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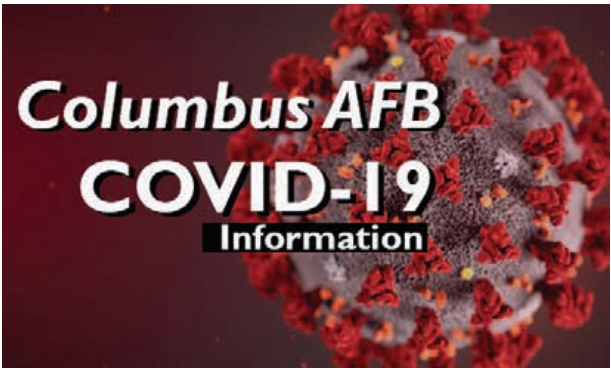
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Vol. 45, Issue 7

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

APRIL 16, 2021



## 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 four hours outside of Columbus Air Force Base to obtain necessary goods and services and/or to engage in outdoor recreation.
- Currently restrictions for previously off-limits locations have been lifted.
- No restrictions for social gatherings.

See PANDEMIC, Page 3

## Columbus Airman fights pandemic in New York

### Long hours giving vaccines takes toll on newlywed

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

After being on her feet for 12 to 13 hours, administering COVID-19 vaccines to nearly 200 patients per day and only taking breaks for lunch and dinner, newlywed Arianna Gordon just might have the chance to call her husband.

“I had to leave my husband behind on a very short notice,” said Gordon. “We were married exactly six months the day I left. Not being able to see him every day is tough. There are some nights we can’t even talk on the phone.”

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Arianna Gordon, 14th Health Care Operations Squadron aerospace medical technician, was called to deploy through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Brooklyn, New York. Her efforts are in support of the U.S. Army North’s COVID-19 response.

In the rare spare moments of her shift, Gordon was able to share her experience through text messages, mentioning not only could she feel the hours taking a toll on her body, but also mentally.

“I am used to being with my husband every day,” said Gordon. “I’m still getting used to being without him. It’s hard getting a full night’s sleep because I’m used to having him with me, which can also be a mental challenge the next day.”



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Arianna Gordon, 14th Health Care Operations Squadron Aerospace Medical technician, administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to patients while deployed under FEMA, at Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, New York. Gordon is one of approximately 140 Airmen deployed from 28 installations to Brooklyn in support of the U.S. Army North’s COVID-19 response efforts.

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COVID-19  
Coronavirus Disease 2019

# DOD prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations to those deployed

By David Vergun  
DOD news

The Defense Department is rapidly administering COVID-19 vaccines in a tiered priority process to service members, DOD contractors and civilians and their families who are stationed overseas and who wish to have them, said DOD health leaders.

Army Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place, director, Defense Health Agency; Army Maj. Gen. Jill K. Faris, deputy surgeon general, Army National Guard; Navy Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer, deputy surgeon general, U.S. Navy; and Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert I. Miller, director of medical operations, office of the surgeon general, U.S. Air Force, spoke at a Pentagon media update today.

Place said deployed personnel are being prioritized because of limited availability to receive vaccinations from local health care providers. Of all doses the department has received, 14% are set aside for overseas locations.

“That’s significant because the OCONUS population is 7% of our eligible population,” he said, referring to personnel who are outside the continental U.S.

“That said if you’re a service member stationed overseas, or a family member likewise stationed overseas and you haven’t received a vaccine, and you don’t know when you’ll be able to, these numbers mean nothing. And it’s understandably frustrating,” Place said.

Place said that part of the reason for not getting shots in arms as quickly as the department would have liked, is because of the loss of about 15 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson dosages. Those doses were reportedly contaminated at a Baltimore factory about a week ago and are therefore unusable.

Johnson & Johnson, along with Moderna vaccines, are shipped overseas in large quantities because they don’t have



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jack Sanders, DOD

**Army Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, provides a COVID-19 vaccination update to the media at the Pentagon, April 8, 2021.**

the more stringent refrigeration requirements of Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech, he said. Dosages of Pfizer are nonetheless slated to be delivered overseas because it has been authorized emergency use for children ages 16 and 17.

Based on current projections of vaccine supplies and health care providers who administer them, the department projects that by the middle of May, all deployed personnel who want them will have had at least the initial vaccination dosage.

Place said that although those deployed are being prioritized, the department is also focused on personnel in the U.S., and that by April 19, all U.S. jurisdictions will be offering vaccinations to everyone. In fact, about 40% of department vaccinations sites have already provided at least some vaccinations in the final tier, mean-

ing younger, healthier people, he said.

April 19 is significant because it is the date that President Joe Biden said COVID-19 vaccine eligibility will be open to all adults.

“We continue to see many individuals who were taking a wait-and-see approach now coming in for the vaccine,” Place said.

Faris, Shaffer and Miller agreed with Place about a lower vaccination hesitancy in each of the services. They attributed the turnaround in part to a successful education campaign to address any concerns.

With regard to partially or fully reopening installation facilities like gyms, Faris, Shaffer and Miller said the decision is made by installation commanders, in accordance with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and advice from their medical officers.

## 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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### COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 14)

#### 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 re-

### FSS

(Continued from page 12)

#### CAFB Library

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

#### FSS Gift Cards

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

#### Horse Boarding Available

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

sources 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://milloflearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?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.

#### 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/propertytys/Columbus-AFB>. After hours services call (662) 251-2931.

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### PANDEMIC

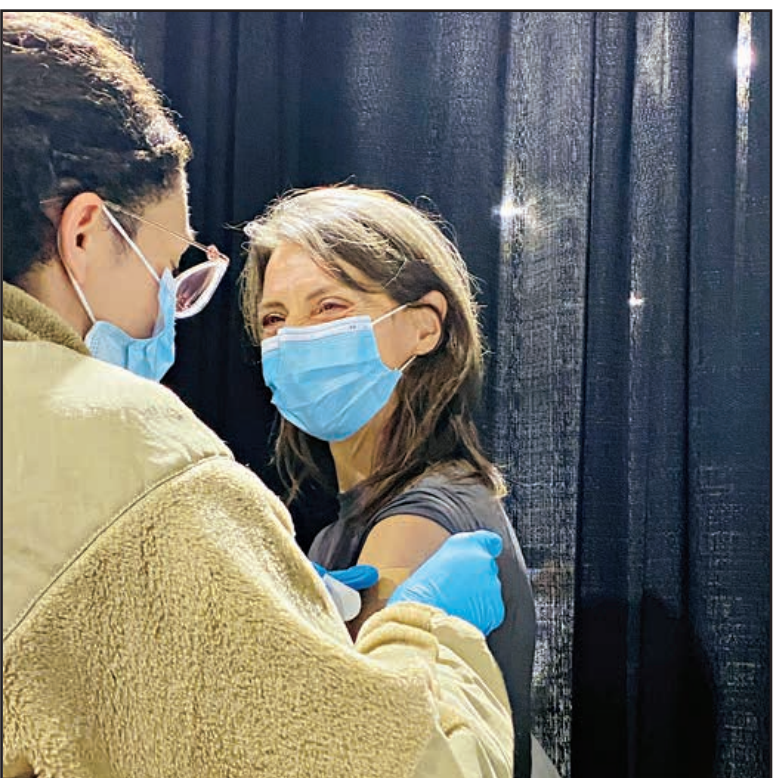
(Continued from page 1)

Gordon worked every day, 16-17 hours per day, for the first seven days she arrived to provide support. Since arriving on Feb. 23, 2021, Gordon has administered over 3,500 vaccines and has accumulated over 380 hours, making her one of the sites top vaccinators. The long hours are not the only toll Gordon has paid. It was not until recently Gordon received the vaccine herself. While on the front lines, Gordon was not yet vaccinated, potentially exposing herself to the virus as she interacted with hundreds of patients daily. Gordon said she was on the fence about getting the vaccine and only received it at the end of March. Gordon explained that being in New York and seeing the impact of the vaccination effort first hand is what changed her mind.

“Getting the vaccine isn’t about yourself, it’s about those around you,” said Gordon. “Get the vaccine for those who cannot, those whose immune systems are too weak for the vaccine to have an effect. It’s about protecting those who can’t protect themselves.” U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Rebeka Clifford, 56th Medical Group aerospace medical technician, works alongside Gordon and said Gordon is a very hard worker and she always puts her patients’ safety and comfort first. “She takes the time to make her patients’ feel comfortable and helps calm their nerves before receiving the vaccine,” said Clifford. “As a child I always talked about being a nurse in the Army when I grew up,” said Gordon. “The older

*“Getting the vaccine isn’t about yourself, it’s about those around you,” said Gordon. “Get the vaccine for those who cannot, those whose immune systems are too weak for the vaccine to have an effect. It’s about protecting those who can’t protect themselves.”*

I became I realized the time and commitment I would have to spend in school, I wasn’t sure if I was ready for it.” “Being in New York has absolutely been an inspiration and re-sparked my passion for patient care,” said Gordon. “Each and every patient had their own story of how much the pandemic had affected their lives. It’s keeping me motivated.” Her hard work had not gone unrecognized. Gordon received a challenge coin from U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Franklin Waddell, 335th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron joint commander, for being one of three top vaccinators on site. In the spirit of true selflessness, Gordon said she would do it all over again if given the opportunity.



Courtesy photo  
**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Arianna Gordon, 14th Health Care Operations Squadron Aerospace Medical technician, applies a band aid to the incision site to a patient, who just received the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine, while deployed under FEMA, at Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, New York Gordon has administered over 3,500 vaccines since arriving on Feb. 23, 2021, making her one of the sites top 3 vaccinators.**

## Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

It is time for Spring Cleaning and the Environmental Element is here to help! The 14th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES)/Civil Engineering-Environmental (CEIE) will be hosting a households hazardous waste drop-off, Apr. 23 and 22, from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Everyone has some type of chemicals they use in their homes - cleaners, insecticides, and automotive oils to name a few. Landfills are not really designed to address the hazards these items pose to the environment. 14th CES/CEIE is asking everyone to take the time and go through their cabinets, garage, or back yard shed and bring those items to the parking lot between the Resale Lot (Lemon Lot) and the Youth Center (Building 348) on Ines Street. 14th CES/CEIE will pack everything up and send it to a facility designed and permitted to accept them. All items MUST be labelled to indicate the contents. Some examples of common household items to turn in are: aerosols, automotive fluids, herbicides, insecticides, paint, stains, lacquers, gasoline, bleach, household cleaners, adhesives, glues, expired fire extinguishers, and mercury thermometers. For more information, call Mr. Mike Blythe, 14 CES/CEIE, at (662) 434-7353.



## Be a good neighbor and help keep our home clean.

Litter, yard chemicals, and dog waste can all negatively impact surface water and wildlife habitat. Please be neighborly.

- Reduce single use plastics
- Use limited amounts of pesticides and fertilizers
- Clean up litter around the home
- Pick up after Fido





# 14th CONS helps replace BX roof, improves QoL

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

The 14th Contracting Squadron aided in the recent replacement of the Base Exchange's roof to improve the quality of life for Airmen and their families at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

In total, the project cost \$617,589 and took nearly 4 months to complete.

Master Sgt. William Barker, 14th CONS contracting officer, said the replacement was a necessity for the base and he was glad to help execute the project to completion.

"The BX is one of the focal points for the base and for the local area," Barker said. "It's important to have a safe facility. The replace-

*"The BX is one of the focal points for the base and for the local area," Barker said. "It's important to have a safe facility. The replacement of the roof eliminated the leaks, which in turn stopped mold from forming."*

ment of the roof eliminated the leaks, which in turn stopped mold from forming."

For the contract, the 14th CS went through the HUBZone program. HUB stands for a Historically Underutilized Business. Through the program, a contract was awarded to CYE Enterprises out of Jacksonville, Florida.

When a contract is awarded to a HUB,

Barker said it is a noteworthy accomplishment for their squadron.

"The squadron has a certain amount goals to complete for the year," he said. "One of the goals is to contract a certain amount of HUBZone and small businesses. So I guess you could say it's like a feather in your hat when you can award those contracts."

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Martinez, 14th CONS

contracting officer, said one of the challenges the squadron faced with the contracting for the roof was being a small unit and not having much familiarity.

"We have 100% of our people but only 39% of them have the experience needed to accomplish most tasked items," Martinez said. "I retrained from civil engineering so I have to rely on the other guys till I catch up."

To overcome the challenges the 14th CONS faced, Martinez said the primary solutions were hard work, teamwork and training.

"You would think it's easier here since we are a smaller base, but it's just less people to do around the same amount of work," he said. "We work hard and have lots of teamwork throughout the unit. We do our best to learn on the fly and take our training seriously."



Courtesy photo  
The prior roof was replaced because of water leaking through the roof into the Base Exchange. CYE Enterprises was awarded a contract to replace the roof.



Courtesy photo  
The replacement roof was completed in January of 2021. The 14th Contracting Squadron has a 20 year warranty on the roof.

## 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"**

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Apr. 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m. and will be held at Freedom Park. 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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Apr. 20 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. Apr. 22 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.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. May 3-7 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.

## 14th Flying Training Squadron Adopts Local Highway



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Members of the 41st Flying Training Squadron on Columbus Air Force Base, organized a Highway Cleanup event, Apr. 2, 2021 in Columbus, Miss. The 41st FTS participated in the Adopt a Highway Program and are now responsible for a portion of the highway close by CAFB.**

### 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.

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 17-18 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop will be held on June 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.

### Heart Link

The next "Zoom" Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Jul 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.

### 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 Cen-

ter, 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 14

## Chapel Schedule

**Chapel services are now available.**

**Catholic Services:** 5 p.m. on Sun

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

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

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



## Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at ColumbusAFBLiving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact (662) 434-2337.

## Get Connected with Your Base App!

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

## 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

The Youth Center is celebrating Month of the Military Child with activities scheduled throughout the month of April. The Purple Up Parade was held on the 14th. Other activities include a BBQ Fun Day on the 21st, 4H Gardening Day on the 28th, and Military Kid's Day party on the 30th.

## T-Ball / Coach Pitch Hybrid Program

Youth Programs presents a T-Ball/Coach Pitch hybrid program for ages 3-8. Registration is open from now – 28 April. The cost for ages 3-4 is \$35 and \$40 for ages 5-8. Register by April 21st and save \$5. Register at the Youth Center. For more information, call (662) 434-2504



**PLAY BALL!**

**T-Ball / Coach Pitch Hybrid Program**

**Ages 3-8**

**REGISTRATION OPENS April 14 - 28**

**COST:**  
AGES 3-4..... \$35  
AGES 5-8..... \$40

**Register in the first week and SAVE \$5**

**Register At The Youth Center**

**For more information, call 434-2504**

**FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON**

## Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday – Friday from 4-10 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 at 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- 426.

## Library

The Library is hosting Story Time at the Park every Tuesday in April at 10 a.m. at Freedom Park. Social distancing will be observed.

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

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 11:00 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 1-2 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 and Woodshop

Stop by Arts & Crafts for all you Framing and Engraving needs! They are open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Woodshop is also available Tuesday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. The cost is \$5 for the first hour and \$3 for every additional hour. Call A&C at (662) 434-7856 if you have any questions or visit ColumbusAFBLiving.com/arts-crafts/.

## 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 Fitness Center is accepting registration for a Dodgeball Challenge Tournament to be held April 27 at 5 p.m. Get a team together from your squadron, unit, friends, or just sign-up to play. Teams are made up of 5 players. One person can register the team or sign-up individually using the following link: SignUpGenius.com/go/dodgeballchallenge

24/7 access is back! Time is on your side, so contact the Fitness Center to enroll for 24 hour access. This is currently limited to Active Duty only. CAC must be registered at the front desk.

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

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! Hours of operation are 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.

## Outdoor Recreation

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

## Coffee House on 5th

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

## Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

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

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

## Assignment Night Transportation

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

## Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT and save up to 60%? American Forces Travel is now serving APF and NAF civilians. Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at www.americaforcestravel.com

See FSS, Page 14

# PACAF hosts historic Women, Peace, Security symposium

**Tech. Sgt. Nick Wilson**

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Pacific Air Forces hosted its first Women, Peace and Security symposium at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 29 – April 1.

The goal of the symposium was to meet Department of Defense objectives to exemplify women's meaningful participation across the development, management, and employment of the joint force. Additionally, another long-term defense objective for WPS is to work alongside partner nations to ensure the safety, security and the protection of human rights among women and girls, especially during conflict and crisis.

"We're committed to increasing participation of women in the security and defense apparatuses," said Australian Army Brigadier Nerolie McDonald, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command vice director for intelligence and guest speaker during the symposium. "And we're committed to ensuring that the gender perspective is embraced within the defense and the defense culture."

One hundred and sixteen virtual and in-person representatives from 20 nations throughout the Indo-Pacific attended the symposium. In addition to Brig. McDonald, some of the guest speakers included retired Gen. Lori Robinson, and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Joanne Bass to name a few.

"It takes all of us to move people forward. It takes all of us to talk about the goodness of everybody," Robinson said. "But they have to also earn it. I don't want to be at a different standard. We want to be at the standard and we want to live up to everybody's expectations."

Robinson also highlighted the responsibility of senior leaders to set the tone for their units and make decisions indiscriminately of unconscious bias, gender, race, ethnicity or background. Robinson explained while she was serving, instead of being seen as a woman, she preferred to be looked at as a commander, a general and an Airman who just happened to be a woman.

"The tone is about making sure we're all rowing the same way," Robinson said. "But understanding, you know, that there are differences, and there are sensitivities. But that shouldn't be the top thing. What should be the top thing is that we're all trying to get the same thing done and that is something I think we can always continue



Australian Army Brigadier Nerolie McDonald, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command vice director for Intelligence, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jennifer Short, Pacific Air Forces chief of staff, render salutes alongside a flight of multilateral Indo-Pacific partners during a visit to the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 30, 2021. The memorial visit was organized as part of PACAF's first Women, Peace, and Security symposium, which enabled PACAF Airmen to work alongside partner nations to ensure the safety, security, and the protection of human rights among women and girls, especially during conflict and crisis.

to strive for."

"It's not just about us imparting our knowledge, it's about learning from our partners, and learning the gender perspective that they have," McDonald said. "It enriches our understanding of the cultures (and) it enriches our understanding of the people involved in disasters in conflict and post conflict environments."

McDonald also explained by bringing an understanding to the gender perspective, senior leaders are better able to tailor what type of support is provided to different circumstances.

"We have more to do and we have to work toward continuing the effort – ensuring we do have a gendered perspective in how we operate over the coming years," McDonald said. "At the end of the day, it's the whole of defense, whole of government, whole of region effort to ensure that women's peace and security issues are progressed and the initiatives are met as we move forward."

In terms of moving forward, Bass also

provided context to how the U.S. Air Force should move forward to modernize Air Force policies and programs.

"Our Air Force looks very different today than it did when I first came in and so does the family unit," Bass said. "If you look at ... statistics when I first joined our military compared to today, you have more women serving, you have more dual-military (couples) serving, you have more dual-working parents serving, and you have a lot of single parents serving."

In support of Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Q. Brown, Jr.'s "Accelerate Change, or Lose" initiative, Bass highlighted that many of the Air Force's policies and processes in effect today are still tied to the 1990s to 2000s era.

"If we don't evolve the way we manage the talent in our Air Force, then it's not going to put us in a good light," Bass said. "So we've got to change the way we manage our talent, and we've got to adjust fire to the family dynamic that we have today."

Throughout the week, the WPS symposium

reviewed and discussed global principles such as the women's participation in peace and security, inclusion of women in conflict prevention, and the equal application of the rule of law, among many other topics.

"WPS is ultimately about ensuring that women are equally and meaningfully engaged in every space where conversations and decisions about peace and security are being made," said Gen. Ken Wilsbach, PACAF commander. "We've made a lot of advances in the past few years, like opening up career fields in many countries to women, but there's still some room to grow."

"For example, I was speaking to a friend's daughter and mentioned she should be a fighter pilot," Wilsbach said. "But her response surprised me. She didn't believe that was even an available option to her, and yet right here on our staff, Brig. Gen. Jennifer Short, a fighter pilot, serves alongside me every day. We have to continue to be better to maximize security for our nation."



# AETC officials name building in honor of retired Gen. Stephen Wilson

**Dreshawn Murray**  
Air Education and Training  
Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Officials at Air Education Training Command named building 905 “Wilson Hall” and unveiled a plaque bearing the name and image of former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff retired Gen. Stephen Wilson during a building dedication ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 9.

“General Wilson developed and sustained initiatives to protect Airmen and families. He pioneered agile combat employment for us to remain flexible while building multi-capable Airmen for future wars,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. “This dedication event encapsulates a legacy of innovation that is the story of Randolph Air Force Base, Air Training Command, Air Education and Training Command and now Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Today, we’ve enshrined General Wilson on Randolph’s halls of honor.”

Webb also recognized the history and legacy across JBSA-Randolph, including the Lahm Conference Center named for Brig. Gen. Frank Lahm, Randolph’s first commander in 1920; Arnold House named for General Henry “Hap” Arnold, who accelerated technology development and encouraged the development of the B-17 and B-24; Pitsenbarger Hall named for Airman 1st Class William Pitsenbarger, a pararescuer who completed 250 rescue missions and took up arms to protect infantrymen until he was fatally shot; and the Parr Club named for Col. Ralph Parr, an American double-flying ace of the Korean War, who was credited with 10 downed enemy aircraft and the only American pilot to receive both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross.

“This event is a continuing tradition of visionary Airmen immortalized by the First Command,” Webb said.

Wilson’s career began in AETC as a student pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, followed by an assignment as a T-38 first assignment instructor pilot there. He also served in the command twice more as the 14th Flying Training Wing commander at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, and as deputy director of Air, Space and Information Operations Directorate at Headquarters AETC.

“I spent nearly 40 years in the Air Force and this is a big honor for me, Nancy and the

See WILSON, Page 7



**ABOVE: U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, and retired Gen. Stephen Wilson (right), former Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, unveil the Wilson Hall dedication plaque April 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Wilson’s career began in AETC as a student pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, followed by an assignment as a T-38 Talon instructor pilot there.**

**LEFT: Retired Gen. Stephen Wilson, former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, gives remarks during the Wilson Hall dedication ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 9. Officials at Air Education and Training Command named building 905 “Wilson Hall” and unveiled a plaque bearing the name and image of former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff retired Gen. Stephen Wilson during a building dedication ceremony.**



## Medical Corner



### “Personalize your plate” for a better night’s sleep

March is National Nutrition Month®, a time we put extra emphasis on learning about making informed food choices and developing healthy eating and activity habits.<sup>1</sup>

Here are a few tips to help you “Personalize your Plate” for a good night’s rest:  
**Eat a variety of nutritious foods every day!**

There isn’t a “perfect” eating plan for restful sleep, but generally you want to eat a variety of foods, so you get enough vitamins and minerals. Studies have found that those who follow a Mediterranean Diet and/or the DASH diet reported better sleep quality. These are whole food, plant predominant diets that help you eat enough fiber, magnesium, potassium, and lean protein.<sup>2</sup>

#### Plan your meals each week!

Planning your meals and snacks not only helps you limit impulse eating at home and on-the-go, it may also help with stress, since you’ll generally know what you’re going to eat and when. Keeping a grocery list on a refrigerator notepad, or your smart device can also making a trip to the commissary quicker and avoid “decision paralysis” as you walk down the aisles. Try to avoid going grocery shopping when you’re sleep deprived, as lack of sleep can cause a tendency to select higher-calorie foods, which may have less vitamins and minerals. <sup>2</sup>

#### Learn skills to create tasty meals!

Learning new recipes and cooking skills can help incorporate nutrient-rich foods into your repertoire and improve social connectedness by sharing meals with friends and/or family (even if it’s a virtual dinner party). For example, one study found that eating fatty fish may be good for better sleep.<sup>3</sup>

#### Consult a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) or Diet Therapy Technician!

The Air Force has approximately 200 RDNs and diet therapy technicians. You can find them in the outpatient nutrition clinic at large medical treatment facilities, in the Health Promotion office at smaller medical treatment facilities, via virtual health services, and as part of several Integrated Operational Support assets at select installations. These nutrition professionals can provide education, coaching, and help you build skills (cooking demonstrations and commissary tours) to achieve your food, sleep and health goals!

<sup>1</sup> National Nutrition Month. Retrieved from <https://www.eatright.org/food/resources/nationalnutrition-month>

<sup>2</sup> Nutrition and Sleep. Retrieved from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/nutrition>

<sup>3</sup> The Best Foods to Help You Sleep. Retrieved from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/nutrition/foodand-drink-promote-good-nights-sleep>



#### Caffeine and Sleep

Caffeine is the most widely used stimulant in the world, and is found in many sources, including coffee, tea, soda, energy drinks, energy shots, and dietary supplements.<sup>1</sup> Caffeine can boost mental and physical performance when used appropriately. Before deciding whether to consume caffeine, it’s important to note that caffeine consumption is not a substitute for sleep!

Caffeine takes about an hour to reach peak levels in the blood.<sup>1</sup> If you’re feeling tired, and need a boost, it is best to consume up to 200mg of caffeine 30-60 minutes beforehand.<sup>1</sup>

Be mindful of the amount of caffeine in all products you consume, especially dietary supplements. Dietary supplements marketed for weight loss, energy, or pre-workouts, likely contain caffeine, but it may be a “hidden” ingredient. The following list may indicate there is caffeine in your product:

- Cocoa (cacao, Theobroma cacao)
- Coffee or coffea
- Green coffee bean
- Guarana
- Kola nut
- Methylxanthine
- Tea (Camellia sinensis)
- Trimethylxanthine
- Xanthine
- Yerba maté

Regardless of the source, the half-life of caffeine is 3-5 hours, so avoid caffeine from 6 hours before bedtime to minimize sleep disruption.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.opss.org/article/caffeineperformance>

<sup>2</sup> Caffeine facts. Retrieved from <https://www.hprc-online.org/nutrition/performance-nutrition/caffeine-facts>

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



Dear Health Myth Busters,  
I heard it’s good to drink Chamomile tea to help with better sleep. Will it help with my insomnia?

Sincerely,  
Nighttime Tea Drinker

Dear Nighttime Tea Drinker,  
Chamomile has a long history of use as a medicinal herb with a mild apple-like scent. In Greek, chamomile means “earth apple.”<sup>1</sup> There are two types of chamomile, German and Roman, but most information available is on the German variety.

German chamomile is generally safe to consume in amounts found in food and teas. Although long touted as a fix for insomnia, there has been very little research done on chamomile and insomnia. A small study conducted in 2019 found that chamomile had no benefit for insomnia.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, a 2011 study, found no improvement in sleep latency, sleep quality, or number of awakenings comparing a chamomile dietary supplement to a placebo. Bottom line - if you enjoy a hot cup of chamomile tea before bed, it can be a great part of your evening routine; however, the benefits you receive may not be strictly from the chamomile herb.

Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters

<sup>1</sup> <https://naturalmedicines.therapeuticresearch.com/databases/food,-herbs-supplements/professional.aspx?productid=951>

<sup>2</sup> Chamomile. Retrieved from <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/chamomile>

Got questions on other health issues related to sleep health, physical activity, tobacco, or nutrition? Share them with us and we will help you “Bust The Myths!” Send your questions to [usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil). Make sure to include in the subject line “Health Myth Buster.” For more online health tips visit the Air Force Health Promotion webpage <https://www.airforce-medicine.af.mil/Resources/Health-Promotion/>



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: MQ-9 Reaper

## Mission

The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.

Reapers can also perform the following missions and tasks: Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-laser, convoy/raid overwatch, route clearance, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-9's capabilities make it uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in support of combatant commander objectives.

## General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Intelligence collection in support of strike, coordination, and reconnaissance missions

**Contractor:** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

**Power Plant:** Honeywell TPE331-10GD turboprop engine

**Thrust:** 900 shaft horsepower maximum

**Wingspan:** 66 feet (20.1 meters)

**Length:** 36 feet (11 meters)

**Height:** 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)

**Weight:** 4,900 pounds (2,223 kilograms) empty

**Maximum takeoff weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,760 kilograms)

**Fuel Capacity:** 4,000 pounds (602 gallons)

**Payload:** 3,750 pounds (1,701 kilograms)

**Speed:** Cruise speed around 230 miles per hour (200 knots)

**Range:** 1,150 miles (1,000 nautical miles)

**Ceiling:** Up to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)

**Armament:** Combination of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, GBU-12 Paveway II and GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions

**Crew (remote):** Two (pilot and sensor operator)

**Unit Cost:** \$56.5 million (includes four aircraft with sensors, ground control station and Predator Primary satellite link) (fiscal 2011 dollars)

**Initial operating capability:** October 2007

Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle pilots go to training at Randolph and Holloman Air Force Base. The Air Force drones can be flown by pilots stationed at Creech, Holloman, Cannon, Ellsworth and Whiteman Air Force Base.



Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Neil Ballecer

An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft assigned to the 163d Attack Wing soars over Southern California skies on a training flight to March Air Reserve Base, California, on September 15, 2016.



Air National Guard photo illustration by Airman Michelle J. Ulber  
(This photo was manipulated to remove the aircraft tail number for security purposes.)

An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft from the 163rd Attack Wing lands for the first time at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. April 5, 2017. This was a milestone event for the base in their efforts to move the wing's flight operations to March ARB from Southern California's high desert where it currently flies at.



Visit us online!

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Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Columbus\\_AFB](https://www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB)



## WILSON

(Continued from page 6)

Wilson family to be associated with AETC,” said Wilson. “A little known fact is I was probably one of the longest service FAIPs in AETC. We had a wonderful time in AETC both as a FAIP (First Assignment Instructor Pilot) and in command.”

His final assignment was as the longest-serving in the second-highest-ranking officer position in the United States Air Force, retiring in 2020.

“As leaders, there is no more sacred duty than to prepare the next generation of Airmen for combat, it was our solemn obligation,” Wilson said, “No one takes on that mission more to heart than the thousands of men and women who work here at AETC. They wake up with that singular purpose, to take America’s sons and daughters and develop them into world-class Airmen who can fly, fight, and win, who can deliver airpower anywhere, at any time.”

During his time as VCSAF, Wilson was the catalyst behind the Air Force’s AFW-

ERX program and Spark Tank competition, and his push for innovation created a lasting legacy.

Wilson received his commission from Texas A&M University in 1981. His assignments included multiple flying tours, and he led bomber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, mobility, aeromedical evacuation and airborne command and control operations supporting operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The facility was originally used as the center for all flying training activities, supporting the needs of the Army Air Corps aviation campus. Cadets reported to this facility for clothing issue, haircuts, meals and off-duty activities. Famous aviators like Thomas B. McGuire and 17 of the Doolittle Raiders once walked the halls of what is now Wilson Hall.

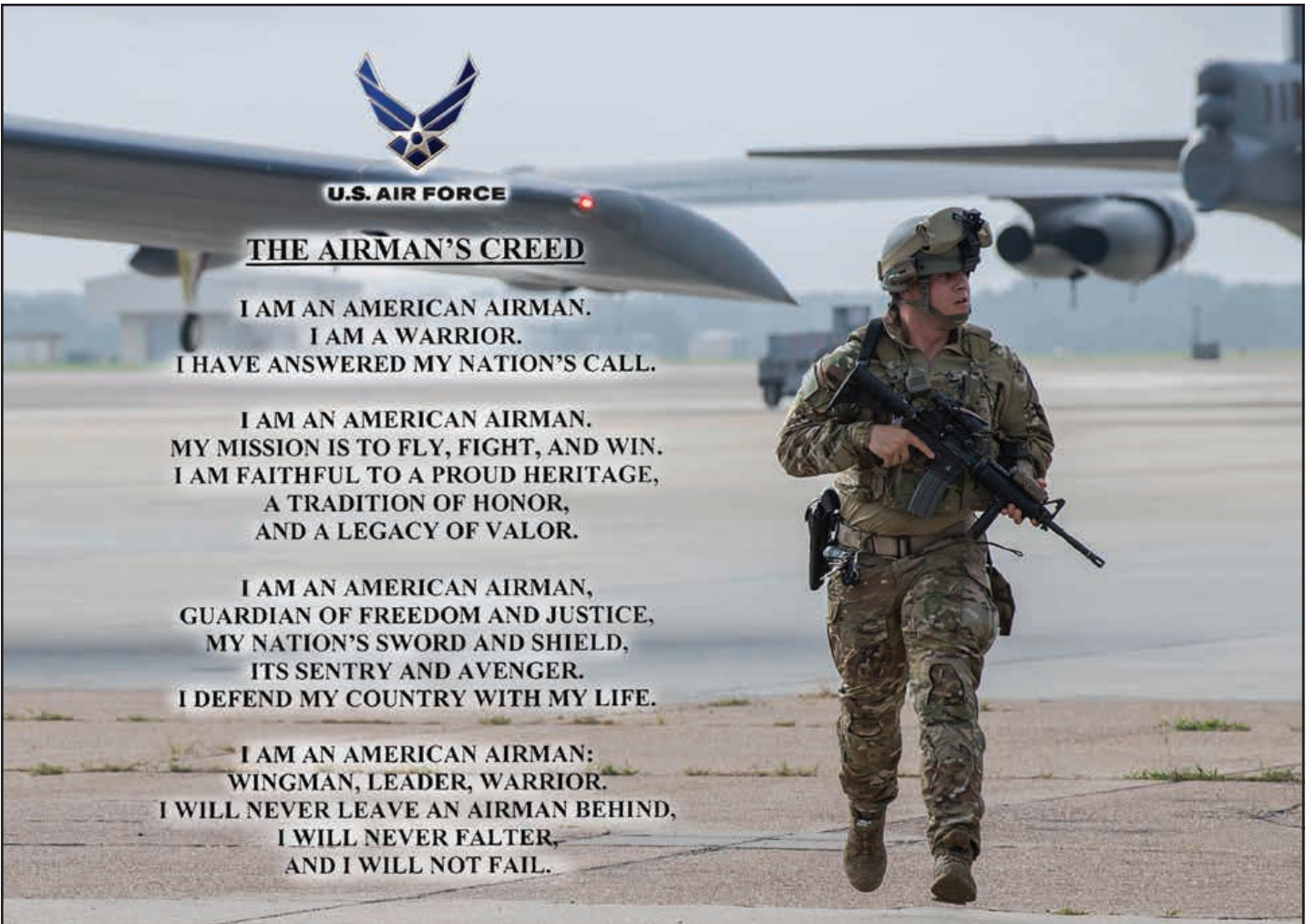
Today, the newly named Wilson Hall houses administrative and conference spaces to include the Frank Lahm Conference Center, history, plans, programs and requirements and public affairs offices.



Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, gives remarks during the Wilson Hall dedication ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 9. Officials at Air Education and Training Command named building 905 “Wilson Hal,” and unveiled a plaque bearing the name and image of former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff retired Gen. Stephen Wilson during a building dedication ceremony.



Don't text  
while  
driving







T-1A Jayhawk

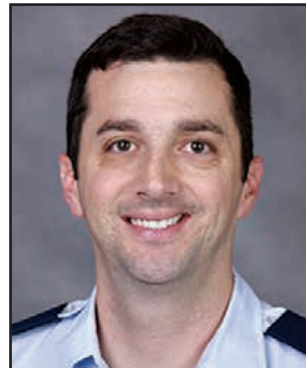


T-38C Talon

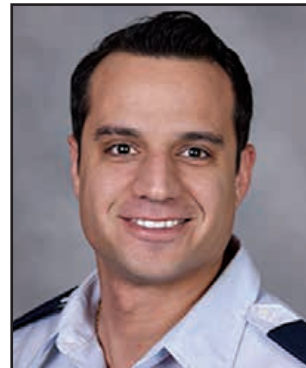
# SUPT Class 21-08 earns silver wings



**Capt. Nick Anderson**  
Cynthiana, Kentucky  
C-130



**Capt. Mitchell Doud**  
Richmond Hill, Georgia  
KC-135



**Capt. Gennarro Nappo**  
Atlanta  
F-16

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-08 graduates at 10 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.

Capt. Mitchell Doud, 2nd Lt. Kyle Abraham and 2nd Lt. Nathan Amaral 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. Tiago Santos and 2nd Lt. Emma Wells who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 21-08 recognized were Doud, Abraham and Amaral 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 character-

istics, 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.

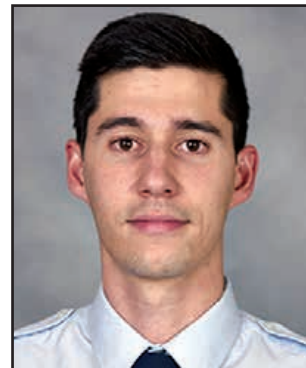
Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

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 management, 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.



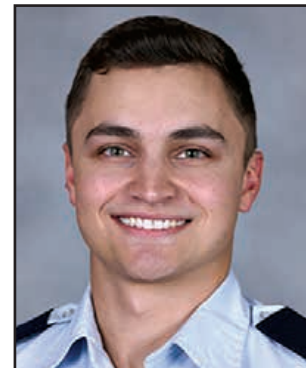
**1st Lt. Kosei Kawakami**  
Saitama, Japan  
F-2



**1st Lt. Tiago Santos**  
Azeitão, Portugal  
F-16



**1st Lt. Logan Zook**  
Fishers, Indiana  
E-3



**2nd Lt. Kyle Abraham**  
Northville, Michigan  
F-15E



**2nd Lt. Nathan Amaral**  
Daytona Beach, Florida  
KC-10



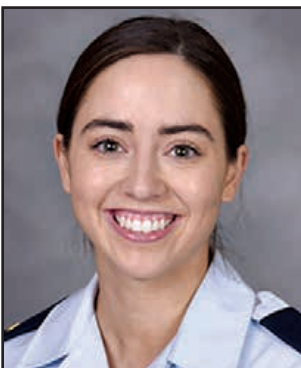
**2nd Lt. Wil Andahazy**  
Alexandria, Virginia  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Cory Beck**  
Young America, Indiana  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Bryan Doyle**  
Littleton, Colorado  
C-130J



**2nd Lt. Gina Kilbride**  
Batavia, Illinois  
C-130J



**2nd Lt. Fredrick Larkins**  
Columbus, Ohio  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Eli Majek**  
Brooklyn, Connecticut  
C-17



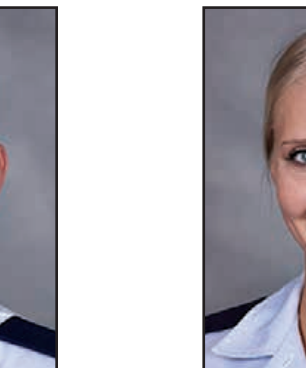
**2nd Lt. Shane McAlhaney**  
Williston, South Carolina  
C-17



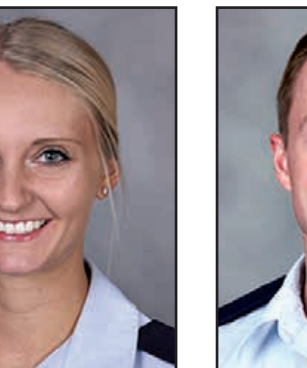
**2nd Lt. Sean McGaffigan**  
Tustin, California  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Chris Mimms**  
Memphis, Tennessee  
C-17



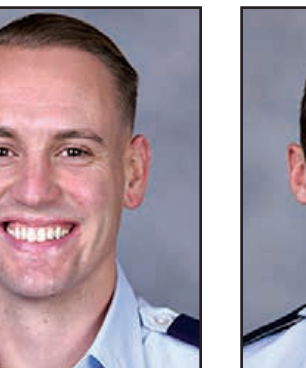
**2nd Lt. Erin Nistler**  
Maple Grove, Minnesota  
T-6 FAIP



**2nd Lt. Greg Penland**  
Mason, Ohio  
MC-130



**2nd Lt. Sean Platt**  
Upton, Wirral, United Kingdom  
HC-130



**2nd Lt. Zachary Riley**  
Lakewood, Colorado  
C-130J



**2nd Lt. Emma Wells**  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
T-1 FAIP

