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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

November 20, 2020

Vol. 44, Issue 22

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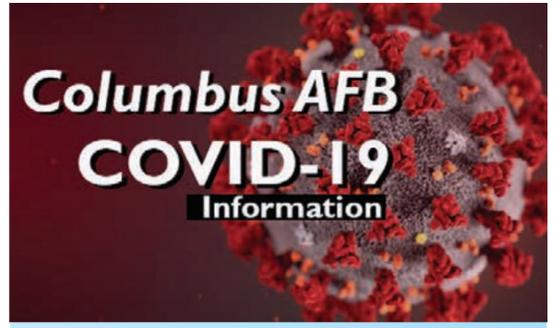
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## Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

### 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.
  - Dining-in has been allowed at restaurants.

- Off-limits:**
- 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 Ret. Master Sgt. Clyde Moore poses for a photo in Columbus, Miss. Moore served three tours in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

## Legacy of service

14th Flying training Wing Public Affairs

Clyde Moore could easily blend into any crowd but only if that crowd were exceptional. Born in 1938, Moore understood very well that life in Columbus, Mississippi was harder than most places.

Raised with many siblings by his grandmother, Moore did the unthinkable and joined the United States Air Force before his 16th birthday in 1954. At the time his motivation was to

help his grandmother provide for his brothers and sisters, but the path he chose would forever change his life.

“This was just something I knew that I had to do to help out at home,” said Moore. “It wasn't hard to get in, during that time...the only thing the recruiters were concerned about was getting their quotas, so they weren't really checking ages.”

Moore's career began in earnest at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona where he completed the High School Level General

See VETERAN, Page 3

## CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

## Technology, expertise help determine COVID-19 vaccine distribution

Lisa Simunaci

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Ten military officers assigned to Operation Warp Speed are embedded at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.

Operation Warp Speed, led by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense, employs a “whole of America” approach to develop and deliver 300 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics to treat the virus.

More than 600 miles from Operation Warp Speed headquarters in Washington D.C., each of the Army, Navy and Air Force officers in Atlanta are teamed with a CDC regional coordinator responsible for a specific area of the country and its territories.

“The country’s existing public health infrastructure is well tested — we see evidence every fall when Americans receive the flu vaccine in large numbers. But these are not normal times,” Army Gen. Gus Perna, Operation Warp Speed’s chief operating officer, said. “Leveraging our military planning and logistics capability and combining that with proven methods will allow existing systems to scale quickly to get the vaccine to the American people.”

The military liaisons and partner regional coordinators are communicating daily with various agencies within their assigned regions to discuss how vaccines will be prioritized, packaged and shipped. Information exchanges are continuous as regions work through the special handling instructions — like cold storage — and other considerations surrounding delivery.

“Like most of America, public health professionals are working through the challenges brought on by quarantines, telework and social distancing,” said Deacon Maddox, Operation Warp Speed’s



Photo by OWS

An Operation Warp Speed contingent in Atlanta is working with regional coordinators on the distribution efforts for the COVID-19 vaccine.

chief of plans, operations and analytics. “While the pandemic stresses both people and systems, our expertise and technology tools provide a disciplined and deliberate approach to prioritize vaccine delivery and ease the burden of public health officials throughout the nation.”

Operation Warp Speed is using the Tiberius platform, a cutting-edge data platform to collect, correlate and visualize data across the entire operation. It is loaded with data from various sources — U.S. Census, Department of Health and Human Services, State Health Offices and the CDC.

Tiberius integrates the data related to manufacturing, clinical trials, supply chain, allocation, state and territory planning, delivery and administration of both vaccine products and kits containing needles, syringes and other supplies needed to administer the vaccine. No personally identifiable or personal health information is contained in the Tiberius system.

All 50 states recently submitted COVID-19 distribution plans to the CDC, and the Operation Warp Speed team is in-



Photo by Courtesy of Johnson & Johnson

A potential COVID-19 vaccine is currently in the testing stage in New Orleans, Louisiana.

involved in helping the CDC review those plans. Once the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes its recommendations on who should receive the vaccine first, the HHS secretary, in consultation with national leadership, will decide how to prioritize the initially limited doses.

OWS will input these decisions into Tiberius, and using several other logistical

See COVID-19, Page 3

### 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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To advertise in  
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**COMMUNITY**

(Continued from page 13)

**Survivor Benefit Plan**

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

**Personal Financial Readiness**

Need Help with Financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services

**FSS**

(Continued from page 12)

**Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair**

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

**Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed**

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

**Wood Shop is temporarily closed.**

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

**Referees Needed**

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

## 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.

are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 434-2790.

**Key Spouse Program (KSP)**

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

**Military and Family Life Counselor Program**

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, rein-

tegration 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 MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://militarylearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0>. More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbiving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocaiton-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

**RV Storage Lot**

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**Instructors Needed**

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

**Space A Lodging**

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548. Guest Services staff is on duty from 0600-2200 daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/properties/Columbus-AFB>. After hours services call 662-251-2931.

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## Resident Council

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base housing residents gained a new voice of representation to address quality of life issues to the Military Housing Office, Privatized Housing company and installation commander.

This representation came in the form of a Resident Advocate. The role of the Resident Advocate is to proactively assist residents with housing issues and elevate concerns within the chain of command.

"The Air Force created the Resident Advocate position at all bases to assist with ensuring the commander has a pulse on what the residents are facing in housing as well as providing information on how problems are being resolved," said Tina Durrah, 14th Flying Training Wing, resident advocate.

The advocate works as a liaison between the residents, Military Housing Office, Property Owner and other base agencies to assist with issue resolution.

To assist the Resident Advocate and act as base housing representatives, the Resident Council was formed comprised of enlisted, officer, government civilian, retirees, contractors and dependents who live in the Columbus AFB communities

"The resident council is a forum for residents to discuss health and safety concerns, identify improvements, present solutions and establish positive relationships between the residents and property owner," said Durrah.

The Resident Advocate reports directly to Col. David Fazenbaker, 14th Flying training Wing vice commander, and serves as an additional avenue for residents to voice housing issues.

"This is the first time I've joined a resident council and I was really encouraged by Ms. Durrah's enthusiasm for the communities concerns," said Bridget Cruz, CAFB resident. "A group forum like this gives the residents a voice and a separate avenue to address problems with housing. This is a new program and needs more residents to join so our voice can be powerful."

The long term goal of the Resident Council Program is to provide a venue for residents to identify areas for improvement, address unresolved housing issues and be the voice for resident representation.

In 2019, during a review of quality of life for military installations, the military service branches were held accountable for the ineffective resolution of health, safety and security issues related to privatized housing. In response Congress established multiple requirements for improvement to include the resident advocate position in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

As part of the effort to address concerns of base housing residents throughout the Air Force the Resident Advocate is only a portion of the overall plan. In addition to resident advocates, the Military Housing Office received an additional position to perform move-in, pre-inspections and final inspections. The plan created new reporting requirements for health, quality of life and safety incidents.

The Performance Incentive Plan was created to empower base commanders to hold property owners accountable to meet housing expectations.

The Columbus AFB resident council is open to all military and other eligible tenants living on the installation in privatized housing. For more information about the program contact Ms. Tina Durrah at 662-434-7276.

**VETERAN**

(Continued from page 1)

Educational Test and received his General Education Degree in 1956. Moore would spend the first 11 years on the road in a seemingly unbroken chain of permanent change of stations, 11 to be exact. Now, the typical tour length of a regular assignment for military members at a single duty station is between three to four years.

While stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls in Texas, Moore was selected to join a small task force headed to an unfamiliar country called, Vietnam.

When Moore arrived at Tan Son Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam in 1964, he would be transferred to a U.S. Army Ranger Special Forces Advisory compound under the umbrella of the Military Assistance Command, in Pleiku, Vietnam.

"It was completely different, I had no combat experience and they had told me don't worry about it all you have to do is work..." said Moore. "But when I got there this lieutenant told me I had guard duty that night and I said they told me I didn't have to do anything but work. He said, look here now if I gotta pull guard duty, you gotta pull guard duty."

The two walked over to the guard post where the conversation continued.

"He said uh your weapon here, I think he said, it's half-cocked and all you gotta do is start shooting," said Moore. "I asked him, well what about reloading, I don't know how to reload it. He told me don't worry about reloading, by the time you need to, somebody will be here with you. He just walked off and left me there."

Five months later, on an early winter morning at 2 a.m. the silence was broken at Moore's compound along with another six miles away at Camp Holloway, the National Liberation Front 30th Company, 409th Battalion had breached the security perimeter and launched an assault.

At Camp Holloway, the raid was swift and killed nine service members, wounded 126, destroyed ten aircraft and damaged 15 additional aircraft. Moore's com-

**COVID-19**

(Continued from page 2)

factors, compute the quantities to be allocated to each jurisdiction. The jurisdictions will work inside the Tiberius platform to decide where every allocated dose will go — from local doctors' offices to large medical centers. These decisions will then be sent to distributors to complete deliveries across the country.

"We still have several unknowns, but that is what the military is best at — planning for every contingency, and that is what we are helping states with now," Maddox said. "Every state is different — no two information systems are the same."

Through the Tiberius software though, Maddox said the team has visibility within one system to see a full snapshot across all U.S. jurisdictions to provide decision support for distribution and allocation using 2020 technology.

pound was also assaulted. The Viet Cong began shooting through the windows of our quarters, said Moore.

The Viet Cong claimed a tactical victory but just 12 hours after the attack, President Lyndon B. Johnson secured approval for airstrikes against military targets in North Vietnam. Approximately 49 U.S. Navy fighter-bombers led the spearhead of Operation Flaming Dart.

In the aftermath of the battle of Pleiku, Moore received orders back to the United States and reported to Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas. Racial tensions and anti-war demonstrations were abundant and influenced Moore's decisions to return to Vietnam.

"I left Vietnam and came back to the United States and couldn't even get a hotel room. I had to search for a black hotel...that's just the way it was in those days," said Moore. "When I first came home I was in San Francisco, California and there was this sky cab and we were talking and he said, where you coming from and I said I just left Vietnam. He said, you know what, things are so bad for blacks back here you should have stayed over there."

"I didn't know how to accept that but I understand what he was talking about," he said.

Moore would willingly serve an additional two tours in Vietnam in 1966 at Tan Son, Air Base Saigon and Danang Air Base, Danang in 1970. He would join a small group of Vietnam veterans that served multiple tours like retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Jorge A. Otero Barreto, who served five tours, and retired U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Mike DiRocco, who also served three tours of duty during the Vietnam War.

After 24 years, four months and 29 days of Federal service, Moore retired from the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in Denver. He raised three children, Sonyah Clark, Shana Moore and Jerry Moore.

Moore created success for himself as a car salesman for Honda and received national recognition as the top salesman in his zone for four years.

Fifty-six years later, Moore is silent about his experiences in Vietnam, but he has a one word message for the future generation.

"Persistence," said Moore.

*"Timing for the first dose is the beginning, but we are going to be in continual distribution as production comes off the line daily or weekly — and it must be distributed," Maddox said.*

While most of the nation is eagerly anticipating the first vaccine delivery, Maddox noted the Atlanta team is looking beyond initial distribution to the hundreds of millions of doses expected in subsequent shipments.

"Timing for the first dose is the beginning, but we are going to be in continual distribution as production comes off the line daily or weekly — and it must be distributed," Maddox said.



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

The graduating class of 21-02 stands to break their silver wings in half Nov. 13, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base Miss. To graduate, students completed 52 weeks of pilot training with six-weeks of preflight academics and physiological training followed by primary training.



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

U.S. Air Force and international student pilots from class 21-02 clap for one of their fellow classmates receiving a diploma Nov. 13, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base Miss. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions the graduation was live streamed to Facebook on the Columbus AFB page for viewers not in attendance.

# New aviators graduate from SUPT, receive wings

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Twenty students from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, have officially graduated Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training and earned their first set of wings.

Receiving wings in the United States Air Force is an achievement that symbolizes the completion of training and solidifies the title of Pilot.

After receiving their diplomas and awards the newly appointed pilots in SUPT class 21-02 followed a tradition called the breaking of the wings, originating decades ago when the Army Air Corps first started issuing pilot wings to young graduating aviators.

As tradition has it, the pilot breaks their first set of wings into two parts, never to be worn. One half is to be kept by the pilot while the other half goes to the pilots loved one. The two halves should never be brought together while the pilot is alive. After death the two halves are once again united with the pilot to bring good luck in the next life.

"Even though we are the best trained pilots in the world, it never hurts to have a little luck on our side," said Lt. Col. Courtland Stanley, 14th Student Squadron director of operations. "I am honored to be leading our newest pilots and continuing these traditions."

Appearing at the graduation was guest speaker Col. Matthew Leard, 97th Air Mobility Wing commander, from Altus AFB who arrived to offer advice to the graduating class.

"One of the greatest pleasures and obligations of being a military officer is mentoring and providing developing junior

officers," Leard said. "We are all the product of the officers that came before us and took a personal interest in our development."

Leard grew up as an Air Force brat often being around aircraft and looked up to the pilots that flew them. Now as a wing commander, with flying experience in various airframes, he leads a daily life of inspiring and developing the next generation of Airmen.

"Learn your trade, be an operational expert, but never forget you are an American first, an officer second and a pilot third," Leard said. "The role you will perform for this nation is truly indispensable, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for fun. Relax every once in a while and remind yourself that you are a pilot in the greatest fighting force this world has ever known!"

Now graduated the class will continue onward to their respective bases and begin training on their designated aircraft. Selected students will stay at Columbus entrusted with the position of First Assignment Instructor Pilot in order to continue the training of world class aviators.

**RIGHT: U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Leard, 97th Air Mobility Wing commander, speaks to the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class of 21-02 during their graduation ceremony Nov. 13, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. As commander, Leard is responsible for the formal training of all KC-46 Pegasus, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews for active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units, as well as multiple partner air forces from across the world.**



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

## 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"

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Nov. 23 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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

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

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Dec.17 from 5-7:00 p.m. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 6 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.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 7. 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.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

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

## KC-46A visits Columbus AFB



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

Airmen assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing walk up and down passenger loading stairs of a KC-46A Pegasus on Nov. 12, 2020, at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The KC-46A is equipped with a refueling boom driven by a fly-by-wire control system, and is capable of fuel offload rates required for large aircraft.

11-15 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.

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 19-20 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held on Jan. 28-29 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.

### Bundles for Babies

The next 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.

### 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 vot-

ing, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

### Discovery Resource Center

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

### 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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 14

## 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!

**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 to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

**Get Connected with Your Base App!**

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

**FSS Base Events**

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

**Live Games on Columbus Air Force Base Living Facebook**

Tune in on the Columbus Air Force Base Living’s Facebook for a live game every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1200. Live games such as Pictionary, Trivia, and Charades. Show off your quick thinking from the comfort of your own home and win a prize!

**Back to School Planning**

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

**November Fun – After School Program**

Youth Programs offers full day care every Wednesday in November with special activities scheduled for each day. Youth must be enrolled in the School Age Program to participate. Drop-in rate is \$5/hour. Call 662-44-2504 to register. Youth Center will be closed Nov 26-27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Two Great Fight Nights Streaming LIVE at The Overrun at the Columbus Club**

On 21 November, UFC 255 featuring Figueiredo vs Garbrandt at 2100 and Scevchenko vs Maia at 1900! Doors open at 1700 and the bar will be open with a limited menu items available for purchase. Door prizes will also be given out!

Also, coming 28 November, Tyson vs Jones at 2000. The Overrun doors will open at 1900. Come and enjoy LIVE streaming of this fight. The bar will be open and door prizes given! Limited capacity, first come first serve.

**Strike Zone Grill Has Moved to The Overrun at the Columbus Club**

The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) has move 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: 0630-1400, Sat & Sun: Closed. Breakfast is offered until 1030. The entire bowling center menu is available at The Overrun. For take-out orders, call (662) 434- 3426.

**Bowling Center**

The Bowling Center lanes are open! Hours are Tuesday-Friday: 1500-2100, Saturday: 1200-1800. Sign-up via the Bowling Center’s Facebook page. Limited to 4 persons 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.

**Library Curbside Delivery**

The library is offering curbside delivery. Find your book at www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com. Email your order to the library at 14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil. A confirmation email will be sent when your order is ready! Orders received before 1100 will be ready during 1300-1600 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 1300-1600 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**

Arts & Crafts has re-opened. Stop by for all you Framing and Engraving needs! For the month of November they are offering 10% Off all Kitchen items in the engraving shop including baking pans, cups, cutting boards, and wooden spatulas, as well as all framing items in the frame shop. For more information, call (662) 434-7856.

**Fitness Center**

The Fitness Center is open and back to normal hours of operations – Monday-Friday: 0500-2100, Saturday & Sunday: 0800-1800, Holidays: 1000-1800. Now serving all eligible DoD cardholders! And, you can now reserve 90 minute blocks. Space is limited! Patrons must sign up via SignUpGenius to secure a spot/access. The link is https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/93d7e-de00a2cae5c42-fitness. 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 Fitness Center will host the Turkey Trot 5k Fun Run on 20 November at 0700 FREE and open to all ages. First, second, and third Place will win a frozen turkey! A fourth turkey will be raffled off.

**Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor Recreation’s (ODR) hours are Monday-Friday, 1000-1700 and Saturday/Sunday, 0900-1000. ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Don’t miss the Shooting Tournament scheduled for 12 September. For more information, call ODR at 662-434-2505. Please note, all events can be cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Get ready for another great Shooting Tournament hosted by Outdoor Recreation 7 November 0900-1200. Call ODR at 434-2505 to sign-up (deadline is 2 November). Entry is FREE and clay targets are included. Guns and ammo will not be provided.

**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, 0600-1700 and Saturday, 0800-1200. Call for more information at (662)434-2233.

**Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)**

Information, Tickets & Travel is back open! Hours are Monday-Friday from 0900-1300. Come by and check out their new location at Outdoor Recreation building 152. For more information, call (662)434-7861 or 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 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 or visit your ITT office at (662) 434-7861.

**CAFB Library**

The Base Library is offering virtual story time, live craft demonstrations, book clubs and other activities on their Facebook page: @columbusairforcebaselibrary. For more information, contact (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.

**Horse Boarding Available**

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

**Free Mango Languages**

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact (662) 434-2934.

See FSS, Page 14

**314th AW showcases C-130 mission to student pilots**

**Senior Airman Aaron Irvin**  
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark.— The nation’s tactical airlift “center of excellence,” the 314th Airlift Wing, is using a hands-on approach to bolster the C-130 community and increase pilot retention.

Members of the 314th AW traveled to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 6, 2020, to offer an opportunity for first assignment instructor pilots and student pilots to fly in a C-130J Super Hercules, learn more about the aircraft, and ask 62nd Airlift Squadron pilots questions.

“We picked up the FAIPs and flew them around the local area to get them excited about coming to the C-130,” said Capt. Travis Thornton, 62nd AS pilot. “We’re here to recruit from a talented company grade officer corps and we want to make these guys eager to join our airframe.”

After the flight, the 62nd AS set up two C-130J static displays in order for the students to walk around the aircraft and navigate the cockpit while learning about the capabilities of the plane.

“Being able to see an aircraft first-hand is invaluable when deciding what aircraft we want to be assigned in the future,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew Bolton, 14th Student Squadron student pilot. “Right now, we don’t know a lot about all the different aircraft — outside



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Aaron Irvin

**Staff Sgt. Efrain Huereque, 62nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, conducts a pre-flight safety brief with first assignment instructor pilots before flying over Mississippi, Nov. 6, 2020. After flying around the local area, the 62nd AS set up two C-130J Super Hercules on static display, in order for students to walk around the aircraft and navigate the cockpit while learning about the capabilities of the aircraft.**

of air shows, all we see every day is the turbo-prop T-6 Texan II and the T-38 Talon.”

With approximately 700 student pilots from 25 different nations, it’s important for the students to learn about the mobility mis-

sion and familiarize themselves with the potential aircraft they could be operating in the future.

“When I went through training, I knew very little about the C-130,” Thornton said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Aaron Irvin

**A first assignment instructor pilot assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing looks out of a window during a flight on a C-130J Super Hercules over Mississippi, Nov. 6, 2020. The 314th Airlift Wing offered FAIPs an opportunity to fly in a C-130J Super Hercules, learn more about the aircraft, and ask 62nd Airlift Squadron pilots questions.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Aaron Irvin

**Lt. Col. Matthew Wunderlich, 62nd Airlift Squadron commander, speaks with student pilots about the C-130 mission at Columbus Air Force Base, Nov. 6, 2020. With approximately 700 student pilots from 25 different nations, it’s important for the students to learn about the mobility mission and familiarize themselves with potential aircraft they could operate in the future.**

“Talking with other instructors seemed to be a common theme. We decided we needed to seek out the students and show them what the C-130 is all about.”

Members of the 314th AW plan to continue visiting pilot training bases to share information and continuously grow the pilot community.

“This is a great recruiting opportunity for the 314th AW,” Thornton said. “By coming here and actually having the students see the aircraft in person, fly around the local area, see the cockpit, see all the instruments and the unique capabilities of the C-130 is a really great opportunity to get students excited to pick the airframe they will be flying for their Air Force career.”

Upon completion of the undergraduate pilot training, students will receive specialized follow-on training for their assigned aircraft. For those assigned C-130s, they would go to the 314th AW.

Training over 1,200 students annually, the 314th AW continues to produce Total Force Mobility Airmen while advancing warfighting and mobility capabilities.

“We’re constantly training students and sending experienced new talent into the C-130 community and we have no plans of slowing down,” Thornton said. “We’re going to keep pressing forward to make the mission happen and ensure we continue to build professional, combat-minded C-130 pilots.”

# 81st FS graduates final AAF class

Senior Airman Hayden Legg  
23d Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The 81st Fighter Squadron, a geographically separated unit assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, graduated its last class of Afghan A-29 Super Tucano student pilots on Nov. 13, here.

The class will be the last Afghan Air Force class to train at the 81st FS in a program spanning five years and graduating more than 30 student pilots and 70 maintenance technicians.

“The 81st truly built this program from the ground up – developing both the [tactics, techniques and procedures] and the syllabus, and then delivering full-spectrum training that not only produced combat-ready attack pilots, but also a mindset that prevents civilian casualties to the greatest extent possible,” said Kelli Seybolt, deputy under secretary of the Air Force for international affairs. “This group was one of the strongest classes we had in this program, which is a fitting way to conclude it.”

The class of Afghan pilots executed a 13-month syllabus in under a year, com-



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taryn Butler

**An Afghan Air Force student pilot assigned to the 81st Fighter Squadron speaks during a graduation ceremony Nov. 13, 2020, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The 81st FS graduated its last class of Afghan A-29 Super Tucano student pilots. During a five-year span, the 81st FS has graduated more than 30 Afghan pilots and 70 Afghan maintenance technicians who have successfully completed the 13-month syllabus of the program.**

pleting a course that included night-vision training, low-level flight and employing precision-guided munitions.

“They took a year out of their lives – away

from their families and colleagues – and dedicated it to the future success of the Afghan Air Force,” Seybolt said. “Now, thanks to that dedication they are fully capable of executing

operations independently or in support of ground forces anywhere in Afghanistan.”

According to Seybolt, the success of this class – and the A-29 program – is a direct reflection of the training and support provided by the U.S. and Brazilian Air Force air advisors and instructors at the 81st FS.

“The 81st [FS] established the type of strong rapport with their counterparts that is key to good air advising,” Seybolt said. “Working with our international partners has many benefits beyond just training – we learn the culture and customs of other nations and are able to build relationships. And it is exactly those Airman-to-Airman relationships ... that enable us to fly, fight and win together.”

For the Afghan Air Force, it will be Afghan instructors who lead the next phase of the A-29 program as it transitions to their home country.

“Their mission is not easy,” said H.E. Roya Rahmani, Embassy of Afghanistan ambassador to the United States. “They are aware of the challenges and responsibilities that it entails; but they also realize it is not only important, but crucial, for future security of our country.”

“The graduation of these pilots means they are putting new planes in the air to defend freedom, democracy and peace. When these pilots take flight, it’s our spirits that soar.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taryn Butler

**From left, H.E. Roya Rahmani, Embassy of Afghanistan ambassador to the United States, Kelli Seybolt, deputy under secretary of the Air Force for international affairs, and Col. Abdul Barakzai, Embassy of Afghanistan defense attache, wait for a graduation ceremony to begin Nov. 13, 2020, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The 81st Fighter Squadron graduated its last class of Afghan A-29 Super Tucano student pilots. During a five-year span, the 81st FS has graduated more than 30 Afghan pilots and 70 Afghan maintenance technicians who have successfully completed the 13-month syllabus of the program.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taryn Butler

**Kelli Seybolt, deputy under secretary of the Air Force for international affairs, speaks during a graduation ceremony Nov. 13, 2020, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The 81st Fighter Squadron graduated its last class of Afghan A-29 Super Tucano student pilots. During a five-year span, the 81st FS has graduated more than 30 Afghan pilots and 70 Afghan maintenance technicians who have successfully completed the 13-month syllabus of the program.**

## Medical Corner



### The Great American Smokeout - November 19th How this event helps fuel new laws and save lives

Each year, the Great American Smokeout event draws attention to preventing the deaths and chronic illnesses caused by smoking. Because of the many individuals and groups that have led smoke-free advocacy efforts, there have been significant landmarks in the areas of research, policy, and the environment:

**1977:** Berkeley, California, became the first community to limit smoking in restaurants and other public places.

**1990:** The federal smoke-free law for all domestic flights of 6 hours or less took effect.

**1994:** ABC News reported for the first time that cigarette companies manipulated the nicotine in their products to cause and sustain addiction in people who smoke.

**1994:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) opened an historic investigation into the tobacco industry’s manipulation of nicotine and targeting of children in advertising and promotion.

**1999:** The Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was passed, requiring tobacco companies to pay \$206 billion to 45 states by the year 2025 to cover Medicaid costs of treating people who smoke. The MSA agreement also closed the Tobacco Institute and ended cartoon advertising and tobacco billboards.

**2009:** The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was signed into law. It gives the FDA the authority to regulate the sale, manufacturing, and marketing of tobacco products and protects children from the tobacco industry’s marketing practices.

**2017:** More than 11 years after a federal court first ordered them to do so, the major U.S. tobacco companies began publishing “corrective statement” advertisements telling the American people the truth about their deadly and addictive products. Tobacco companies had to publish corrective statements in the nation’s top-selling newspapers from November 2017 to April 2018, according to the court ruling.

While cigarette smoking rates have dropped, about 37.8 million Americans still smoke cigarettes. About half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of their smoking. Each year more than 480,000 people in the United States die from illnesses caused by smoking. This means each year smoking causes about 1 out of 5 deaths in the US.

Visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) to learn more about quitting smoking, improving your health, or getting involved with the Great American Smokeout in your community. Or simply call the American Cancer Society any time at 1-800-227-2345.



#### Ditch Tobacco Products

Federal and local laws, as well as Food and Drug Administration policies, limit the availability of some tobacco product flavors (like fruit and mint), especially in popular products like e-cigarettes.

As a result of the flavor restrictions in e-cigarettes, tobacco users may be switching to different tobacco products.

If you notice Service members switching tobacco products, remind them that each one comes with its own risks.

- Smokeless tobacco (like chew, snuff and dip) may seem quicker and easier to use than cigarettes, but it has several health risks such as containing chemicals that may cause gum disease, tooth loss or cancer of the mouth, gum or cheek.

- Cigarettes can harm nearly every organ of the body. Due to the chemicals in cigarettes, smoking can cause serious health problems like chronic bronchitis, lung cancer, heart disease and stroke.

- Hookahs and water pipes come in several flavors and may seem like a safe social activity, but these products cause cancer and reduced lung function. Also, when a hookah is shared there is an increased risk of spreading germs and getting an infection.

- E-cigarettes (like JUULs, vapes and disposable e-cigs) come in many forms, but they contain harmful substances that may cause negative health effects like lung disease or affect lung function. Remember, switching from one type of e-cig to another is not safer.

Learn more at: <https://www.ycq2.org/>

*History of the Great American Smokeout Event. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/stayaway-from-tobacco/great-american-smokeout/history-of-the-great-american-smokeout.html>*

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



*Everyone knows cigarette smoking is bad for you, but did you know it can lead to type 2 diabetes?*

#### Here’s how...

- Insulin helps blood sugar enter cells, but nicotine changes cells so they don’t respond to insulin, which increases blood sugar levels.
- Chemicals in cigarettes harm cells in your body and cause inflammation. This also makes cells stop responding to insulin.
- People who smoke have a higher risk of belly fat, which increases the risk for type 2 diabetes even if they aren’t overweight.

All in all, if you smoke, you’re 30% to 40% more likely to get type 2 diabetes than people who don’t smoke. The more you smoke, the higher your risk.

#### Quit for Good

No matter how long you’ve smoked—or how much—quitting will help you get healthier. As soon as you stop smoking, your body starts healing itself:

- In 20 minutes, your heart rate and blood pressure drop.
- In 12 hours, carbon monoxide (a toxic gas from cigarette smoke) in your blood drops to normal.
- In 2 weeks to 3 months, your circulation and lung function improve.
- In a year, your risk for heart disease is half that of someone who still smokes.

If you have diabetes, you may need to check your blood sugar more often after you quit because your levels may go down. You won’t need to check as often after your body adjusts to being smoke-free.

Nicotine replacement products such as gum, patches, and lozenges are some of the best tools to help you stop smoking—they can double your chances of quitting for good. Products with nicotine raise your blood sugar, so be sure to talk to your doctor about using them if you have diabetes.

*Smoking and Diabetes. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/features/smoking-and-diabetes.html>*

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15 Eagle

## Mission

The F-15 Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.

## Features

The Eagle's air superiority is achieved through a mixture of unprecedented maneuverability and acceleration, range, weapons and avionics. It can penetrate enemy defense and outperform and outfight any current enemy aircraft. The F-15 has electronic systems and weaponry to detect, acquire, track and attack enemy aircraft while operating in friendly or enemy-controlled airspace. The weapons and flight control systems are designed so one person can safely and effectively perform air-to-air combat.

The F-15's superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing loading. Low wing-loading (the ratio of aircraft weight to its wing area) is a vital factor in maneuverability and, combined with the high thrust-to-weight ratio, enables the aircraft to turn tightly without losing airspeed.

A variety of air-to-air weaponry can be carried by the F-15. An automated weapon system enables the pilot to perform aerial combat safely and effectively, using the head-up display and the avionics and weapons controls located on the engine throttles or control stick. When the pilot changes from one weapon system to another, visual guidance for the required weapon automatically appears on the head-up display.

For low-altitude, high-speed penetration and precision attack on tactical targets at night or in adverse weather, the F-15E carries a high-resolution APG-70 radar and low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night pods

## Background

The first F-15A flight was made in July 1972, and the first flight of the two-seat F-15B (formerly TF-15A) trainer was made in July 1973. The first Eagle (F-15B) was delivered in November 1974. In January 1976, the first Eagle destined for a combat squadron was delivered.

The single-seat F-15C and two-seat F-15D models entered the Air Force inventory beginning in 1979. These new models have Production Eagle Package (PEP 2000) improvements, including 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of additional internal fuel, provision for carrying exterior conformal fuel tanks and increased maximum takeoff weight of up to 68,000 pounds (30,600 kilograms).

F-15C, D and E models were deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm where they proved their superior combat capability. F-15C fighters accounted for 34 of the 37 Air Force air-to-air victories. F-15E's were operated mainly at night, hunting SCUD missile launchers and artillery sites using the LANTIRN system.

They have since been deployed for air expeditionary force deployments and operations Southern Watch (no-fly zone in Southern Iraq), Provide Comfort in Turkey, Allied Force in Bosnia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

## General Characteristics

Primary function: Tactical fighter  
**Contractor:** McDonnell Douglas Corp.  
**Power plant:** Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100, 220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners  
**Thrust:** (C/D models) 23,450 pounds each engine  
**Wingspan:** 42.8 feet (13 meters)  
**Length:** 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)  
**Height:** 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)  
**Weight:** 31,700 pounds  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** (C/D models) 68,000 pounds (30,844 kilograms)  
**Fuel Capacity:** 36,200 pounds (three external plus conformal fuel tanks)  
**Payload:** depends on mission  
**Speed:** 1,875 mph (Mach 2 class)  
**Ceiling:** 65,000 feet (19,812 meters)  
**Range:** 3,450 miles (3,000 nautical miles) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks  
**Crew:** F-15A/C: one. F-15B/D/E: two  
**Armament:** One internally mounted M-61A1 20mm 20-mm, six-barrel cannon with 940 rounds of ammunition; four AIM-9 Sidewinder and four AIM-120 AMRAAMs or eight AIM-120 AMRAAMs, carried externally.  
**Unit Cost:** A/B models - \$27.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars); C/D models - \$29.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)  
**Initial operating capability:** September 1975  
**Inventory:** Total force, 249



U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Matthew Plew

An F-15E Strike Eagle assigned to the 492nd Fighter Squadron flies over Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, May 10. The 492nd trains regularly to ensure RAF Lakenheath brings unique air combat capabilities to the fight.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Chris Thornbury

Six F-15 Eagles approach a KC-135 Stratotanker Oct. 27, 2017. KC-135s enable global reach for American and allied aircraft, ensuring swift results to any situation.

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

# A Tale of Two Air Forces: How the Tuskegee Airmen bridged the divide

Rachel Kersey

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Rick Sinkfield is the president of the San Antonio Chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., which exists to motivate youth to outstanding achievement and leadership in American society and to preserve the legacy of their role models, the Tuskegee Airmen.

“There’s a significant portion of military history, particularly of African Americans in the U.S. military, which occurred in World War II,” Sinkfield said. “This is very important, as far as civil rights activities in the U.S. as well in the military.”

According to Michael Del Soldato, 37th Training Wing historian at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, there were plans to make an African American aviation unit well before World War II, but the Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American aviators actually established in the U.S. military.

The Tuskegee Airmen were not only pilots, they were support personnel as well — weather forecasters, communications professionals, aircraft mechanics, nurses, administrative people, and more. Even though the team was better known for flight, it takes many people to get a plane off the ground.

Founded in 1941 at Tuskegee University in Alabama, the “Tuskegee Experiment” was widely expected to fail because prevailing social winds of the time considered African Americans unfit for the job.

“The Army commissioned a study that said the African Americans were not capable of handling highly technological equipment such as aircraft, so this kind of permeated the thought pattern all the way through World War II,” Sinkfield explained.

Despite the opposition, the pilots set the stage for President Truman to sign Executive Order 9981, which declared that the military would begin full integration of the force, in 1948. Before the Tuskegee Airmen, the armed forces were split along color lines, but African Americans had still fought in many U.S. conflicts — from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, the War of 1812 and others.

“Men and women of African descent have been fighting for this country since before it was a separate country from England,” Del Soldato said. “During World War I, segregation was still the standard,



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Artifacts from the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit are displayed for visitors to view in the U.S. Air Force Airman Heritage Training Complex, Aug. 10, 2020, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The museum’s primary mission is to educate Airmen on the history of the Air Force with particular emphasis on JBSA-Lackland. The secondary purpose is to educate, train, inspire and serve as a recruiting tool for the numerous civilian visitors of the facility.

with African Americans being given secondary rolls in supply and labor forces.”

“Basically, there were two Air Forces,” Sinkfield said, an Air Force veteran himself. “There was the white Air Force and there was the Black Air Force, and there was not much of the operational Air Force open to blacks until the Tuskegee Airmen came along.”

It took about 15 years for full integration to take effect, Soldato said, but it started with Truman’s executive order in the wake of the success story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Now, almost 80 years after the inception of the unit, very few Tuskegee Airmen are alive, and the remaining Airmen are in their nineties, but Sinkfield has had the opportunity to meet some and glean insights

into their military experience, segregation, racism, and the time period in general.

Relaying an experience involving a member of the press, Sinkfield said Airmen answered immediately when asked if they thought of quitting.

“Their response was, ‘We didn’t even know the word ‘quit’; we just kept on going because it was so important to our race; it was so important to the nation, to the people that we’re protecting, so we just did not feel like there was any way other than the way to success and excellence,’” Sinkfield said. “That was probably the thing that stood out most in my mind.”

America has come a long way since the 1940s. There are no longer separate water fountains for white people and Black peo-

ple, nor are there segregated schools, and the working spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen should live on.

Sinkfield said Truman’s declaration of integration was a rule people were required to follow, but it did not change attitudes.

“That was a rule that people had to follow. That was something they did, but that didn’t really change their heart, I don’t believe. And their heart was what you’re trying to get them to change, and understand, and be sympathetic,” Sinkfield said. “That’s what I think we need to be working on socially — getting people to believe that you’re no better than I am, really. We don’t have that kind of ‘in your face’ racism, but racism is still there in people’s hearts, and we just need to move beyond that.”



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

U.S. Air Force Capt. Cole Stegeman (right), 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilot, and 1st Lt. Jared Rackers, 49th FTS Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals graduate, stand in front of a T-38 Talon Nov. 11, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Stegeman and Rackers are both assigned to the same type of aircraft, the F-15 Eagle.

# Hometown Missourians form bond in Mississippi

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

Sometimes Airmen forget how small and connected the Air Force actually is. Nearly every Airman is connected to another Airman from relationships made at prior assignments or training.

Although the Air Force is one giant network of people, it's not common for two members from the same hometown to end up in a situation like this one.

For Capt. Cole Stegeman, 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilot, and 1st Lt. Jared Rackers, 49th FTS Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals graduate, it is a reality.

Stegeman and Rackers both come from a relatively small town in Missouri, called Jefferson City. They both graduated from Helias High School.

"We grew up not too far from one another," Stegeman said. "My in-laws are actually next door neighbors to his parents... Word travels fast in a small town and once I found out he was going to the academy, I kept track of him a little more closely."

After high school, Stegeman and Rackers both went to the U.S. Air Force Academy at different points in their lives and were selected pilot training. Stegeman graduated from the academy in 2012, and Rackers in 2018. They would meet again during pilot training for Rackers at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Today, Stegeman and Rackers are both a part of the IFF course at the 49th FTS. Stegeman is an instructor pilot and Rackers was once a student pilot, now a graduate.

When asked what it is like to mentor and train someone from his hometown, Stegeman said it is a special opportunity.

"I always hope all of my wingmen pass, but having the comradery of having someone from your hometown increases your motivation for them to pass even more," Stegeman

*"We grew up not too far from one another," Stegeman said. "My in-laws are actually next door neighbors to his parents... Word travels fast in a small town and once I found out he was going to the academy, I kept track of him a little more closely."*

said. "Now that he's finished with IFF, I have the opportunity of being more of a mentor, helping him with his next PCS and assigned aircraft."

Stegeman said throughout mentoring, his hope is to show Rackers some of the mistakes he has made in his career so that he does not make the same ones.

Racker said he is thankful to have someone from his hometown teach him about flying and his career.

"It's been very helpful having him around," Rackers said. "He can relate to me a lot better and he's taken an interest in my training. I've gotten to fly with him and he has passed on to me all of the lessons he's learned."

Rackers and Stegeman are assigned to the same type of aircraft. Albeit Rackers is assigned to the F-15C Eagle and Stegeman is assigned to the F-15E Strike Eagle.

Rackers said his biggest takeaway from his experience is by thinking how much of a coincidence it is to have an instructor pilot from his hometown.

"It's just an awesome coincidence," he said. "In such a big air force and big world, being to meet up here is crazy. Him being able to pass on his lessons and wisdom as a fighter pilot to the next generation was a great experience."



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

U.S. Air Force Capt. Cole Stegeman (left), 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilot, and 1st Lt. Jared Rackers, 49th FTS Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals graduate, prepare for a flight in a T-38 Talon Nov. 11, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Stegeman and Rackers both hail from a town called Jefferson City in Missouri and graduated from the same High School.



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

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Jared Rackers, 49th FTS Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals graduate, walks in front of a T-38 Talon Nov. 11, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The T-38 is a two-seat trainer jet used by student pilots selected for the fighter track in pilot training.