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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 22

November 24, 2021

Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 General Info

The base is continually focusing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will persistently prioritize the safety of the Airmen, families and communities of Columbus.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements. See Pg. 2 for more COVID-19 info.

Social Gathering Limitations

- Kaye – 92 person limit
- Event Center/Club – 145 person limit
- Phillips Auditorium – 22 person limit
- Walker Center – 112 person limit



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller

1st Lt. Donald King, 33rd Flight Training Squadron operations flight commander and first assignment instructor pilot (FAIP), answers questions from 314th Airlift Wing members on the new Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 course during a visit to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, June 22, 2021. King and his FAIP counterparts used their knowledge to brief instructor pilots assigned to the 62d Airlift Squadron on the effects of UPT 2.5 for their Formal Training Unit.

314th AW, Vance AFB FAIPs discuss changes to C-130 pilot pipeline

Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — The 314th Airlift Wing hosted three First Assignment Instructor Pilots (FAIPs) from Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, at Little

Rock Air Force Base June 22, to highlight and share a new way forward in the pilot training process, which ultimately bridges the gap between Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) and the Formal Training Unit (FTU) at the 314th AW.

See PIPELINE, 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

Defense Secretary has authority to order mandatory CODID-19 shots

By Jim Garamone
DOD News

The mandate to get the vaccines is a readiness issue, Kirby said, and the secretary sees the vaccinations as the best way to protect service members from COVID-19.

The National Guard serves under three authorities: Title 10 (federal service), Title 32 (state status but federal government pays) and state status. The secretary has the authority to order guardsmen to receive the shots "even if they are in Title 32 status," Kirby said.

"The secretary of defense has the authority to require these vaccines for all members of the force, including the National Guard, as I said, even in a Title 32 status," the press secretary said. "When (guardsmen are) called up for their monthly training, they're still federally funded. So (the secretary) has those authorities. And he believes and this is a larger point that vaccinated forces are a more ready force."

Kirby pointed to the myriad missions that guardsmen have performed over just the past year. The Guard has helped in everything from fighting wildfires in a number of states, to helping mitigate hurricane damage. Guardsmen also helped secure the U.S. Capitol following the insurrection on January 6, 2021.

Guardsmen are also instrumental in getting this life-saving vaccine into the arms of millions of Americans across the country.

"(Guardsmen) do meet key national security needs, so it's important for them to get these vaccines," Kirby said.

It is a lawful order for National Guardsmen to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and refusing to do that, absent an approved exemption, puts them in the same potential jeopardy as active duty members who refuse the vaccines, he said.

Finally, the Guard may be under the command of state governors, but it still has the word "national" in its name. National Guard Bureau Chief Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson addressed this when he spoke to reporters last week at the Defense Writers' Group. "In Louisiana this year, when Hurricane Ida hit the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the largest unit in Louisiana, was deployed overseas," he told reporters. "Folks came from all other states to help out. And in fact, Louisiana at that same time had one of their helicopters in California fighting forest fires."

There are 53,000 guardsmen on duty today, with 20,000 forward deployed. They have to be ready to fight from day one, if needed. And the vaccine is a part of that readiness.

The Guard is the strategic reserve of the United States, and they have a profound history of answering the call. In August 1940, with war clouds looming, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called up the National Guard. France and the Low Countries had fallen and Britain stood alone. The U.S. National Guard brought to the military more than 300,000 service members in 18 combat divisions and a number of air groups. The number of guardsmen federalized doubled the strength of the active Army.

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Silver Wings

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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.

Published by The Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14 FTW/PA office. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Silver Wings are not necessary the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, DoD, and the Department of the Air Force.

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

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

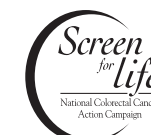
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Photo: Andrew Macpherson

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The selected candidate can expect to work 25-32 hours a week but must be flexible if more is needed.

Applications are available at the front office of The Dispatch at 516 Main Street, Columbus, MS or email your resume directly to: Mike Floyd at mfloyd@cdispatch.com

PIPELINE
(Continued from page 1)

During their visit, the FAIPs sat down with leadership from the 314th AW and discussed the changes being made to UPT and the implications for the C-130 enterprise, particularly the instructional arm of the wing.

“The more we understand what (the UPT) is doing and what their role in shaping pilots is, the better we’re able to formulate how we, as an FTU, take those students and turn them into C-130 pilots,” said Maj. Jonathan Recor, 714th Training Squadron instructor pilot.

Following UPT, students move to their respective FTU, where they receive specific training on their assigned aircraft and mission.

After 30 years of minimal change to the construct of the pipeline process, Air Education and Training Command is accelerating the change needed to compete, deter and win in tomorrow’s high-end fight.

Recor said students passing through UPT were traditionally subjected to a rigid, syllabus-based course, where the focus was more concerned with the tasks that needed to be accomplished rather than the students accomplishing them.

The new UPT, known as “UPT 2.5,” is less syllabus-centered and takes a more student-oriented approach based on standards of behavior and airmanship.

1st Lt. Donald King, 33rd Flying Training Squadron operations flight commander said in the new UPT 2.5 construct, Airmen are taught not just the “how” behind the tasks they need to accomplish, but also the “why.”

“This breeds in them a set of versatile warfighting capabilities and humanitarian operational capabilities that can be applied to an array of different scenarios and demands,” King said. “They are informed and empowered to solve problems, come up with unique solutions, and encouraged to make smart recommendations and decisions.”

King and his FAIP counterparts used their knowledge to brief instructor pilots assigned to the 62d Airlift Squadron on the effects of UPT 2.5 for their FTU.

The FAIPs came to Little Rock AFB to not only inform the 314th AW cadre about the new changes, but also to learn about the C-130, its mission and how it’s employed to support and sustain agile combat airlift.

“They’re producing student pilots that are going to come here and fly, so they need to know what their customer wants and what their customer needs,” Recor said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller
ABOVE: Col. Thomas Lankford, 314th Operations Group commander, speaks in a meeting with first assignment instructor pilots (FAIPs) in regards to new training methods for up and coming pilots at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, June 22, 2021. In the meeting, Lankford and the FAIPs discussed the new Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 training curriculum.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller
1st Lt. Donald King, 33rd Flight Training Squadron operations flight commander and first assignment instructor pilot, briefs 314th Airlift Wing members on the new Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5 during a visit to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, June 22, 2021. King and his FAIP counterparts used their knowledge to brief instructor pilots assigned to the 62d Airlift Squadron on the effects of UPT 2.5 for their Formal Training Unit.

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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. Click "Contact Us" at the top left of the page and select "Commander's Action Line" in the Recipient drop down menu.



Buckle up! It's the law.

FSS

(Continued from page 12)

Strike Zone Grill at the Bowling Center!

The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) is open for DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT service. The expanded eating area will allow for social distancing. Grab'n go products will be available including during bowling.

The StrikeZone Grill is now open for lunch and dinner! For breakfast they are open from 6:30-10 a.m. Monday-Friday. For lunch/dinner, the grill is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. On Wednesdays, it will close at 2 p.m. It will be open until 9 p.m. on Fridays! The center is closed on Saturday and Sunday. For take-out orders, call (662) 434- 3426.

Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

Local ITT Customer Service will be temporarily handle by Keesler AFB. Please call Holly or Trish at (228) 377-3818 Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Local Shuttle Service will be handled by ODR on Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This includes shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Stop by ODR or call (662) 434-2505 for more information.

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.

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.americaforcestravel.com

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.



Arrive alive. Don't drink and drive.

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 a self-help bicycle repair station that patrons can use for free. 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

The Wood Shop is now open by appointment only, Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 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 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/property/Columbus-AFB..>

COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 11)

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

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

Pre-Separation Counseling

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

Employment Workshop

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

Survivor Benefit Plan

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

Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-

term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

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 MiLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=-SIS:2:0>: More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbbliving.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.

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 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 (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'.

The Print Shop Has Moved!

The Print Shop has moved to The Commons, building 715, room 128. It is located in the back of the Commons and can be accessed either from the main entrance or from the parking lot directly behind the base Chapel. Services include large format printing, mounting, laminating, color and black/white copying, binding, and much more. For a quote call (662) 434-2337 or email 14FSSColumbus@gmail.com.

Youth Program's After School Care

The Youth Center is offers After School Care for ages 5-12. The center provides games, sports, arts & crafts, educational enrichment, social skills, leadership building and much more. Request care at MilitaryChildCare.com or call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

Library

The Library, located in The Blaze Commons, is open for in-house customers Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. For everyone's safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must remain with their children at all times.

The Library is hosting Storytime at your library every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Meet in the Blaze Commons open area for a story read by your favorite Librarians!

See all of the Library's activities visit their Facebook page: @ColumbusAirForceBaseLibrary.

Fitness Center

The Columbus AFB Fitness Center and the Alpha Warrior tent is open Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. It is open on Sunday for 24/7 Access members only (CAC must be registered at the front desk prior to use).

The Fitness Center is now serving all DoD cardholders and eligible contractors during normal hours of operation.

24/7 access is available to not only Active Duty patrons, but also any DoD cardholder such as dependents, retirees, and civilian employees. CAC must be registered at the front desk.

Also, the locker rooms and showers are once again available.

Please note there will 100% ID card check, limited rental equipment available, and other risk mitigation plans still apply. For more information, call the Fitness Center at (662) 434-2772.

Also, the basketball and racquetball courts are now available! Check-in at the front desk required.

JINGLE
BELL
JOG
5K

at the
Fitness
Center

DEC
10
7am

call 434-2772
for more info

Jingle Bell Jog 5K

The Fitness Center will host the annual Jingle Bell Jog 5K Fun Run on Dec. 10 beginning at 7 a.m. Open to all ages. Call the Fitness Center for more information at (662) 434-2772.

Arts & Craft Has Re-Opened!

Arts & Crafts has reopened and ready to serve your framing, engraving, and wood working needs, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (662) 434-7856 for assistance.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) and Saturday/Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.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.

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.

Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m. and Friday (Drop Nights Only) from 4-8 p.m. (may be extended for special events) for dinner and drinks. Quick bites done just right featuring favorites such as Chicken Tenders, Mozzarella Sticks, and French Fries.

Also, don't forget the Club offers Catering services. Call

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December 7th

1600-1700 at Base Operations

Photos
with
Santa

1730 at Base Chapel
Christmas Tree
Lighting

(662) 434-2490 for more information.

Let's Connect! Boss & Buddy Night at the Club Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and enjoy a few brews with your boss and buddies.

Back to Bowling!

The bowling lanes will open once again beginning Oct. 4th. Bowling will be available by appointment or walk-in, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. On Wednesdays it will close at 1 p.m. Friday, bowling will be open until 10 p.m.

Family Cosmic Bowling Fridays

The bowling center will offer family friendly unlimited bowling on Fridays from 5-7 p.m. (before Neon Bowling). The cost is \$20/lane including shoes (for up to 5 people).

Neon Bowling Fridays

Get a strike with a neon head pin and win a prize! Neon Bowling is every Friday from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. The cost is \$10/person including shoes and the adult beverage bar will be open!

Pins & Pints Bowling Every Thursday in November

The bowling center offers \$1/game bowling (does not include shoe rental) every Thursday in November from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Draft beer is back too! So grab some friends and head over to the bowling center!

Walk-ins are welcome or call for reservations, call (662) 434-3426 or on Facebook @ColumbusAFBbowlingCenter.

See FSS, Page 13

Hanukkah
Menorah Lighting

Thursday 2 Dec

Fellowship at 1630
Candle Lighting at 1700
Columbus, Air Force Base
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HAPPY

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Air Force releases alternate component fitness score charts

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will officially add new alternative components to physical fitness assessments beginning Jan. 1, 2022. The updated scoring charts can be found here.

After announcing the components in July, over 9,000 data points were collected to determine the point values for each component by assessing approximately 2,000 Airmen from 23 installations.

Airmen will have the choice to perform these options to meet the strength and cardiovascular requirements:



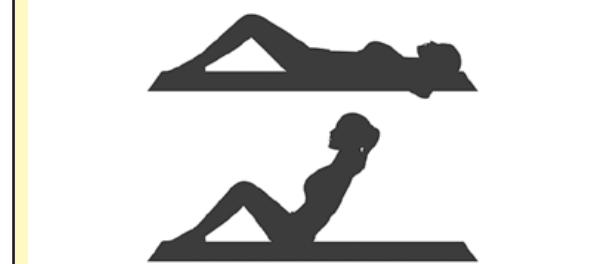
Cardio

Traditional 1.5-mile Run
High Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (20M HAMR)



Strength

Traditional Push-ups
Hand Release Push-ups



Sit-ups

Traditional Sit-ups
Cross-Leg Reverse Crunch
Plank

MORE INFORMATION

Airmen can schedule their assessment and sign up for their desired cardio option via myFitness, which will be available for scheduling starting on Dec. 10.

"While testing these components at various installations, we received a large amount of positive feedback," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel, and services. "The changes to the physical fitness assessments reflect what we learned and our desire to provide Airmen with additional flexibility in maintaining fitness standards."

Airmen can schedule their assessment and sign up for their desired cardio option via myFitness, which will be available for scheduling starting on Dec. 10. While members can select their desired cardio option when scheduling their assessment, they will select their desired strength components at time of their assessment.

While the waist measurement is no longer a component of the fitness assessment, DoD Instruction 1308.3 still requires Airmen to be measured for and maintain a healthy body composition to ensure physical readiness. The Air Force Surgeon General, who has responsibility for overall Airmen health, has reviewed alternatives and determined waist-to-height ratio as the best available method for assessing body composition. AF/SG will be providing guidance on this program in the coming months.

In addition to the approved new options, the Air Force continues to test future alternatives. Key tenets for new options include ensuring the test is an equivalent measure of fitness, regardless of testing method, and ensuring approved alternatives can be available at every location so all Airmen have the same set of options. This currently limits options like swimming or biking where sufficient equipment is not available at all locations. Likewise, based on equipment requirements and the need for continued testing, the one-mile walk is not being incorporated as an option at this time. The two-kilometer walk will remain a fitness component for those who are not medically cleared to perform the two approved aerobic options.

The Air Force Services Center is working with installation Fitness Assessment Cells to schedule and conduct training for Unit Fitness Program Managers and Physical Training Leaders to ensure proper administration of the new components.

The alternative events will not apply to Guardian annual fitness tests as the U.S. Space Force develops and implements their service-specific Holistic Health Assessment over the next year.



Airmen and video production teams create a Special Warfare commercial at a bombing range near Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Sept. 24, 2019. U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

How an Air Force Recruiting commercial became a popular VR game

By Randy Martin
Air Force Recruiting Service

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — When Air Force Recruiting Service deployed its “Activate: Special Warfare” mobile tour in April 2021, the four-dimensional virtual reality, experience-on-wheels became the latest entry in an elite category of games. Over the years, dozens of movies have made their way to becoming games in arcades and on portable devices. This genre includes commercial hits like Dune, a 1992-released game that is based on its namesake film. Activate’s own story began in 2019 with the production of a commercial targeting special warfare recruitment. “We were coming up with ideas to promote Special Warfare,” said Travis Waid, a writer and creative director for GSD&M. Waid’s employer is the Austin, Texas-based advertising agency for the U.S. Air Force. “We were also assigned with creating a new experiential tour to promote Special Warfare and it hit us. Instead of creating two separate things, what if they supported each other?” So in late September of that year, a film production team

of 53 and more than a dozen people from AFRS, GSD&M and other Air Force members representing several career fields, converged on a bombing range near Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. Filming required three days and involved Security Forces and Special Warfare Airmen, pilots, tactical wheeled vehicles, helicopters and airplanes from bases throughout the U.S. For the commercial to look more realistic, the production company turned to Hollywood for delivery of movie-ready weapons. “We couldn’t use the SF and SW Airmen’s weapons because they had red tips,” Waid said. “So, we relied on a prop house that we found in Los Angeles.” In the final commercial, action-packed sequences show Airmen in a gunfight with an enemy force outside a walled compound. Viewers see a medevac while pyrotechnics create blast clouds with smoke enveloping a line of sand-colored vehicles on a desert road. An A-10C Thunderbolt II flies by as the video reaches its climax. Two commercials from this production debuted in several variations on YouTube, Jan. 5, 2020. They were later posted to other Air Force Recruiting social media platforms. One,

titled “Calm and the Storm,” has exceeded 18 million views. The other, titled “Join the Fight,” has been seen more than 17 million times. For AFRS, attention turned to developing Activate: Special Warfare, the game. Work started on the VR mobile tour with an intended launch date sometime in 2020, Waid said. However, COVID-19 struck in March and forced AFRS to wait until April 2021, for Activate’s inaugural tour. Since its launch, people have flocked to Activate at venues such as NASCAR’s Fanzone outside Charlotte Motor Speedway, in Conway, North Carolina, Oct. 9-10. There, among tents and trailers reminiscent of a traveling carnival, Activate was positioned on high ground where throngs of fans ambled about on a quest for souvenirs, free merchandise, food and pre-NASCAR race entertainment. Activate’s shining, black paneled trailer featured graphics to attract visitors from great distances. Contracted attendants called “brand ambassadors” beckoned passersby to try their skills at no cost. The only condi-

See VR GAME, Page 2

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. Dec. 2. 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 Dec. 14 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Columbus Club. 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. Dec. 16 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.

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 5. 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.

F-15E Static



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Davis Donaldson

Members of the 14th Flying Training Wing view a static display of an F-15E Strike Eagle, Nov. 19, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night, and in all weather.

Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 6. 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. 10-14 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.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held Jan. 27-28 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.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 7-8 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.

EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support) entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact (662) 434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Installation Voting Assistance Office

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

Discovery Resource Center

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

See COMMUNITY, Page 13

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

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!

BLAZE Hangar Tails: A-10 Thunderbolt II

Mission

The A-10 Thunderbolt II has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and visibility conditions. The wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness.

Thunderbolt IIs have Night Vision Imaging Systems, or NVIS, goggle compatible single-seat cockpits forward of their wings and a large bubble canopy which provides pilots all-around vision. The pilots are protected by titanium armor that also protects parts of the flight-control system. The redundant primary structural sections allow the aircraft to enjoy better survivability during close air support than did previous aircraft. The aircraft can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles up to 23mm. Their self-sealing fuel cells are protected by internal and external foam. Manual systems back up their redundant hydraulic flight-control systems. This permits pilots to fly and land when hydraulic power is lost.

The A-10 has received many upgrades over the years. In 1978, the aircraft received the Pave Penny laser receiver pod, which sensed reflected laser radiation from a laser designator. Pave Penney has now been discontinued in favor more capable advanced targeting pods. The A-10 began receiving an inertial navigation system in 1980. Later, the Low-Altitude Safety and Targeting Enhancement (LASTE) upgrade provided computerized weapon-aiming equipment, an autopilot, and a ground-collision warning system. In 1999, aircraft be-

gan to receive Global Positioning System navigation systems and a new multi-function display. In 2005, the entire A-10 fleet began receiving the Precision Engagement upgrades that include an improved fire control system (FCS), electronic countermeasures (ECM), upgraded cockpit displays, the ability to deliver smart bombs, moving map display, hands on throttle and stick, digital stores management, LITENING and Sniper advanced targeting pod integration, situational awareness data link or SADL, variable message format, or VME, GPS-guided weapons, and upgraded DC power. The entire A-10 fleet has been Precision Engagement modified and now carries the A-10C designation.

The Thunderbolt II can be serviced and operated from austere bases with limited facilities near battle areas. Many of the aircraft's parts are interchangeable left and right, including the engines, main landing gear and vertical stabilizers. Avionics equipment includes multi-band communications; Global Positioning System and inertial navigations systems; infrared and electronic countermeasures against air-to-air and air-to-surface threats. And, it has a heads-up display to display flight and weapons delivery information.

The Thunderbolt II can employ a wide variety of conventional munitions, including general purpose bombs, cluster bomb units, laser guided bombs, joint direct attack munitions or JDAM, wind corrected munitions dispenser or WCMD, AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, rockets, illumination flares, and the GAU-8/A 30mm cannon, capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute to defeat a wide variety of targets including tanks.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Close air support, Airborne Forward

Air Control, Combat Search and Rescue

Contractor: Fairchild Republic Co.

Power Plant: Two General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofans

Thrust: 9,065 pounds each engine

Wingspan: 57 feet, 6 inches (17.42 meters)

Length: 53 feet, 4 inches (16.16 meters)

Height: 14 feet, 8 inches (4.42 meters)

Weight: 29,000 pounds (13,154 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 51,000 pounds (22,950 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 11,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Payload: 16,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Speed: 450 nautical miles per hour (Mach 0.75)

Range: 2580 miles (2240 nautical miles)

Ceiling: 45,000 feet (13,636 meters)

Armament: One 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds (7,200 kilograms) of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound (225 kilograms) Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch (6.99 centimeters) rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Crew: One

Unit Cost: \$18.8 million

Initial operating capability: A-10A, 1977; A-10C, 2007

Inventory: Active force, 187; Reserve, 49; ANG, 107



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sergio A. Gamboa

A U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 25th Fighter Squadron prepares to take off at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 22, 2018. A-10s participated in routine training aimed at sharpening skills needed for search and rescue operations. The A-10 "Warhog" is the first AF aircraft designed specifically to provide close air support to ground forces and is well-known for its 30 mm GAU-8 Avenger Gatling-type Auto-cannon capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Rita Foster

An A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft with the 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, Ind., fires the GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon during Operation Guardian Blitz, Dec. 11, 2018, at Avon Park, Fla. Pilots with the 163rd Fighter Squadron honed their skills at Avon Park Air Force Range, a 106,000 acre bombing range located in central Florida.



U.S. Air Force photo by Randy Martin

Passersby examine a display case outside of Charlotte Motor Speedway in Conway, N.C., which featured tactical equipment similar to what Special Warfare Airmen might use. The display is part of the Air Force Recruiting Service's Activate: Special Warfare mobile exhibit and gives guests a four-dimensional Air Force Special Warfare experience as depicted in an online Air Force commercial.

VR GAME

(Continued from page 1)

tion being a minimum age requirement of 13 or older and registration on a tablet computer. Next came the anxious wait to enter the gaming booth along with other guests.

"The VR game is a real-life version of the commercial video and what connects them really is the story of how SW operators are able to remain calm under extreme pressure while engaging the enemy, calling in air strikes and rescuing others," Waid said.

Once inside each player dons a vest and VR goggles, takes hold of a device that replicates a gun, and enters the scenario as one of the Airmen in the beleaguered convoy from the commercial.

Because participants wear special VR headsets and vests they hear everything in surround sound and they sense impacts on their over garments. Designers also engineered booths to generate hot air bursts and wind effects synched with explosions and landing of a helicopter for a full four-dimensional experience.

"Best game ever," one woman said as she exited Activate.

Air Force recruiters were standing close by and greeted people. They talked to potential applicants about experiences and opportunities. Some visitors examined an all-terrain vehicle that was parked out front alongside a display case featuring gear like that used by

"Best game ever," one woman said as she exited Activate.

Airmen in the film. The equipment leant a tactile experience to the VR one.

"The case and ATV are pretty effective in terms of generating interest and questions for recruiters who can step in and have a conversation with a lead or influencer," said Tech. Sgt. Amos Parker, a recruiter for the 337th Recruiting Squadron at Shaw AFB in Sumter, South Carolina. "With most of the population under the impression that the Air Force only flies jets, it's really eye opening to influencers and potential applicants."

In 2021 the experiential tour went to 23 events in 15 states and had more than 12,000 people sign up to go through.

"Of those who signed up, 5,282 opted in to learn more and 1,453 turned into actual leads, which are all great percentages. Considering that the pandemic kept a lot of people home in 2021, those numbers are expected to increase as life begins to return to normal and more people come out," said Maj. Jason Wyche, AFRS chief of national events branch, strategic marketing division.

Activate: Special Warfare is set to be part of AFRS's mobile tours for at least five years.



U.S. Air Force photo by Randy Martin

A guest with virtual reality goggles and a replicated gun gets a four-dimensional Air Force Special Warfare experience at the Fanzone outside of Charlotte Motor Speedway in Conway, N.C., Oct. 9, 2021. Activate's scenario is taken from an online Air Force commercial.



U.S. Air Force photo by Randy Martin

An Air Force Recruiting brand ambassador at the Fanzone on Oct. 9, 2021, outside of Charlotte Motor Speedway in Conway, N.C., assists a visitor to the Air Force Recruiting Service's Activate mobile exhibit. Virtual reality goggles are one of the tools that give Activate's guests a four dimensional Air Force Special Warfare experience as depicted in an online Air Force commercial.

Columbus AFB: A Heritage of Training

Leo Goodsell

14th Flying Training Wing Historian

For nearly 80 years, training pilots has been a cornerstone of Columbus Air Force Base's rich history and a large part of Air Education and Training Command's initiative and tradition to recruit, train and educate Airmen to deliver airpower for America.

Columbus AFB began its training history on June 26, 1941, when the United States War Department approved an Army Air Field for the Columbus, Mississippi, area. Behind this approval were months of concerted efforts by the area's leading citizens to secure a military air base near Columbus, Mississippi.

The base began as a twin-engine advanced flying school training fighters and bombers. Construction began in September 1941, and in January 1942, 100 enlisted men arrived to establish base operations. Initially named Kaye Field in honor of Capt. Sam Kaye, World War I flying ace from Columbus, the name was soon changed to Columbus Army Flying School due to a nearby base having a similar sounding name.

The Columbus flying school received its first aircraft in early 1942. The first 25 student pilots arrived from Barksdale Field, Louisiana, in February 1942. They graduated March 6, 1942, having completed a considerable amount of their training prior to coming to Columbus. During World War II, 7,412 graduated and received their commissions and silver wings. After the war, training was greatly reduced, leading the War Department to inactivate the base in 1946.

The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 increased the need for pilots. Air Training Command reactivated Columbus AFB as a station for a contract flying school. California Eastern Airways was contracted to provide pilot training.

On April 1, 1955, Columbus AFB was transferred from ATC to Strategic Air Command and Second Air Force. To accommodate the new mission of the base, city officials deeded an additional 3,000 acres to the base for building a north-



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Tyler Johnson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron commander (Right), and 2nd Lt. Connor Spencer, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, test out a virtual reality training system recently installed for student pilots, Feb. 12, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Student pilots assigned to the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program will have 24 hour access to the training resources as part of the first step in a long term innovation and resource utilization plan.

west-southeast runway and additional housing.

In 1957, Columbus AFB became the home of a B-52 squadron and a KC-135 jet refueling tanker squadron as part of the new 4228th Strategic Wing. The first KC-135 Stratotanker, piloted by the wing commander, landed on the new runway on Jan. 7, 1959, followed by the arrival of the first B-52 May 28.

In February 1963, SAC replaced the 4228th Strategic Wing with the 454th Bombardment Wing, Heavy to conduct air

refueling operations and train in bombardment. Beginning in the summer of 1965, the wing's headquarters staff, tactical aircraft and crews, and maintenance personnel became a part of SAC combat forces in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. While the 454th Bombardment Wing was involved in the Vietnam War, the 454th Combat Support Group operated Columbus AFB.

After 14 years as a SAC base, Columbus AFB was transferred back to Air Training Command and to its original mission of training pilots July 1, 1969. The training

was under the command of the newly activated 3650th Pilot Training Wing. The first undergraduate pilot training class, 71-01, entered training July 17, 1969. ATC discontinued the 3650th on June 1, 1972, and activated the 14th Flying Training Wing in its place.

The 14th Flying Training Wing continues under 19th Air Force and AETC, housing the command's largest fleet of 231 aircraft, including T-6s, T-1s and T-38s. In fiscal year 2021, the 14th FTW executed 76,000 flying hours and 35,000 sorties, and



The 14th Flying Training Wing continues under 19th Air Force and AETC, housing the command's largest fleet of 231 aircraft, including T-6s, T-1s and T-38s. In fiscal year 2021, the 14th FTW executed 76,000 flying hours and 35,000 sorties, and awarded over 350 wings to the Air Force's newest pilots — the largest in Columbus AFB's history.

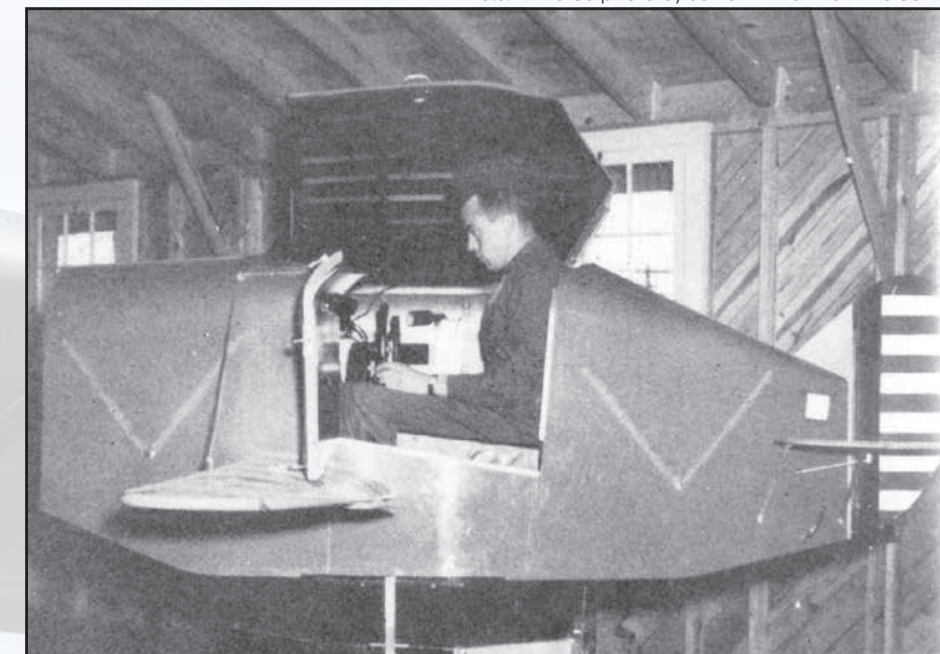
awarded over 350 wings to the Air Force's newest pilots — the largest in Columbus AFB's history.

This initiative will be furthered by the arrival of the T-7A program, which will help close vital training gaps between fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft. From the first flight at Columbus AFB to today's flights, members of Columbus AFB continue to help advance the development of the force, while executing the wing's mission to, "train world class pilots."



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

ABOVE: Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-06/07 sit in the Kaye Auditorium during their graduation ceremony Jan. 24, 2020, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The graduating pilots will each depart to their new respective bases to fly aircraft such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon, C-17 Globemaster III, F-35 Lightning II, KC-135 Stratotanker, and more while some stay at Columbus to become First Assignment Instructor Pilots.



RIGHT: A student during the World War II era uses a Link Trainer, an early type of flight simulator. Link Trainers were created out of the need to safely teach new pilots how to fly by instruments, and were used between the 1930s and 1950s.

Courtesy Photo