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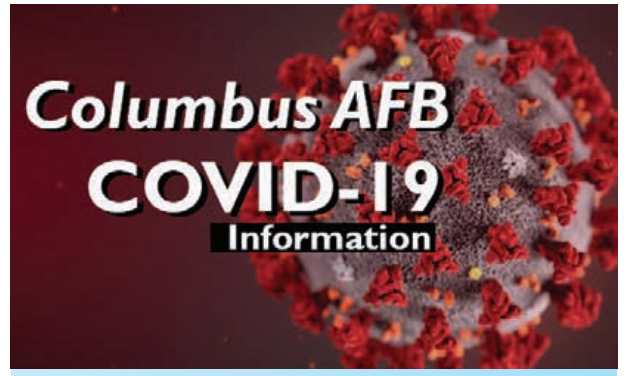
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# SILVER WINGS

“Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT”  
 Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 2

January 29, 2021



## Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

### COVID-19 General Info

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

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

- Off-limits:**
- Dining indoors is prohibited.
  - Bars, casinos or breweries or similar establishments are prohibited.
  - Gyms, bowling centers, theaters, auditoriums and events off base are prohibited.

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



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
 U.S. Air Force Col. Justin Spears, 14th Flying Training Wing Operations Group commander (Left), Col. James Akers, 1st Operations Group commander at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, and Col. Seth Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander (Right), congratulate the Air Force's newest pilots during a graduation ceremony, Jan. 15, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

## Columbus students complete training; become AF pilots

**A1C Jessica Haynie**  
 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Fifteen students from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-04, have officially graduated, earning their pilot wings on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Student pilots must go through a rigorous 52-week training program, operating trainer aircraft such as the T-6 Texan II, before claiming the title of U.S. Air Force pilot.

These brand new pilots were accompanied on graduation day by guest speaker U.S. Air Force Col. James Akers, 1st Operations Group commander at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Akers not only offered his words of wisdom to the fresh graduates, but gave the base an extra treat with an F-22 Raptor Airpower Demo show shortly after, to all of Columbus AFB.

See GRADUATION, Page 3

## CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Columbus AFB YouTube page



columbus\_afb



Columbus AFB Facebook page



www.columbus.af.mil

# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

## DOD Responds to COVID-19 in Navajo Nation

Army Spc. Ashunteia Smith

At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 12 Navy personnel deployed to the Navajo Nation reservation in New Mexico and Arizona to provide support to the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico. The medical personnel have been working side-by-side with civilian and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps health care providers to help treat COVID-19 patients.

"The relationship with the embedded nursing staff here has been great from the get go," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Jagger, critical care nurse and Rural Rapid Response team leader said.

"They are family now," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Smith, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the hospital's intensive care unit supervisor, said.

The medical providers are currently treating up to eight patients at one time in the COVID-19 positive ward at the medical center. The ward is set up in an open room with beds alongside each other. As the pandemic progresses, the medical center is considering expanding the ward, allowing the providers to treat up to 15 patients at once.

"Bringing in that staff gave us the capability of doubling our

bed capacity for the intensive care unit," Smith said.

For some of the medical providers, it is not their first time being part of the Defense Department's whole-of-America COVID-19 response. Jagger and other members of the Rural Rapid Response teams provided support at different hospitals in New York when the pandemic first started, as well as in Texas as the pandemic continued.

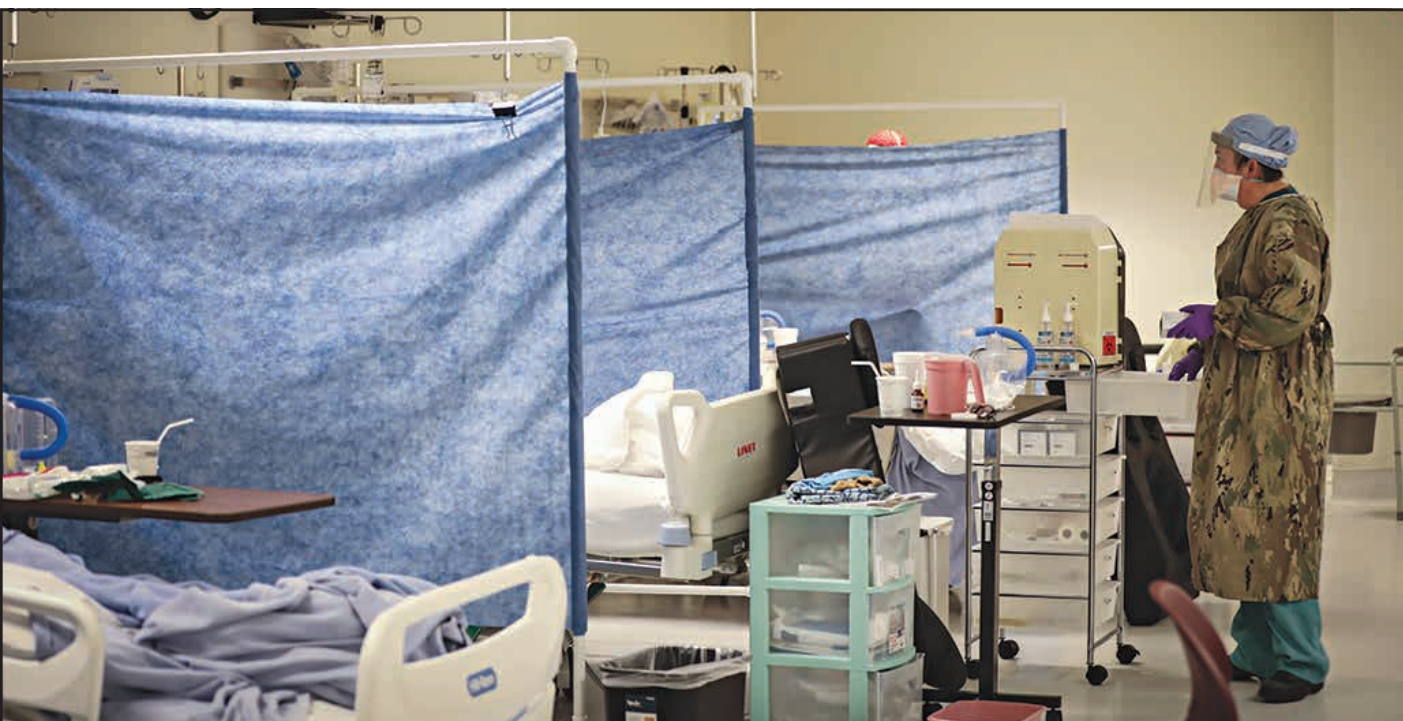
"Thankfully, we are seeing better outcomes than we did when COVID-19 first hit," Jagger said.

Due to some of their previous experiences, the medical providers were able to quickly adapt to their surroundings.

"They were boots on the ground ready to go, and they've been wonderful to work with," Smith said.

The Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to 574 federally recognized tribes in 37 states.

As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses throughout the country, U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing a flexible Defense Department in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.



U.S. Army photo by Army Spc. Ashunteia Smith

Navy Lt. Kathryn Hrezo, a critical care nurse with the Rural Rapid Response Team, prepares to check patients' blood sugar levels, while working in the COVID-19 ward at the Northern Navajo Medical Center, Shiprock, N.M., Jan. 2, 2021. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Defense Department support to the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.

## 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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U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
Graduated students from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-04, hold their freshly broken wings, Jan. 15, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Fifteen officers were awarded their silver wings at the ceremony and gained the title of "Air Force Pilot".

### GRADUATION

(Continued from page 1)

"When I was sitting in those seats, I did not realize that operators like yourselves were going to have a tactical, operational and strategic impact on the World," said Akers. "I am here to say you will and it is an exciting time for all of you."

As a first lieutenant, a mere 3 years after graduation, Akers was called to defend the air space of the western United

States after news of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the country reached his unit.

"Each one of you may not follow in the same path as mine," said Akers as he looked out at the young pilots. "But when the Nation calls, you will generate your own story and experiences."

Akers was sure to remind the Air Force's newest aviators that all aircrafts play an important role in the mission. He shared his story of the tanker support to the F-22 International



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
U.S. Air Force Col. James Akers, 1st Operations Group commander at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, speaks to the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-04 at their graduation ceremony, Jan. 15, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 52-week training consist of six-weeks of preflight academics and physiological training followed by primary training.

al Dateline incident that happened in 2007. Informing the group that a KC-10 saved six F-22's and brought them back safely to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

"As U.S. Air Force pilots, you all are a part of what's next," said Akers. "For when the nation calls, and it will, you are the warriors America will depend on going into the future."

The newly graduated aviators will embark on their next journey, continuing onward to their assigned bases and starting training on their designated aircraft.



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

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

Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command. The Commander's Action Line can be reached at 434-1414. Leave your name and phone number or email if you would like to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

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



# Happy Anniversary: At the age of 79, AETC continues to build on its incredible heritage

**Air Education and Training Command**

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Education and Training Command, the U.S. Air Force's oldest active command, marks its 79th anniversary Jan. 23, 2021, making it the First Command as well as the first command to which Airmen are assigned.

AETC traces its roots to the Air Corps Flying Training Command, which was activated nearly eight decades ago on Jan. 23, 1942.

The first iteration of AETC flying training was consolidated under then-Vice Chief of the Air Corps Lt. Gen. Barton K. Yount. With an urgent, operational need for even greater authority and direction during World War II, technical training was folded into Yount's command in July 1943.

According to the command's history, the earliest Airmen learned their trades outside the service with little standardization and institutional control. Much of training was decentralized and executed by contractors. Formal training was accomplished at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois, or then Randolph AFB, or accomplished by training on-the-job. It was not until World War II and the expansion of American air frames, that training was scaled to win the largest air war of all time, and the beginnings of the First Command's enduring legacy was cemented in history we celebrate today.

By the end of World War II in 1945, the command had produced nearly 200,000 pilots, 48,000 navigators and aircrew, 1.9 million technical training graduates, and 2.8 million basic military training graduates—Airmen who proved decisive in every theater of war and dominated the world's skies.

To accommodate this unprecedented expansion, BMT and flight schools were expanded and geographically dispersed, according to Gary Boyd, AETC command historian. Midwesterners would find themselves on a train to then-Sheppard Field, complete indoctrination training, and then begin airplane and engine mechanics school at a neighboring facility before proceeding to a nearby factory for a technical rating, he said.

On July 1, 1946, Army Air Forces Training Command became Air Training Com-



Photo by Courtesy Photo

**Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland dates back to July 4, 1942, when the War Department separated part of Kelly Field west of Leon Creek and made it an independent installation, naming it the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center. The Army re-designated it as the Army Air Forces Military Training Center Feb. 1, 1946, and gave it the basic military training mission for the Army Air Force.**

mand. The early Airmen of the command oversaw the world's most complex technical training and flying program before becoming part of the newly-formed U.S. Air Force in September 1947.

According to Boyd, the anticipated peace dividend following World War II ended quickly, and ATC began a surge in readiness and operations in response to world events. ATC earned its reputation as the premier training establishment of the world's air forces and the most successful and flexible industrial scale training operation of all time. Instructors trained Airmen on emerging technologies like computers and missiles, while providing the essential instruction on standard courses of study from basic flight training to medical administration.

On July 1, 1993, Air University merged with ATC and the command was renamed Air Education and Training Command.

According to command history, while the force inevitably reduced during peacetime operations, the mission became even more robust. Distance learning, cyber warfare and

expeditionary training throughout AETC evolved with the advent of technological innovations, and its Airmen continued to train for the 21st century.

During 2020, innovative approaches to developing Airmen took center stage, including the integration of advanced capabilities, technology, and Airmen-centric instruction to expeditiously develop high-quality Airmen, made this past year one of the most momentous in the command's history, said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC command chief.

"Our successes this year are directly attributed to the tactical leadership of our instructors, educators, medical professionals, support personnel, and all those who had a hand in training and educating across our command," said Thompson. "We could not have overcome the challenges we have faced without an innovative, dedicated force, who have fought through adversity, day-in and day-out to make the mission happen."

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, AETC members were essential to continuing

to recruit, train and educate the force during unprecedented times, said Boyd.

"AETC's most noteworthy feat this year was fighting through the pandemic and doing it safely," Boyd said. "Many plans envisioned halting training operations during the pandemic, but the command's leadership realized immediately that the lethality of the Air Force depended on the continuation of the pipeline. The command looked to the past and stood up an additional BMT location, as it had done in the '50s and '60s. Flying training was modularized to allow for social distancing, quarantine protocols and distance learning. AETC instilled confidence to the rest of the Air Force and organizations who watched members of the command in action. AETC showed, as it always does, what right looks like."

Another noteworthy training milestone this past year has been the command's increased efforts to improve opportunities for all Airmen and potential recruits. In 2020 alone, AETC officials sponsored several policy changes to cultivate a diverse and inclusive force—updating anthropometric guidance to accurately reflect the nation's population, eliminating height requirement waivers, and reducing restrictions on pregnant Airmen who perform flight duties, to name a few.

"The greatest evolution in training has been increasing opportunities for all Airmen," Boyd said. "Every year our command removes more barriers and is thus more capable, because of the strengths that a dynamic and diverse population of Airmen bring to the fight."

Today, AETC continues to build on its incredible heritage as the First Command, marked by exceptional Airmen and dedicated professionals who are ready to perform the mission anywhere, anytime, said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander.

"This year has been marked by our incredible efforts to advance force development and transform learning to discover, develop, and deliver lethal, ready Airmen and Guardians," said Webb. "We are proud that today's force stands on the shoulders of bold Airmen that came before us, and we look to the future with clear eyes, charged with accelerating change and maintaining our warfighting competitive advantage."

## COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 12)

### 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. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or for more information.

### Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months

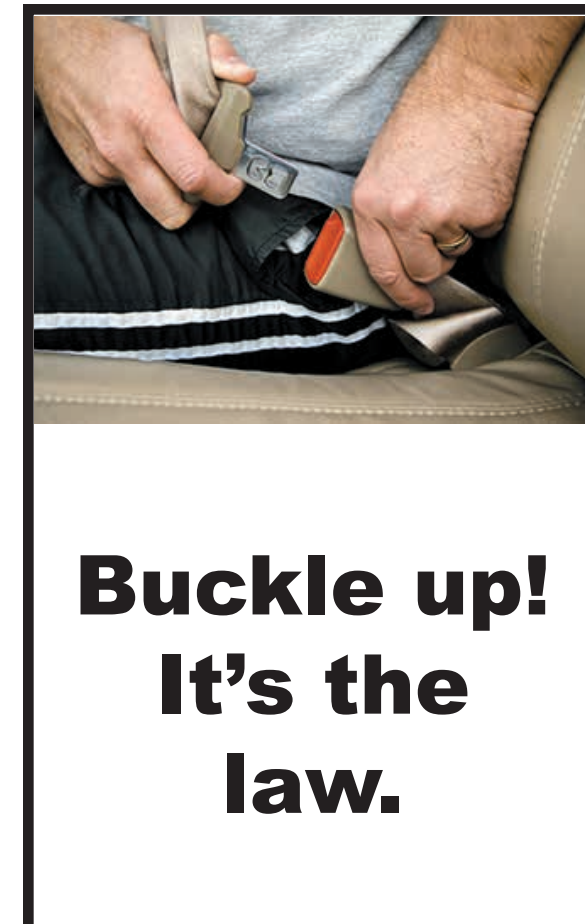
prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

### Employment Workshop

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

### Survivor Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.



## FSS

(Continued from page 11)

### Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT and save up to 60%? American Forces Travel is now serving APF and NAF civilians. Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at www.americaforstravel.com or visit your ITT office at (662) 434-7861.

### CAFB Library

The Base Library is offering virtual board games, live craft demonstrations, STEM activities, book clubs and much more on their Facebook page: @columbusairforcebaselibrary. 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, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

## Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

### Key Spouse Program (KSP)

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

### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling

to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 435-1110.

### Sponsorship Training

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

### Horse Boarding Available

The CAFB 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.

### Wood Shop Has Reopened!

The Wood Shop is now open Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$5 for first hour and \$3 for every hour after the first. Please call (662) 434-7836 for any questions.

### Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact (662) 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 (662) 434-2505.

### Instructors Needed

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

### Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at (662) 434-2548. Guest Services staff is on duty from 6a.m.-10p.m. daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/property/Columbus-AFB>. After hours services call (662) 251-2931.

### Ride in Style

Information Tickets and Travel offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. For more information, contact (662) 434-7861.

## 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”

### Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 11. 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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Feb. 23 from 8-11:45 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event's foundation is the base's mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Feb. 25 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Feb. 25, 5-7 p.m. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

## Witnessing a demonstration for airpower



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Williams

**U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Trevor James (center foreground), 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, along with other members of the community, watch as the Air Force's F-22 Airpower Raptor Demo Team based out of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., show off the aircrafts aerial capabilities, Jan. 15, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The F-22A Raptor is a fifth-generation fighter incorporating fourth-generation stealth technology, radical maneuvering capabilities, and the ability to fly a supersonic speed without afterburners.**

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mar. 1-5 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.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Mar. 10. 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. 15-16 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, in-

crease 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.

### Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Apr. 8. 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.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held on Jun. 17-18 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 Pro-

gram-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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 13

## 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!

# The AFMS in the Persian Gulf War, the need for critical care

## Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — January 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm, and it also marks a turning point in Air Force Medical Service's Critical Care Transport Teams. “We were not serving the Army as well as we could have in the Air Force,” explained Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton, a former Air Force Surgeon General who had been working on the concept of CCATT since the 1980s.

As the U.S. military and its allies assembled in the Middle East in the summer and fall of 1990 — Operation Desert Shield — in response to Iraq President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, then-Col. Carlton set up the 1,200-bed Air Force 1702nd Contingency Hospital in combination with an Army Combat Support Hospital outside of Muscat, Oman. Yet, as Operation Desert Shield turned to Operation Desert Storm on January 19, 1991, the hospital only took in 42 patients, and those were only from surrounding bases.

“We did not get any war wounded,” said Carlton, who offered beds to the Central Command surgeon in an effort to better utilize the facility.

To make the case for his hospital, Carlton traveled to the battlefield to offer assistance. “I picked up a couple of Air-EVAC missions just to let more people know we existed,” he said. “I told Army commanders to send anyone to us.” But it soon became apparent the Air Force could not meet the Army's needs. “We could not take people with catheters or tubes, much less needing a ventilator.”

Instead of relying on the Air Force, the Army built large hospitals closer to the front. “The Army built up just like they did in Vietnam,” Carlton said. “They had a very big footprint.”

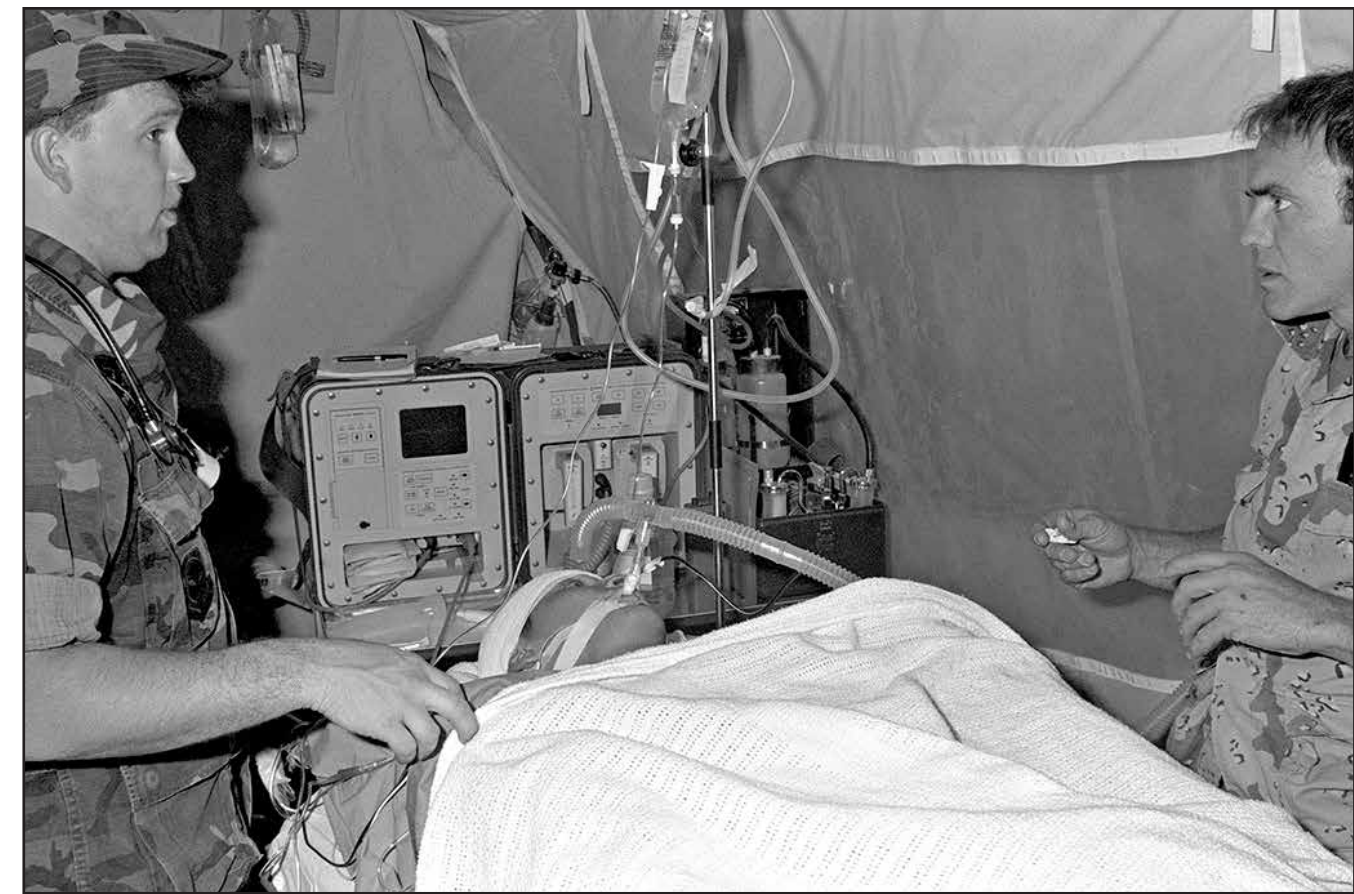
AFMS leadership wanted smaller hospitals connecting back to the United States, but to do that, they needed a modern transportation system. Although Carlton and other colleagues had been working on improvements to patient transportation since 1983, air evacuations were still very restrictive. The equipment needed to keep a patient alive was new and untested.

“Modern ventilators blew out lungs all the time,” Carlton explained. “We needed to work the kinks out and we needed the opportunity to work in the modern battlefield. We needed critical care in the air.”

When the war ended in late February, Carlton and other AFMS officers returned home and brought their CCATT ideas to the Air Training Command.

“The war was not an aberration,” Carlton said. “We had to modernize our theater plans to be able to transport patients.” Carlton and his colleagues trained three-person crews to work with new and improved ventilation equipment aboard airplanes.

“That was the long pole in the tent,” he explained. “When you take a critical care patient you say ‘we can ventilate that



U.S. Air Force photo by Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

**Medical personnel prepare Corporal Richard Ramirez, a member of the 1st Marine Division, for medical evacuation by a C-141B Starlifter aircraft from Al-Jubail Airport to Germany for treatment of chest wounds sustained during Operation Desert Storm. During this time, Aeromedical Evacuation teams were prepared and were able to transport up to 3,600 casualties a day.**

patient,’ and you better be able to.”

With the new program up and running, the AFMS made CCATT available to the other services.

CCATT gained momentum in 1993 when Carlton and his colleagues traveled to Mogadishu, Somalia, for an after-action brief on the U.S. Army's “Blackhawk Down” engagement and explained CCATT to the Joint Special Operations Command surgeon. He, in turn, handed Carlton a check and said “I want that as soon as you can make it.”

The turning point came in 1995 during the Bosnian War, when an American Soldier riding a train to Bosnia was electrocuted by an overhead wire and fell off the train. He was immediately transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, where doctors wanted him transferred to the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. When Maj. (Dr.) Bill Beninati picked up the patient for the flight to the United States, he was still very unstable. Somewhere over Greenland, the patient went into septic shock and

Beninati and his team resuscitated him. When they touched down in San Antonio, some 12 hours later, the patient was in better shape than when he left.

“That's when the Army took notice,” Carlton said. “We had convinced them that we could do what we said.”

Soon, the Air Force Surgeon General at the time, Lt. Gen. Alexander Sloan, approved the CCATT concept. Later, with the strong endorsement of Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman II, CCATT became a formal program.

CCATT proved invaluable in the next conflict, Operation Iraqi Freedom, where casualty evacuation became a vital necessity, as well as in Afghanistan. Carlton is proud of CCATT.

“We have developed a modern transportation system to go along with the modern battlefield for the Army, Navy, and the Marines,” Carlton said.

Today, CCATT is considered a vital component of AFMS, but it took a war to liberate Kuwait some 25 years ago for the military to realize how badly it was needed.

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

# AFOSR advances science of wound-healing technology

Matthew D. Peters

Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's cutting-edge research creates future warfighting technologies for the Air and Space Forces, protecting the lives of those that put themselves in harm's way. Ground-breaking research into cellular reprogramming, made possible in part with funding from AFRL's Air Force Office of Scientific Research, is leading to technology that could heal wounds more than five times faster than the human body can heal naturally, vastly improving long-term health care outcomes for warfighters and veterans.

Dr. Indika Rajapakse, associate professor of Computational Medicine & Bioinformatics and associate professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan, is researching ways to reprogram a person's own cells to heal wounds faster. In order to get high-resolution views inside live cells to better understand the wound-healing process, Rajapakse submitted a Defense University Research Instrumentation Program proposal to purchase a live cell imaging microscope. Dr. Frederick Leve, program officer for AFOSR's Dynamical Systems and Control Theory portfolio, selected Rajapakse's proposal.

The microscope also assists in gathering data for an algorithm which can mathematically identify when best to intervene in a cell's cycle to heal wounds. Leve, in collaboration with Dr. Fariba Fahroo, AFOSR program officer for the Computational Mathematics portfolio, awarded Rajapakse a grant for research to improve this algorithm.

"There are amazing opportunities in the United States, that you don't see in the rest of the world, to humanize science and meet critical needs in medicine," Rajapakse said. "We have the resources to do this, and it is our obligation to take full advantage of them. Thanks to the Air Force's help, I was able to acquire the tools I need to advance my research into cellular reprogramming and wound healing."

This funding connection was made possible by collaboration between the AFRL's 711th Human Performance Wing, and Air Force Futures. Col. Charles Bris-Bois, the Air Force Disruptive Technology Team lead, was instrumental in making the connection between this novel technological concept and Air Force operational needs. The team saw a clear opportunity and helped Rajapakse reimagine his technology for other uses not immediately thought of such as aeromedical

*"There are amazing opportunities in the United States, that you don't see in the rest of the world, to humanize science and meet critical needs in medicine," Rajapakse said. "We have the resources to do this, and it is our obligation to take full advantage of them. Thanks to the Air Force's help, I was able to acquire the tools I need to advance my research into cellular reprogramming and wound healing."*

environments and how the presence of unhealed wounds increases aircrew susceptibility to hypoxia and other altitude related injuries.

"The impact of this research effort can be far reaching," said Dr. Rajesh Naik, 711th Human Performance Wing chief scientist. "The convergence of biosciences with mathematical models can truly provide an inflection point to advance the development of wound healing. Dr. Rajapakse's research can result in innovative solutions for addressing our needs in the aeromedical operations and in future space environments."

Bris-Bois' team used their real-world operational experience and insights to help uncover other potential challenge areas and medical applications, such as burn healing, skin grafts, organ transplants, etc. The continued partnership between AFRL and Air Force Futures helped to bridge the tech-to-operational divide, facilitating a move from the lab to real-world testing and applications.

"Indika's research is exactly the kind of breakthrough technology we're looking for in Air Force Disruptive Technology," Bris-Bois said. "This shows the real promise of our efforts to bring warfighters and technologists together to imagine the possibilities of early scientific research."

Cellular reprogramming is the process of taking one type of human cell, such as a skin cell, and reprogramming its genome so that it becomes a different kind of cell, such as a

muscle cell, blood cell, neuron, or any other type of human cell. This is done using proteins called transcription factors. Transcription factors "turn on and off" various genes within cells to regulate activities such as cell division and growth, and cell migration and organization.

With the application of the right transcription factors, Rajapakse found that wounds healed more than five times faster than allowing the wounds to heal on their own. The next step is to figure out how best to apply them. The envisioned technology would act like a "spray-on" bandage, applying transcription factors directly to wounds. This method would convert exposed deep muscle cells into surface skin cells, which would mean a higher probability of successful healing than the current methods of skin grafting.

However, identifying which transcription factors make the required changes to create the right kind of cell requires a long process of trial and error. Rajapakse and his team have developed a data-guided algorithm to mathematically identify the correct transcription factors and predict the points in the cell cycle where transcription factors can best affect the desired change. The live cell imaging microscope provides data to further improve the algorithm.

"It's rare that mathematics provides such promising results so quickly," Leve said. "It usually takes decades for basic math research to make it into models which can be applied to a technology. In Dr. Rajapakse's case, it only took a handful of years. AFRL is proud that our funding enabled mathematical theory for modeling and valuable data to be gathered which contributed to this rapid development."

The success of Rajapakse's project is a testament to AFRL's purposeful outreach and relationships with partners such as Air Force Futures. This renewed commitment provides a mechanism for "out-of-the-box thinking" for potentially disruptive capabilities that will revolutionize the Air Force in the years to come.

"It is a really big deal that two opposite ends of the technology maturity spectrum — basic research and capability-focused operators — came together in this instance to identify an opportunity to help our warfighters and made it happen—fast!" said Dr. Shery Welsh, AFOSR director. "We are proud of our AFOSR Science and Engineering division for building an active, robust engagement with Air Force Futures that removed science roadblocks and created a pathway for transition."

## Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at [www.columbusafbiving.com](http://www.columbusafbiving.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 (662) 434-2337.

## Get Connected with Your Base App!

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

## Back to School Planning

During these times of uncertainty, we want you to be certain of one thing... Columbus AFB School Age Care (SAC) is here to support your needs. During the 2020-2021 School Year, SAC will be offering both after school and full day care services daily. Register today! Please call the Youth Center at (662) 434-2504.

## Youth Center Upcoming Events

It's a Mardi Gras Celebration at the CAFB Youth Center on Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.! Celebrate with the youth as we create and wear upcycled box costumes in the true spirit of New Orleans Mardi Gras. Get a taste of "The Big Easy" and enjoy a parade put on by the youth in the U-Drive of the Youth Center for the CAFB Community. Join us to be front and center to catch the "throws." Treats will follow this colorful parade. Come party with us and "pass a good time!" Spectators welcome! Youth must be enrolled to participate. Social distancing rules will apply. Drop in care is available. For questions, call (662) 434-2504.

Parents! Are you ready for a night out? Drop your sweethearts off at the Youth Center on Feb. 13 from 6-10 p.m. for a night of fun while you enjoy a night out for two. There will be pizza, games, and crafts. \$20 per child. You must register by COB on Feb. 11. AF1181 and required Flu shot must be on file. For questions, call (662) 434-2504.

## Columbus Club & The Overrun Lounge

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Lounge are back! TGIF... Start your weekend off right with Friday Night Bar at 4 p.m. It also features bar favorites like wings, mozzarella sticks, fries and much more.

Head over to The Club for "The Big Game Watch Night" and enjoy food and drink specials and incredible door prizes, while you watch the game on the big screen with your friends! Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the game starts at 5:30 p.m.

Let's Connect! This Friday, Jan. 29, the Club will kick-off Boss & Buddy Night from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and enjoy a few brews with your boss and buddies. Boss & Buddy Night will continue every Wednesday after that.

## Strike Zone Grill at the Columbus Club/The Overrun

The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) has moved to The Overrun at The Columbus Club and features DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT service. It's the same great food, same great staff, at a new location. The hours are Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat & Sun: Closed. Breakfast is offered until 10:30 a.m. For take-out orders, call (662) 434- 3426.

## Bowling Center

The Bowling Center lanes are open! Hours are Tuesday-Friday: 3-9 p.m., Saturday: noon- 6 p.m. Sign-up via the Bowling Center's Facebook page @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter. Limited to 4 per-



sons per lane. Maximum of 20 people in the facility. Beverages and packaged snacks will be available during bowling hours. For more information, call (662) 434-3426.

The Bowling Center is offering Unlimited Neon Bowling on Feb. 19 from 7-10 p.m. Patrons can enjoy unlimited games of cosmic bowling with neon pins until close. If you get a strike with a neon head pin, you will win a prize! There will be cosmic party lights and music videos. Bowlers will pay \$10 per person (not including shoes). Reserve your lane on the Bowling Center's Facebook page at @columbusafbbowlingcenter or call (662) 434-3426. Limited to 4 persons per lane. Masks must be worn at all times.

## Library Curbside Delivery

The library is offering curbside delivery. Find your book at [www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com](http://www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com). Email your order to the library at [14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil](mailto:14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil). A confirmation email will be sent when your order is ready! Orders received before 11 a.m. will be ready during 1-4 p.m. that same day. Before picking up, please make sure you get a confirmation email stating your book is ready for pickup. When you park in the back parking lot, please give the library a call at (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.

## Arts and Crafts

Stop by Arts & Crafts for all you Framing and Engraving needs! Call A&C at (662) 434-7856 to arrange for curbside pickup.

## Auto Skills Center & Hobby Shop Grand Opening 5 February!

For all you shade tree mechanics, the Auto Skills Center is

making preparation to reopen on Friday, Feb. 5 at 3 p.m! It features lifts, air hoses, equipment for self-serve oil and filter changes, tire balance and rotation, and tools for repair and maintenance. Open Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Follow ColumbusAFBLiving.com and Social Media for updates.

## Fitness Center

Take advantage... The Columbus AFB Fitness Center no longer requires you to sign up for fitness sessions! Swing by anytime during normal operating hours to get your workout in! Other Risk Mitigation plans still apply. Hours of operation are as follows—Monday-Friday: 5a.m.-9p.m., Saturday & Sunday: 8a.m.-6p.m. Check with the Fitness Center for their holiday hours. Now serving all eligible DoD cardholders! There will be no 24/7 access. Please note some important things: 100% ID Card Check. Bathrooms only available. No showers or lockers for use. Bring gym necessities only. No rental equipment. For more information, call the Fitness Center at (662) 434-2772.

The Alpha Warrior Tent at the Fitness Center is open Friday 5-6:30 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 8a.m.-3:30p.m. Sign ups no longer required! Open to all eligible DoD Cardholders. 10 customers per session. 100% ID Check. Check in at the Fitness Center. Mask required to enter and exit. For more information call (662) 434-2772.

Don't miss the Sweetheart 5K presented by the Fitness Center on Feb. 12 at 7 a.m. Sign-up on the Fitness Center's Sign-Up-Genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/93d7ede00a-2cae5c42-fitness>.

## Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10a.m.-5 p.m. (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) and Saturday/Sunday, 9 a.m.-1p.m. ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Call ODR at (662) 434-2505 for all of your outdoor activities.

## Venture 360 Coming Soon!

Outdoor Recreation is excited about Venture 360 coming in early 2021! This is a new outdoor activity center located at the old CAFB golf course. It will be where community and fun come full circle! Stay tuned to ColumbusAFBLiving.com and social media for updates!

## Coffee House on 5th

Coffee House on 5th, located in the Blaze Commons, is back open to 50% capacity inside. Drive through or come in to enjoy a cup of coffee or a tasty treat. Their hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. Call for more information at (662) 434-2233.

## Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

Information, Tickets & Travel is back open! Hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday). Come by and check out their new location at Outdoor Recreation building 152. For more information, call (662) 434-7861 or (662) 434-2507.

## Assignment Night Transportation

Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact (662) 434-7861.

Share the road.  
Watch for  
motorcyclists.

When you see  
this sign, stop.  
Help keep our  
children safe.

# Medical Corner



**World Health Organization (WHO) Launches Year-Long Campaign to Help 100 Million People Quit Tobacco**  
World No Tobacco Day 2021 - "Commit to Quit."

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to millions of tobacco users saying they want to quit. The year-long "Commit to Quit" WHO campaign will support at least 100 million people as they try to give up tobacco through communities of quitters.

This campaign will help create healthier environments that are conducive to quitting tobacco by advocating for strong tobacco cessation policies; increasing access to cessation services; raising awareness of tobacco industry tactics, and empowering tobacco users to make successful quit attempts through "quit and win" initiatives.

*"Smoking kills 8 million people a year, but if users need more motivation to kick the habit, the pandemic provides the right incentive," said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.*

Quitting tobacco is challenging, especially with the added social and economic stresses that have come as a result of the pandemic. Worldwide, around 780 million people say they want to quit, but only 30% of them have access to the tools that can help them do so. Together with partners, the WHO will provide people with the tools and resources they need to make a successful quit attempt.

WHO released a scientific brief earlier this year showing that smokers are at higher risk of developing severe disease and death from COVID-19. Tobacco is also a major risk factor for noncommunicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes. Moreover, people living with these conditions are more vulnerable to severe COVID-19.

"Millions of people worldwide want to quit tobacco – we must seize this opportunity and invest in services to help them be successful, while we urge everyone to divest from the tobacco industry and their interests," said Dr. Ruediger Krech, Director of Health Promotion. WHO calls on all governments to ensure their citizens have access to brief advice, toll-free quit lines, mobile and digital cessation services, nicotine replacement therapies and other tools that are proven to help people quit. Strong cessation services improve health, save lives and save money.

WHO launches year-long campaign to help 100 million people quit tobacco. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-12-2020-who-launches-year-long-campaign-to-help-100-million-people-quit-tobacco>

## Smoking and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Health Risks and How to Quit

Because the coronavirus targets the lungs, doctors and public health officials are adding new urgency to their longstanding plea for smokers and vapers to quit.

Both habits can compromise lung function. Early Covid-19 studies have shown that cigarette smokers in particular are more susceptible to the infection and suffer more severe cases. Doctors are raising similar concerns about vapers.

If you have ever considered quitting, right now would be a most excellent time to make a determined effort to do so. There are a lot of helpful resources to receive tobacco cessation treatment without leaving home:

- The quitSTART app is a free smartphone app that helps you quit smoking with tailored tips, inspiration, and challenges.
- SmokefreeTXT program sends free 24/7 quit help texted to your phone. Text CDC to 47848, answer a few questions, and you'll start receiving messages.
- Talk to your doctor about using the nicotine patch, gum, lozenges, or other medications to help you quit. They can prescribe medication and have it mailed to your home.

Learn about more helpful resources at: <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/quit-smoking/index.html>

How to Quit Smoking and Vaping During the Coronavirus Pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/health/coronavirus-smoking-vaping-quit.html>

[https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/coronavirus/Smoking\\_and\\_the\\_Coronavirus\\_Pandemic-508.pdf](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/coronavirus/Smoking_and_the_Coronavirus_Pandemic-508.pdf)

## The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior.  
I have answered my nation's call.  
I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage.  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.  
I am an American Airman.  
Guardian of freedom and justice,  
My nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.  
I am an American Airman.  
Wingman, leader, warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind.  
I will never falter,  
And I will not fail.



### Don't text while driving

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: UH-N1 Twin Huey

### Missions

The UH-1N Twin Huey is a light-lift utility helicopter used to support various missions. The primary missions include: airlift of emergency security forces, security and surveillance of off-base nuclear weapons convoys, and distinguished visitor airlift. Other uses include: disaster response operations, search and rescue, medical evacuation, airborne cable inspections, support to aircrew survival school, aerial testing, routine missile site support and transport.

### Features

The UH-1N has a crew of three (pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer) and is capable of flight in instrument and nighttime conditions. When configured for passengers, the UH-1N can seat up to 13 people, but actual passenger loads are dependent on fuel loads and atmospheric conditions (may be less). The medical evacuation configuration can accommodate up to six litters. Without seats or litters, the cabin can carry bulky, oversized cargo. Access to the cabin is through two full-sized sliding doors.

### Background

The UH-1N entered the Air Force inventory in 1970 to provide search and rescue capabilities. The missions expanded to include missile security, distinguished visitor, survival school and test support. HH-1H's and UH-1F's supporting missile wings were eventually replaced by the UH-1N due to the greater safety and capability offered by the twin engine.

Manufactured by Bell Helicopter/Textron Inc., the UH-1N is the military version of the Bell 212, one of the numerous variants of the original "Huey" first designed and flown in 1956.

The helicopter is assigned worldwide. Within Air Force Global Strike Command, UH-1N's are located at the 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, and the 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota

Other units include: 1st Helicopter Squadron, Andrews AFB, Maryland; 36th Rescue Flight, Fairchild AFB, Washington; 459th Airlift Squadron, Yokota AB, Japan; 40th Flight Test Squadron, Eglin AFB, Florida; and 512th Rescue Squadron, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

### General characteristics

- Primary function:** light-lift utility
- Contractor:** Bell Helicopter Co.
- Power plant:** two Pratt and Whitney T400-CP-400 turboshaft engines
- Maximum gross weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,763 kilograms)
- Range:** 300-plus miles
- Ceiling:** 15,000 feet (4,572 meters); 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) for gross weights above 10,000 pounds (4,536 kilograms)
- Maximum speed:** 149 mph (130 knots) Cruise Speed: 103-115 mph (90-100 knots)
- Length:** 57 feet, 3 inches (17.44 meters)
- Width:** 9 feet, 5 inches (2.87 meters)
- Height:** 12 feet, 10 inches (3.9 meters)
- Diameter of main rotor:** 48 feet (14.63 meters)
- Diameter of tail rotor:** 8 feet, 6 inches (2.6 meters)
- Crew:** pilot with co-pilot and flight engineer, depending upon mission
- Date deployed:** 1970
- Inventory:** active force, 59; Reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Air Force photo

The UH-1N Twin Huey is a light-lift utility helicopter used to support various missions. The primary missions include airlift of emergency security forces, security and surveillance of off-base nuclear weapons convoys, and distinguished visitor airlift.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman J.T. Armstrong

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson flies aboard a 54th Helicopter Squadron aircraft Sept. 7, 2017, at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. On her first trip to Minot AFB as SECDEF, Wilson toured both the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing facilities and assets.



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# Gotta give ‘em props

**Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base hosted personnel from the 23rd Flying Training Squadron at Fort Rucker, Ala., to facilitate training and offer aircraft familiarization flights to prospective pilots, Jan. 26, 2021, on Columbus AFB, Miss.

For the rides, the 23rd FTS brought two TH-1H Iroquois'. The helicopters are used to train pilots attending specialized undergraduate helicopter pilot training at Ft. Rucker.

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Philip Strunk, 23rd FTS instructor pilot, also said they brought a group of helicopter student pilots to receive their physiological and altitude chamber training. The pilots are coming back from their initial flight training in Texas.

"We are also here spreading the knowledge of what a helicopter can do and the purpose they serve in the Air Force," said Strunk. "We are offering aircraft familiarization flights to student and instructor pilots to show them helicopters are actually pretty cool and useful, and they have some amazing capabilities."

When asked how offering flights to students here contributed to the mission at Columbus AFB, Strunk said it gives student pilots an opportunity to see all their options.

"I feel like if you don't know what the options are, you don't have the capability to make an informed decision," said Strunk.

*"We are also here spreading the knowledge of what a helicopter can do and the purpose they serve in the Air Force," said Strunk.*

"Overall, it improves the knowledge of what is out there."

Strunk said his favorite part about flying the TH-1H was being an instructor pilot, stating it is an awesome opportunity to teach the next generation of aviators. He also said he loves the heritage behind the Huey and how fun and maneuverable it is.

To reduce the learning curve for student pilots and ease their transition into the cockpits, the TH-1H has a trio of multifunction displays in a fully night vision goggle compatible cockpit, and identical instrumentation on both the pilot and co-pilot stations.

Strunk offered a final word of advice to prospective student pilots.

"Weigh your options," he said. "This is an awesome aircraft and it is a lot of fun."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
U.S. Air Force student pilots, assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing, prepare for an aircraft familiarization flight on the TH-1H provided by the 23rd Flying Training Squadron at Fort Rucker Ala., Jan. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The flight was an educational experience for Columbus AFB instructor and student pilots to learn about the TH-1H and its capabilities.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Hayden Reynolds, 23rd Flying Training Squadron instructor flight engineer, signals the pilots for take-off for an aircraft familiarization flight, Jan. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Since January, 1994, the 23rd FTS is the United States Air Force's primary source of helicopter pilots for special operations, combat search and rescue, missile support, and distinguished visitor airlift missions.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie



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

ABOVE: U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Austin Kong, 23rd Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, maneuvers a TH-1H Huey during an aircraft familiarization flight for instructor and student pilots from the 14th Student Squadron, Jan. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. During pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss., students only fly the T-6 Texas II, T- 38C Talon, and T- 1A Jayhawk. The aircraft familiarization flight gave them an opportunity to experience new aircraft.

LEFT: A U.S. Air Force TH-1H piloted by 1st Lt. Austin Kong, 23rd Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, hovers above the flight line in preparation for take-off, Jan. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 23rd FTS was at Columbus AFB to receive physiological and attitude chamber training provided by the 14th Operations Support Squadron.