

# Apply Today for an Auto Loan from AFFCU



*Low Rates*  
ON AUTO LOANS  
*And*  
**NO** CAR PAYMENTS  
*for* **60 DAYS\***

- Pre-approval available for convenient shopping
- Open to the Golden Triangle

**GoAFFCU.com**  
**800.227.5328**



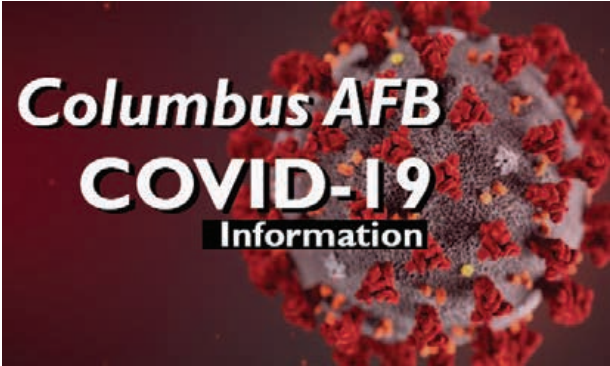
**AFFCU**  
A FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
Insured by NCUA.

**1908 Hwy. 45 N. Ste. 1 • Columbus, MS**  
**next to Starbucks**

APR = Annual Percentage Rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. APR based on evaluation of applicant's credit, age of the auto, and term. Your APR may vary. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. All loans subject to credit approval. Membership eligibility required. Some restrictions may apply. \*Internal loans must have equity in the vehicle to qualify for refinancing.



## To advertise in Silver Wings, call The Commercial Dispatch Advertising Department at 328-2424



## Columbus AFB COVID-19 Information

### COVID-19 General Info

The base is focusing on early, prudent steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 and safety of Airmen, families and communities.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements.

#### Social Gathering Limitations

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



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

## Graduates from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-10 break their first pair of pilot wings, May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The pilot tradition entails snapping their first set of wings into two, never to be brought together again while the pilot is alive. One half is kept by the pilot, while the other half is kept by the pilot's loved one.

# SUPT class 21-10 graduates rejoice, break silverwings

**Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-one student pilots have successfully navigated through the challenges of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training taught at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, earning the aeronautical rating of pilot.

Held at the Kaye Auditorium, SUPT class 21-10 walked across the stage to receive their diploma and awards for individual performance.

See GRADUATION, Page 3

### CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**YouTube**  
Columbus AFB YouTube page

**columbus\_afb**

**Columbus AFB Facebook page**

**www.columbus.af.mil**



# COVID-19

## Coronavirus Disease 2019

# DOD seeing encouraging COVID-19 vaccination rates, health leaders say

David Vergun  
DOD News

Dr. Terry Adirim, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and Army Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place, the director of the Defense Health Agency, provided a COVID-19 update today during a Pentagon press briefing.

Just one month ago, when vaccinations were available to everyone, the active duty population was only at 37% receiving one dose, said Adirim. "So we're making good, steady progress."

It's important to note that COVID-19 infection incidents for DOD personnel are lower than for the civilian population, she said. "That is a sign that our force health protection measures are working."

The department has redoubled its efforts to encourage everyone to get vaccinated, she mentioned.

Last week, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on masking, the department announced that fully vaccinated personnel can safely participate in most activities and are no longer required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors at most DOD facilities, she said. However, unvaccinated personnel should continue wearing masks as required by DOD policy to protect themselves and others who have not been fully vaccinated.

Defense Department service members, including the Guard, have so far administered over 15 million doses of vaccines to civilians across America, she added.

Place said that last week when the Food and Drug Administration authorized the Pfizer vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds, DOD began shipping it overseas for DOD's adolescent community.

Earlier this week, Place said he hosted a meeting with allies and partner nations' medical communities to better understand effective approaches in terms of both treatment and vaccinations. "I'm grateful for the contributions and collaboration of so many medical professionals throughout the United States and across the world."



U.S. Navy photo by Deidre Smith  
**Navy Seaman Daisy Rose Tinaynan, a hospital corpsman, retrieves a COVID-19 test kit at the drive-thru COVID-19 test site across from Naval Branch Health Clinic Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Fla. During the pandemic, the Defense Department's Manufacturing Innovation Institutes leveraged its partnerships so manufacturers could quickly pivot and ramp up production to respond to the need for personal protective equipment.**



U.S. Navy photo by Jacob Sippel  
**In Florida, a Navy hospital corpsman prepares supplies at Naval Hospital Jacksonville's "swab tent" during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hospital's providers refer patients to this service for screening and test sample collection, when medically indicated. During the pandemic, the Defense Department's Manufacturing Innovation Institutes leveraged its public-private partnerships to enable manufacturers to quickly pivot and ramp up production to respond to the urgent need for personal protective equipment.**

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@us.af.mil

### Editorial Staff

Rita Felton  
Chief of Public Affairs

Technical Sergeant Javier Cruz  
NCOIC

Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie  
Editor  
Public Affairs Specialist

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
Photojournalist

Airman 1st Class Davis Donaldson  
Public Affairs Specialist

Mrs. Tina Perry  
Layout Designer

### Submission Deadline

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

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

*The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.*

*Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.*

*Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14 FTW Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.*

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



"Before I was in recovery, I thought I could live my life on prescription drugs. Then, I decided that wasn't enough and added meth to it. I went crazy, but my lowest point was to see my parents, children, and sister's look of disappointment when they knew for sure what I had been doing. I came to the Pines and Cady Hills because I had nowhere else to go and I intended to only stay for 30 days. Well, God did for me what I couldn't do for myself. I worked with my counselor on many things that were holding me down. Then, I went to the Last House on the Block. Staying at the Last House helps me to stay sober, as well as going to meetings and working the steps with my sponsor. Prayer and meditation helps a lot with hard times and helps me to understand my part in all matters. All these things make me who I am and influence who I will become. I believe my Higher Power has many plans for me because he brought me to life when I was born dead. He has brought me through many times that should have killed me."



## BANK OF VERNON

### Congrats 2021 Graduates!

## STUDENT CHECKING ACCOUNT

- Carries all benefits of normal checking account
- No minimum balance requirement
- No monthly service fee until age 23
- Free benefits

VERNON, AL  
44825 Hwy 17  
205.695.7141

COLUMBUS, MS  
3561 Bluecutt Rd  
662.661.7981

CALEDONIA, MS  
9715 Wolfe Rd  
662.661.7980

### FSS

(Continued from page 12)

### 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

Finding cures.  
Saving children.®

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®  
800-822-6344 • stjude.org



St. Jude patient Izarah with her dad Isaac, Chief Warrant Officer 3 in the US Army A CFC Participant. Provided as a public service.

Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at [www.americaforcestavel.com](http://www.americaforcestavel.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.

### Horse Boarding Available

The CAFE 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.

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

### Looking for a new ride? Call me!

New or preowned, I'll take care of you!

Call or come see me today!

Gene A. Sherrod, Sr.

662-435-1025  
genesherrod123@gmail.com

Bill Russell Ford LINCOLN  
Hwy. 45 North • Columbus, MS • [billrussellford.com](http://billrussellford.com) • 327-3673



COMMUNITY  
(Continued from page 13)

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

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

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

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

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

Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

**Personal Financial Readiness**  
Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

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

**Military and Family Life Counselor Program**  
Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 435-1110.

**Sponsorship Training**  
An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source's MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://millelearning.militaryone-source.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.



**DUCKS UNLIMITED**

800-45-DUCKS

A CFC participant - provided as a public service

**13 MILLION ACRES... AND COUNTING**

For more information, go to [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)



**BAPTIST**  
JOB OPPORTUNITIES



HIRING NEW GRADUATES AND EXPERIENCED NURSES

**OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-GOLDEN TRIANGLE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

▲ ER

▲ CRITICAL CARE

▲ PROGRESSIVE CARE

▲ MED/SURG

▲ Skilled Nursing Facility

▲ Behavioral Health/Psych

▲ OR/PACU

▲ Oncology

**STRONG COMPENSATION/BENEFITS PACKAGE!**

Apply online at:  
<https://www.baptistonline.org/careers>

Contact: Johnny.Judson@bmhcc.org | Phone: 662-244-2100  
or Kristin.Melcher@BMHCC.org | Phone: 662-244-2300  
Toll Free: 800-544-8762 Ext: 2100  
P.O. Box 1307 Columbus, MS 39703

**WE WILL BUY OR SELL YOUR VEHICLE**  
Call Tousley Motors  
662-329-4221 for details  
4782 Hwy. 45 N., Columbus, MS

A CFC participant.  
Provided as a public service.

**CURE | PREVENT | TREAT**

**JDRF** IMPROVING LIVES, CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES [jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org)

**RENT-A-SPACE**  
406 Wilkins Wise Rd.  
[www.columbusrentaspace.com](http://www.columbusrentaspace.com)  
662-327-5656



A \$25.00 donation will be made to [www.woundedwarrioroutdoors.com](http://www.woundedwarrioroutdoors.com) on behalf of any CAFB Personnel who rents a storage space.

© The Dispatch



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
**USAF Col. Scott Harron, 193rd Special Operations Mission Support Group commander, speaks to the graduating Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-10 May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Harron manages operations to include civil engineering, disaster preparedness, environmental management, vehicle maintenance, security forces, base services, fuels management, aerial port operations and all other support base functions.**

**GRADUATION**  
(Continued from page 1)

Col. Scott Harron, 193rd Special Operations Mission Support Group commander, spoke to the new aviators about being the best pilot they can be and the best officer they can be.

"To be able to share my leadership philosophies and thoughts with the newest aviators was humbling," said Harron. "I want these graduates to embrace the officer and leadership side of the job. Engage with Airmen, strive to be future leaders, and take opportunities as they come."

As an Intelligence Officer in the Air National Guard, Harron has deployed in support of several operations. He has supported fighter, cargo and refuel operations at the tactical

level, conducted intelligence debriefing operations in a deployed location, and has led the Analysis Correlation and Fusion Cell at the operational level.

"Not every place is fun, so during the tough times you have to remember why you joined the Air Force in the first place," Harron said. "You can't lose that passion that drove you to join. Don't be so focused on the next rank that you forget the one you are wearing; you will have plenty of opportunities to learn and make mistakes at the next rank so enjoy this one."

After receiving their diplomas and being congratulated for their hard work, the graduates and audience watched a video about what it means to be a pilot in the Air Force followed by additional advice from Lt. Col. Joe McCane, 14th Student Squadron commander.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
**The official party and audience members attending the graduation of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-10 lower their heads in prayer May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 21 graduates completed a 52-week pilot training program including academics, physiological training, and flight training in the T-6A Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk, and T-38C Talon.**

*"Not every place is fun, so during the tough times you have to remember why you joined the Air Force in the first place," Harron said. "You can't lose that passion that drove you to join. Don't be so focused on the next rank that you forget the one you are wearing; you will have plenty of opportunities to learn and make mistakes at the next rank so enjoy this one."*

Family, friends and other members of Team Blaze watched as the new graduates took part in the traditional the breaking of wings. The tradition entails snapping their first set of pilot wings into two halves, never to be brought together again while the pilot is alive. One half is kept by the pilot, while the other is kept by the pilot's loved one.

Continuing their careers, the new pilots will move onward to their respective bases and begin training on the aircraft designated to them. Some selected officers will stay at Columbus AFB, entrusted with the position of First Assignment Instructor Pilot to continue the training of world-class aviators



**Visit us online!**

**Web page: [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB)**

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





# Air Force releases updated fitness test score breakdown

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will resume physical fitness testing July 1 with only three components: push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5-mile run.

Without the waist measurement as a scored component, push-ups and sit-ups will increase from 10 to 20 points each, while the 1.5-mile run will remain at 60 points. Scoring will fall into five-year age groups, as opposed to the previous 10. Updated charts can be found here.

The waist measurement will no longer be required as part of the physical fitness test but a separate assessment of body composition, as required by DoD Instruction 1308.3, will continue starting in October. Testing for body composition may continue to use some form of waist measurement and may be administered during PT testing to reduce scheduling and administrative burdens, but body composition will not be a component of the PT test itself. Further details on the body composition program will be released at a later date.

The Air Force has also worked on alternative strength and cardiovascular testing exercise options with plans to announce them in the coming weeks. Once announced, members and fitness monitors will have approximately six months to familiarize themselves with use and execution of the alternative testing options prior to having them available in January 2022. Members will have a choice of which testing options they choose for their physical fitness assessment components. The six-month timeline will help ensure fitness assessment cells are prepared to train physical training leaders to administer tests using the new options.

“We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all model,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. “More testing options will put flexibility in the hands of our Airmen – where it belongs. We know not all Airmen maintain their fitness the same way and may excel in different areas. Al-



U.S. Air Force graphic

Physical fitness testing will resume July 1, 2021. Several changes have been made to the test to include increasing scoring for push-ups and sit-ups from 10 to 20 points each, five-year age groups and the waist measurement no longer being required. The Air Force has also worked on alternative strength and cardiovascular testing exercise options with plans to announce them in the coming weeks.

*“We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all model,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. “More testing options will put flexibility in the hands of our Airmen – where it belongs. We know not all Airmen maintain their fitness the same way and may excel in different areas. Alternate components provide choices while still providing a mechanism to determine overall fitness.”*

ternate components provide choices while overall fitness.”  
still providing a mechanism to determine These changes align under the Air

Force’s Action Order Airmen, people-first approach.

“Physical fitness is an important part of our everyday lives, it’s more than just a test – it’s a way of life, our readiness and ultimately our future success,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. “July 1st is a chance to refocus on building a lifestyle of fitness and health, and I know our Airmen will be ready.”

For additional information, Airmen can visit myPers or the Air Force’s Personnel Center’s fitness program page.

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

## 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 June 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 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.

### 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.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. June 24 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on June 29 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.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. July 7. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Wel-

Team Blaze takes Murph Challenge

Members of the 14th Flying Training Wing, participate in the Murph Challenge to honor the fallen during Memorial Day weekend, May 28, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The Murph Challenge consist of two miles of running, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, and 300 squats, all while wearing a 20lb weighted vest. The workout honors Navy SEAL Lt. Michael Murphy, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan.

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

come is from 8:30 a.m.-noon July 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.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 19-23 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 2-3 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call

A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 12. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### EFMP-FS

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

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman’s Attic, Thrift

Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for 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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 14

## Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic Services: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sun.

Protestant Services: 9:30 a.m. on Sun.

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tues.-Fri.



**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 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'.

**Blaze Fest Coming July 1st!**  
Blaze Fest will return to Columbus AFB again on Thursday, 1 July from 5-9 p.m. There will be food, contests, music, games, and of course, FIREWORKS! Follow all the details as they develop at ColumbusAFBLiving.com/BlazeFest

**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.

**School Age Care Summer Camp**  
It's gonna be a knockout summer at the Youth Center! Registration is open for SAC Summer Camp which will feature sports activities, swimming, field trips, arts & crafts, STEM, and much more. Step one in the process is to go to MilitaryChildCare.com and request care. Then, registration packets can be picked-up at the Youth Center. Families may sign up for individual weeks or all weeks. Call the Youth Center at (662) 434-2504 for more information and requirements.

**Youth Programs T-Ball Opening Day**  
The Youth Programs summer T-Ball/Coach Pitch season will kick-off on 16 June. They will hold an opening day ceremony at 5:30 p.m. for all the registered participants. There will be player introductions, snow cones, mini-games and much more.

**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 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- 3426.

**Bowling is Back with Limited Service**  
Bowling lanes can now be used by reservation only, Mon-



day-Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Reserve your lanes on the Bowling Center's Facebook page @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter

**Library**  
Exciting news! The Library is now open for in-house customers! It is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.- noon. It has been relocated to a more inviting and visible location in open area in The Commons. In case you didn't know, the Library is located in the Commons building which is next to the base chapel. For everyone's safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must remain with their children at all times. Curb-side service will continue Tuesday-Friday.

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

The library will continue to offer curbside delivery Tuesday-Friday. 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 Tuesday-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.

**Movie Mondays is Back!**  
The Library will host Movie Mondays beginning 7 June at 9 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium. The movies will be rated G and appropriate for all ages. Visit the Library's Facebook page or ColumbusAFBLiving.com for movie information.

**Arts and Crafts and Woodshop**  
Stop by Arts & Crafts for all you Framing and Engraving needs! They are open Monday Tuesday – Friday from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Woodshop is also available Tuesday – Friday from 9a.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 will host the Flag Day 5K Fun Run on Friday, 11 June at 7 a.m. It is free for all ages and will start at the Fitness Center.

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

Beginning 17 May, 24/7 access will be available to not only Active Duty patrons, but also any DoD cardholder such as dependents, retirees, and civilian employees.

CAC must be registered at the front desk.

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

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.-5:00 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.

**Independence Pool**  
Are you ready to splash into summer? Independence Pool is now open Thursday – Monday. Lap swim is from 6 a.m.-9 a.m., open swims are from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. set for its grand re-opening on Memorial Day weekend, 28-31 May! Visit ColumbusAFBLiving.com for updates on swim times and activities.

See FSS, Page 15

# AFMC designates \$5 million for AFMC We Need efforts

Marisa Alia-Novobilski  
Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Materiel Command released \$5 million in funding for projects across the mission as it continues to drive towards the goals of the AFMC We Need.

The projects, tied directly to command lines of effort, range from facilities and infrastructure improvements to information technology, dorm improvements, training tools and more.

“Several hundred requirements, totaling over half a billion dollars, were submitted this year as part of the AFMC We Need data call. Our team reviewed and prioritized the requests, working closely with functional experts and AFMC leaders at the wing, center and headquarters level. I'm thrilled that we are able to fund a number of really high impact projects across the command.” said Kim Norman, Commander's Accelerated Initiatives Office director. “These projects are going to make a real difference to our Airmen, and they play a key role in our continuous efforts to become the AFMC We Need.”

At the top of the list, receiving nearly \$2 million in funding, is the command-wide implementation of a Robins Air Force Base, Georgia application that minimizes the administrative burden of obtaining network systems access for new personnel. Moving this local web application to a cloud environment not only ties in with AFMC's Digital Campaign, but addresses a major administrative concern raised by AFMC Airmen.

“This was the second line of effort related to system access that the team took on. The first was providing a path for commanders to accelerate basic network access for new



civilian employees, reducing the average wait time from 10 days to a single day. This new effort will allow for continued expeditious completion while providing a tracking mechanism as well as a repository of approved 2875s (System Authorization Access Request),” Norman said. “This is a big win for us and will help ensure our Airmen have the tools they need to hit the ground running.”

More than \$2.4 million was allotted to infrastructure improvement needs across the command. These projects include restroom renovations, dorm room furnishing and appliances, fitness facilities, sidewalk repairs, mold mitigation, paint and more. Forty-five thousand dollars was designated for lactation pods to be purchased, providing nursing moth-

ers a space to nurse and to meet Air Force requirements. “To deliver cutting-edge technology and support for our warfighters, we need to have the facilities and infrastructure to support a world-class force,” Norman said.

**The list of funded projects include:**  
Automated E-2875 Cloud Tool  
Civilian Discipline Automated Tracking Tool  
Bulk laptop purchase - Air Force Life Cycle Management Center  
Network expansion switches - Edwards Air Force Base, California  
Restroom renovations at multiple locations  
Dorm room furnishings, appliances - Wright-Patterson AFB  
Dormitory repairs - Hill AFB, Utah  
Paint, mold mitigation - Tinker AFB, Oklahoma  
Lactation pods, other building repairs - Wright-Patterson AFB  
Innovation Center electrical upgrades - Eglin AFB, Florida  
Equal Opportunity office expansion - Tinker AFB  
Parking lot repair, reconfiguration - Arnold Engineering Development Complex, Tennessee  
New facility sidewalk installation - Tinker AFB  
Fitness facilities improvements - Eglin AFB  
ZoomGov training licenses - Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, New Mexico  
The Commander's Accelerated Initiatives Office continues to work with Airmen and leaders across the command to identify barriers and solutions to continue moving toward the AFMC We Need.

## The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.	Guardian of freedom and justice,
I am a Warrior.	My nation's sword and shield,
I have answered my nation's call.	Its sentry and avenger.
I am an American Airman.	I defend my country with my life.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.	I am an American Airman.
I am faithful to a proud heritage.	Wingman, leader, warrior.
A tradition of honor,	I will never leave an Airman behind.
And a legacy of valor.	I will never falter,
I am an American Airman.	And I will not fail.

## Last Look Area

Recycling is what the Last Look Area provides! Slightly used furniture and equipment is available to all Columbus Air Force Base facilities for free. Pick-up and delivery is the customer's responsibility. There is a three-day maximum for customers who wish to reserve items.

**Facility hours are from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

**Need more information?**  
**Contact Inspections at 434-7231 or 434-7332.**  
**Parking is available at the back of building 158.**



# Luke AFB Airman saves 28 lives in Westgate shooting

Senior Airman Caitlin Diaz-Gorsi  
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — When envisioning a superhero, you might imagine someone who is fictional, has powers and who is abnormally strong – in other words, someone who is not like the average person.

For one Airman, his childhood dream of becoming a superhero became his reality. Tech. Sgt. Michael Walker, 309th Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager, received the 2021 Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism Award March 17. The AFSA presents the award annually to an enlisted Air Force member who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty, resulting in the saving of life or the prevention of serious injury.

Walker was credited with helping save the lives of 28 people while off-duty in 2020 during an active-shooter incident in the Westgate Entertainment District in Glendale.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Caitlin Diaz-Gorsi  
**Tech. Sgt. Michael Walker, 309th Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager, helped save the lives of 28 people during an active-shooter incident May 20, 2020, in the Westgate Entertainment District, Glendale, Ariz. For his actions, Walker was awarded the 2021 Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism Award. AFSA presents the award annually to an enlisted Air Force member who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty.**

On May 20, 2020, Walker was having dinner with friends. Near the end of his meal, he noticed people running outside the restaurant, followed by the sound of multiple gunshots. He immediately ran to the front entrance to barricade the doors where, according to Walker, he stood around 10 to 15 feet from the shooter's back.

"All I could think about was locking the doors and getting people safely inside," Walker said.

Walker said he guided all the restaurant staff and customers into the kitchen to hide

and told them to barricade the kitchen doors so they could only be opened from inside. He then retrieved the keys to the restaurant's front doors from the manager. As he watched the shooter walk away from the front entrance of the restaurant, Walker exited the

building, locked the doors and closed three garage-like rolling security doors from the outside, putting himself at risk.

"You could still hear people yelling and running," Walker said. "I didn't really think about me; I thought about saving others. In

that moment, you have to decide: Flight or fight. I chose fight."

After four deployments and numerous active-shooter exercises during his eight years in the Air Force, he said his actions felt second nature.

"Training for a situation like this is a lot different than the actual thing," Walker said. "We always tend to think, 'I would have done things like this in the moment,' but what would you have actually done? I took what the Air Force taught me and applied it to the situation."

Walker risking his life for those around him during a catastrophic event came as no shock to those who know him.

"It was not a surprise that he jumped into action in the midst of a dangerous [and] deadly situation to help others," said Master Sgt. Ashley McGee, 310th Fighter Squadron superintendent and Walker's previous supervisor. "He was not thinking of his life when he exposed himself outside where the shooter was located. He only thought about the safety of the people around him."

Walker explained that the experience made him more self-aware and cognizant of his surroundings. His actions to protect and defend those around him in the face of danger display his dedication to the Air Force's core value of service before self.

"I signed up (for the military) for a reason," Walker said. "I know why I put this uniform on every day. I didn't think that my mom could have lost a son and my brother could have lost a brother; I thought about saving others. I wouldn't have done it any other way."

Commander's Action Line  
662-434-1414

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

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

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



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.

Protect yourself, wear a helmet.

Wear a life preserver.

Share the road. Watch for motorcyclists.

Be watchful of kids in pools.

Keep it fun, grill safe.

Don't drink and drive.

## What are the mental health benefits of exercise?

Exercise is not just about aerobic capacity and muscle size. Sure, exercise can improve your physical health and your physique, trim your waistline, and even add years to your life. But that's not what motivates most people to stay active.

People who exercise regularly tend to do so because it gives them an enormous sense of well-being. They feel more energetic throughout the day, sleep better at night, have sharper memories, and feel more relaxed and positive about themselves and their lives. And it's also a powerful medicine for many common mental health challenges. Regular exercise can have a profoundly positive impact on depression, anxiety, and ADHD. It also relieves stress, improves memory, helps you sleep better, and boosts your overall mood. And you don't have to be a fitness fanatic to reap the benefits. Research indicates that modest amounts of exercise can make a real difference. No matter your age or fitness level, you can learn to use exercise as a powerful tool to improve your mental health, energy, outlook, and get more out of life.

### Exercise and depression

Studies show that exercise can treat mild to moderate depression as effectively as antidepressant medication—but without the side-effects, of course. As one example, a recent study done by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that running for 15 minutes a day or walking for an hour reduces the risk of major depression by 26%. In addition to relieving depression symptoms, research also shows that maintaining an exercise schedule can prevent you from relapsing.

### Exercise and anxiety

Exercise is a natural and effective anti-anxiety treatment. It relieves tension and stress, boosts physical and mental energy, and enhances well-being through the release of endorphins. Anything that gets you moving can help, but you'll get a bigger benefit if you pay attention instead of zoning out.

Try to notice the sensation of your feet hitting the ground, for example, or the rhythm of your breathing, or the feeling of the wind on your skin. By adding this mindfulness element—really focusing on your body and how it feels as you exercise—you'll not only improve your physical condition faster, but you may also be able to interrupt the flow of constant worries running through your head.

*Read about the additional mental health benefits of exercise, including how it helps with stress, ADHD and PTSD: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise.htm>*

### Other mental health benefits of exercise

**Sharper memory and thinking.** The same endorphins that make you feel better also help you concentrate and feel mentally sharp for tasks at hand. Exercise also stimulates the growth of new brain cells and helps prevent age-related decline.

**Higher self-esteem.** Regular activity is an investment in your mind, body, and soul. When it becomes habit, it can foster your sense of self-worth and make you feel strong and powerful. You'll feel better about your appearance and, by meeting even small exercise goals, you'll feel a sense of achievement.

**Better sleep.** Even short bursts of exercise in the morning or afternoon can help regulate your sleep patterns. If you prefer to exercise at night, relaxing exercises such as yoga or gentle stretching can help promote sleep.

**More energy.** Increasing your heart rate several times a week will give you more get-up-and-go. Start off with just a few minutes of exercise per day, and increase your workout as you feel more energized.

**Stronger resilience.** When faced with mental or emotional challenges in life, exercise can help you build resilience and cope in a healthy way, instead of resorting to alcohol, drugs, or other negative behaviors that ultimately only make your symptoms worse.

*The Mental Health Benefits of Exercise. Retrieved from <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise.htm>*



# Fireworks safety

With the 4th of July right around the corner, the 14th Civil Engineering Fire & Emergency Services Flight wants to ensure your holiday celebrations are a safe and enjoyable one. Whether you're cooking out, enjoying time with family and friends, or watching a fireworks display, your safety is important to us.

While fireworks are a time honored tradition while we celebrate Independence Day, unfortunately accidents do occur. In 2020 there were 12 firework related deaths, and over 10,000 reported injuries that required hospitalization and treatment. The nature of these emergencies varied from misuse of the firework, to premature detonation. Children accounted for roughly 35 percent of these reported injuries, and half of the total number of injuries were to individuals under 20 years of age, with burns being the most prevalent reported type.

Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and over \$40 million in direct property damage.

The manufacture, sale, storage, possession, transportation and/or use of fireworks and all incendiary devices are expressly prohibited on Columbus AFB to include Hunt housing. The only exception is from a licensed/insured professional company sponsored by the installation.

If you choose to partake in fireworks activity off-base, remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. Follow these safety tips when using fireworks:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures above 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water, garden hose, or small fire extinguisher handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.



Information taken from the  
Consumer Products Safety Commission  
and the NFPA

By: Mr. Terence Sinner,  
Fire Protection Specialist, 14th CES/CEF

# Mississippi Mold

Mike Jago  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Every spring, there are complaints of mold in offices, homes, and just about any indoor area. First: Don't panic! Second: Once you see mold, get busy! You have a manageable problem, but it needs immediate attention. The EPA link <https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home#:> has a strong message that emphasizes clean-up and prevention.

You must attack mold directly. Just about any simple household cleaner will handle mold. It is a good idea to protect your eyes, lungs and hands when wiping up mold. The same supplies you have on hand for COVID will work on mold.

Once visible mold is wiped up, try to eliminate the conditions that allowed the mold to grow. Mold grows best in moderate to warm temperatures, with high humidity (over 60%), and with just a little surface dirt. This describes Mississippi all spring, summer and fall. In homes and offices, combat mold by cleaning and monitoring humidity.

An inexpensive hygrometer / humidity meter (Figure 1) is an essential tool to achieving dry air and eliminating mold. Air conditioning, when it works properly, removes excess moisture. Successfully drying the air to 50% humidity results in a healthier environment, and feels cool and comfortable.

Mississippi is not the place to attempt to cool below 68oF when outdoor humidity is over 90% and outside temperatures are above 90oF. Signs of over-cooling are moisture on windows, mold, moisture on vents, rust on vents, furniture (Figures 2&3), ice on air conditioner chillers, continuously running air conditioners, and excessive electric bills.

In cases where rooms have a sharp mold smell and residents have reactions, immediately re-locate if at all possible. Clean all accessible surfaces and dry the system out. If the problem persists, call a heating and air conditioner repairman to check for system malfunctions.



Figure 1: Hygrometers come in all price ranges, choose an easy to read model. The ideal humidity range for people is 40-60%.



Figure 2: Smoke detector — Mold is visible here and hidden on the tile



Figure 3: Mold on furniture - unused shelf in a dark area.

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: CV-22 Osprey

## Mission

The CV-22 Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft. Its mission is to conduct long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions for special operations forces.

## Features

This versatile, self-deployable aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft, enabling Air Force Special Operations Command aircrews to execute long-range special operations missions. The CV-22 can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. The CV-22 takes off vertically and, once airborne, the nacelles (engine and prop-rotor group) on each wing can rotate into a forward position.

The CV-22 is equipped with integrated threat countermeasures, terrain-following radar, forward-looking infrared sensor and other advanced avionics systems that allow it to operate at low altitude in adverse weather conditions and me-

dium- to high-threat environments.

## Background

The CV-22 is the Special Operation Forces variant of the U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey. The first two test aircraft were delivered to Edwards Air Force Base, California, in September 2000. The 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, began CV-22 aircrew training with the first two production aircraft in August 2006.

The first operational CV-22 was delivered to Air Force Special Operations Command in January 2007. Initial operational capability was achieved in 2009. A total of 51 CV-22 aircraft are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2019.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** special operations forces long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply

**Power plant:** two Rolls Royce-Allison AE1107C turbo shaft engines

**Thrust:** more than 6,200 shaft horsepower per engine

**Wingspan:** 84 feet 7 inches (25.8 meters)

**Length:** 57 feet 4 inches (17.4 meters)

**Height:** 22 feet 1 inch (6.73 meters)

**Rotary diameter:** 38 feet (11.6 meters)

**Speed:** 277 mph (241 knots) (cruising speed)

**Ceiling:** 25,000 feet (7,620 meters)

**Maximum vertical takeoff weight:** 52,870 pounds (23,982 kilograms)

**Maximum rolling takeoff weight:** 60,500 pounds (27,443 kilograms)

**Armament:** one .50 Cal Machine gun on ramp

**Range:** combat radius of 500 nautical miles with one internal auxiliary fuel tank

**Payload:** 24 troops (seated), 32 troops (floor loaded) or 10,000 pounds of cargo

**Crew:** four (pilot, copilot and two flight engineers)

**Builders:** Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., Amarillo, Texas; Boeing Company, Defense and Space Group, Helicopter Division, Philadelphia

**Deployment date:** 2006

**Unit cost:** \$90 million

**Inventory:** active duty, 46; reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Dengrier M. Baez

A CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft approaches the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) during exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2018 in the Baltic Sea, June 4, 2018. BALTOPS is the premier annual maritime-focused exercise in the Baltic region and one of the largest exercises in Northern Europe enhancing flexibility and interoperability among allied and partner nations.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joseph Pick

Four CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Group Detachment 1 fly above Tokyo, Japan, April 5, 2018. Approximately 100 Air Commandos and five Ospreys deployed to Yokota Air Base to participate in regional exercises.

Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.





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

A formation comprised of Airmen from the 37th Flying Training Squadron salute Lt. Col. Aaron Tillman, outgoing 37th FTS commander during a change of command ceremony May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The T-6A Texan II is a single-engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train Joint Primary Pilot Training, or JPPT, students in basic flying skills common to U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots.



# 37th FTS dawns new leadership

Senior Airman Jake Jacobsen  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Aaron P. Tillman turned over command to Lt. Col. Valarie Ferrara, the new incoming 37th Flying Training Squadron commander, during a change of command ceremony May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Ferrara is a combat pilot with 3,800 total hours in the sky, flown 367 combat sorties, has 15 Air Medals, and an experienced T-6A Texan II instructor. She has previously served as the director of operations at the 41st FTS here at Columbus AFB.

"There is no profession, position or title that I would rather have than to be your commander," said Ferrara. "Thank you for choosing this patriotic duty, together we will help hundreds of officers and aviators achieve their dreams. The impact of our efforts will last for decades."



The 37th FTS conducts the primary phase of training in the T-6A Texan II. Seated with an instructor, each student receives about 81 hours of training in this aircraft. Students learn basic aircraft characteristics and control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, and night, instrument and formation flying in all types of weather.

While in command of the 37th FTS, Tillman led it to the creation of over 400 USAF pilots during a global pandemic and a syllabus overhaul.

"Thank you for your confidence in me and bestowing upon me the privilege of being your commander," said Tillman. "I never dreamed I would get this opportunity, to be surrounded by and supported by so many great people over the last few years. I have a lot of people to thank today."



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

Airmen from the 37th Flying Training Squadron and audience members salute during the playing of the national anthem at the 37th FTS change of command ceremony May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 37th FTS conducts primary flight training in the T-6A Texan II where students learn basic aircraft characteristics and control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, and night, instrument and formation flying.



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

Audience members clap for Lt. Col. Valarie Ferrara, 37th Flying Training Squadron commander, at the 37th FTS change of command ceremony May 27, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The 37th FTS conducts primary flight training in the T-6A Texan II where students learn basic aircraft characteristics and control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, and night, instrument and formation flying.