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stig•ma
noun a mark of social disgrace and shame

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SILVER WINGS

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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 23

December 10, 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



Nick Vance Matthews, great-grandson of Lt. Col. Leon Robert Vance Jr., stands in front of a T-1A Jayhawk holding a photo of his great-grandfather holding Nick's grandmother, Sharon, in front of "The Sharon D," a B-24 bomber the colonel ferried to England during World War II.

Vance AFB celebrates 80 years of training the world's best Airmen, honors AETC heritage

71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — Air Education and Training Command activated in January 1942 and will celebrate 80 years of force development and enhancing lethality and readiness for every Airman who walked across an AETC stage.

For Vance Air Force Base, one of AETC's premier pilot training installations, the mission to produce pilots to fight in World War II began a few short months before AETC's activation.

Vance Air Force Base history dates back to 1941 when it was See VANCE AFB, Page 3

CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Columbus AFB YouTube page



columbus_afb



Columbus AFB Facebook page



www.columbus.af.mil



Department of the Air Force reaches 95% Total Force vaccination rate

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Dec. 2 marked the Department of the Air Force's deadline for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

This final deadline for Department of the Air Force service members to be fully vaccinated resulted in more than 95% of the total force having at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

"Thank you to each total force Airman who has met the responsibility to get vaccinated," said Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall. "To those yet to get vaccinated, the order is clear—take action now or be held accountable for failing to do so. This is about being ready to defend the nation, as well as protecting ourselves, our teammates, and our loved ones."

Since the Secretary of Defense's vaccination mandate Aug. 24, the Department of the Air Force set the most aggressive timelines amongst the military services to ensure total force members are protected.

"The health and wellbeing of our Reserve citizen Airmen is a readiness issue," said Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. "By meeting this deadline, our Airmen are ready to execute the mission anywhere in the world, even in places where the COVID-19 vaccination rates are low and disease transmission is high."

Across the nation, Guard and Reserve Airmen were directly involved in administering vaccines to their active component and civilian counterparts as each respective deadline approached.

"By taking an aggressive approach to vaccination, we are ensuring the health and readiness of the force," said Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones. "Ultimately, we have to overcome this pandemic that's taken the lives of over 700,000 of our fellow Americans. We've got to be mission ready—we've got to be vaccinated."

COVID-19 screening tests are required weekly for all individuals entering a Department of Defense facility who are not

"The health and wellbeing of our Reserve citizen Airmen is a readiness issue," said Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. "By meeting this deadline, our Airmen are ready to execute the mission anywhere in the world, even in places where the COVID-19 vaccination rates are low and disease transmission is high."

fully vaccinated, including those who have an exemption request under review or who are exempted from the COVID-19 vaccination.

"Being vaccinated maintains our total force readiness that our nation depends on," said Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Air National Guard director. "This vaccine ensures our success with our national defense missions. By taking this aggressive approach for vaccination, we are able to protect those around us, and maintain a ready and able force."

Units will be responsible for running self-test programs and may reach out to either the Defense Logistics Agency Contact Center or their servicing Military Treatment Facility for assistance with ordering and purchasing the self-test kits.

For the most current DAF vaccination statistics, visit <https://www.af.mil/News/Coronavirus-Disease-2019/>.

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.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 9)

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

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Commercial Dispatch is seeking a full time sales representative for an established territory in Columbus. Our sales representatives spend most of their time calling on area businesses and working with those businesses to develop effective marketing campaigns. We sell impactful newspaper print, magazine print and online marketing opportunities.

The ideal candidate is competitive, self-motivated and enjoys talking to others.

Compensation includes a base wage plus commission. Healthy bonus commissions are awarded monthly when goals are exceeded. Health insurance and other benefits are available.

Sales experience is preferred but not required. A drive to be successful is required though. Email cover letters and resumes to bproffitt@cdispatch.com.

FSS

(Continued from page 10)

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.dod-lodging.net/properties/Columbus-AFB>.

Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website, with exception of Air Force publications, through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 662-434-7068.

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City of Montgomery and Maxwell AFB honor Rosa Parks’ arrest anniversary

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The City of Montgomery and Maxwell AFB commemorated the 66th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott by dedicating a memorial to Rosa Parks Dec. 1, 2021.

The dedication took place outside the Troy University Rosa Parks Museum in downtown. The sculpture stands where she was arrested and Rosa Parks’ lawyer, Mr. Fred Gray helped dedicate the sculpture.

It is a replica of the sculpture dedicated on Maxwell Air Force Base on 1 December 2020. The two sculptures reflect how Rosa Parks’ service on Maxwell inspired her actions in Montgomery, strengthening the base community partnerships and progressing Montgomery’s social justice.

“She was not tired, she was tired of giving in,” said Col. Eries Mentzer, 42nd Air Base Wing commander who reflected on the honor of serving in the Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement. “Tired of giving in to injustice and the systematic

shielding of perpetrators. Her moral courage in that moment sparked a movement that changed Montgomery and our nation for the better. Mrs. Rosa Parks’ commitment to equality and inclusion for all, while risking her own personal safety and prosperity, continues to serve as an inspiration.”

Parks, who worked at Maxwell Field’s guest house in the 1940s, later credited her experience at the racially-integrated federal facilities and riding the integrated trolleys on Maxwell with showing her a world without the discriminatory policies, known as Jim Crow laws that were common in the South.

“You might just say Maxwell opened my eyes up,” said Parks in her memoirs. “It was an alternative to the ugly policies of Jim Crow.”

On Dec. 1, 1955, Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus in protest of segregated transportation in Montgomery. Her civil disobedience prompted a citywide bus

See PARKS, Page 5



US Air Force photo by Melanie Rodgers Cox
Maxwell AFB, Ala. – From left, Shelia Jackson, Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover, Col Eries Mentzer, Fred Gray, Sr., Mayor Steven L. Reed, Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, and Lt Gen. James B. Hecker, pose with the sculpture honoring Rosa Parks that they unveiled during a ceremony marking the 66th anniversary of Park’s bus boycott, Dec. 1, 2021.



US Air Force photo by Melanie Rodgers Cox
Maxwell AFB, Ala. – Col. Eries Mentzer, Lora McClendon, sculptor Ian Mangum, Air Education and Training Command commander Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, Virginia Whitfield, and Air University commander and president Lt. Gen. James B. Hecker pose for a photo with the sculpture created Mangum that was unveiled at the intersection of Montgomery and Molton Streets, during a ceremony honoring Rosa Parks on the 66th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dec. 1, 2021. McClendon and Whitfield are AETC Civic Leaders. Parks worked at the Maxwell Field Guest House prior to her protest. Mangum created two identical pieces of artwork honoring Parks, one of which stands on Maxwell Air Force Base.



US Air Force photo by Melanie Rodgers Cox
Maxwell AFB, Ala. – Air University commander and president Lt. Gen. James B. Hecker, Air Education and Training Command commander Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, sculptor Ian Mangum, and Col. Eries Mentzer pose for a photo with the sculpture created Mangum that was unveiled at the intersection of Montgomery and Molton Streets, during a ceremony honoring Rosa Parks on the 66th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dec. 1, 2021. Parks worked at the Maxwell Field Guest House prior to her protest. Mangum created two identical pieces of artwork honoring Parks, one of which stands on Maxwell Air Force Base.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

“Please note events are subject to change due to COVID-19, so please contact A&FRC to confirm all events”

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on 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.

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

Photos with Santa

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie
Families from around the base line up to take photos with Santa, Dec.7, 2021, on the flight line on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. After photos, families had the opportunity to attend the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held by the Base Chapel.

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.

Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Mar. 31. 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 voting, change of address, and provides answers for oth-

er 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 11

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: E-3 Sentry (AWACS)

Mission

The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft with an integrated command and control battle management, or C2BM, surveillance, target detection, and tracking platform. The aircraft provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center. AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an area of responsibility, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

Features

As an air defense system, E-3s can detect, identify and track airborne enemy forces far from the boundaries of the United States or NATO countries. It can direct fighter-interceptor aircraft to these enemy targets. Experience has proven that the E-3 Sentry can respond quickly and effectively to a crisis and support worldwide military deployment operations. AWACS may be employed alone or horizontally integrated in combination with other C2BM and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance elements of the Theater Air Control System. It supports decentralized execution of the air tasking order/air combat order. The system provides the ability to find, fix, track and target airborne or maritime threats and to detect, locate and ID emitters. It has the ability to detect threats and control assets below and beyond the coverage of ground-based command and control or C2, and can exchange data with other C2 systems and shooters via datalinks.

With its mobility as an airborne warning and control sys-

tem, the Sentry has a greater chance of surviving in warfare than a fixed, ground-based radar system. Among other things, the Sentry's flight path can quickly be changed according to mission and survival requirements. The E-3 can fly a mission profile approximately 8 hours without refueling. Its range and on-station time can be increased through in-flight refueling and the use of an on-board crew rest area.

Background

There are 31 aircraft in the U.S. inventory. Air Combat Command has 27 E-3s at Tinker. Pacific Air Forces has four E-3 Sentries at Kadena AB, Japan and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

As proven in operations Desert Storm, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector the E-3 Sentry is the world's premier C2BM aircraft. AWACS aircraft and crews were instrumental to the successful completion of operations Northern and Southern Watch, and are still engaged in operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. They provide radar surveillance and control in addition to providing senior leadership with time-critical information on the actions of enemy forces. The E-3 has also deployed to support humanitarian relief operations in the U.S. following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, coordinating rescue efforts between military and civilian authorities.

The data collection capability of the E-3 radar and computer subsystems allowed an entire air war to be recorded for the first time in the history of aerial warfare.

In March 1996, the Air Force activated the 513th Air Control Group, an AWACS Reserve Associate Program unit which performs duties on active-duty aircraft.

During the spring of 1999, the first AWACS aircraft went

through the Radar System Improvement Program. RSIP is a joint U.S./NATO development program that involved a major hardware and software intensive modification to the existing radar system. Installation of RSIP enhanced the operational capability of the E-3 radar electronic counter-measures and has improved the system's reliability, maintainability and availability.

General characteristics

Primary function: airborne battle management, command and control

Contractor: Boeing Aerospace Co.

Power plant: four Pratt and Whitney TF33-PW-100A turbofan engines

Thrust: 20,500 pounds each engine at sea level

Rotodome: 30 feet in diameter (9.1 meters), 6 feet thick (1.8 meters), mounted 11 feet (3.33 meters) above fuselage

Wingspan: 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters)

Length: 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters)

Height: 41 feet, 9 inches (13 meters)

Weight: 205,000 pounds (zero fuel) (92,986 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 325,000 pounds (147,418 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 21,000 gallons (79,494 liters)

Speed: optimum cruise 360 mph (Mach 0.48)

Range: more than 5,000 nautical miles (9,250 kilometers)

Ceiling: Above 29,000 feet (8,788 meters)

Crew: flight crew of four plus mission crew of 13-19 specialists (mission crew size varies according to mission)

Unit Cost: \$270 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Initial operating capability: April 1978

Inventory: active force, 32 (one test); Reserve, 0; Guard, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

A 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron E-3 Sentry taxis down the runway during an elephant walk for a no-notice readiness exercise April 12, 2017, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. These training exercises ensure Airmen are ready to perform any operational task at a moment's notice. The 18th Wing and its associate units are responsible for providing forward power projection with integrated, deployable combat power, to maintain peace and stability as the Pacific theater's premier joint platform for threat deterrence.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tyler Woodward

380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief Airman 1st Class Mitchell signals an E-3 Sentry before completing a sortie in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 1, 2017.

Department of the Air Force releases COVID-19 policy

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Air Force released its policy today outlining the way forward for Total Force military members serving in the Air Force and Space Force who have requested separation or retirement prior to Nov. 2, 2021, or whose COVID-19 medical exemption or religious accommodation was denied.

For those who refused to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, commanders will continue to take appropriate administrative and disciplinary actions consistent with law and Department of the Air Force policy. Additionally, this will result in the member being subject to initiation of administrative discharge proceedings and service characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions.

Service members separated due to refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine will not be eligible for

involuntary separation pay and will be subject to recoupment of any unearned special or incentive pays, according to Department of the Air Force officials.

Supplemental Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Policy can be found at https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12_Dec/Supplemental_Coronavirus_Disease_2019_Vaccination_Policy.pdf.

Unvaccinated Airmen and Guardians who submitted a request to retire or separate prior to Nov. 2, 2021, with a retirement or separation date on or before April 1, 2022, may be granted an administrative exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement until their separation date.

Unvaccinated Airmen or Guardians with a request for medical exemption or religious accommodation are temporarily exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement while their request is under review.

— Members who receive a denial of their medical exemption or religious accommodation have five calendar days from denial of

their request to do one of the following:

1. Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen. If the service member indicates their intent is to begin the vaccination regimen, commanders may use their discretion to adjust the five-day timeline based on local COVID-19 vaccination supplies;

2. Submit an appeal to the final appeal authority for a religious accommodation request or request a second opinion for medical exemptions. If a final appeal is denied, the service member will have five calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen;

3. If able, based upon the absence of or a limited Military Service Obligation, and consistent with opportunities afforded service members prior to Nov. 2, 2021, request to separate or retire on or before April 1, 2022, or no later than the first day of the fifth month following initial or final appeal denial.

— Service members who continue to refuse to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine after their exemption request/final

appeal has been denied or retirement/separation has not been approved will be subject to administrative discharge. Discharge characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions.

Commanders will ensure all unvaccinated service members comply with COVID-19 screening and testing requirements and applicable safety standards. Leaders should continue to counsel all unvaccinated individuals on the health benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Supplementary Guidance for members of the Air Force Reserve can be found at https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12_Dec/Att_%201_Supplementary_Guidance_for_Members_of_the_Air_Force_Reserve.pdf.

Supplementary Guidance for members of the Air National Guard can be found at https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12_Dec/Att_2_Supplementary_Guidance_for_Members_of_the_Air_National_Guard.pdf.

PARKS

(Continued from page 14)

boycott, a watershed event in the civil rights movement.

In 2020, on the 65th anniversary of Parks' arrest, Air Force and Montgomery leaders honored Rosa Parks with a memorial designed by Montgomery native and Air Force Civilian Ian Mangum, serving with the 42nd Force Support Squadron, on Maxwell Air Force Base. At the memorial ceremony, Mayor Steven Reed and Col. Mentzer dedicated 382 days toward committed inclusion efforts between the city and the base.

Through this partnership, Maxwell AFB and the city of Montgomery aim to advance inclusion and remove barriers through a program called The Freedom to Serve.

During this period, Maxwell has engaged our community and mission partners.

"The strength of the bond between the Montgomery-area community and the Air Force is incredible," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and

Training Command, who attended the ceremony. "The Rosa Parks sculptures and the Freedom to Serve initiative should remind us all of the importance of courage in the face of adversity, working together to remove barriers to service and success, and welcoming everyone. We are better together."

AETC and community civic leaders Virginia Whitfield and Lora McClendon collaborated with Maxwell on the sculptures with the support of Troy University, the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, the Air University Foundation, Air University Library, Alabama Power, and the 908th Airlift Wing.

Parks' courage and conviction remain an inspiration and serve as a reminder of the responsibilities for all citizens to confront injustice, uphold constitution rights, and secure the Freedom to Serve.

Beyond Maxwell and Montgomery, Parks' legacy has served as an inspiration worldwide, and the Air Force is proud to consider her a part of the family.



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this holiday season.
Don't drink and drive.



Animals get cold too

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T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

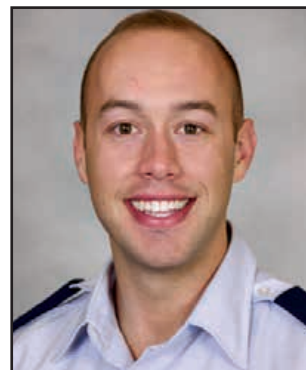
SUPT Class 22-03 earns silver wings



Maj. Benjamin Hammett
Huntingtown, Maryland
F-15E



Capt. Alptug Karaman
Turkey
F-16



Capt. Connor Marshall
Crestview, Florida
KC-135

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 22-03 graduates at 11 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks will be recognized.

Maj. Benjamin Hammett and 2nd Lt. Thomas Awtrey received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 1st Lt. Mitchell McCulley and 2nd Lt. Megan Foster who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 22-03 recognized were Hammett, Awtrey and 2nd Lt. Andrew Ellison for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics

and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

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

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

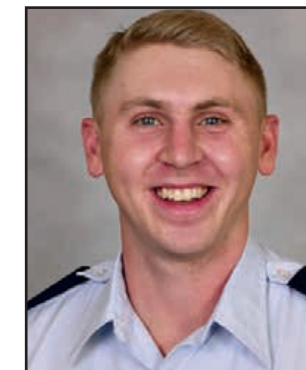
Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and man-

agement, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.



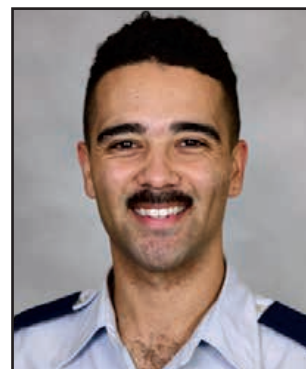
Capt. Brady Schutte
Kearney, Nebraska
KC-135



1st Lt. Matthew Bolton
Franklin, Tennessee
C-21



1st Lt. Liam Brennan
Woodbridge, Virginia
C-17



1st Lt. Stefon Dunham
Bellingham, Washington
C-17



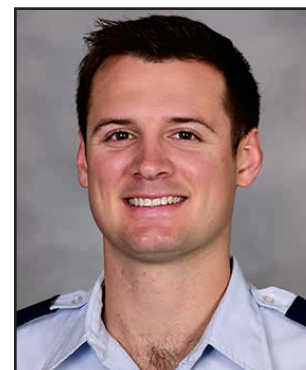
1st Lt. Matthew Dunlap
Enterprise, Alabama
F-16



1st Lt. Andrew Harlan
Newnan, Georgia
C-130H



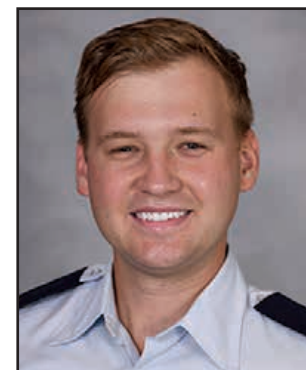
1st Lt. Alexander Klein
Billings, Montana
U-28



1st Lt. Mitchell McCulley
Gilbert, Arizona
F-16



1st Lt. Ryan McKenna
Deptford, New Jersey
T-6



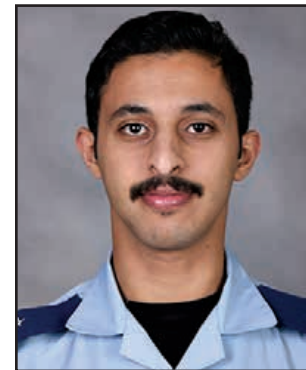
1st Lt. Johnny Murphy
Augusta, Georgia
C-130J



1st Lt. Matthew Reen
Orlando, Florida
MC-130J



1st Lt. Eddie Smet
Orangevale, California
C-5



2nd Lt. Abdulwahab Alqahtani
Abha, Saudi Arabia
F-15SA



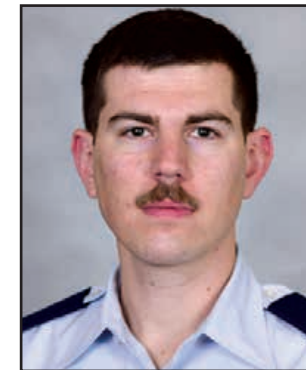
2nd Lt. Thomas Awtrey
Columbia, South Carolina
KC-135



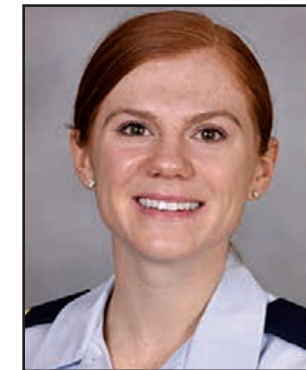
2nd Lt. Andrew Ellison
Solomons, Maryland
C-130H



2nd Lt. Megan Foster
Bend, Oregon
C-17



2nd Lt. Kyle Gabrielson
Phoenix, Arizona
C-5



2nd Lt. Jennifer Underhill
Kingsley, Michigan
RC-135