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# SILVER WINGS

"Train World Class Pilots"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 1

July 30, 2021

**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 Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Teddrick Thibodeaux, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) flight chief, poses for a photo on the flight line, July 22, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Thibodeaux was selected to become a part of the elite Thunderbirds and will begin his new journey in September, 2021.

## CAFB Airman joins excellence legacy

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

The USAF Thunderbirds are an elite aerial performance team known for demonstrating the incredible capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, a multi-role fighter jet. Columbus Air Force Base's very own Tech. Sgt. Teddrick Thibodeaux, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) flight chief, was selected to become one of these elite

members.

Thibodeaux will begin his journey with the Thunderbirds in September, 2021, but this will not be the last time Columbus AFB will see him. With his new team, Thibodeaux will return to the base in March, 2022, as they headline the 'Wings Over Columbus' airshow.

This assignment did not happen overnight for Thibodeaux.

See LEGACY, Page 3

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



# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019



Photo by Army Sgt. Reva Catholic, 3rd Infantry Division

A mostly unmasked crowd cheers during the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division redeployment ceremony June 8, 2021 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Raider Brigade was the first BCT in the Army to resume major training events, complete its deployment preparations and deploy in a COVID-19 environment.

## It's not over yet: Some COVID safety precautions remain necessary

Janet A. Aker  
MHS Communications

Re-engaging with our friends, families and neighbors is an important part of moving onward from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For those who are fully vaccinated, the vaccine's strong protection against the virus can mean a return to normalcy like picnics and family reunions, school, sports and dinner parties even hugs and kisses all those activities that we've missed since the pandemic began in early 2020.

Yet the risks of COVID-19 persist, and some continued precautions will be necessary for some individuals, like adults who may remain unvaccinated, children too young for the vaccine and people who may have compromised immune systems.

Individuals should consider their own unique circumstances and evaluate what safety measures are needed.

"Masks are still appropriate in non-safe places, just as if you were going into war when you need your helmet and other personal protective equipment. A mask is part of your safety equipment," said Dr. David Hmrcir, medical director, Central Vaccine Safety Hub, Defense Health Agency Immunizations Healthcare Division.

While research shows that full vaccination does provide a very high level of protection against the virus, some people who are fully vaccinated may prefer to continue precautions.

Jennifer Akin, a MHS beneficiary, stated that she still fears for the health of her son, who will soon turn six, and is therefore not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination under current U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidance.

"Now that I'm fully-vaccinated I feel safe, but I am concerned about my son contracting the virus, so I wear a mask in solidarity with him whenever we are in-

door public spaces," Akin said.

The Delta variant, which appears to spread faster and more easily than prior strains of the virus, is now estimated to be responsible for more than 80 percent of all new cases of COVID-19 across the U.S.

Nevertheless, the FDA-approved vaccines continue to provide effective protection against the Delta variant; an estimated 99.7% of those hospitalized with the Delta variant are unvaccinated.

Infectious disease experts are also looking at the new Lambda variant from South America.

### Making the right decision

What should you know before making a decision whether to continue COVID-19 protocols?

A key question for each individual is whether they've been vaccinated and

See COVID, Page 3

## 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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### LEGACY

(Continued from page 1)

This is a dream he had been working on for years

“I enlisted in 2011 and I first saw the Thunderbirds in 2012 when I got to Luke Air Force Base,” said Thibodeaux. “I got backstage to see what they do in the AFE section and ever since then, I have always applied to become a Thunderbird.”

For nearly eight years, every time the job became available, Thibodeaux would apply through the Assignment Management System (AMS) and wait for a response in the following weeks.

“It isn’t something that just happened for me. I had to stay consistent because it was something I have wanted to since joining the military,” said Thibodeaux.

The Thunderbirds are very thorough when selecting teammates, which is why the application process can become quite lengthy, ranging upwards to two months.

“I hit the button in AMS for the job on May 17th and got a notification to submit my package about a week later,” said Thibodeaux. “Around June I was selected to do a Zoom interview and found out I was selected on July 2nd.”

As a flight chief, Thibodeaux supervises approximately 28 people ranging from Quality Assurance to the Airmen working on flight equipment, and making sure everyone has what they need to succeed.

“He is the best supervisor I have had for sure,” said Senior Airman David Richardson,



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

**Tech. Sgt. Teddrick Thibodeaux, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) flight chief, holds an aircrew flight helmet, July 22, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Aircrew Flight Equipment is responsible for ensuring that all flight and safety equipment is in perfect working order.**

14th Operations Squadron AFE technician. “He is really good with communicating with people. He is charismatic and pushes us to meet deadlines. Demanding, but in a good way. I think that played a big part in his selection.”

Thibodeaux was deployed and was not sure if he would apply this time. He made the decision to throw his name in the hat once more not knowing that this time would bear different results.

“I wrote a recommendation for TSgt Thibodeaux because I really do think he is the best person for the job,” said Senior Master



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew D. Sorver

**Maj. Jason “Flack” Markzon, United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron “Thunderbirds” Advance Pilot and Narrator, prepares to take off for a familiarization flight with IndyCar driver, Ed Carpenter, in Indianapolis, Indiana, Aug. 20, 2020. Carpenter flew with the team before racing the Space Force IndyCar in the 104th Indy 500.**

Sgt. Michael Rosatone, 14th Operations Support Squadron superintendent. “He got chosen because he checked every box they were looking for. He has time in, experience, leadership, and he was consistent, not to mention his dress and appearance surpasses Air Force standards.”

Thibodeaux mention big changes are on the way for his family, but they are ready.

“I really want to thank all of my leadership for their recommendations,” said Thibodeaux. “I believe they played a huge part

in my selection and I am truly grateful. My family discussed the changes, such as the time I would spend away and getting our children back into a public school setting. We accepted it and I am on fire for this next assignment”

According to Rosatone, Thibodeaux is the first Airman in AFE from Columbus Air Force Base to be selected to work with the Thunderbirds.

“My ultimate goal is to uphold the Thunderbirds mission, to recruit, retain, and inspire the next generation,” said Thibodeaux.

### COVID

(Continued from page 2)

when.

Full protection from the virus takes effect about two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna mRNA vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose of Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. Vaccines are available under emergency authorization for use in the U.S for those 12 years of age or older.

Second, decide if you are willing to take the risks of developing the Delta variant or some forthcoming mutation of COVID-19.

This is crucial if you are unvaccinated and do not practice masking and physical distancing. The benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

Third, check the rate of COVID-19 infections in your local area and wherever you may be traveling, especially during the summer

when many military families are moving due to permanent changes of station.

There are testing and quarantining requirements for international travel.

Fourth, abide by the masking and social distancing rules imposed by retailers, health care facilities, transportation authorities, and other locations. It is their prerogative to enforce these restrictions.

### Going back to school

The Department of Defense Education Activity already held full, in-person learning during the last school year and plans to do so this school year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed its guidance on July 9 to suggest that schools should reopen fully in the fall, even if they are unable to follow all of the recommended safety precautions to curb the spread of the virus.

If your child is attending a local school off-

base, be sure to check with your local school and local health officials for the most current guidance on how to promote safer in-person learning and care.

### Continue to be alert to COVID-19<

CDC cautions that: “You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you’ve been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.”

“Particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission,” the CDC recommends that “people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.”

CDC also cautions that, “if you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be

fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your health care provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all precautions.”

The main message —

- If you want to return to activities that were put aside during the pandemic, get fully vaccinated, and keep that mask and hand sanitizer at the ready.

“I received the vaccine to open the door to be liberal with my feeling of safety” in the outside world, Hrnrcir said.

“You have to have a safe place where people can be their normal selves,” he explained. “Protecting your safe environment should be the motivator” for vaccination against COVID-19, and “helping [other] people be safe in their own environment.”

“In the military, you can apply that same rule: You still need a place to keep safe, such as a dorm. By getting vaccinated against COVID-19 “you are expanding the safe place, for yourself and others,” Hrnrcir said.





U.S. Air Force photo by John Ingle

Airman 1st Class Eddy Lopez of Jersey City, New Jersey, goes through the steps of removing a tire and wheel from a landing gear assembly trainer at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, March 3, 2020. Lopez and his fellow 362nd Training Squadron heavy crew chief students learned the steps via virtual reality and then transferred their technology instruction to hands-on practice. The initiative is part of Maintenance Next, which is new method of employing technology to train today's aircraft maintainers.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt Keith James

Air Force Staff Sgt. Renee Scherf, Detachment 23 curriculum engineer, MC-130H subject matter expert, demonstrates a virtual reality training system. Members of Detachment 23's Tech Training Transformation are part of Air Education and Training Command and responsible for re-engineering tech training. Their cutting-edge program utilizes virtual reality training systems and artificial intelligence, among other modalities, to transform the Airmen development process.

# Tech Training Transformation modernizes tech training with virtual reality

Miriam A. Thurber

Air Education and Training  
Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO- Randolph, Texas – Futuristic training, the kind of immersive simulations seen in sci-fi TV shows, is no longer a fictional dream. It's almost here. With the Tech Training Transformation (T3) team's creation of a virtual reality (VR) training system coordinated by artificial intelligence (AI), Air Education and Training Command officials are transforming the Airmen development process. At the forefront of this development stand the cruxes of modern technology, high completion rates and an agile speed of learning.

In partnership with officials at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, the T3 team has re-engineered the foundational Crew Chief Fundamentals Course into a VR experience. In July and August of 2020, 29 students donned VR gear and took the program for a spin. They examined tools, maintained simulated aircraft and completed objectives, all within a 3D, on-the-job environment.

The results were impressive. On the end-of-course assessment, scores from students within the program were comparable to those of students using traditional methods. However, both students and instructors commented on the quality of T3's program, emphasizing how Airmen-centric and approachable the program made the training, and how the personalized modalities built upon AETC's world-class standards of quality. They also finished the course 46% faster, complet-

*"It's proven that T3's program is an effective learning model," said Senior Master Sgt. Toby Caldwell, 362nd Training Squadron assistant superintendent.*

ing the 27-day course in just 12.5 days.

"It's proven that T3's program is an effective learning model," said Senior Master Sgt. Toby Caldwell, 362nd Training Squadron assistant superintendent, who has been actively involved in overseeing T3's training initiative at Sheppard since the program's beginning. "As we continue to meet the accelerate change mission, we in the training environment are teaming up at the forefront of technological enhancements."

In June 2021, T3 will prove an additional component: non-player characters. Once launched, students will interact with AI Airmen by asking them questions and receiving instructions within the simulation. For example, a student maintaining an aircraft could have a conversation with an AI security forces Airman patrolling the flight line and learn about safety protocols or ask questions about the area.

This AI interaction will assist with the formation of multi-capable Airmen and agile combat employment, as students will have the ability to essentially swap places with AI characters. A maintainer can learn basic flight line security

from an AI security forces Airman, or a security forces Airman could enter the program and familiarize themselves with aircraft maintenance from AI.

The AI system will also continuously measure the student's ability to complete tasks and foundational competencies, and it will track performance throughout the Airman's career, not just during technical training. This education-focused career model relies fully on competency-based learning and an Airmen-centric, mission-focused mindset that meets the students where they are.

The T3 team is developing and testing an app for courses that don't require VR. In the future, Airmen will log in on their phone and begin consuming course information according to their preferred learning style. For example, visual learners can watch videos and audio learners can listen from anywhere, even while on a run. Along the way, the AI capability will personalize the program. For instance, it will provide suggestions like, "Hey, I've noticed you listened to the lesson three times but still haven't scored well on the assessment. Why don't you try watching this video or completing this exercise instead?"

"This training is all about you. We're no longer making you fit our content, we're changing our content to match your needs," Maj. Jesse Johnson, the commander of Det 23 and T3, said. "Not only does this program give more resources to students, it also keeps up with a new generation of learners who perform best outside of a traditional classroom. It allows

## FSS

(Continued from page 11)

## Independence Pool

Are you ready to splash into summer? Independence Pool is now open Thursday -Monday. Lap swim is from 6-9 a.m., open swims are from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. Visit ColumbusAFBLiving.com for updates on swim times and 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

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## 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](https://www.facebook.com/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 CAFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at (662) 434-2505.

## Free Mango Languages

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact (662) 434-2934.

## Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and a self-help bicycle repair station that patrons can use for

free. For more information, contact (662) 434-2507.

## Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. For more information, contact (662) 434-7836.

## Wood Shop

The Wood Shop is now open by appointment only, Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$5 for first hour and \$3 for every hour after the first. Please call (662) 434-7836 for any questions.

## Referees Needed

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

## RV Storage Lot

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

## Instructors Needed

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

## Space A Lodging

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

## COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 12)

### 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.

### 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

lishes 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.

### 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 estab-

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://mil-lifelifelearning.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/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.



## Air Force Readiness Programs

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

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

### Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

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

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Aug. 10 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Columbus Club. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event's foundation is the base's mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### 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.

### Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Aug. 26 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay,

TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Aug. 26, 5-7 p.m. This quarterly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Sept. 8. 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.

### Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 13-17 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.

### Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 7. 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.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held on Oct. 21-22 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,

tion, 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 week-ends/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 avail-

able 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.

See COMMUNITY, Page 13

## Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic Services: 5 p.m. on Sun

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

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

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

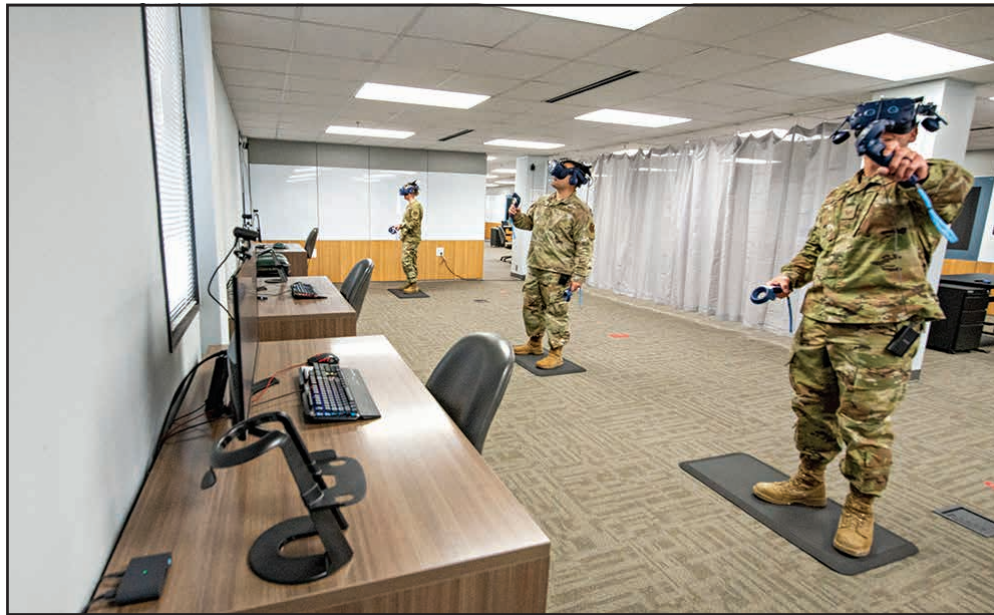


Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt Keith James

Air Force Tech Sgt. Casey Michalski (left), Staff Sgt. Kevin Lassen, and Staff Sgt. Renee Scherf, Detachment 23 curriculum engineers, test virtual reality training systems. Members of Detachment 23's Tech Training Transformation are part of Air Education and Training Command and responsible for re-engineering tech training. Their cutting-edge program utilizes virtual reality training systems and artificial intelligence, among other modalities, to transform the Airmen development process.



U.S. Air Force photo by John Ingle

Airman Leah Mabone, a 362nd Training Squadron heavy crew chief student, uses virtual reality during a classroom training session at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, March 3, 2020. Mabone and other Airmen in her class are a part of a Maintenance Next test class that introduces and gauges the effectiveness of using virtual reality and other technologies in the technical training environment.



U.S. Air Force photo by John Ingle

Airman Carter McCracken, a 362nd Training Squadron heavy crew chief student, reads through technical order instructions as he works through the wheel removal process on a landing gear trainer at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, March 3, 2020. McCracken and other students in his class were part of an test bed to gauge the effectiveness of using virtual, augmented and mixed realities to train Airmen in aircraft maintenance career fields.

## TRAINING

(Continued from page 4)

for continued learning and the formation of multi-capable Airmen who can cross-train and expand their skillset anytime, anywhere.”

According to Johnson, this program will bring Air Force training to the cutting edge of education around the globe. He and his colleagues credit this success to the strong network of partnerships across the Air Force.

“Our plan is to partner with Air Combat Command's Agile Battle Labs and with AETC's Force Development Team (A3) to develop the agile combat employment, multi-capable Airmen training philosophy,” Col. Leonard Rose, AETC's Analysis and Innovation director, said.

The T3 team views training instructors, or force generators, as a first line of partnership. The initiative aims to empower instructors by eliminating the need to lecture at length, allowing them to focus on facilitating and answering questions instead of fitting into the typical “teacher” mold.

This kind of student-centered instruction flips the traditional teaching method, where instructors stand at the center of the learning process distributing information to students, on its head. In a student-centric model, students have the power to explore and learn through discovery and practice while instructors act as mentors and coaches.

Learner-centric initiatives and an im-

proved training infrastructure speed up the training pipeline by allowing Airmen to progress at the speed of learning. We're creating more well-rounded Airmen who are better prepared for an era of great power competition, and developing a more resilient training enterprise that can continue to operate in disrupted environments. All of this directly addresses Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.'s call to accelerate change or lose, and AETC's priority to advance force development.

“We're excited to continue utilizing virtual and augmented reality to enhance our technical training courses here at Sheppard AFB. I think this type of training capability could also eventually be used to help train our multi-capable Airmen in austere locations,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jason C. Groth, 82nd Training Group superintendent.

Plans are in place for two fully operational courses to launch at Sheppard in 2022 with additional courses to follow. The two initial courses will be Crew Chief Fundamentals (2AX01 Air Force specialty code) and Logistics Planning (2G0X1 Air Force specialty code). The order for updates to training courses is determined according to requirements necessary to grow multi-capable Airmen.

School houses that want to explore VR training in their field can contact aetcdet23.css.workflow@us.af.mil.







# 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. The mission of the CV-22 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 systems that allow it to operate in various austere conditions.

## 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 54 CV-22 aircraft are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2021.

## General characteristics

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

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

vision, Philadelphia

**Deployment date:** 2006

**Propulsion:** Two Rolls-Royce Liberty AE1107C engines

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

**Length:** 57' 4"

**Height:** 22' 1"

**Wingspan:** 83' 10"

**Weight:** maximum gross 60,500 pounds (self-deployment); 57,000 pounds (STOL); 52,600 (VTOL)

**Speed:** maximum 280 knots

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

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

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

**Program of Record:** 54 aircraft for the Air Force

**Rotor diameter:** 38 feet

**Armament:** one .50-caliber machine gun on ramp

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

**Unit cost:** \$90 million



U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe  
A CV-22 Osprey assigned to the 21st Special Operations Squadron flies over Yokota Air Base, Japan, June 15, 2020, during exercise Gryphon Jet. Gryphon Jet is an integrated training exercise focused on improving interoperability throughout the special operations community.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan LeVang  
Air Commandos with the 801st Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron accept delivery of a new CV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Jun. 2, 2020. The 801st SOAMXS helps keep Ospreys ready to execute infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions worldwide.

# myLearning digital platform expands courseware; announces new features

## Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Air Education and Training Command's "myLearning" system is entering phase two of its rollout, adding new features scheduled to be available to Airmen and Guardians early this summer.

The Air Force's 21st Century learning system is part of the service's focus on deliberate development of the Total Force.

"Our Airmen and Guardians, both enlisted and officer, deserve systems that enable their deliberate development," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, command chief of AETC. "The myLearning platform advances force development by meeting our personnel where they are. It's a command priority to refine or replace the outdated systems that support our personnel, which is what we've done and continue to do with the myLearning platform."

The new courses will include those previously hosted on Enterprise Blended Learning Service, or EBLs, commonly known in the force as Blackboard. The EBLs course migration helps align the myLearning service with its original goal of a centralized learning management system for all U.S. Space Force and U.S. Air Force online learning courses, linking training for Airmen and Guardians across different specialty codes, locations and more.

"We're pleased with both the performance of and the force's embrace of myLearning during the initial rollout," said Floyd A. McKinney, AETC Chief of Learning Services. "The framework we've built

provides the critical IT capability to operationalize force development. We want to continue to refine myLearning and completing phase two of implementation by adding EBLs courses helps us achieve our vision of 'one-stop shopping' for online learning."

Course owners who previously hosted their classes on EBLs will be trained and given site access to build their new courses in myLearning. User training begins this month, and course personnel can expect to have access and begin migrating their courses in June.

Additionally, the AETC Learning Services Division has added features to improve the overall accessibility and functionality of myLearning.

"Learning Locker is going to store learning data and can serve as a source of record for organizations," said Bill Muse, AETC Learning Services program manager. "Inteliboard is our reporting and analytics tool, and BigBlueButton is a conferencing system that will allow for virtual classrooms with audio, video, slide presentation, and a chat functionality within the myLearning system."

According to Muse, these new features should be fully operational on the site by mid-August.

myLearning debuted as a modern and interactive solution in March and replaced training modules previously found on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS). Since its launch, over 300,000 Airmen and Guardians have accessed the site and completed around 361,000 courses. Additionally, myLearning has success-



Air Education and Training Command's "myLearning" system is entering phase two of its rollout, adding new features scheduled to be available to Airmen and Guardians early this summer. The Air Force's 21st Century learning system is part of the service's focus on deliberate development of the Total Force.

fully migrated to CloudOne, allowing for increased functionality in cloud computing when accessing courses.

"The goal of myLearning is to embrace innovation and technology across our force," said Adam Rasmussen, AETC Deputy of Learning Services. "Our Chief of Staff, Gen. Brown, has charged all of us to accelerate change or lose, and myLearning is meeting that challenge, delivering innovative learning management capabilities like 'Learn-from-Anywhere,' digital badging, and competencies frameworks that will enable the identification of the right Airmen, for the right job, at the right time."

AETC will continue to announce updates and additional features to myLearning over the next year. So far, the system has been successfully accessed and used in over 1000 locations around the globe.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site or have feedback for the development team, submit a ticket to the myLearning Service Desk by clicking the 'NEED HELP?' button. Users are asked to exercise patience as the myLearning Help Desk is working trouble tickets as quickly as possible. Please do not submit another ticket for the same issue as that further delays the system's ability to respond quickly.

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



Visit us online!

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T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

# SUPT Class 21-13 earns silver wings



**Capt. Matthew Walls**  
Longview, Texas  
B-52



**1st Lt. Jack Allen**  
Manhattan Beach, California  
F-22



**1st Lt. Cole Biedermann**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
C-17



**1st Lt. Stephen Carter**  
Gainesville, Florida  
F-35

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 21-13 graduates at 11 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

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

1st Lt Stephen Carter, 1st Lt Raina Cerniglia and 1st Lt Zackary Krieger 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 Jack Allen and 1st Lt Raina Cerniglia who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 21-13 recognized were Carter, Cerniglia and Krieger for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

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

procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

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

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

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

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

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet.

Instruction centers on crew coordination and 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. Raina Cerniglia**  
Hackettstown, New Jersey  
T-6



**1st Lt. Ryan Cordes**  
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania  
C-130J



**1st Lt. David Culver**  
Mukwonago, Wisconsin  
MC-130J



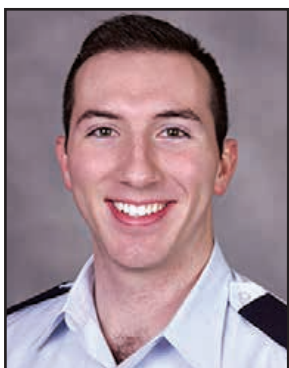
**1st Lt. Joel DeRobertis**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
C-130J



**1st Lt. Christopher Do**  
Bartlett, Tennessee  
C-17



**1st Lt. Nicholas Fleming**  
North Pole, Alaska  
KC-135



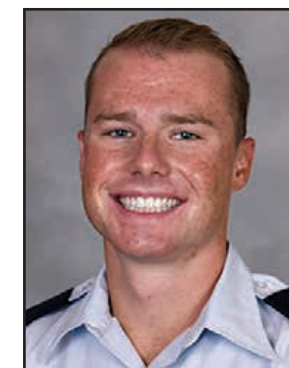
**1st Lt. Jesse Haggerty**  
Eufaula, Alabama  
T-38



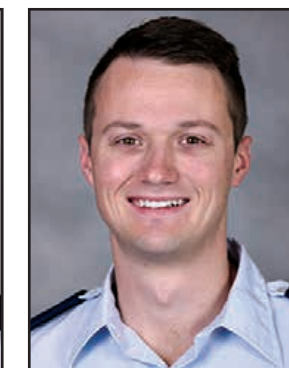
**1st Lt. Sergio Hernandez**  
Santamaria  
Super King Air



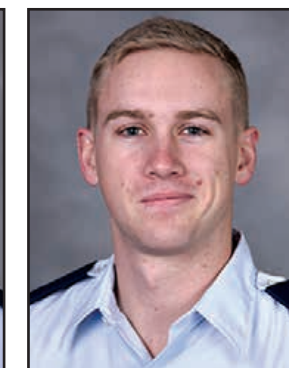
**1st Lt. Isaac Kasten**  
Champaign, Illinois  
HC-130



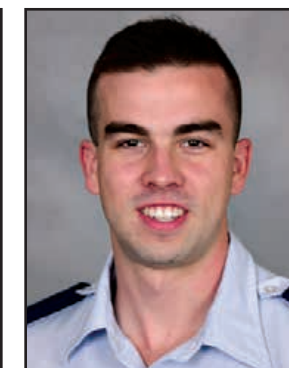
**1st Lt. Zackary Krieger**  
Buffalo, New York  
C-17



**1st Lt. Jacob Lefler**  
Mt Juliet, Tennessee  
T-6



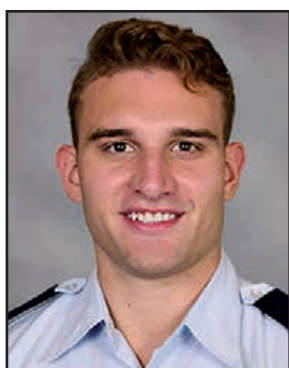
**1st Lt. William Martin**  
Madison, Georgia  
F-15C



**1st Lt. Drake Morte**  
Sumter, South Carolina  
RC-135



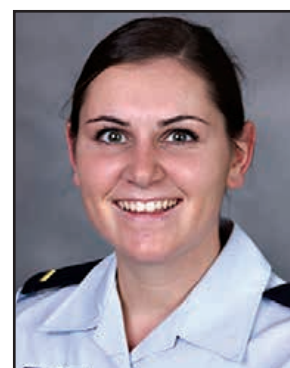
**1st Lt. Robert Schaefer**  
Lagrange, Illinois  
KC-135



**1st Lt. James Schwerner**  
Westchester, New York  
KC-135



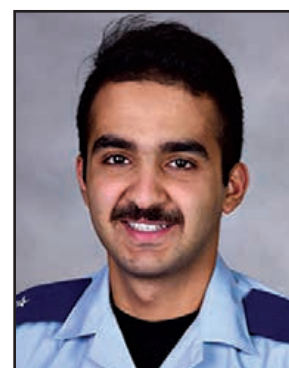
**1st Lt. Shanon Teicher**  
Land O' Lakes, Florida  
KC-135



**1st Lt. Mary Vedra**  
Frisco, Texas  
B-52



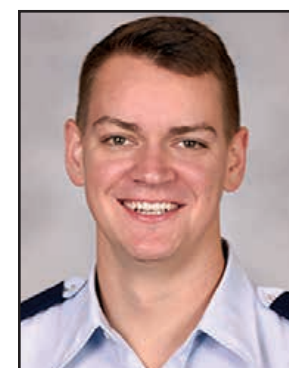
**2nd Lt. David Alman**  
Huntingtown, Maryland  
F-16



**2nd Lt. Rashd Altayyar**  
Riyadh  
F-15SA



**2nd Lt. Chase Bridges**  
The Woodlands, Texas  
KC-135



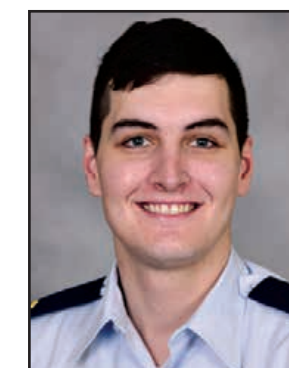
**2nd Lt. Dan Huntington**  
Berkeley Lake, Georgia  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Shane Kirwan**  
Woodstock, Illinois  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Keynon Phillips**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Andrew Roberds**  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
HC-130J



**2nd Lt. Ashley Thomas**  
Biloxi, Mississippi  
WC-130J



**2nd Lt. Cody VanBeek**  
Littleton, Colorado  
F-16