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# SILVER WINGS

"Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT"

Vol. 45, Issue 5

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

March 12, 2021

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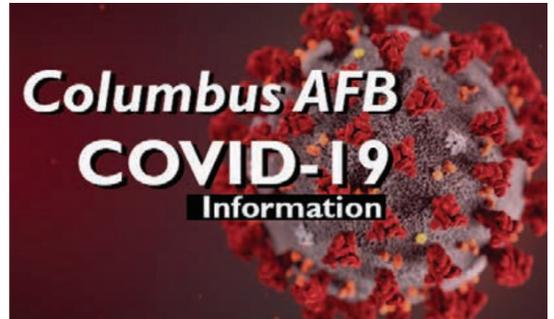
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### COVID-19 General Info

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

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

- Off-limits:**
- Military personnel are prohibited from bars, breweries, casinos, arcades, off-base bowling alleys and off-base gyms that do not comply with the state of Mississippi COVID-19 requirements. Military personnel are allowed to dine indoors at this time.

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



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Duncan-Doubling  
Graduates from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-06, pilots break their first pair of wings, during their graduation ceremony, Feb. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Per tradition, pilots will keep one half of the broken wings and give the second half to a loved one.

## Former AMC vice commander congratulates SUPT Class 21-06

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

Eighteen U.S. Air Force student pilots graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT), Feb. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Graduates heard from retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Vern Findley II, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., vice commander from 2008-2011.  
After a challenging and rigorous 52-week course, these pi-

See GRADUATION, Page 3

### CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

## DOD identifies more troops to help administer COVID-19 vaccine

C. G Todd Lopez  
DOD News

The Defense Department has identified additional personnel authorized to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in administering COVID-19 vaccinations at community vaccination centers around the country.

“The secretary authorized an additional 10 Type 2 teams for future FEMA support,” said Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby during a briefing yesterday.

FEMA has asked the Defense Department for as many as 50 Type 1 teams to support community vaccination centers, as well as 50 Type 2 teams. A Type 1 team is made up of 222 service members, and can administer about 6,000 vaccinations a day, while a Type 2 team is made up of 139 service members and can administer about 3,000 vaccinations a day. The department is also staffing 25-person teams as well in some locations.

Right now, about 6,235 active duty service members have been identified by the Defense Department to support COVID-19 vaccination centers, though not all of those personnel have deployed yet as part of a team.

Just over 2,200 service members are deployed now in 17 teams to California, New Jersey, Texas, New York, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois and North Carolina. Those teams

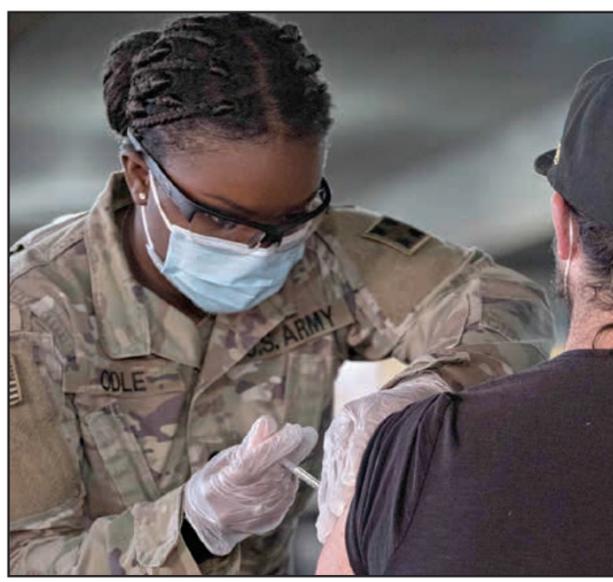


ABOVE: Soldiers supporting a Miami-Dade community vaccination center fill syringes with COVID-19 vaccine, March 2, 2021, in Miami, Florida. BELOW: Army Spc. Kristen Odle administers the COVID-19 vaccine at the California State University Los Angeles community vaccination center, Feb. 26, 2021.

are made up from service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

In the coming weeks, Kirby said, additional teams — about 444 service members — will deploy to both Ohio and Georgia to support vaccination efforts in those states. Together, they will be able to provide around 12,000 vaccinations a day.

The first community vaccination center to be supported by U.S. military personnel opened in mid-February at California State University in Los Angeles. At that location, 222 soldiers provide vaccination support, and are able to offer 6,000 vaccinations a day.



### Silver Wings

#### How to reach us

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#### Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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**To advertise in Silver Wings,  
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Advertising Department at 328-2424**

**FSS**  
(Continued from page 11)  
**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 Has Reopened!**  
The Wood Shop is now open Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$5 for first hour and \$3 for every hour after the first. Please call (662) 434-7836 for any questions.

**Referees Needed**  
Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact (662) 434-2772.

**RV Storage Lot**  
Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call (662) 434-2505.

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

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

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The Golden Triangle Autism Center teaches educational, social, communication and language, behavioral, and self-help skills using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques to support the needs of children with autism, developmental delays, learning difficulties, and challenging behaviors within a variety of settings.  
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**OBSERVANCE**  
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**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
VALIANT WOMEN OF THE VOTE  
FACTS  
Growing out of a California small-town school event in 1978, Women's History Month honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of women throughout American history.  
In 1980, the president issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration.  
In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project (now called the National Women's History Alliance), Congress expanded the week to a month. Congress has issued a resolution every year since.  
During Women's History Month the Department of Defense joins the nation in celebrating the vital role of women—not only in American history—but in our future.  
The 2021 theme chosen by the National Women's History Alliance is: Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced.  
The theme reminds us that participating in elections is one of the key freedoms of American life.  
Many people in countries around the world do not have the same freedom, nor did many Americans in centuries past.  
No matter what you believe or whom you support, it is important to exercise your rights.  
"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." - Susan B. Anthony  
DEOMI PRESS

**Cultivate Airmen**  
**Create Pilots**  
**CONNECT**



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Duncan-Doublin  
**Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Vern Findley II, former Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., vice commander from 2008-2011, reads an excerpt from Dr. Seuss' children's story book 'Oh the Places You'll Go', during the graduation of class 21-06, Feb. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. In compliance with COVID-19 guidelines all attendees maintained 6-foot distancing and mask were mandated.**

**GRADUATION**  
(Continued from page 1)

lots have earned the title of Air Force pilot and will move onward to their next assignments and learn their respective aircraft. SUPT training entails six-weeks of pre-flight academics, physiological training and operating trainer aircraft, such as the T-6A Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk and T-38C Talon. During his speech, Findley spoke about how proud he was of the new pilots who sat before him, earning their first set of wings. "You are part of the elite, part of the one percent of men and women that chose to serve in our armed forces," said Findley. Of the one percent of those who choose to serve, approximately 12,500 are U.S. Air Force pilots, something the graduates should

*"You are part of the elite, part of the one percent of men and women that chose to serve in our armed forces," said Findley.*

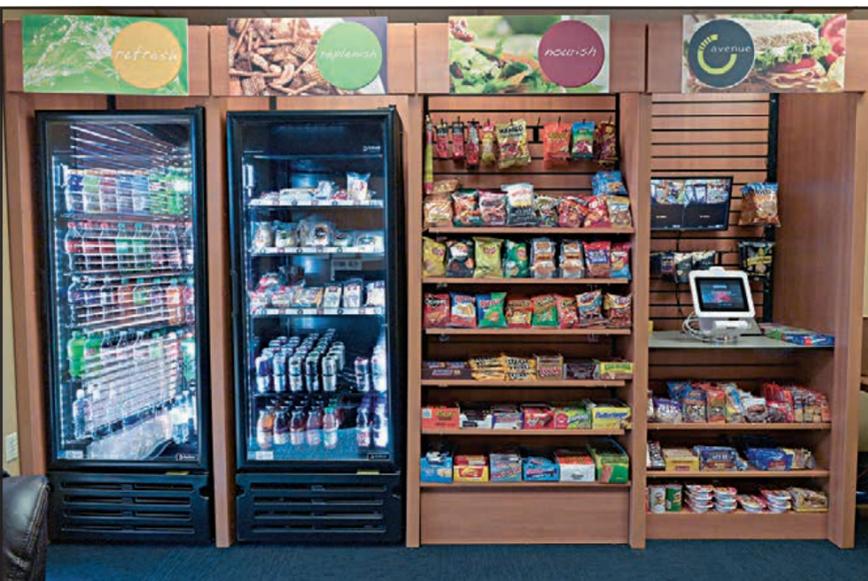
be especially proud of. As a closing thought, Findley took the pilots back to their childhood, by reading an excerpt from a Dr. Seuss classic. The nostalgic literature, 'Oh, the Places You'll Go', reminded the aviators they will travel far and wide and accomplish great things in their careers.

**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 434-7068.

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The recently installed Nano market installed in Montgomery Village consist of two refrigerated sections which holds cold drinks and food and two non-refrigerated sections containing dry snacks and microwavable items. The market is completely contactless, meaning airmen can purchase food through the digital payment system and not have to come in contact with other individuals, this provides a simple and safe option for hungry Airmen.



U.S. Air Force A1C Shamiya Brooks, 14th Communications Squadron knowledge management, purchases snacks from a recently installed Nano market inside Montgomery Village, Feb. 23, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Montgomery Village is a common area provided to Airmen living in Unaccompanied Enlisted Housing, which consist of not only the new market, but also a small theater set-up, game room, music room, and study areas.

# Snackin' on snacks

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

Airmen living in Unaccompanied Enlisted Dorms (UED) recently received a Nano market in Montgomery Village, provided by Columbus Air Force Base, in an effort to improve the quality of services provided to dorm residents.

According to Alma Pena, Columbus AFB services business manager, the 20 thousand dollar project took a total of 45 days to complete. The Nano market was added just in time as an unexpected cold weather system closed several facilities including the only source of food on base for UED residents

Airmen did not have to make the choice to leave base to find food, possibly putting them in danger. Due to the inclement weather there were icy roads and freezing rain, roads became dangerous to drive on and many establishments off base were closed.

According to the manager dormitory leader with the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, the reason CAFB does not have a dining facility (DFAC) is due to the low number of personnel. There had once been a DFAC but it did not receive enough foot traffic to continue operations.

Nano markets are a step forward in the direction to help the efforts of increasing the quality of life here on the base.

"Micro markets offer much-needed contactless convenience to those serving in small or secure facilities," said Pena. "Facilities where no dining options exist, or late into the night, after other restaurants and retail stores have already closed."

Dorm residents can simply walk into the Nano market, choose an item, scan and pay through a digital service, and leave. All this can be done while not coming in contact with a single individual.

"I use it often, if not every day," said Airman 1st Class Shamiya Brooks, 14th Communications Squadron knowledge management. "I like it way more than the old vending machines because there is more of a variety and sometimes the card readers wouldn't work. This seems more reliable."

After just one week, most food in the market had to be restocked due to the high demand.

According to Janel Hamilton, Columbus AFB Base Exchange services business tech, the market had grossed over \$1,200 dollars in sales during the first month of opening.

A portion of the revenue goes back to the Base Exchange, while the rest is given to Columbus AFB Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR).

According to Pena, the expectation for the market is to provide as many options as offered in a typical convenience store in a safe, contactless environment.

**RIGHT: One of two refrigerators apart of the Nano market recently placed in Montgomery Village, holds and assortment of cold foods available to airmen residing in Unaccompanied Enlisted Housing, Feb. 24, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Due to CAFB not having a dining facility, leadership has been making efforts to provide Airmen with more food options.**



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

## COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 12)

### 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 mil-

itary 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://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=SIS:2:0>: More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbliving.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.

## BROWN

(Continued from page 5)

you add to the decision making body you decrease your effectiveness by 10 percent. So once you get to 14 you're pretty much stagnated; you're trying to please too many people."

Most of all, he understands the value of "reality checks," which is another way of saying he travels to escape the Washington bubble.

On a recent trip to Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, for example, he met with each base's senior leaders as well as with senators from both states. He also held several roundtables with Airmen.

The sessions were valuable.

"I get that candid feedback," he said. "It helps me understand where they're coming from. At the same time, it allows me to explain the things I'm trying to accomplish."

"There are a lot of good ideas that come out of the Pentagon but not every 'good idea' is as good as we think it is once it hits our Airmen," he said. "They're probably not going to tell me the bad news at the Pentagon; they'll tell me how good everything is going. But with Airmen it's unfiltered."

# Cooper's Closet



## April 15th - 17th

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## 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”

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mar 15-16 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, 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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Mar 23 from 8-noon 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. Mar 25 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

### Hearts Apart

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

### Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Apr 8. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

## Photo Bomb



Airmen from the 14th Flying Training Wing, observe a static display of a B-1 Bomber from Dyess Air Force Base, Feb. 26, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The first production B-1 flew in October 1984, and the first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in June 1985.

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

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Apr 12-15 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. May 12. 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.

### Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. May 13. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held on Jun 17-18 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members 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.

### 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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 13

## Chapel Schedule

### Chapel services are now available.

Catholic Services: 5 p.m. on Sun

Protestant Services: 10:45 a.m. on Sun

Daily Mass: 10 a.m. on Tues and Wed

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

## Brown looks to accelerate while changing Air Force culture

### Charles Pope

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Charles Q. Brown, Jr. rarely disguises his intentions or pulls punches. He wants to go fast. He wants Airmen to succeed and feel enriched. He wants the best and most unvarnished information. Most of all, he wants to win.

Which is why, one day early in his tenure, he arrived at a Pentagon conference room and rather than taking a seat at the head of the table as is custom, he picked a seat on the side.

“At first it confused the heck out of people,” Brown said recently in a wide-ranging interview to discuss his approach to the job, his methods and expectations. He also discussed the progress so far meeting requirements of “Accelerate Change or Lose,” his philosophical blueprint for what the Air Force must do to succeed.

“I see myself as an action officer just like they see themselves and I like having more of a roundtable atmosphere,” Brown said in explaining his seat selection.

“We’re all in it for the same thing – making it better for the Air Force. If there’s too much deference you don’t get the dialogue. People will tell you what they think you want to hear. What I really want to hear is all the various feedback.”

Now, more than six months since becoming the Air Force’s highest-ranking uniformed officer, Brown continues to press his strategy for ensuring the Air Force meets every mission, every time. He’s focused on ensuring the Air Force successfully reshapes itself to satisfy the National Defense Strategy’s requirements while nurturing an environment that rewards ambition, innovation and excellence while repelling sexual harassment, racial inequality and extremist ideologies.

Brown’s plan for achieving all of this is included in the document “Accelerate Change or Lose” he released in August soon after becoming Chief of Staff. In December, he released a more detailed collection of “Action Orders” for how best to achieve those goals.

None of it is easy, Brown acknowledges.

To achieve the goals requires new technology, a rethinking of how the Air Force operates and in some cases organizing and shifting deeply ingrained cultural practices across the organization.

But, he says, the Air Force and the nation have no choice.

“Our Air Force must accelerate change



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. meets with outstanding Airmen of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., Feb. 17, 2021. The Airmen were nominated by their leadership, leading by example and for exceptional work in their duties across the base.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Elora J. McCutcheon

to control and exploit the air domain to the standard the Nation expects and requires from us. If we don’t change – if we fail to adapt – we risk losing the certainty with which we have defended our national interests for decades,” Brown writes in “Accelerate Change or Lose.”

The “Action Orders” provide a pathway and are hooked to four priorities. The first emphasizes the Air Force’s mission to “recruit, assess, educate, train, experience, develop, and retain Airmen;” the second calls for a “tune up” of the service’s bureaucracy to make it faster, more efficient and focused.

The third priority requires the Air Force “to fully understand our competitors” and to adapt its decision-making, doctrine, capabilities and tactics with U.S. competition in mind. China is mentioned by name, illustrating the shift to great power competition and a geographic change in focus as well.

The final priority is called “design implementation,” a dense term that essentially means reconsidering the way the Air Force decides what the future might bring and how best to organize, train and equip the force to meet that anticipated threat.

“We need to identify systems and programs that are outdated and/or unaffordable to make way for capabilities that will make us competitive in the future high-end fight,”

Brown states in Action Order D.

Like his predecessors, Brown says his highest priority is serving, supporting and sustaining Airmen. It’s no accident, he said, the first directive in his December document – Action Order A – is focused on Airmen.

“I want to create an environment where all Airmen can reach their full potential. That’s what they expect,” Brown said in the interview. “Parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters send young people to our Air Force and what they expect is they will reach their full potential.

“The other part is the operational piece. We’ve had great success with air power in the United States Air Force and because of that success in various conflicts dating back to World War I we are expected to provide air superiority so Americans, our allies and our partners are not attacked from the air.

“That’s part of our challenge,” he said. “There is an expectation (for superiority) that’s taken for granted. We have an advancing threat so we must advance as well. You can’t keep an advantage just by sitting there, using the status quo. Just like any athlete, when somebody is pushing you, you have to push as well.”

For Brown that means a focus on “capabilities over platforms.” It means perfecting and refining still-evolving strategies such as Joint

All Domain Command and Control and the Advanced Battle Management System. Those systems are able to collect, synthesize and analyze vast amounts of information from air, land, sea, space and cyber, and then share the crucial results instantly with commanders and forces on the battlefield.

It means fostering a new cadre of Airmen who are experts in software development, artificial intelligence, and joint operations in addition to the crucial traditional job categories that have fueled the Air Force’s excellence for generations.

Like the engineer and pilot he is, Brown has clear ideas for how to find the best answers to difficult questions. One major element is exposing him to information he may not want to hear.

“The analogy I’ve been using is, just like a Supreme Court decision, you’ll have the majority ruling and there’s also someone representing the dissenting view that’s packaged together,” he said.

“We want to figure out how to work together to be faster but also to eliminate blind spots. ... There may be merit on both sides,” Brown said, noting he is meticulous about reading materials before meetings so the discussion can be robust, challenging and efficient.

On especially tough questions and issues, Brown has an approach as well.

“I look at it like a Venn diagram versus approaching it from points of disagreement,” he said. “What do we agree on already? Then how do we work on the parts where there’s disagreement?”

He also likes information, background materials and presentations provided in narrative form rather than bullets. Narratives, he says, provide important context and nuance; it can reveal the underlying rationale and motive that drives to a better and faster conclusion.

“When you do bullets, you can tap-dance around bullets when I ask a question,” he said. “If you put it in a paragraph, it means you’ve fully thought through it and you feel confident you can defend it. I like narratives because then they can fully put their thoughts down on paper.”

He is also determined to streamline – and speed up – decision-making.

“There’s a Harvard Business Review article I read that said, when you’re making a key decision you need to keep the group to about seven,” he said. “For every additional person

See BROWN, Page 13

# PT test pushed to July, updates to scoring, physical components ahead

## Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Physical fitness assessments will now resume for Airmen on July 1.

Testing was initially delayed from October 2020 to April 2021 to ensure the health and safety of Airmen during the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing practices remained in place.

When assessments resume, the three-component fitness test (1.5 mile run, 1 minute of pushups and sit-ups) will be reset with scores calculated on a new three component scoring table. In addition, work is underway to separate scoring into five-year age groups as opposed to the previous ten – for example, age groups will start at <25, 25-29 years old, 30-34, years old, etc.

These changes come in addition to other modifications to the physical fitness assessment.

In December 2020, the waist measurement as a point-driven component of the fitness assessment test was removed. It will still be administered to determine compliance with body composition standards, as required by Department of Defense Instruction 1308.3.

As testing resumes, scores earned on the three-component fitness test will be redistributed. Final decisions on

percentage component breakdowns will become available in June.

Additionally, the Air Force Fitness Working Group has explored alternatives to the testing components and scoring measures. As mentioned by Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. in December, there are on-going studies and reviews to determine a list of alternative strength and cardio components for the physical fitness assessment. For example, some alternative options being explored for the current components include the 20-meter High Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (20M HAMR), row ergometry, planks, burpees and other alternatives.

If necessary, commanders may delay official fitness assessments beyond July 2021 based on the recommendation of local public health officials, the continuation of closed fitness centers and extended statewide restriction of movement and gatherings.

“We are also conducting a holistic review of policies associated with the physical fitness assessment program to determine if they are still a good fit for today’s Air Force,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “This includes a review of who’s accountable for conducting our testing and how it gets administered.”

In addition to scheduled Air Force Fitness Management

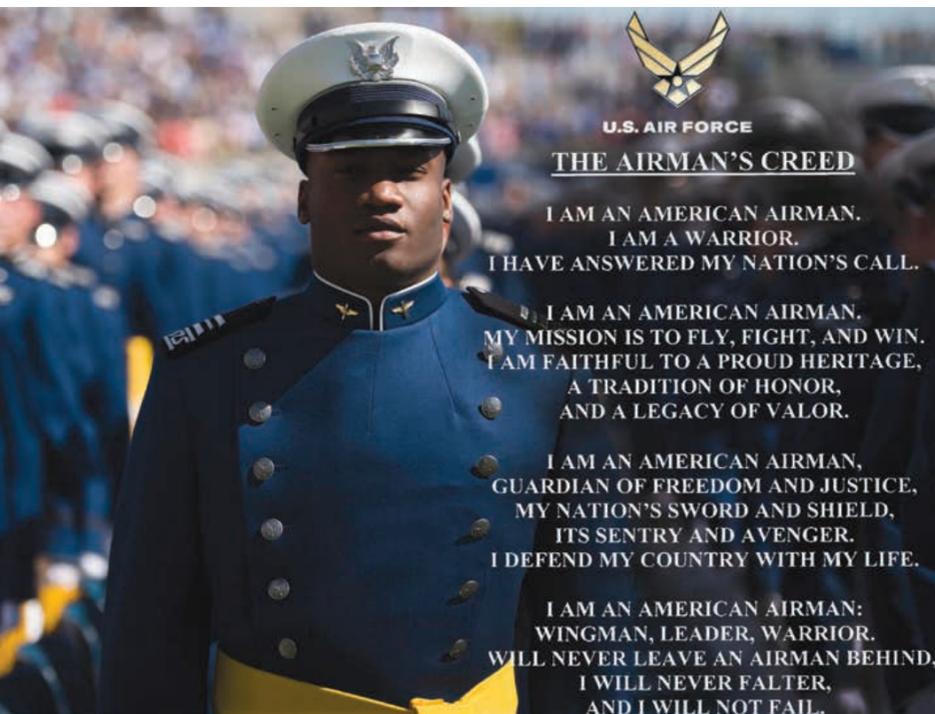
System (AFFMS II) maintenance and updates, the Air Force is exploring replacing the system with a newer, more flexible application.

In addition to the updates above, diagnostic testing is now available for Airmen to choose when they are ready to test. If an Airman completes a diagnostic physical fitness assessment or a mock test with the Fitness Assessment Cell or Physical Training leader, and passes, he or she can decide to make the mock test an official test score. According to AFMAN 36-2905, Air Force Physical Fitness Program, the FAC, PTL and Unit Fitness Program Manager are able to conduct the physical assessment for all Airmen, either inside or outside of their unit. Airmen can make their test official by initialing next to their total score and fitness category section, prior to leaving the testing location. If the member fails the mock test, it will not be officially counted.

Airmen may determine their next fitness assessment due date by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers which will be updated and available shortly. Fitness assessment due dates will primarily depend on the date and score of the last official test.

Space Force will follow these policies until service-specific fitness policies are developed and fielded.

Future PT test updates will be released as they are available.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**THE AIRMAN'S CREED**

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
I AM A WARRIOR.  
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.  
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,  
A TRADITION OF HONOR,  
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,  
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,  
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,  
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.  
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:  
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.  
WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,  
I WILL NEVER FALTER,  
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.

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

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

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

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



### Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at www.columbusafbiving.com 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'.

### Help Wanted!

Outdoor Rec is looking for Lifeguards for summer swimming at Independence Pool here on base. They are also looking for a Lifeguard Supervisor and Swim Instructor. To apply, visit USAJobs.gov and search for Columbus, Mississippi to see these and other NAF jobs available.

### Back to School Planning

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

### Youth Center Upcoming Events

We Own Friday at the Youth Center and it's a Mardi Gras Party for ages 13-18. The activities will take place on 12 March from 7-10 p.m. and the cost is \$10 per teen. For questions, call (662) 434-2504.

### Salute Our Heroes Spring Break Camp

The Youth Center is offering a week long camp during the local area schools' spring break, March 15-19 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Call (662) 434-2504 to register or for more information.

The School Age Program (SAP) at the Youth Center will host a St. Patrick's Day Party on March 17th from 1-3 p.m. and will feature Minute to Win It games, St. Patty's themed crafts, and leprechaun treats! Call (662) 434-2504 for more information on how to enroll in the SAP.

### Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday – Friday from 4-8 p.m. for dinner and drinks. Quick bites done just right featuring favorites such as Wings, Chicken Tenders, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Mozzarella Sticks, Shrimp & Grits, and much more!

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

### Strike Zone Grill Going Back to the Bowling Center!

The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) has moved back to the Bowling Center with 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 hours are Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat & Sun: Closed. Breakfast is offered until 10:30 a.m. For take-out orders, call (662) 434-3426.

**FITNESS CENTER**  
**DODGEBALL CHALLENGE**

**MARCH 15-18 AT 1730**

The Fitness Center is accepting registration for a dodgeball challenge tournament. Get a team together from your squadron or unit and let us know as soon as possible!

Call 434-2772 to register your team

**FORCE** SUPPORT SQUADRON **Fitness & Sports**

### Library Curbside Delivery

The library is offering curbside delivery. Find your book at www.columbusafb.mil.asolutions.com. Email your order to the library at 14.fss.fsd.library@us.af.mil. A confirmation email will be sent when your order is ready! Orders received before 11 a.m. will be ready during 1-4 p.m. that same day. Before picking up, please make sure you get a confirmation email stating your book is ready for pickup. When you park in the back parking lot, please give the library a call at (662) 434-2934 so the library knows you are there. When returning books, you can drop them off anytime at the book drop off located in the back parking lot of the library. To return DVDs and audiobooks, please call us at (662) 434-2934 on Monday-Friday from 1-4 p.m. for an employee to meet you at the back parking lot to pick it up from your car. Please note, all rentals are first come, first serve.

### Arts and Crafts

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

### Auto Skills Center & Hobby Shop is Now Open!

For all you shade tree mechanics, the Auto Skills Center is now open and features lifts, air hoses, equipment for self-serve oil and filter changes, tire balance and rotation, and tools for repair and maintenance. Open Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

### Fitness Center

The Columbus AFB Fitness Center no longer requires you to sign-up for fitness sessions! Swing by anytime during normal operating hours to get your workout in! Other Risk Mitigation plans still apply. Hours of operation are as follows — Monday-Friday: 5 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Now serving all eligible DoD cardholders!

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.

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

The Fitness Center is accepting registration for Squadron/Units to participate in a Dodgeball Challenge Tournament to be held March 15-18 at 5:30 p.m. Get a team together from your squadron or unit and register your team as soon as possible by calling (662) 434-2772.

### Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-5p.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.

### 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. 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

### CAFB Library

The Base Library is offering virtual board games, live craft demonstrations, STEM activities, book clubs and much more on their Facebook page: @columbusairforcebaselibrary. For more information, contact (662) 434-2934 or send them a direct message on their Facebook page, Columbus Air Force Library.

### FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

# Medical Corner



## Sleep studies



If your doctor suggests you undergo a sleep study, or polysomnography, you may be wondering what is involved in this test and what to expect. Sleep studies help doctors diagnose sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, periodic limb movement disorder, narcolepsy, restless legs syndrome, insomnia, and nighttime behaviors like sleepwalking and REM sleep behavior disorder.

A sleep study is a non-invasive, overnight exam that allows doctors to monitor you while you sleep to see what's happening in your brain and body. For this test, you will go to a sleep lab that is set up for overnight stays—usually in a hospital or sleep center. While you sleep, an EEG monitors your sleep stages and the cycles of REM and nonREM or NREM sleep you go through during the night, to identify possible disruptions in the pattern of your sleep. A sleep study will also measure things such as eye movements, oxygen levels in your blood (through a sensor—there are no needles involved), heart and breathing rates, snoring, and body movements.

The data from your sleep study will usually be taken by a technologist, and later evaluated by your doctor. This may take up to two weeks, when you'll schedule a follow up to discuss the results.

### Types of Sleep Studies

**Polysomnography:** A sleep technician monitors a patient who stays overnight at a specialized clinic. A variety of functions are measured throughout the night, including eye movements, brain and muscle activity, respiratory effort and airflow, blood oxygen levels, body positioning and movements, snoring, and heart rate.

**Multiple Sleep Latency Test:** This measures how quickly someone falls asleep and how quickly they enter REM sleep during daytime naps. This test is primarily used to diagnose excessive daytime sleepiness that may be due to narcolepsy or an unknown cause (idiopathic hypersomnia).

**Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) Titration:** This is a common treatment for sleep apnea. In CPAP titration, a technologist determines the amount of air pressure that a patient needs from their CPAP so that their machine can be properly programmed for home use. CPAP titration usually requires a second sleep study. When sleep apnea is strongly suspected, a split-night sleep study may be an option.

**Home Sleep Apnea Testing:** It collects data about a patient's breathing, heart rate, and other variables overnight. However, compared with polysomnography, home testing provides less information, and the process is not overseen by a technologist.

*Sleep Studies.* Retrieved from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/sleep-studies>

### When should you talk to your doctor about your sleep?

How do you know when it's time to talk to your doctor about your sleep? Look out for these telltale signs.

- You regularly have trouble falling or staying asleep
- You often wake up earlier than you'd like to
- You don't feel refreshed upon waking up
- You feel excessively sleepy or tired during the day, even if you slept for 7 hours the night before
- You feel the need to take naps during the day to feel adequately rested
- You have difficulty performing daily activities due to your sleep problems
- You fall asleep while driving, watching television, or reading
- You have had a sleep partner tell you that you snore or gasp loudly during the evening
- Your sleep partner has told you that you seem to sleepwalk, act out your dreams, or otherwise make abnormal movements during the night

If you've experienced any of the above more than one night a week<sup>3</sup> for multiple weeks in a row, it's time to talk to a doctor about your sleep.

*How to Talk to Your Doctor about Your Sleep.* Retrieved from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/sleep-studies/how-to-talk-to-your-doctor-about-sleep>

**World Sleep Day**  
 March 19, 2021  
 "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future"  
<http://www.worldsleepday.org/>

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



Dear Health Myth Busters,  
*There is some research out there about different types and colors of light affecting your sleep patterns and want to know if nighttime light exposure is bad for your sleep?*  
 Sincerely,  
 Light at Night?

Dear Light at Night,  
 Some studies suggest a link between exposure to light at night, such as working the night shift, to diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. That's not proof that nighttime light exposure causes these conditions; nor is it clear why it could be bad for us.

Exposure to light suppresses the secretion of melatonin, a hormone that influences circadian rhythms. Even dim light can interfere with a person's circadian rhythm and melatonin secretion. A mere eight lux—a level of brightness exceeded by most table lamps and about twice that of a night light—has an effect. Light at night is part of the reason so many people don't get enough sleep and researchers have linked short sleep to increased risk for depression, as well as diabetes and cardiovascular problems.

While light of any kind can suppress the secretion of melatonin, blue light at night does so more powerfully. Here are some tips to protect yourself from blue light at night:

- Use dim red lights for night lights. Red light is less likely to shift circadian rhythm and suppress melatonin.
- Avoid looking at bright screens beginning two to three hours before bed.
- If you work a night shift or use a lot of electronic devices at night, consider wearing blue-blocking glasses or installing an app that filters the blue/green wavelength at night.
- Expose yourself to lots of bright light during the day, which will boost your ability to sleep at night, as well as your mood and alertness during daylight.

Sincerely,  
 Health Myth Busters

Blue light has a dark side. Retrieved from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/blue-light-has-a-dark-side>

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-1B Lancer

### Mission

Carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory, the multi-mission B-1B Lancer is the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time.

### Features

The B-1B's blended wing/body configuration, variable-geometry wings and turbofan afterburning engines, combine to provide long range, maneuverability and high speed while enhancing survivability. Forward wing settings are used for takeoff, landings, air refueling and in some high-altitude weapons employment scenarios. Aft wing sweep settings - the main combat configuration -- are typically used during high subsonic and supersonic flight, enhancing the B-1B's maneuverability in the low- and high-altitude regimes. The B-1B's speed and superior handling characteristics allow it to seamlessly integrate in mixed force packages. These capabilities, when combined with its substantial payload, excellent radar targeting system, long loiter time and survivability, make the B-1B a key element of any joint/composite strike force.

### Background

The first production B-1 flew in October 1984, and the first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in

June 1985. Initial operational capability was achieved on Oct. 1, 1986. The final B-1B was delivered May 2, 1988.

The B-1B holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range, and time of climb in its class. The National Aeronautic Association recognized the B-1B for completing one of the 10 most memorable record flights for 1994. The most recent records were made official in 2004.

The B-1B was first used in combat in support of operations against Iraq during Operation Desert Fox in December 1998. In 1999, six B-1s were used in Operation Allied Force, delivering more than 20 percent of the total ordnance while flying less than 2 percent of the combat sorties.

During the first six months of Operation Enduring Freedom, eight B-1s dropped nearly 40 percent of the total tonnage delivered by coalition air forces. This included nearly 3,900 JDAMs, or 67 percent of the total. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, the aircraft has flown less 1 percent of the combat missions while delivering 43 percent of the JDAMs used. The B-1 continues to be deployed today, flying missions daily in support of continuing operations.

### General Characteristics

- Primary Function:** Long-range, multi-role, heavy bomber
- Contractor:** Boeing, North America (formerly Rockwell International, North American Aircraft); Offensive avionics, Boeing Military Airplane; defensive avionics, EDO Corporation
- Power plant:** Four General Electric F101-GE-102 turbo-

fan engine with afterburner

**Thrust:** 30,000-plus pounds with afterburner, per engine

**Wingspan:** 137 feet (41.8 meters) extended forward, 79 feet (24.1 meters) swept aft

**Length:** 146 feet (44.5 meters)

**Height:** 34 feet (10.4 meters)

**Weight:** approximately 190,000 pounds (86,183 kilograms)

**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 477,000 pounds (216,634 kilograms)

**Fuel Capacity:** 265,274 pounds (120,326 kilograms)

**Payload:** 75,000 pounds ( 34,019 kilograms)

**Speed:** 900-plus mph (Mach 1.2 at sea level)

**Range:** Intercontinental

**Ceiling:** More than 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)

**Armament:** 84 500-pound Mk-82 or 24 2,000-pound Mk-84 general purpose bombs; up to 84 500-pound Mk-62 or 8

2,000-pound Mk-65 Quick Strike naval mines; 30 cluster munitions (CBU-87, -89, -97) or 30 Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispensers (CBU-103, -104, -105); up to 24 2,000-pound GBU-31 or 15 500-pound GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions; up to 24 AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles; GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition

**Crew:** Four (aircraft commander, copilot, and two weapons systems officers)

**Unit Cost:** \$283.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

**Initial operating capability:** October 1986

**Inventory:** Active force, 66 (test, 2); ANG, 0; Reserve, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by William Lewis

A B-1B Lancer assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., takes off for a mission during Red Flag 20-1, Nellis AFB, Nevada, Jan. 28, 2020. The B-1B is a highly versatile, multi-mission weapon system, and its speed and superior handling characteristics allow it to seamlessly integrate in mixed force packages.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Hailey Staker

B-1B Lancers assigned to the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., leave the parking apron of the flight line, Jan. 22, 2020. Aircrews and B-1s from the 37th Bomb Squadron launched for Red Flag 20-1, a two-week advanced aerial combat training exercise held several times a year by the U.S. Air Force.

# Innovation soars; Lands at CAFB



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph McCane, 14th Student Squadron commander, explores a virtual reality headset during the grand opening of a training room provide for student pilots in the unaccompanied officer dorms, Feb. 12, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Access to virtual reality training will help student pilots awaiting training to better prepare for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Brandon Palmer, 14th Communication Squadron commander, experiences first-hand the virtual reality training made available to student pilots at the 14th Flying Training Wing officer dorms, Feb. 12, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. After months of planning and coordination student pilots now have access to virtual training incorporating real-world flight footage, steps away from their dorm rooms.

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

Columbus Air Force Base provided projected Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) students a new and innovative way to prepare as they await the start of the rigorous courses they will experience throughout their training through virtual reality. Most students expect long wait times, between 3 to 12 months, before they begin SUPT training.

Commanders and other personnel part of Team Blaze used existing resources and technology within the 14th Student Squadron, to expand the training infrastructure for Columbus AFB student pilots.

Augmented training equipment was placed in renovated officer dorms, in partnership with unaccompanied officer housing manager, Peggy Gunther, providing ease of access to the equipment for all student pilots.

The temporary training facility includes four immersive training devices (ITD's), which are similar to home-built gaming PCs with high-end flight simulator software along with standard stick and rudder flight controls.

Several virtual reality headsets were also included allowing students to watch 360-degree training videos recorded by the 37th & 41st training squadron instructor pilots.

According to U.S. Air Force Capt. William Cawthorne, 37th Flying Training Squadron T-6 instructor pilot, training videos include checklist procedures, flight patterns, and various aerobatic maneuvers that students are expected to perform in the aircraft.

In addition, several electronic flight bags were added, which provide students access to every regulation and training publication they would need during their training at CAFB.

Delivery of multiple cockpit flight trainers are also expected, which will broaden the student's access to fully operational cockpits featuring functional switches & gauges to further enhance the training experience.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph McCane, 14th Student Squadron commander, said it's awesome to provide the students the ability to training where they live instead of having to go to campus.

"I expect to see big benefits from this new resource," said McCane. "We expect to see a better quality students once they hit the flight line."

Cawthorne was a primary coordinator to ensure the project was completed in a timely and efficient manner.

"Moving forward, our ultimate goal is to get a standalone student training facility," said Cawthorne "This is a great start."

Cawthorne said this is a huge advancement for student pilots awaiting training.

"When I went through pilot training we were not allowed to have any kind of equipment because the instructors didn't want anyone to have an unfair advantage," said Cawthorne. "The equipment is available to all student pilots, we want them to have that head start. Ultimately we want students to show up already walking, not crawling, so that they are ready to run."

2nd Lt. Connor Spencer, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, provided much of the man power needed to get the equipment set up.

When asked how he felt about the addition, Spencer said that he likes the added education a lot and he feels it will be beneficial to the students in the dorms in familiarizing themselves with the aircraft controls before training.

Because existing equipment and space were utilized, the monetary cost of the project was minimal.

Lt. Col. Tyler Johnson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, said they played a little role in making a big accomplishment for flying training mission.

After the idea was brought to him to provide simulator capabilities for the students, Johnson found the space to make it happen.

The training equipment provided had to go through numerous steps in order to be set up and function properly, this is where the 14th Communication Squadron (CS) stepped in.

Maj. Brandon Palmer, 14th CS commander, conducted surveys to see the capabilities of the infrastructure and what needed to be improved so that the systems could run at their full capabilities.

"Putting up additional fiber optic cables and improving the communication capabilities was not only to support this effort," said Palmer. "This will support any future needs that the dorms will have as this 'Dorms as a weapon' concept grows."



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.

"We are looking at the dorms as the first step in a three-step process with our end goal ultimately resulting in a standalone facility that during duty hours would allow students to accomplish syllabus events and outside of duty hours would provide that safe space for students to study and mission

plan for the next day", said Cawthorne. "Our next step would be a temporary facility to allow us to expand from the single dorm suite and until we can finalize the plans for the potential stand-alone facility."

This project falls in line with Lt. Gen. Marshall

Webb's, Air Education and Training Command commander, mission to create ready and lethal Airmen who fuel the Air and Space Force.

The innovative learning equipment will provide additional knowledge that will help these students prepare so they can excel during training.