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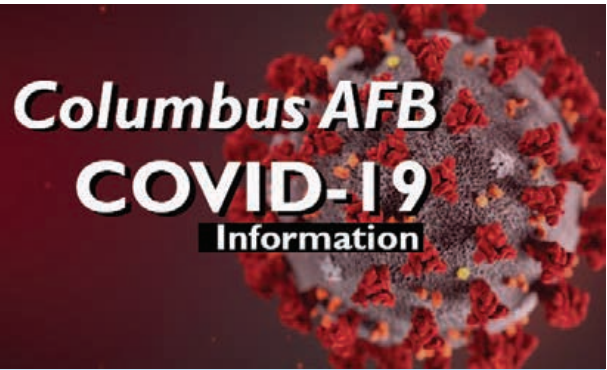
# SILVER WINGS

“Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT”

Vol. 44, Issue 12

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

June 26, 2020



## COVID-19 General Info

The base is executing a measured approach to re-opening 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 and barber shops are permitted for military members.
- State and local parks are allowed.
- Freedom park is now open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. You must wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after playing at the park. 20 people maximum in line with Governor's outdoor guidance.
- The base pool is open under limitations.

### Off-limits:

- No dining-in at restaurants, bars, casinos or breweries or similar establishments. Take out and drive thru are still authorized.
- Gyms off base are prohibited. The gym on base is open to active duty military personnel.

### 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 Airman 1st Class Davis Donaldson  
**Airman 1st Class Adam Nichols, 37th Flying Training Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment specialist, prepares to work on a pilot's harness on June 10, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. AFE specialists perform operator maintenance and service inspections on flight equipment.**

## AFE Airmen keep pilots safe, flight equipment faultless

**Airman 1st Class Davis Donaldson**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Aircrew flight equipment specialists, responsible for maintaining flight equipment, keep aircrew members safe so that Columbus Air Force Base can complete its mission of creating pilots.

Staff Sgt. Nathan Fancher, 37th Flying Training Squadron AFE NCOIC, says AFE's daily operations consist of maintaining, fitting, inspecting and repairing flight equipment. He also mentioned some of their goals as a team.

“First and foremost, we're here to cover the flying, whenever-

See AFE, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE							
PHASE II		PHASE III		IFF		SUPT CLASS 20-18/19 GRADUATION	
Squadron	Track Select	Squadron	Graduation	Squadron	Graduation	SUPT Class 20-18/19 graduates July 10 at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.	
37th (21-05)	July 27	48th (20-18)	July 10	49th (20-EIC)	July 13		
41st (21-04)	July 2	50th (20-18)	July 10				



# COVID-19

## Coronavirus Disease 2019

## SecDef witnesses transformation, protection of citizens becoming Airmen at BMT during COVID-19

1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell  
Gateway Wing  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper visited U.S. Air Force basic military training cadre and recruits, as well as members of the Air Force Recruiting Service, for a firsthand look at how the service transforms citizens into American Airmen, June 16.

Esper, accompanied on the visit by the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Ramón Colón-López, observed how the support of a tri-wing partnership with the 502nd Air Base Wing and 59th Medical Wing, has protected Airmen during the COVID-19 pandemic. The traveling party adhered to all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Defense Department social-distancing guidelines to ensure the protection of their health and those around them.

“The basic military training mission remains absolutely vital to renew our Air and Space Forces and underwrites our ability to defend the nation and deliver air and space power anytime, anywhere,” Esper said. “The entire team here has demonstrated what fighting through COVID-19 looks like with flexibility and tenacity, ensuring the safety of the recruiting, training and education pipeline.”

The first stop was at BMT’s Pflingston Reception Center



U.S. Air Force photo by Johnny Saldívar

**Tech. Sgt. Kyle Shy, (center) 320th Training Squadron military training instructor, briefs Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper (right) during a tour of the U.S. Air Force basic military training’s Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources, or BEAR, base at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, June 16, 2020. Esper met with Air Education and Training Command leaders to see firsthand how BMT is fighting through COVID-19 with health protection measures in place and adapting operations to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance. The visit also allowed him to witness how a citizen becomes an Airman during COVID-19.**

for an overview of Gateway Wing operations and an in-depth look at how BMT has adjusted operations in the wake of COVID-19 in order to continue developing the Airmen needed to ensure readiness, including restriction of movement implementation, person-under-investigation and isolation operations.

More than 34,500 Airmen will graduate from BMT in fiscal year 2020 and the wing has graduated more than 8,500 Airmen since March 16, when the service first implemented a 14-day restriction of movement protocol for new

accessions arriving at training. Since May 19, BMT has 100% testing of new recruits and has realigned the training campus to prevent the interaction of Airmen in different weeks of training.

“Two of our top priorities during COVID-19 have been the safety of our people and ensuring the mission of national security continues,” Esper said. “The rapid implementation of safety protocols here has been extremely successful on both of these fronts thanks to the partnership of health experts and the BMT team.”

Military training instructors and cadre had the opportunity to discuss BMT’s tempo, successes and ways forward with Esper before taking him on a walkthrough of new trainee in-processing, daily operations at an Airman training complex, as well as the Reid Clinic, where the 59th MDW conducts BMT medical support operations.

BEAR base, also called tent city, was another stop on the visit. This area was established by the 49th Wing at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, to support potential BMT contingency operations for the Gateway Wing should swing space be required in the COVID-19 environment.

How the service recruits more than 31,000 new accessions every year into the total force was also highlighted for the DoD’s senior leadership, including the use of agile shipping methods to adjust the numbers of Airmen reporting to BMT each week.

“What the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service has done in response to COVID-19 by being ready to pivot, prioritize, and match applicants to an optimal job and enter active duty on a weekly and sometimes hourly basis, has been incredible,” Esper said.

Esper also learned about the recent integration of the U.S. Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard into Total Force recruiting and the recent roll-out of the new Aim High phone application by AFRS, which is aimed at

See COVID, Page 15

## 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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## GRADUATION

(Continued from page 7)

the graduates and their awards such as the Air Force Association award for those who excelled in training, the Air Education and Training Command Commanders Trophy for the most outstanding students overall in their classes, the distinguished graduates and more.

The 52-week pilot training program that the students go through 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. In the third phase students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Now graduated, each pilot will depart to their new respective bases to fly aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster III, F-35 Lightning II, KC-135 Stratotanker, and more. Some of the graduates were also assigned to be First Assignment Instructor Pilots tasked with training future SUPT classes on Columbus AFB.

## COVID

(Continued from page 2)

helping better communicate, inform and inspire new recruits, with embedded tools to guide them into the right Total Force career path, as their transition from citizens to American service members.

“It’s evident BMT’s success in the COVID-19 environment can be largely credited to the MTI corps creating a culture of safety,” Esper said. “The work they do year-round, laid the foundation for them to adapt swiftly with health recommendations and develop a mentality of early-symptom reporting.”

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



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 July 7 from 8-10 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. To register, please contact your unit CSS, or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at 662-434-2701/2790.

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. July 8. 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.

Transition Assistance Program  
Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 13-15 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.

Air Force Recovery Coordination  
Program

A Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) will be providing assistance from noon-5 p.m. July 15; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. July 16; and 8 a.m.-noon July 17 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.

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Library Curbside  
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Department of Labor Employment  
Transition Track

The next DoL Employment Transition Track is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 16-17. This workshop assists transitioning military members with career exploring, job search, resume writing, federal job applications, interviewing, evaluating job offers and closing the deal.

Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

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

Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. July 23. 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.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon July 23 in the A&FRC. 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.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational  
Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. July 27-28 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.

Bundles for Babies

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is

from 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 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.

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.

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](mailto: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.

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. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC at 662-434-2794/2790 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. Counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m., and it takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC at 662-434-2790 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.

Chapel Schedule

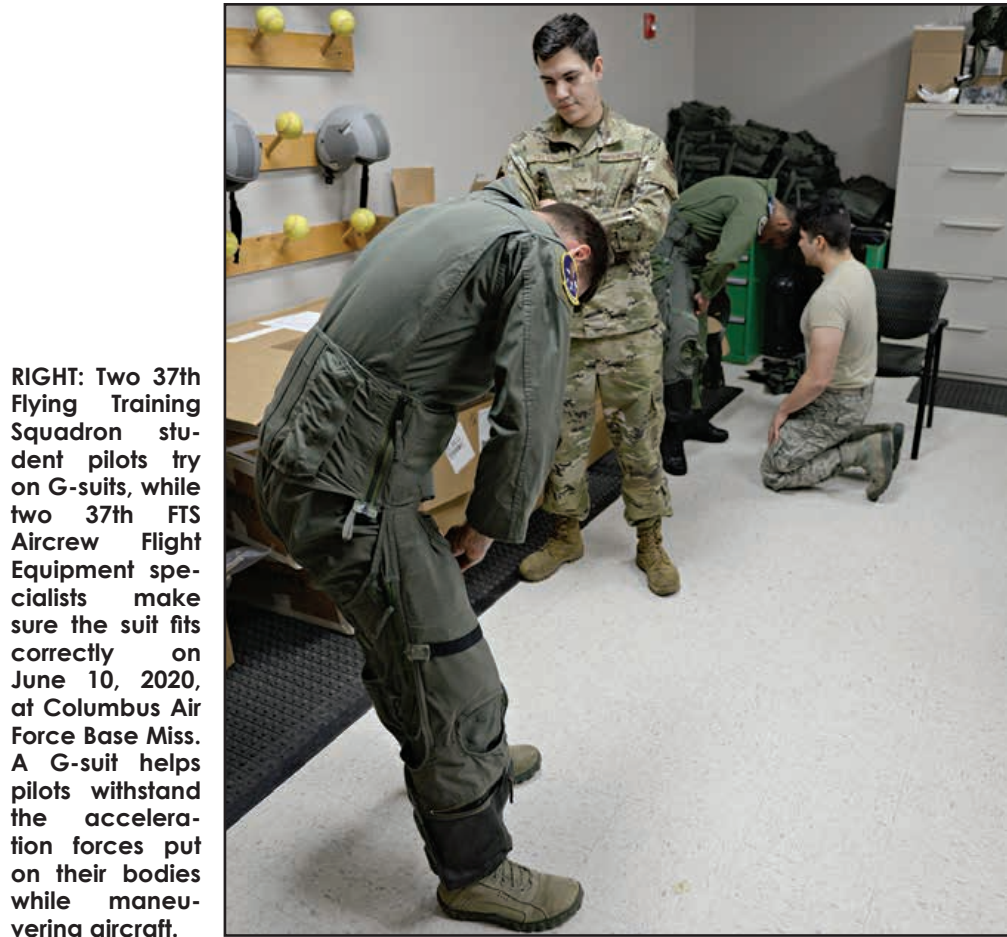
Chapel services are now available.

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!



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Davis Donaldson

AFE

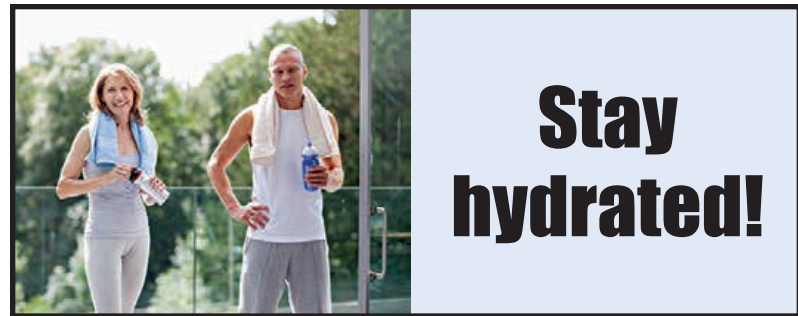
(Continued from page 1)

er and wherever that may be,” Fancher said. “Our secondary goal is to make sure that our inspections for the day are completed.”

Fancher said that the 37th FTS inspects more than 24 sets of equipment daily. The number of sets have been closer to 30 in the past, but aircrew manning has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in fewer sets, he said. A set of flight equipment includes a helmet, harness and G-suit.

Also, he said the inspections can be time consuming and it is essential for an ample amount of Airmen to be working every shift.

“A full inspection, at least for the helmet and harness can take up to an hour, if not longer,” Fancher said. “Each Airman can expect to get about 5 sets of equipment daily, equaling up



Stay  
hydrated!



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Davis Donaldson

**Second Lt. Steven Britt, 37th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, breathes through an oxygen mask, while Senior Airman Dillon Arizta, 37th FTS Aircrew Flight Equipment specialist, makes sure the mask works properly on June 10, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. AFE specialists are responsible for ensuring that all flight and safety equipment is in perfect working order.**

to five hours of work and that is not including the customer service.”

Inspections must be conducted every day to ensure all of the flight equipment a pilot is using for the day is up to date, Fancher said.

A pilot or aircrew member cannot fly with their equipment, if any of it is overdue for inspection, he said.

When asked about combatting COVID-19 and how it affects AFE, Senior Airman Wallace Moore, 50th Flying Training Squadron AFE specialist, said it does not affect AFE as much as it has other fields of work.

“Our daily operations haven’t really changed,” Moore said. “It has been more or less just moving people around and adjusting to the new flight schedule. Some days are now longer than others, but not much has really changed.”

Moore said as other places are using gloves and sanitation

more often, AFE specialists were already using gloves and sanitizing as a part of their daily routine, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moore and Fancher both agree that even though COVID-19 has and may bring more challenges, it is important for AFE specialists to continue their duties.

“I feel like it’s important for us to go on because, mainly we are the ones in direct contact with pilots every day,” Moore said. “If the gear is not ok then they can’t fly and the mission can’t go on. Without us I feel it would impede the mission big time.”

Fancher had some of the same words to say.

“As long as we’re here we can keep the gear functioning,” he said. “If we’re here to meet their needs, if some of the gear becomes faulty, we’re able to swap it out so they can fly. As long as they’re available to fly we will keep them flying.”

14TH FLYING TRAINING  
WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 37 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.







U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
**Col. David Fazenbaker (left), 14th Flying Training Wing vice wing commander returns a salute from Maj. Josh Mann, 14th Comptroller Squadron commander, at a change of command ceremony June 16, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The mission of the 14th CPTS is to “Serve Airmen, Support the Mission and Finance the Fight.”**

## 14th CPTS welcomes new commander

**Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Josh Mann assumed command of the 14th Comptroller Squadron during a change of command ceremony June 16, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The mission of the 14th CPTS is to “Serve Airmen, Support the Mission and Finance the Fight.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb  
**Maj. Randi Ludington, former 14th Comptroller Squadron commander, stands at a change of command ceremony June 16, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Ludington relieved command to Maj. Josh Mann, 14th Comptroller Squadron commander, after her 3 year stay at Columbus AFB.**

Their work includes areas such as military, civilian, travel and relocation pay inquires as well as separation/retirement payments, LeaveWeb inquiries, indebtedness to the government and more.

“I am truly humbled to take control of the 14th CPTS,” Mann said. “I have seen and heard a lot of the accomplishments of the squadron and I am excited to lead these Blaze Airmen”

**Cycle safe,  
wear a helmet**

## 14th HCOS welcomes new leader

**Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Kenneth Rosenblum assumed command of the 14th Healthcare Operations Squadron during a change of command ceremony June 19, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The 14th HCOS is attached to the 14th Medical Group with the goal to keep every pilot, every Airman, and every family member healthy and ready for the other challenges life with throw their way.

“I am both honored and humbled to be given the opportunity to lead the 14th HCOS,” Rosenblum said. “I can’t express how excited I am to join this team and I look forward to getting to know the people, learn from them and lead them to continue a legacy of excellence.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
**Col. Betty Venth, 14th Medical Group commander, hands Lt. Col. Kenneth Rosenblum, 14th Healthcare Operations Squadron commander, the 14th HCOS guidon at the change of command ceremony June 19, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 14th HCOS is attached to the 14th Medical Group with the goal to keep every pilot, every Airman, and every family member healthy and ready for the other challenges life with throw their way.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb  
**Lt. Col. Sean Marshall, former 14th Medical Support Squadron commander, hands his wife Kelly Marshall flowers at the 14th HCOS change of command ceremony June 19, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Marshall relieved command to Lt. Col. Kenneth Rosenblum, 14th Healthcare Operations Squadron commander, at the ceremony.**

### 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’.

### 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.

### Blaze Fest 2020

Blaze Fest 2020 is coming back to Columbus AFB on July 3 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.! Fireworks will start at 9 p.m. Stay tuned for more information!

### Columbus Club

The Columbus Club has a fun event coming up in July! July 10: Namaste at the Bar. For more information, call the Columbus Club at 662-434-2489. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

### Water Aerobics

The Independence Pool is offering Water Aerobics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Must be 18+ to participate. The cost per class is \$20 for the session or \$5 per class. Session 2 begins July 14-29. Please call Outdoor Recreation for more details at 662-434-2505, the Independence Pool at 662-434-2491, or email questions to [ODR.WSI.LTS@gmail.com](mailto:ODR.WSI.LTS@gmail.com).

### Arts and Crafts

Arts and crafts has some fun events planned in the upcoming months, here is a brief overview! July 25: Canvas painting. August 15: Back to school photo booth and framing. For more information, call arts and crafts at 662-434-7856. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

### Shark Tooth Creek

Spend a day at Shark Tooth Creek hunting for shark teeth and fossils. On August 8, ITT is providing transportation out to a popular attraction that’s fun for the entire family. The cost is \$30 per person. Call ITT for more information at 662-434-7861. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

### 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!

### 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.-6 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 662-434- 3426.

# CANVAS PAINTING

at Arts & Crafts

**July 25 at 1400**

Come paint a 3'x3' canvas with the help of an art instructor! Each painting comes with an easel to display your finished painting.

**\$40 per person**

**Sign-Up Deadline: July 17**  
Call 742-7856 for more information!

**FORCE** **AC**

### Library Curbside Delivery

The library is offering curbside delivery. Find your book at [www.columbusafb.milasolutions.com](http://www.columbusafb.milasolutions.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 662-434-2934 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 662-434-2934 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.

### Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation is back open! Their updated hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday, 9-10 a.m. They have some fun events planned for the next few months, here is a brief overview! July 18: Tandem skydiving. August 6: Cornhole Tournament. For more information, call ODR at 662-434-2507. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

### Independence Pool

The Independence Pool is back open from Thursday-Monday every week. Lap swim is from 6-9 a.m. Open swim is available during these blocks of time: 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., 4-6 p.m., and 7-8 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 in-

formation, please call the Independence Pool at 662-434-2491 or Outdoor Recreation at 662-434-2507. Please note, any hours can be changed without notice due to COVID-19.

### Learn to Swim

The Independence Pool is offering Parent and Child Swim Lessons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The two classes offered are: beginner class (ages 6 mo-2 years) and an intermediate class (3-5 years). Cost is \$40 per class. Please call Outdoor Recreation for more details at 662-434-2505, the Independence Pool at 662-434-2491, or email questions to [ODR.WSI.LTS@gmail.com](mailto:ODR.WSI.LTS@gmail.com).

### 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.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. Call for more information at 662-434-2233.

### 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 662-434-7861.

### 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 662-434-7861.

### 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 662-434-7861.

### Storytime Schedule

The Base Library is offering virtual story time on Facebook. For more information, contact 662-434-2934 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, 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.

### Horse Boarding Available

The Columbus AFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 662-434-2505.

### 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 662-434-2934.

### Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. For more information, contact 662-434-2507.

### 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 662-434-7836.



# Clearing the air

**Tracy Mullins**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Environmental Management Systems Coordinator

Living in Mississippi, we are fortunate to have excellent air quality. However, the summertime heat and sunlight can have a negative effect on air quality specifically in regards to ozone. Ozone occurs both in Earth’s upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ozone can be good or bad, depending on where it is found. Good Ozone naturally occurs in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere) and helps protect us from harmful ultraviolet rays. Ozone in Earth’s lower atmosphere (tropo-sphere) that forms when pollutants such as engine exhaust chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone in the

lower atmosphere harms both human health and the envi-ronment.

There are actions everyone can take to help minimize the amount of harmful ozone produced in the lower atmosphere.

- Avoid driving, lawn mowing and refueling during peak heating of the day; try to wait until after 6:00 p.m. to mow and go to the gas station.
- Walk, ride a bicycle, carpool or telecommute when pos-sible.
- Combine errands into one trip.
- Accelerate gradually, maintain speed limit and use cruise control.
- Do not allow vehicle or boat engines to idle; shut the engine off when stopped for extended periods.

To see a map of the current and forecasted low-level ozone concentrations in the U.S. go to the AirNow website: <https://gispub.epa.gov/airnow/>.



To learn more about the harmful effects of ozone visit the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pol-lution/ground-level-ozone-basics#effects>.

# 2020 Armed Forces Voters Week

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

As Americans, we are blessed to have many rights. Many of our rights didn’t come easy, therefore they must be protected. One of these rights is the right to vote, and as a uniformed service member, we have the honor to enjoy this right and protect it for all Amer-icans. Armed Forces Voters Week runs from June 28 through July 5 this year. This is the time to ensure you have registered to vote and re-quested your absentee ballot for the November election. This year’s National General Elec-tion will be held on November 3, 2020.

During this election year, military members and their voting-aged dependents living away from their voting residence can easily make absentee voting part of their Fourth of July patriotic festivities. The Federal Voting As-sistance Program (FVAP) has all the resources needed to ensure a smooth process for all eligible members covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Go to <https://www.fvap.gov/> to complete your registration and absentee ballot request by completing the online Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

Be sure to complete and send in your voted absentee ballot after you receive it but no later than October 23, 2020, so it can arrive in time to be counted. If you do not receive your requested absen-tee ballot by October 4, 2020, you are encouraged to complete and submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). You are welcome to drop your completed FPCA, FWAB or absentee ballot off at the Installation Voter Assistance Office (IVAO) located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Building 1114, and we will gladly mail them for you.

The IVAO is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 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 an address change. We can help you fill in and mail your voting materials. Contact us at DSN 742-2701, commercial (662) 434-2701 or email [vote.columbus@us.af.mil](mailto:vote.columbus@us.af.mil).

Most units assigned to Columbus Air Force Base have appoint-ed Unit Voting Assistance Officers (UVAOs) who are also trained and available to assist you with your voting needs. Please see list below for your unit’s UVAO(s) contact information.

In the event you are unable to contact the IVAO, 24-hour vot-ing 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.



## 14 FTW Voting Assistance Officers

UNIT	NAME	RANK	Role	Phone	Email
14 FTW IVAO	Brady, James	Civ	Pri	434-2701	james.brady.10@us.af.mil
	Johnson, Renee	Civ	Alt	434-2839	renee.johnson.3@us.af.mil
14 CPTS / 14 FTW	Dean, Steven	O-2	Pri	434-7066	steven.dean.10@us.af.mil
14 OSS / 14 OG	Chambers, Howard	O-2	Pri	434-2533	howard.chambers.1@us.af.mil
	Flowers, Alexander	O-3	Alt	434-3011	alexander.flowers.1@us.af.mil
	Campbell, Janel	O-2	Adtl	434-7618	janel.campbell.1@us.af.mil
14 STUS	Ran by 14 FTW IVAO				
37 FTS	Uhle, Joseph	O-3	Pri	434-7656	joseph.uhle.1@us.af.mil
	Simmons, Robert	O-3	Alt	434-7709	robert.simmons.32@us.af.mil
41 FTS	Frederick, Thomas	O-2	Pri	434-7468	thomas.frederick.5@us.af.mil
43 FTS	Hook, Kelly	O-4	Pri	434-3571	kelly.hook.1@us.af.mil
48 FTS	Durr, Franklin	O-2	Pri	434-2095	franklin.durr.2@us.af.mil
	Breyfogle, Christopher	O-3	Alt	434-2671	christopher.breyfogle.1@us.af.mil
49 FTS	Ellwood, Molly	Civ	Pri	434-1661	molly.ellwood@us.af.mil
	Bylsma, Jessica	Civ	Alt	434-1661	jessica.bylsma@us.af.mil
50 FTS	Wycoff, Blaine	O-2	Pri	434-7722	blaine.waycoff.1@us.af.mil
14 LRS	Ran by 14 FTW IVAO				
14 CES	Hallmark, Nicolette	O-1	Pri	434-7957	nicolette.hallmark@us.af.mil
14 CONS	Ran by 14 FTW IVAO				
14 CS	Harris, Quincy	E-6	Pri	434-3425	quincy.harris.1@us.af.mil
14 FSS / 14 MSG	Arroyo, Anthony	E-6	Pri	434-2565	anthony.arroyo.2@us.af.mil
14 SFS	Maury, Travis	E-5	Pri	434-1216	travis.maury@us.af.mil
	Barber, Tanner	E-5	Alt	434-7214	tanner.barber@us.af.mil
14 OMRS	Saeland, Tiffany	O-4	Pri	434-1373	tiffany.d.saeland.mil@mail.mil
14 HCOS / 14 MDG	Howard, Whitney	O-3	Pri	434-2168	whitney.k.howard.mil@mail.mil
332 RCS	Hester, Joshua	O-3	Pri	615-889-9121	joshua.hester.2@us.af.mil
	Mullins, Samuel	E-8	Alt	615-889-9122	samuel.mullins@us.af.mil

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# Columbus AFB faith services gather to communicate unity through prayer

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing Chapel staff and members of different faiths gathered June 10, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, to connect in unity and prayer.

The service, held at Columbus AFB's Freedom Park, was a welcoming place for those in attendance to refuel and refresh in light of the recent events unfolding throughout our country and nation.

"We all deserve some time to express how we feel and what we believe in," said Father Paul Stewart, Catholic Priest. "Each one of us tried to dig up a lot in our prayers about several different aspects, so even if this is just being communicated to our community, this is our way of saying we are all affected by what is going on and that we must stand together now more than ever."

The diverse speakers all had a specific area to pray for but with one purpose — to give hope and awareness that everyone matters.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bradley Kimble, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain, said a prayer for the nation; Father Stewart said a prayer for the Armed Forces; Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Walker, 14th FTW Chaplain, said a prayer for the affected cities; 2nd Lt. Jeremy Schwartz, Jewish Community Lay leader,

said a prayer for the town of Columbus; Brandon Campbell, Latter Day Saints Lay leader, said a prayer for Columbus AFB; Chaplain (Capt.) Timmie Henson; 14th FTW Chaplain, said a prayer for individuals affected.

"In this country we need unity more than anything," Kimble said. "The chaplain staff wanted to let everyone know that we are all struggling with the same thing, so we felt it was vital to give all of our brothers and sisters a chance to come out and pray with us."

The members that were able to attend this event gathered in accordance to the COVID-19 guidelines for social distancing while still supporting each other during this difficult time.

"When the nation is clearly struggling it makes sense for us to be able to come together and pray for healing," Walker said.

For anyone not able to attend, the group held a Facebook live event. The prayer service can be viewed on the Columbus AFB Facebook page.

**RIGHT: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bradley Kimble, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain, says a prayer for the nation June 10, 2020, at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The diverse speakers all had a specific area to pray for but with one purpose — to give hope and awareness that everyone matters.**

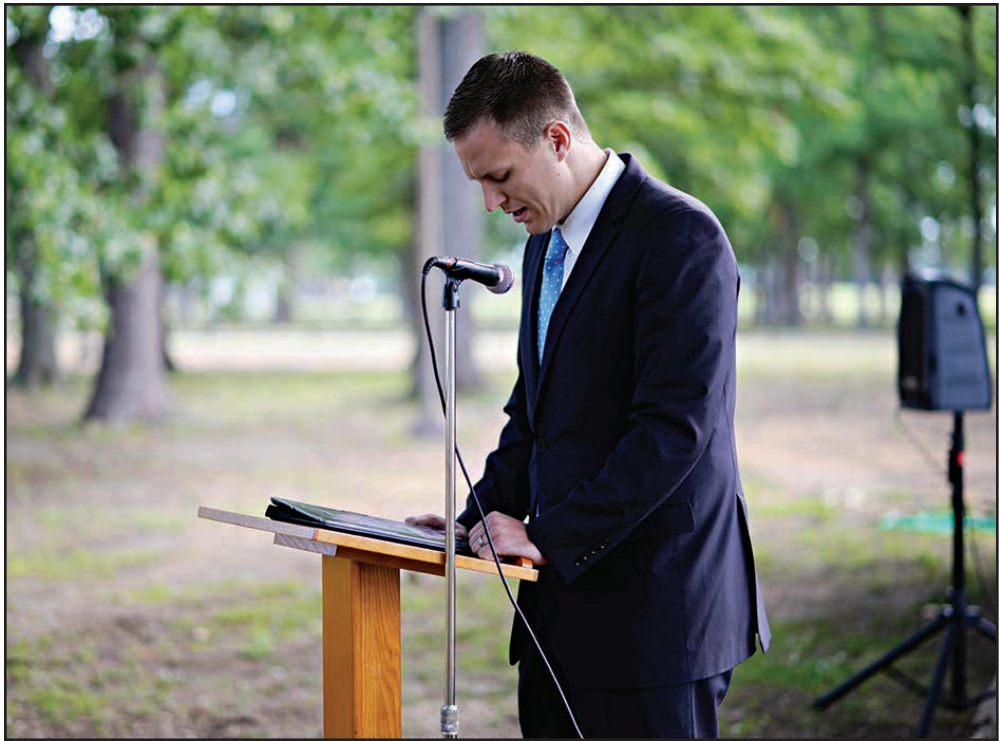


U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Keith Holcomb



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

**Members of Team Blaze bow their heads in prayer June 10, 2020, at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base Miss. The members that were able to attend this event gathered in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines for social distancing while still supporting each other during this difficult time.**



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

**Brandon Campbell, Latter Day Saints Lay leader, says a prayer for Columbus Air Force Base June 10, 2020, at Freedom Park on Columbus AFB, Miss. For anyone not able to attend, the group held a Facebook live event that can be viewed on the Columbus AFB Facebook page.**

## Medical Corner



BRAIN HEALTH MONTH

### Exercise linked to enhanced brain function in adults at risk for Alzheimer's Disease

Regular aerobic exercise may decrease the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's disease, or slow its progression, in adults who are at a higher risk, according to a new study from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH).

The study shows that six months of aerobic exercise training not only improved study participants' cardiorespiratory fitness, but also improved their brain glucose metabolism and executive functioning, important markers for Alzheimer's disease.

"This study is a significant step toward developing an exercise prescription that protects the brain against Alzheimer's disease, even among people who were previously sedentary," said lead investigator Ozioma C. Okonkwo, PhD, of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) at UW SMPH.



The study investigated 23 cognitively normal, relatively young older adults with a family history or genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease. They underwent multiple tests, including measurements of cardiorespiratory fitness, daily physical activity, brain glucose metabolism imaging (to assess neuronal health), and cognitive function.

Half of the participants were randomly assigned to receive information about maintaining an active lifestyle but no further intervention. The other half participated in a moderate intensity treadmill training program with a personal trainer, three times per week for 26 weeks.

Compared to the participants maintaining their usual level of physical activity, individuals assigned to the active training program improved their cardiorespiratory fitness, spent less time sedentary after the training program ended, and performed better on cognitive tests of executive functioning. The participants' improved cardiorespiratory fitness was associated with increased brain glucose metabolism in the posterior cingulate cortex, an area of the brain linked to Alzheimer's disease.

"This research shows that a lifestyle behavior — regular aerobic exercise — can potentially enhance brain and cognitive functions that are particularly sensitive to the disease. The findings are especially relevant to individuals who are at a higher risk due to family history or genetic predisposition," said Dr. Okonkwo.

*Exercise Linked to Enhanced Brain Function in Adults at Risk for Alzheimer's Disease. Retrieved from <https://www.med.wisc.edu/news-and-events/2020/february/exercise-brain-function-tied-to-alzheimers-risk/>*

### How does exercise help your brain?

Physical activity may benefit the brain in a number of ways, such as:

- Promoting cardiovascular health.
- Improving blood flow to the brain.
- Reducing inflammation.
- Lowering levels of stress hormones.

Exercise may provide physical benefits to the brain, too, such as increasing the thickness of the cerebral cortex and improving the integrity of your white matter, the nerve fibers that connect areas of the brain's nerve-cell-rich gray matter. It also promotes neuroplasticity, your brain's ability to form new neural connections and adapt throughout life.

What's especially encouraging is you don't necessarily have to go overboard or meet the physical activity guidelines in order to benefit your brain.

In a recent study, researchers concluded that even among people who did not meet the activity guidelines, each hour of light intensity physical activity and achieving 7,500 steps or more daily was associated with higher total brain volume. This was "equivalent to approximately 1.4 to 2.2 years less brain aging."

"There are a lot of potential mechanisms of exercise that may be combining to benefit brain health," Dr. Bonner-Jackson says. "In general, even in people who are at risk for development of Alzheimer's or other dementias, it can stave off decline in some cases for many years and help people function better."

*Why Exercise Protects Your Brain's Health (and What Kind Is Best). Retrieved from <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/why-exercise-protects-your-brains-health-and-what-kind-is-best/>*

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



*Dear Health Myth Busters,  
Can exercise prevent memory loss and improve cognitive function?*

*Sincerely,  
Keep Our Memory Alive*

Dear Keep Our Memory Alive,  
Possibly. Exercise has many known benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes, strengthening the bones and muscles, and reducing stress. It also appears that regular physical activity benefits the brain. Studies show that people who are physically active are less likely to experience a decline in their mental function, have a lowered risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, and possibly have improved thinking among people with vascular cognitive impairment.

Exercising several times a week for 30 to 60 minutes may: Keep thinking, reasoning and learning skills sharp for healthy individuals; improve memory, reasoning, judgment and thinking skills (cognitive function) for people with mild Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment; and delay the start of Alzheimer's for people at risk of developing the disease or slow the progress of the disease.

More research is needed to know to what degree adding physical activity improves memory or slows the progression of cognitive decline. Nonetheless, regular exercise is important to stay physically and mentally fit.

*Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters*

Alzheimer's disease: Can exercise prevent memory loss? Retrieved from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alzheimers-disease/expert-answers/alzheimers-disease/faq-20057881>

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/>



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-2 Spirit

## Mission

The B-2 Spirit is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. A dramatic leap forward in technology, the bomber represents a major milestone in the U.S. bomber modernization program. The B-2 brings massive firepower to bear, in a short time, anywhere on the globe through previously impenetrable defenses.

## Features

The B-2 provides the penetrating flexibility and effectiveness inherent in manned bombers. Its low-observable, or “stealth,” characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy’s most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most valued, and heavily defended, targets. Its capability to penetrate air defenses and threaten effective retaliation provides a strong, effective deterrent and combat force well into the 21st century.

The revolutionary blending of low-observable technologies with high aerodynamic efficiency and large payload gives the B-2 important advantages over existing bombers. Its low-observability provides it greater freedom of action at high altitudes, thus increasing its range and a better field of view for the aircraft’s sensors. Its unrefueled range is approximately 6,000 nautical miles (9,600 kilometers).

The B-2’s low observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. These signatures make it difficult for the sophisticated defensive systems to detect, track and engage the B-2. Many aspects of the low-observability process remain classified; however, the B-2’s composite materials, special coatings

and flying-wing design all contribute to its “stealthiness.”

The B-2 has a crew of two pilots, a pilot in the left seat and mission commander in the right, compared to the B-1B’s crew of four and the B-52’s crew of five.

## Background

The first B-2 was publicly displayed on Nov. 22, 1988, when it was rolled out of its hangar at Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, California. Its first flight was July 17, 1989. The B-2 Combined Test Force, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, California, is responsible for flight testing the engineering, manufacturing and development aircraft on the B-2.

Whiteman AFB, Missouri, is the only operational base for the B-2. The first aircraft, Spirit of Missouri, was delivered Dec. 17, 1993. Depot maintenance responsibility for the B-2 is performed by Air Force contractor support and is managed at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, Okla.

The combat effectiveness of the B-2 was proved in Operation Allied Force, where it was responsible for destroying 33 percent of all Serbian targets in the first eight weeks, by flying nonstop to Kosovo from its home base in Missouri and back. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the B-2 flew one of its longest missions to date from Whiteman to Afghanistan and back. The B-2 completed its first-ever combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, flying 22 sorties from a forward operating location as well as 27 sorties from Whiteman AFB and releasing more than 1.5 million pounds of munitions. The aircraft received full operational capability status in December 2003. On Feb. 1, 2009, the Air Force’s newest command, Air Force Global Strike Command, as-

sumed responsibility for the B-2 from Air Combat Command.

The prime contractor, responsible for overall system design and integration, is Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems Sector. Boeing Military Airplanes Co., Hughes Radar Systems Group, General Electric Aircraft Engine Group and Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc., are key members of the aircraft contractor team.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** multi-role heavy bomber  
**Contractor:** Northrop Grumman Corp. and Contractor Team: Boeing Military Airplanes Co., Hughes Radar Systems Group, General Electric Aircraft Engine Group and Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc.  
**Power plant:** four General Electric F118-GE-100 engines  
**Thrust:** 17,300 pounds each engine  
**Wingspan:** 172 feet (52.12 meters)  
**Length:** 69 feet (20.9 meters)  
**Height:** 17 feet (5.1 meters)  
**Weight:** 160,000 pounds (72,575 kilograms)  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** 336,500 pounds (152,634 kilograms)  
**Fuel capacity:** 167,000 pounds (75,750 kilograms)  
**Payload:** 40,000 pounds (18,144 kilograms)  
**Speed:** high subsonic  
**Range:** intercontinental  
**Ceiling:** 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)  
**Armament:** conventional or nuclear weapons  
**Crew:** two pilots  
**Unit cost:** Approximately \$1.157 billion (fiscal 1998 constant dollars)  
**Initial operating capability:** April 1997  
**Inventory:** active force: 20 (1 test); ANG: 0; Reserve: 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Barron

A B-2 Spirit assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, England, June 18, 2020. The aerial refueling was conducted as part of a strategic bomber mission north of the Arctic Circle.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Alexander W. Riedel

The B-2 Spirit “Spirit of Indiana” performs touch-and go training at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, June 17, 2020. Two stealth bombers took off from Whiteman AFB to support U.S. strategic long-range bomber operations. These bomber missions support the U.S. commitment to allies and enhancements in regional security, while demonstrating U.S. capability to rapidly posture credible and flexible strategic strike forces to address and deter threats in today’s complex and dynamic global security environment.

# 14th FTW ushers in next generations of military aviators

## Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Twenty student officers from the class of 20-16/17 graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training June 12, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, becoming a part of the newest generation of military aviators.

The ceremony began with remarks by Col. David Fazenbaker, 14th Flying Training Wing vice wing commander, followed by the playing of the national anthem and an invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Walker, 14th FTW Chaplain.

Fazenbaker began by asking for a round of applause to show appreciation for the people that made it possible for the graduating class to be there.

“I want to make sure we take the time to thank those that supported everyone to get where they are today,” Fazenbaker said. “To the families that are present and those not able to be here, thank you for instilling the values, moral and work ethic of each of the graduates who are walking across this stage today.”

He moved on to congratulating the graduating class on their accomplishments and for answering the nations call to action.

“Each of you play an important role in our national defense because in a few short months you will be defending our



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

**Col. David Fazenbaker, 14th Flying Training Wing vice wing commander, speaks at the graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-16/17 on June 12, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. After graduating pilot training at Columbus AFB pilots will go to their specified base to start training on their assigned aircraft.**

borders, projecting our power, engaging in combat and transporting vital equipment to the next fight,” said Fazenbaker.

Fazenbaker then talked about the Air Force in action and how each of the graduates are about to support that national



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



**Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-16/17 sit in the Kaye Auditorium during their graduation ceremony June 12, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The students endured a 53-week training program in order to earn the title of an Air Force pilot.**

defense in their respective aircraft.

Following Fazenbakers speech, Col. Tom McElhinney III, 14th Operations Group commander, assisted in announcing

See GRADUATION, Page 15

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# Commentary: Unrest in America

**Air Force Chief of Staff  
Gen. David L. Goldfein**

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The death of George Floyd is a national tragedy. Every American should be outraged that the conduct exhibited by police in Minneapolis can still happen in 2020. We all wish it were not possible for racism to occur in America, a country founded on the sacred ideal that “all men (and women) are created equal” and have the “unalienable rights,

that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” But it does, and we are at a moment where we must confront what is.

To the Airmen who are mourning, angry, or weary of the battle against racial prejudice, discrimination, bias, and systemic discrimination, Chief Wright and I recognize your pain. As the Air Force’s military leadership, we reflect on and acknowledge that what happens on America’s streets is also resident in our Air Force. Sometimes

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its explicit, sometimes it’s subtle, but we are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination, and unconscious bias. We see this in the apparent inequity in our application of military justice. We will not shy away from this; as leaders and as Airmen, we

will own our part and confront it head on.

Chief Wright and I have had vastly different experiences growing up and during our time in the Air Force. His powerful op-ed, Who Am I, is a must read. Please disseminate it across your wing.

So what to do? Discussing our different life experiences

and viewpoints can be tough, uncomfortable, and therefore often avoided. But we have been presented a crisis. We can no longer walk by this problem.

We must look inward at our Air Force, and at every echelon of command, so we emerge stronger as a profession of arms. It was our very own General Benjamin O. Davis, Tuskegee Airman, who said, “The privileges of being an American belong to those brave enough to fight for them.”

It is time for every one of us to strive for understanding and a culture of inclusiveness and belonging across our Air Force.

I don’t have the answers, but I do know

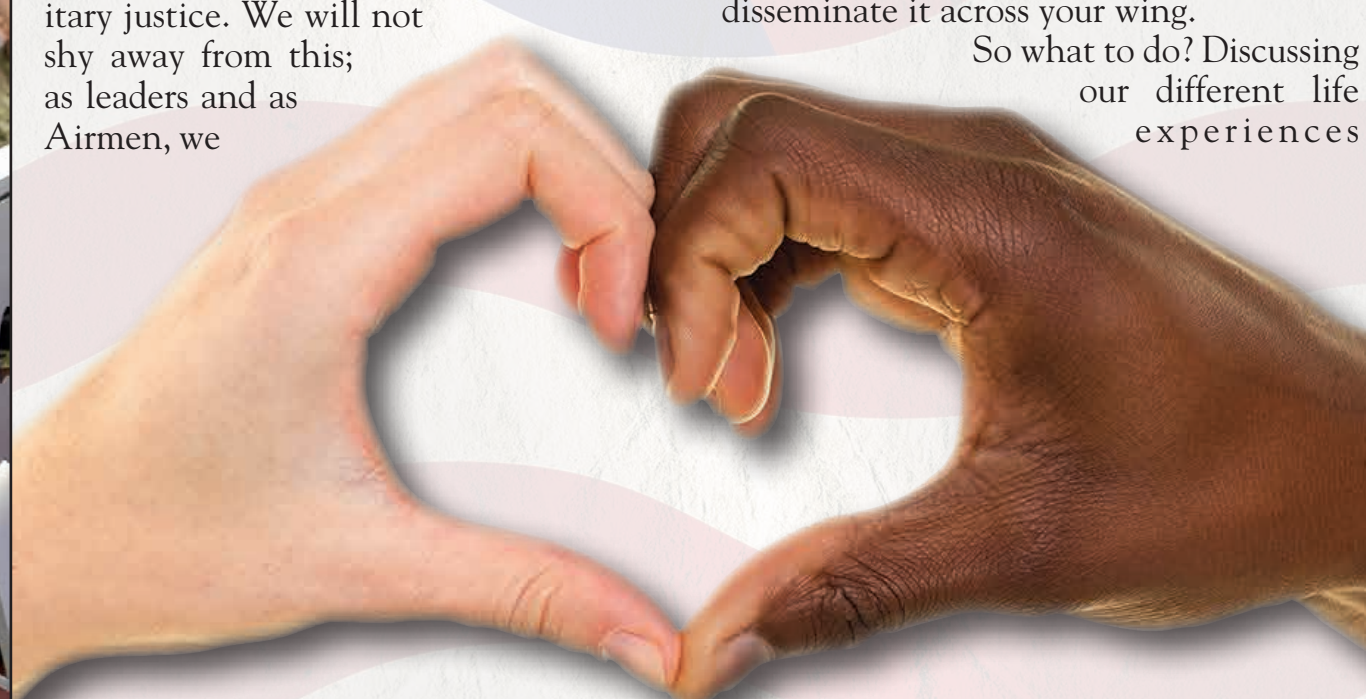
there is no room for bigotry, hatred or small mindedness in our force. Period. Every member of our team needs to know we have their back.

So let’s start the conversation acknowledging we have many valued Airmen who live and work for One Nation under God, indivisible ... but for them ... without liberty and justice for all.

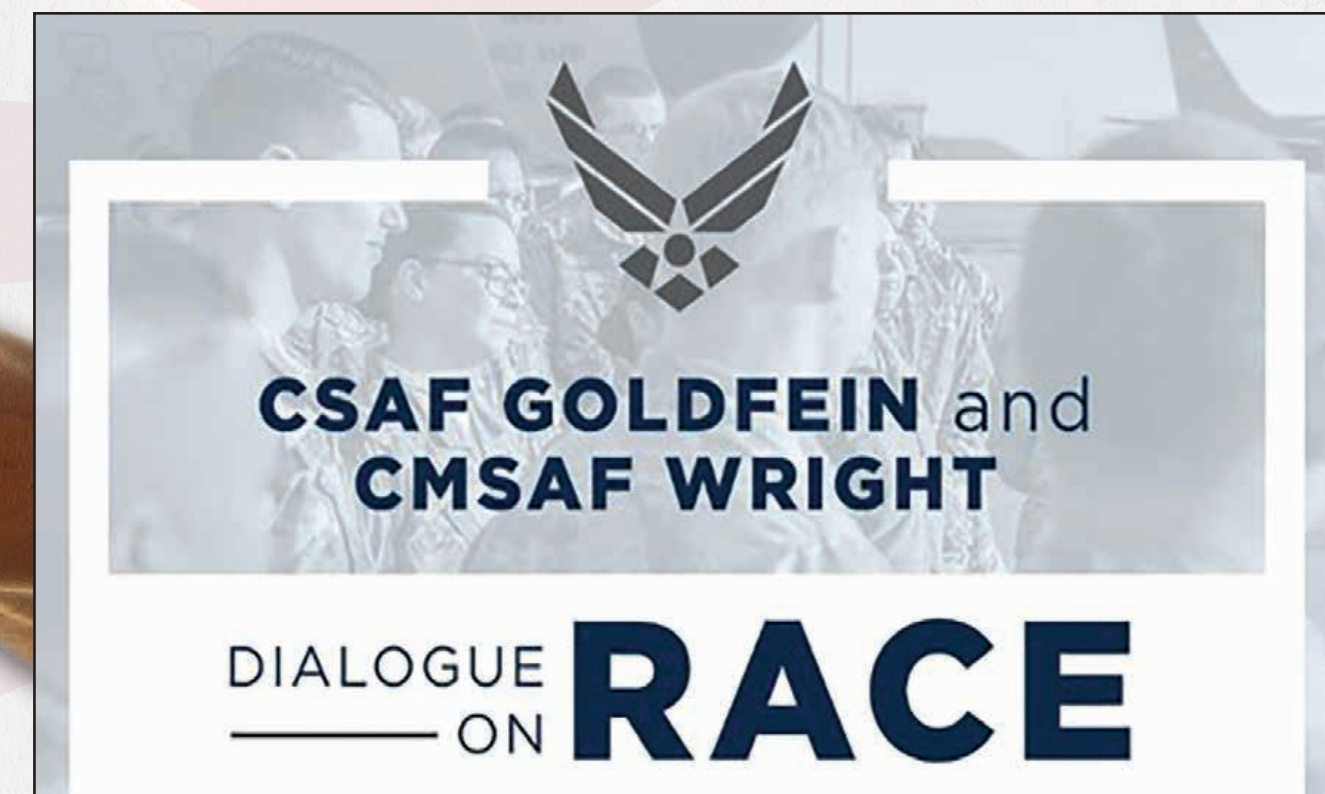
Together with Secretary Barrett, we have directed the Air Force Inspector General to do an independent review of our legal system, racial injustice, and opportunities for advancement.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright converse in an online dialect session.



*All men (and women) are created equal*



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright hosted a dialogue on race in a Facebook Town Hall June 3, 2020.

U.S. Air Force graphic