unattended cooking fires

**Darren Amos**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Fire Inspector

Around the holidays, cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know unattended cooking fires are the leading cause of house fires and home injuries, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Sometimes we cook or bake while balanc-



ing numerous chores such as laundry, talking on the phone, tending to a baby or answering the door. It only takes a few minutes of unattended cooking to become a nightmare of excessive smoke, flames, smoke detectors beeping and animals howling. The CAFB Fire Department asks you to be mindful of the potential for disaster and practice safe cooking habits.

- Be alert...If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or



broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn the stove off.



- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, or towels away from the stovetop.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of stove.
- Wear short sleeves or roll up sleeves.
- Know where your fire extinguisher is located and how to use it.
- Never store cooking oil or cooking spray

above the stovetop.

• Clean your exhaust fan filter and oven regularly to reduce grease-laden particulate. Many ovens today have a self-clean feature.

**If you have a small grease cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...**

• On the stovetop, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

• For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

**If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...**

• Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

• Call 911 to report any emergency.

*Data from National Fire Protection Association and U.S. Fire Administration*

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**1908 Hwy 45 N, Ste. 1  
Columbus, MS 39705**

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield effective November 4, 2019 and subject to change at any time without notice. \$100,000 minimum balance required. The APY is based on the assumption that dividends will remain on deposit in the share certificate until maturity. Dividends compounded and credited monthly. Average daily balance computation method. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Membership eligibility required. Insured by NCUA.

# Columbus's new command chief integrates into wing mission

**Airmen 1st Class Jake Jacobsen**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

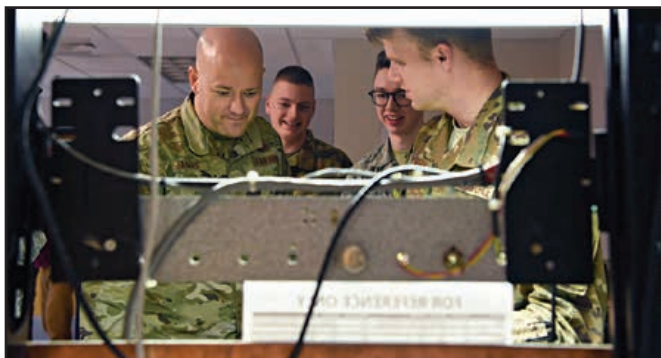
Command chief master sergeant's play a critical role in any wing's mission, and it is their responsibility when arriving at a new base to not only learn their way around but to become familiar with the mission, unit and people.

Chief Master Sergeant Trevor James, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, began his immersion Jan. 16, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., by taking a tour through the 14th Operations Group, where he met Airmen and their family members of each squadron.

Lt. Col. Tom McElhinney III, 14th OG commander, sat down with James to discuss pilot training, aircraft movements, maintenance and other fundamental aspects of the group.

"I have got nine squadrons in the 14th OG, five flying training squadrons, a reserve squadron, and an off-base squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia", McElhinney said. "With over 700 students, including 25 international student pilots, we focus first and foremost every day on safe and compliant operations making sure we don't speed ahead before we are ready."

While touring and getting briefed about each specific site, James immersed himself into learning the mission, people, visions, syllabus and focus areas of each flying training squadron at Columbus. Along with learning about each squadron's accomplishments, he also expected to hear about any shortcomings.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jake Jacobsen  
**Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, examines the work bench of Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Airmen, Jan. 16, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The RAWS unit supports base and regional radar equipment, operates ground-to-air radios and weather systems that support Air Traffic Control, the National Weather Service and command and control across the wing.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jake Jacobsen  
**Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, operates a T-6 Texan II virtual reality simulator, Jan. 16, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The virtual reality flight simulations help student pilots learn and improve on their existing skills through simulated flight exercises including taking off, landing, and flight patterns.**

On one of his stops through the T-6 Texan II Squadrons, James visited the virtual reality flight simulation room where he was able to pilot a T-6 simulation, the latest in Columbus AFB's cutting edge technology. The instructor pilots explained to him exactly how the simulators help student pilots learn and improve on their existing skills through flight simulation practices.

After visiting all the training squadrons,

James was routed to the 14th Operations Support Squadron to see how they support the creation of pilots. Along with meeting leaders he made it a point to seek the enlisted Airmen and give them an opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions.

James mentioned how it is worthwhile just to be able to hear the Airmen's thoughts and wanted to use this immersion as an opportunity to see firsthand how they operate



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jake Jacobsen  
**Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, looks through a binocular microscope in the laboratory department of the 14th Medical Group, Jan. 17, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Binocular microscopes are optical microscopes with two eyepieces to ease viewing, increase depth perception and cut down eye strain.**

in their field.

James visited the Weather flight and Base Operations for a full dive into the importance of their jobs in relation to training new aviators. They displayed weather patterns near the base and the movements of recent storms.

James also visited the air traffic control tower, where he was met by members of Radar Approach Control (RAPCON), tower controllers, and Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems (RAWS) Airmen.

The RAWS unit explained how it supports base and regional radar equipment to James. They displayed how the ground-to-air radios and weather systems that support air traffic control, the National Weather Service, and command and control are vital to the wings mission.

RAPCON and tower controllers gave James the tour of the lower and upper sections of the control tower. James was able to see up close how each section works with base aircraft and coordinate with other base agencies to keep the airfield at a high level of readiness.

James continued his immersion the next day with a trip to the 14th Medical Group and 14th Wing Staff Agency, touring the building and all the squadrons inside.

Airmen from every department in the 14th MDG, and WSA got to meet James as they explained their job, and their importance to serving the Airmen on base and the community members around it.

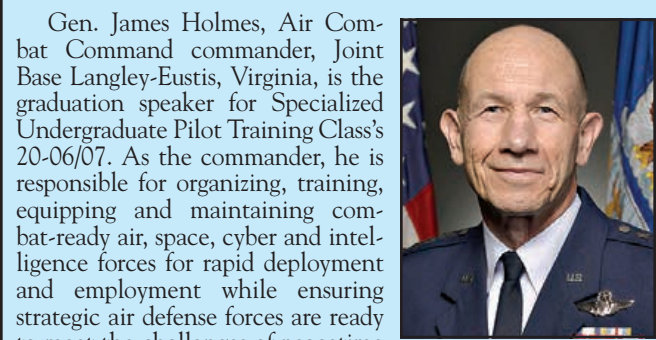
James will continue his immersion throughout his stay at Columbus with plans to visit the 14th Mission Support Group next.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jake Jacobsen  
**Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, tours the air traffic control tower, Jan. 16, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The tower Control, and Radar Approach Control sections work closely with base aircraft and coordinate with other base agencies to keep the airfield at a high level of readiness.**



# Gen. James Holmes to speak at SUPT Class’s 20-06/07 Graduation



Gen. James Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, is the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class’s 20-06/07. As the commander, he is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining combat-ready air, space, cyber and intelligence forces for rapid deployment and employment while ensuring strategic air defense forces are ready to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime defense. The command operates more than 1,000 aircraft, 35 wings, 11 bases, and 1,348 units at more than 300 operating locations worldwide with 159,000 total force military and civilian personnel. As the Combat Air Forces lead agent, ACC develops strategy, doctrine, concepts, tactics, and procedures for air-, space-, and cyber-power employment. The command provides conventional and information warfare forces to all unified commands to ensure air, space, cyber, and information superiority for warfighters and national decision-makers. The command can also be called upon to assist national agencies with intelligence, surveillance and crisis response capabilities.

General Holmes entered the Air Force through Officer Training School in 1981 after receiving a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Tennessee. He has commanded the 27th Fighter Squadron, the 14th Operations Group, the 4th Fighter Wing and the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. He has served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on headquarters staffs of the United States Air Force, U.S. European Command and Pacific Air Forces. Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours, including over 530 combat hours in the F-15A/B/C/D/E, and has also flown the T/AT-38, T-37, and T-1A.

## EDUCATION

- 1981 Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 1986 F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 1987 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1993 Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1993 Master of Arts degree in history, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- 1994 Master of Airpower Arts and Sciences degree, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1995 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2000 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2001 Master’s degree in national defense studies, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
- 2006 National Defense Studies Fellow, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, N.Y.
- 2007 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2010 AFSO21 Executive Leadership Course, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2011 Coalition Force Maritime Component Commander Course, Naval War College, Bahrain

- 2013 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2018 Leadership at the Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. September 1981 - August 1982, student, undergraduate pilot training, Columbus AFB, Miss.
- 2. September 1982 - November 1982, student, fighter lead-in training, Holloman AFB, N.M.
- 3. November 1982 - April 1983, student, F-15 conversion training, Luke AFB, Ariz.
- 4. May 1983 - December 1985, F-15 instructor pilot and Assistant Squadron and Wing Weapons Officer, 71st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 5. January 1986 - May 1986, student, USAF F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 6. May 1986 - May 1989, F-15 Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 44th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan
- 7. May 1989 - June 1992, F-15 Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Assistant Chief of Wing Weapons and Tactics, Flight Commander and Assistant Operations Officer, 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 9th Fighter Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
- 8. July 1992 - June 1993, student, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 9. July 1993 - June 1994, student, School for Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 10. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Operations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, Operations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany
- 11. October 1996 - December 1997, Assistant Operations Officer, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 12. January 1998 - May 1999, Operations Officer, 71st Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 13. May 1999 - July 2000, Commander, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 14. July 2000 - July 2001, student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
- 15. July 2001 - August 2002, Chief, Strategy, Concepts and Doctrine Division, Directorate of Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 16. August 2002 - July 2004, Commander, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB, Miss.
- 17. August 2004 - September 2006, Commander, 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
- 18. September 2006 - June 2007, Chief, Checkmate, Directorate of Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 19. July 2007 - December 2007, Director of Strategic Plans, Programs and International Affairs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- 20. December 2007 - March 2008, Special Assistant to the Director of Operational Planning, Policy and Strategy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 21. March 2008 - April 2009, Commander, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan
- 22. April 2009 - July 2009, Special Assistant to the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, and Director, Air Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 23. July 2009 - August 2011, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
- 24. August 2011 - January 2012, Director, Strategic Plan-

- ning, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 25. January 2012 – July 2013, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 26. August 2013 - July 2014, Vice Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas
- 27. August 2014 - March 2017, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Va.
- 28. March 2017 - present, Commander, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Operations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, Operations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, as a major.
- 2. March 2008 - April 2009, Commander, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and Senior Airfield Authority, Bagram AB, Afghanistan, as a brigadier general.
- 3. July 2009 - August 2011, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., as a brigadier general.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Rating: command pilot
- Flight hours: More than 4,000, including over 530 combat hours
- Aircraft flown: F-15A/B/C/D/E, T/AT-38, T-37 and T-1A

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Distinguished Service Medal
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster
- Bronze Star Medal
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters
- Aerial Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Army Commendation Medal

## PUBLICATIONS

- 1994 The Counterair Companion, A Short Guide to Air Superiority for Joint Force Commanders, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2018 Multidomain Battle: Converging Concepts Toward a Joint Solution, Joint Force Quarterly 88

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

- Second Lieutenant Aug. 28, 1981
- First Lieutenant Aug. 28, 1983
- Captain Aug. 28, 1985
- Major May 1, 1993
- Lieutenant Colonel Jan. 1, 1998
- Colonel July 1, 2002
- Brigadier General May 2, 2008
- Major General Jan. 28, 2011
- Lieutenant General Aug. 2, 2013
- General March 10, 2017

# Medical Corner



## Trying to quit vaping? You’re not alone

Quitting tobacco is one of the most popular and challenging New Year’s resolutions. Although quitting vaping is similar, it is not 100% the same as quitting traditional tobacco products (think: cigarettes and dip).

Follow these six steps to quit vaping:

### 1. REMEMBER WHY YOU WANT TO QUIT.

Maybe you are worried about the news on vaping or you want to quit to break the tie to nicotine or protect your health. Keep that reason in your back pocket at all times. Literally. Make your reason the background on your phone or keep a note in your pocket – personal motivation is powerful when quitting.

### 2. IDENTIFY TRIGGERS.

When you try to quit, certain places (like the bar) or your buddies vaping around you, may make you want to join in. Make a plan to avoid triggers as much as possible and find replacement activities for the times you used to vape.

### 3. FIGHT CRAVINGS LIKE A PRO.

Some vape products have more nicotine than traditional cigarettes. Know exactly how to fight nicotine cravings so that when you feel one coming on, you hit the gym, grab some lemon water or call a friend to redirect your attention.

### 4. TALK TO YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM.

The people who care about you want to see you succeed. Share how you are feeling — the good, the bad, the ugly and everything in between. Share these tips on how your friends or family can support you during your quit.

### 5. QUIT TOGETHER.

Quitting may not seem like the “cool thing” to do, but as the dangers of vaping become clearer, it’s possible your buddy wants to quit too. Show your strength by asking them to quit with you and let them know it’s easier to quit together.

### 6. CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Every milestone is important during your quit journey – starting with conquering those first 24 hours vape free. Celebrate these moments because it will help you fight cravings and stress.

**YOU CAN QUIT2**

YouCanQuit2, a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) program, is an educational campaign for the U.S. military. Originally launched in February of 2007, the mission of the campaign is to help U.S. Service members quit tobacco—for themselves and their loved ones. The site supports the DoD’s efforts to build and sustain a ready and resilient force by providing resources for Service members, as well as their family and friends and health professionals.

6 Steps to Quit Vaping. Retrieved from [https://s3.amazonaws.com/youcanquit2-media/YouCanQuit2\\_Quit-Vaping-Factsheet.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/youcanquit2-media/YouCanQuit2_Quit-Vaping-Factsheet.pdf)

## A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team



*Dear Health Myth Busters,  
I’ve heard that cigarette smoking has been shown to only cause lung cancer. Is this true?*

*Sincerely,  
Are There More?*

Dear Are There More,  
“One common misunderstanding is that smoking just causes lung cancer,” said Dr. Dan J. Raz, co-director of City of Hope’s Lung Cancer and Thoracic Oncology Program. “Although lung cancer is an incredibly devastating disease and is by far the most common cause of cancer death in both men and women, estimates are that only a quarter of the tobacco-related deaths yearly in the U.S. are from lung cancer. Heart disease, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), other tobacco-related cancers and less common harmful effects such as premature birth and house fires are also attributed to smoking.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, the full list of cancers that can result from tobacco-related causes includes esophagus, throat, larynx, mouth, kidney, bladder, liver, stomach, pancreas, cervix, colon and rectum cancer. Simply put, smoking has been found to damage nearly every organ and organ system in the human body. This means that even if cancer is avoided, additional potential effects include chronic bronchitis, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke and cataracts, among other things. Plus, smoking impairs immune function generally, leaving the smoker susceptible to many other ailments.

*Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters*

10 Common myths about smoking debunked. Retrieved from <https://www.cityofhope.org/10-common-myths-about-smoking-debunked>.

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 to support someone when they ditch tobacco

**Quitting tobacco can be rough. There will be difficult moments and you can be there for your buddy to help them avoid a slip or relapse .**

- **Congratulate them on their hard work and help them develop a reward system. Rewards are not just for the big milestones - they’re also for making it past everyday obstacles.**

- **Suggest social activities that are tobacco free and won’t remind them of tobacco. Plan to get together at places where tobacco cannot be used.**

- **Plan a workout or other physical activity to do together. Activity can limit weight gain and help them through cravings.**

- **Help them find healthy distractions when they have cravings. Have lowcalorie snacks on hand or offer to go for a quick walk.**

- **Be available to talk. Be there to talk about challenges, text about cravings or encourage them to use a Live Chat coach or texting program.**

- **Get ready to be there for the long haul. Show them you still care and support them even if they are moody, agitated or discouraged. Changing an addictive behavior is a long and complicated process and a slip or relapse is not a sign of failure.**

**Being a supportive friend, family member or coworker can make a big difference for someone trying to quit tobacco.**

*How to Support Someone When They Ditch Tobacco. Retrieved from <https://www.ycq2.org/help-your-hero-quit/help-quit/offer-support/>*



# Nellis Airman laid to rest by Columbus AFB Honor Guard



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsmen salute as a hearse carrying the body of Staff Sgt. Tharin McNichols passes at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Jan. 13, 2020, in Newton County, Miss. McNichols was a member of the 855th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The honor guard's primary mission is to provide military honors to fallen service members, but they also perform at official Air Force ceremonies and parades.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsmen carry the casket of Staff Sgt. Tharin McNichols at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Jan. 13, 2020, in Newton County, Miss. McNichols was a member of the 855th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., prior to his death. Guardsmen carry the fallen to the gravesite while keeping the casket perfectly level and maintaining the utmost military bearing.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsmen carry the casket of Staff Sgt. Tharin McNichols at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Jan. 13, 2020, in Newton County, Miss. McNichols was a member of the 855th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., prior to his death.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Davis Donaldson  
Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsmen fold the American flag at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Jan. 13, 2020, in Newton County, Miss. McNichols was a member of the 855th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., prior to his death. During a military funeral, the flag is folded into a triangle and presented to the next-of-kin as a symbol of appreciation for the fallen service member's service to their country.

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15E Strike Eagle

## Mission

The F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night, and in all weather.

## Features

The aircraft uses two crew members, a pilot and a weapon systems officer. Previous models of the F-15 are assigned air-to-air roles; the "E" model is a dual-role fighter. It has the capability to fight its way to a target over long ranges, destroy enemy ground positions and fight its way out.

The aircraft's navigation system uses a laser gyro and a Global Positioning System to continuously monitor the aircraft's position and provide information to the central computer and other systems, including a digital moving map in both cockpits.

The APG-70 radar system allows aircrews to detect ground targets from long ranges. One feature of this system is that after a sweep of a target area, the crew freezes the air-

to-ground map then goes back into air-to-air mode to clear for air threats. During the air-to-surface weapon delivery, the pilot is capable of detecting, targeting and engaging air-to-air targets while the WSO designates the ground target.

The low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night, or LANTIRN, system allows the aircraft to fly at low altitudes, at night and in any weather conditions, to attack ground targets with a variety of precision-guided and unguided weapons. The LANTIRN system gives the F-15E unequaled accuracy in weapons delivery day or night and in poor weather, and consists of two pods attached to the exterior of the aircraft.

## General Characteristics

- Primary function:** Air-to-ground attack aircraft
- Contractor:** The Boeing Company
- Power plant:** Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners
- Thrust:** 25,000 - 29,000 pounds each engine
- Wingspan:** 42.8 feet (13 meters)


- Length:** 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)
- Height:** 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)
- Weight:** 37,500 pounds ( 17,010 kilograms)
- Maximum takeoff weight:** 81,000 pounds (36,450 kilograms)
- Fuel capacity:** 35,550 pounds (three external tanks plus conformal fuel tanks)
- Payload:** depends upon mission
- Speed:** 1,875 mph (Mach 2.5 plus)
- Range:** 2,400 miles (3,840 kilometers) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks
- Ceiling:** 60,000 feet (18,288 meters)
- Armament:** One 20mm multibarrel gun mounted internally with 500 rounds of ammunition. Four AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles and four AIM-120 AMRAAM, or eight AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles. Any air-to-surface weapon in the Air Force inventory (nuclear and conventional)
- Crew:** Pilot and weapon systems officer
- Unit cost:** \$31.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
- Initial operating capability:** September 1989
- Inventory:** Total force, 219




U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Kobialka  
A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle flies through overcast skies Jan. 7, 2019, near Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The F-15E is a two-seat, dual-role, totally integrated fighter for all-weather, air-to-air and deep interdiction missions.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Kobialka  
A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle taxis to the runway Jan. 7, 2019, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The F-15E's superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing-loading.



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







T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

# SUPT Class 20-06/07 earns silver wings



**Capt. Zachary Masters**  
Grand Ledge, Michigan  
AC-130J



**2nd Lt. Alexander Abbott**  
Carpentersville, Illinois  
F-16



**2nd Lt. Iain James Armitage**  
Maui, Hawaii  
C-17

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-06/07 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Gen. James Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, 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 will be recognized.

Second Lt. Iain James Armitage, and Second Lt. Benjamin Gautier 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 Second Lt. Daniel Barrett, Second Lt. Travis Riebe, and Gautier who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 20-06/07 recognized were Second Lt. Thomas Heckman, Armitage, and Gautier 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.

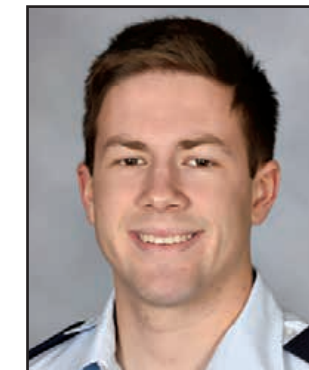
After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

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

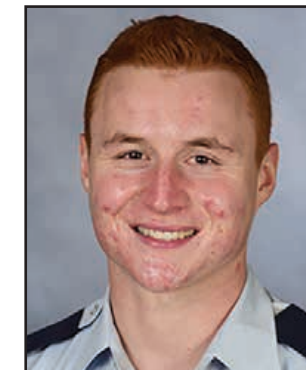
Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 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 19-17/18's pilot partners are Neel-Schaffer, Zachary's, Aurora Flight Sciences, and BankTEL Systems.



**2nd Lt. Daniel Barrett**  
Clinton, New York  
C-17



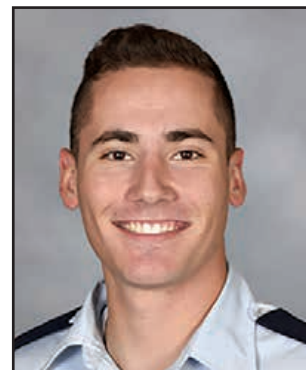
**2nd Lt. Fletcher Brauntun**  
Olympia, Washington  
T-6



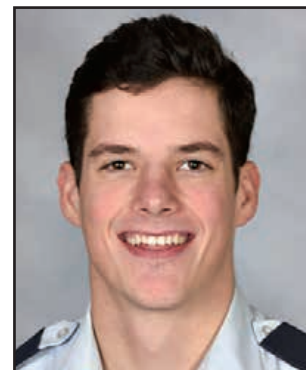
**2nd Lt. Jakob Brender A Brandis**  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
E-3



**2nd Lt. Collin Chow Hoy**  
Honolulu  
C-17



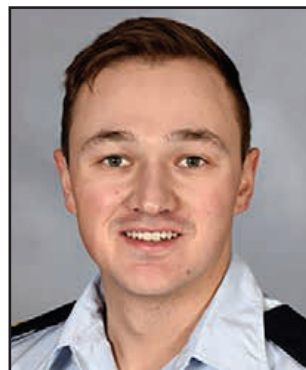
**2nd Lt. Cristian Cortes**  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
T-38



**2nd Lt. Benjamin Gautier**  
Fairfax, Virginia  
F-35



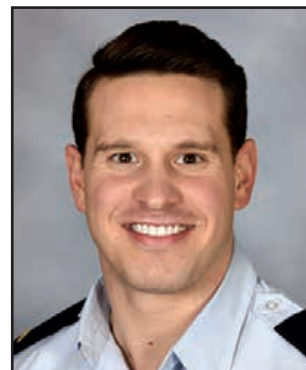
**2nd Lt. Benjamin Kick**  
Batesville, Indiana  
U-28



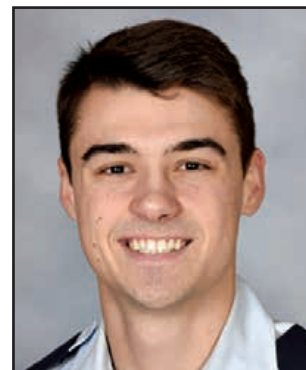
**2nd Lt. Donald Knorr**  
Pittsburgh  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Hunter Latshaw**  
Lake Norman, North Carolina  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Michael Leadmon**  
Davidsonville, Maryland  
F-15C



**2nd Lt. Joseph Matarazzo**  
Centennial, Colorado  
A-10



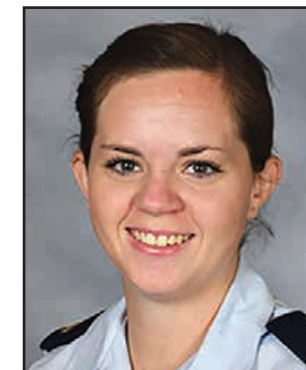
**2nd Lt. Sean Ogden**  
Elbridge, New York  
KC-10



**2nd Lt. Travis Riebe**  
Boulder, Colorado  
C-130



**2nd Lt. Joshua Rupp**  
Denver  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. McKayla Schack**  
Seattle  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Trevor Williams**  
Bryant, Alabama  
KC-135