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Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 15

August 6, 2021

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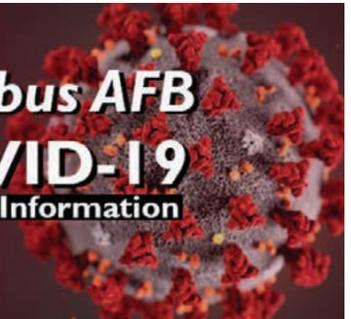


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Columbus AFB
COVID-19
Information



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
Graduates from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-13, stand at attention during the National Anthem, July 30, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. A total of 30 aviators earned the title of U.S. Air Force Pilot, after completing a 52-week SUPT course.

Aim high Airman

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

Class 21-13 contributed to the readiness and manpower of the Air Force by producing 30 new pilots. These aviators had to complete a demanding 52-week course, comprised of academics, physiological training, and flight training in the T-6A Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk, and T-38C Talon.

One Captain, Twenty 1st Lieutenants, and nine 2nd Lieutenants, graduated from SUPT (Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training), becoming the U.S. Air Forces newest aviators, July 30, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

See GRADUATION, Page 3

Call The Commercial Dispatch ad department at 328-2424 to advertise in Silver Wings



CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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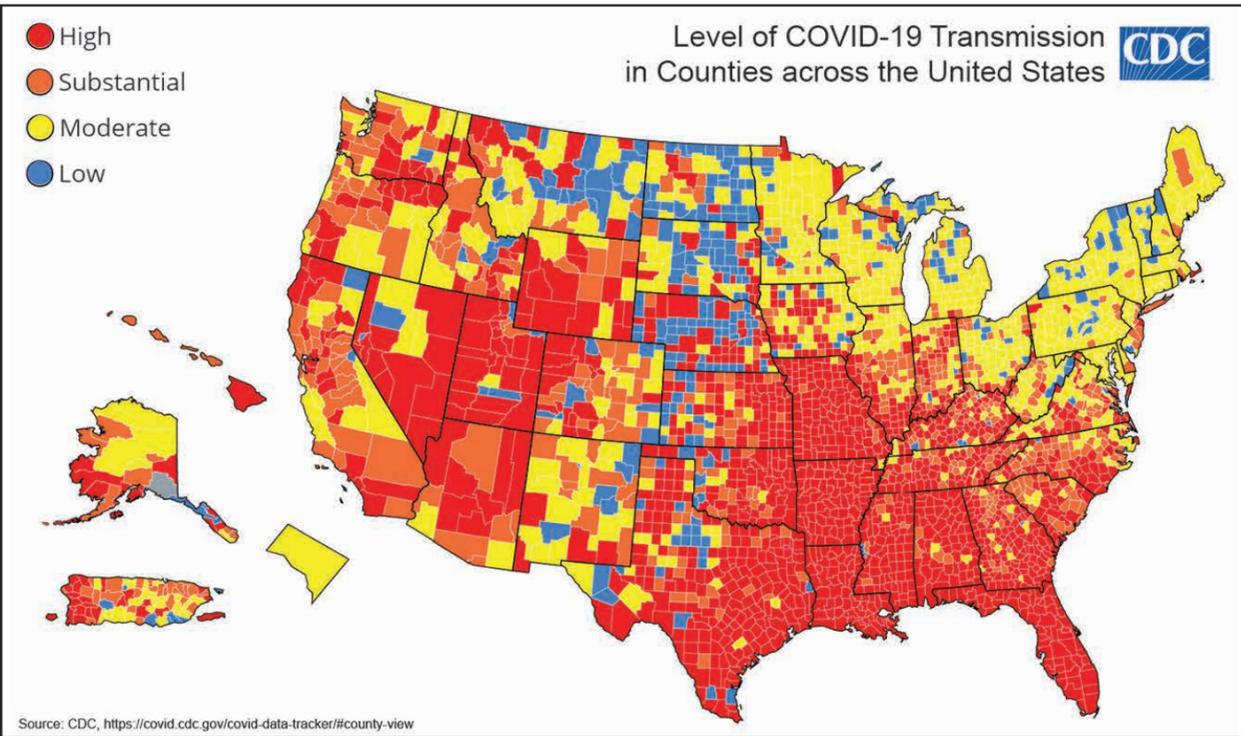
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 Columbus AFB Facebook page

 www.columbus.af.mil

COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019



A map of the United States shows transmission rates for COVID-19.

DOD directs employees to start wearing face masks again

C. Todd Lopez
DOD News

Following guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Defense Department has directed employees working in areas at high risk for transmission to begin using face masks again as a measure to prevent the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus, especially the fast-moving, highly-transmittable Delta variant.

The new guidance for the department came in a memorandum signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen H. Hicks.

"In areas of substantial or high community transmission, DOD requires all service members, federal employees, onsite contractor employees and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in an indoor setting in installations and other facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DOD," the memorandum read.

The memo also says that those who have not been vaccinated will need to continue to wear masks, as they have been required to do all along.

DOD installations are also being asked to post signage and update their websites to let visitors know of mask policies in place at those locations.

CDC guidance issued July 27 recommends that even individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 start wearing a mask again while indoors if they are in an area of "substantial or high transmission."

"To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission," the CDC recommends.

Information about areas of the country that are most at risk for transmission can be found on the CDC website.

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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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.



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COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 9)

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman's Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

Discovery Resource Center

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

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

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

Pre-Separation Counseling

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

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://mil-lifelifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:2:0:More+online+resources+are+available+on+Columbus+AFB+Living+at+https://www.columbusafbiving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocaiton-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

FSS

(Continued from page 8)

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 year-

ly. 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.

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

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

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

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

GRADUATION

(Continued from page 1)

The guest speaker providing these graduates with advice and words of wisdom was Col. Jeremy Bergin, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander.

Bergin is a seasoned pilot, who for the past 20 years has been at an Air Force Special Operations Command, and has served in every major named operation since 1994.

"SUPT is a trial of knowledge and skill and hard work," said Bergin. "Every day these young aviators are shaped into what will be the profession that will serve them for the rest of their careers."

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.

Along with completing approx-



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

Graduates from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 21-13, pilots break their first pair of wings, during their graduation ceremony, July 30, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Per tradition, pilots will keep one half of the broken wings and give the second half to a loved one. The two halves are never to be brought back together while the pilot is still alive.

imately 200 flight hours, students must also complete 400 hours of flight-related classroom instruction and simulator training before earning the title of U.S. Air Force Pilot.

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.



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Duncan-Doublin

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Raina Cerniglia, 14th Flying Training Wing SUPT graduate, receives one of three Order of Daedalians AETC Commanders Trophy's, July 30, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The Order of Daedalians is America's premier fraternal organization of military aviators and is presented to the class's most outstanding graduates.

"You have answered a greater call," said Bergin. "I am excited for the amazing things you will do in the defense of freedom and liberty, and I am proud to call you wingman."

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The Airman's Creed

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

Back to school



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa A. Duncan-Doublin

U.S. Air Force Col. Seth W. Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, addresses Columbus Municipal School District faculty and staff during the Back-To-School Convocation, Aug 5, 2021, at the Columbus High School Gymnasium in Columbus Miss. CAFB active duty personnel are scheduled to participate in Back-To-School activities at several CMSD schools during the month of August as a way to show community support for local schools and teachers.



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander, delivers remarks during the Second Air Force change of command ceremony inside the Bay Breeze Event Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 30, 2021. The ceremony is a symbol of command being exchanged from one commander to the next. Edmondson assumed command of the Second Air Force from Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos.



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presents the guidon to Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander, during the Second Air Force change of command ceremony inside the Bay Breeze Event Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 30, 2021. The ceremony is a symbol of command being exchanged from one commander to the next. Edmondson took command of the Second Air Force from Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos.

Maj. Gen. Edmondson assumes command of 2nd Air Force

Senior Airman Kimberly L. Mueller
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson took command of 2nd Air Force from Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos during a change of command ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center here, July 30.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presided over the ceremony.

Second Air Force manages 2,300 active training courses for approximately 150,000 Defense Department and international student graduates annually.

Edmondson is now responsible for the development, oversight and direction of all operational aspects of basic military training, initial skills training and advanced technical training of all Air Force enlisted members and support officers.

Traditionally, the changing of command authority is represented symbolically by passing of the guidon.

Once Webb received the guidon from Tullos, he passed it to Edmondson. At that moment, Edmondson officially took command of 2nd Air Force.

“It is incredibly humbling to once again join the Second Air Force team,” Edmondson said. “I am passionate about our mission and it’s an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of an organization responsible for building the Airmen and Guardians we need to win the future fight.”

“I can’t imagine being anywhere else in the Air Force,” she said. “Keesler Air Force Base, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is such a fantastic place to live. We have been welcomed back in the community with open arms and it truly feels like coming home. My family and I are very excited.”

Prior to commanding the 2nd Air Force, Edmondson was the Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, commanding a 4,300 member cadet wing and more than 200 Air Force and civilian personnel.

“The men and women of 2nd Air Force have dedicated themselves to building and honing the human weapon system, which is the most vital ingredient in our Air Force and Space Force,” Edmondson said. “I am proud and honored to be their commander. I look forward to enabling their mission and serving alongside all of the outstanding Airmen, civilian Airmen and Guardians across our numbered Air Force.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Brockler, 335th Training Squadron commander, greets Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, Second Air Force commander, and her husband, Dave McGowan, during a change of command ceremony reception following the Second Air Force change of command ceremony inside the Bay Breeze Event Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 30, 2021. The ceremony is a symbol of command being exchanged from one commander to the next. Edmondson assumed command of the Second Air Force from Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos.

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,



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman and Family Readiness Center hosted the bases first KUDOS event since the beginning on the COVID-19 Pandemic, Aug. 4, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. KUDOS is a fun interactive deployment “like” event for military children so they can experience a tiny bit of what it’s like for their parents to deploy.

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, 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!

See COMMUNITY, Page 11

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic Services: 5 p.m. on Sun

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

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

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

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

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

Get Connected with Your Base App!

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

The Print Shop Has Moved!

The Print Shop has moved to The Commons, building 715, room 128. It is located in the back of the Commons and can be accessed either from the main entrance or from the parking lot directly behind the base Chapel. Services include large format printing, mounting, laminating, color and black/white copying, binding, and much more. For a quote call (662) 434-2337 or email 14FSSColumbus@gmail.com.

Youth Program's After School Care

The Youth Center is offering After School Care beginning Aug. 5 for ages 5-12. The center provides games, sports, arts & crafts, educational enrichment, social skills, leadership building and much more. Request care at MilitaryChildCare.com or call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

Back to School Dash

Youth Programs, Child and Youth Center, and School Liaison along with the Fitness Center is hosting a Back to School Dash on Aug. 7 at 8:45 starting at the Fitness Center. Sign-up at the Youth Center by COB Aug. 5. It will feature a 2 mile run for kids and parents. The first 50 sign-ups will receive a free t-shirt. School supplies, drinks, and popsicles will be given away at the finish line. Call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m. and Friday from 4-8 p.m. (may be extended for special events) 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) is open for DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT service with a limited menu. The expanded eating area will allow for social distancing. Grab'n go products will be available including during bowling. The hours are Monday-Friday: 6:30-10 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m.-20 p.m. for lunch. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday. For take-out orders, call (662) 434-3426.

Library

The Library is open for in-house customers Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday-Monday. It has been relocated to a more inviting and visible location in open area in The Commons which is next to the base chapel. For everyone's safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must



INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL

SIGN UP DEADLINE 25 AUG & COACHES MEETING AT 1430

sign up prior to coaches meeting

Put a team together within your squadron or unit and sign up at the Fitness Center!

call 434-2772 for more info

SEASON BEGINS 13 SEPT AT 1800

FORCE

remain with their children at all times.

The Library is hosting Storytime at the Library every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

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

Fitness Center

The Columbus AFB Fitness Center and the Alpha Warrior tent is open Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. It is open on Sunday for 24/7 Access members only (CAC must be registered at the front desk prior to use).

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

24/7 access is 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.

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.

USAF Birthday 5K Coming in September

The Fitness Center will host the USAF Birthday 5K Fun Run on Sept. 17 beginning at 7 a.m. Call the Fitness Center for more information at (662) 434-2772.

Intramural Flag Football Sign-up Open

Intramural Flag Football will kick-off on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. The sign-up deadline is Aug. 25th at the Fitness Center. Put a team together within your squadron or unit and get ready for some football!

Outdoor Recreation

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

Beginning Aug. 16, Independence Pool will have new hours. It will be open Thursday-Monday for lap swim from 6-9 a.m. Open swim will be on Saturday and Sunday only from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. However, open swim will be available on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6.

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 and Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This includes shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Stop by ODR or call (662) 434-2505 for more information.

Assignment Night Transportation

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

Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

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

See FSS, Page 10

BLAZE Hangar Tails: A-10 Thunderbolt II

Mission

The A-10 Thunderbolt II has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and visibility conditions. The wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness.

Thunderbolt IIs have Night Vision Imaging Systems, or NVIS, goggle compatible single-seat cockpits forward of their wings and a large bubble canopy which provides pilots all-around vision. The pilots are protected by titanium armor that also protects parts of the flight-control system. The redundant primary structural sections allow the aircraft to enjoy better survivability during close air support than did previous aircraft. The aircraft can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles up to 23mm. Their self-sealing fuel cells are protected by internal and external foam. Manual systems back up their redundant hydraulic flight-control systems. This permits pilots to fly and land when hydraulic power is lost.

The A-10 has received many upgrades over the years. In 1978, the aircraft received the Pave Penny laser receiver pod, which sensed reflected laser radiation from a laser designator. Pave Penney has now been discontinued in favor more capable advanced targeting pods. The A-10 began receiving an inertial navigation system in 1980. Later, the Low-Altitude Safety and Targeting Enhancement (LASTE) upgrade provided computerized weapon-aiming equipment, an autopilot, and a ground-collision warning system. In

1999, aircraft began to receive Global Positioning System navigation systems and a new multi-function display. In 2005, the entire A-10 fleet began receiving the Precision Engagement upgrades that include an improved fire control system (FCS), electronic countermeasures (ECM), upgraded cockpit displays, the ability to deliver smart bombs, moving map display, hands on throttle and stick, digital stores management, LITENING and Sniper advanced targeting pod integration, situational awareness data link or SADL, variable message format, or VME, GPS-guided weapons, and upgraded DC power. The entire A-10 fleet has been Precision Engagement modified and now carries the A-10C designation.

The Thunderbolt II can be serviced and operated from austere bases with limited facilities near battle areas. Many of the aircraft's parts are interchangeable left and right, including the engines, main landing gear and vertical stabilizers. Avionics equipment includes multi-band communications; Global Positioning System and inertial navigations systems; infrared and electronic countermeasures against air-to-air and air-to-surface threats. And, it has a heads-up display to display flight and weapons delivery information.

The Thunderbolt II can employ a wide variety of conventional munitions, including general purpose bombs, cluster bomb units, laser guided bombs, joint direct attack munitions or JDAM, wind corrected munitions dispenser or WCMD, AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, rockets, illumination flares, and the GAU-8/A 30mm cannon, capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute to defeat a wide variety of targets including tanks.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Close air support, Airborne Forward

Air Control, Combat Search and Rescue

Contractor: Fairchild Republic Co.

Power Plant: Two General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofans

Thrust: 9,065 pounds each engine

Wingspan: 57 feet, 6 inches (17.42 meters)

Length: 53 feet, 4 inches (16.16 meters)

Height: 14 feet, 8 inches (4.42 meters)

Weight: 29,000 pounds (13,154 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 51,000 pounds (22,950 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 11,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Payload: 16,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Speed: 450 nautical miles per hour (Mach 0.75)

Range: 2580 miles (2240 nautical miles)

Ceiling: 45,000 feet (13,636 meters)

Armament: One 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds (7,200 kilograms) of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound (225 kilograms) Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch (6.99 centimeters) rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Crew: One

Unit Cost: \$18.8 million

Initial operating capability: A-10A, 1977; A-10C, 2007

Inventory: Active force, 187; Reserve, 49; ANG, 107



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Rita Foster

An A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft with the 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, Ind., fires the GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon during Operation Guardian Blitz, Dec. 11, 2018, at Avon Park, Fla. Pilots with the 163rd Fighter Squadron honed their skills at Avon Park Air Force Range, a 106,000 acre bombing range located in central Florida.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sergio A. Gamba

A U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 25th Fighter Squadron prepares to take off at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 22, 2018. A-10s participated in routine training aimed at sharpening skills needed for search and rescue operations. The A-10 "Warhog" is the first AF aircraft designed specifically to provide close air support to ground forces and is well-known for its 30 mm GAU-8 Avenger Gatling-type autocannon capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgts. Melissa D. Bridges (left) and Joi T. Washington (right) pose for a photo with Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief at the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Chief Master Sergeants are able to serve as Squadron Superintendents, Group Superintendents, First Sergeants and Command Chief Master Sergeants, each with its own unique duty responsibilities.

Chief Induction ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base held a Chief Induction ceremony July 22, 2021, to recognize the achievements of Chief selectees Senior Master Sgt. Joi T. Washington 14th Force Support Squadron superintendent, and Senior Master Sgt. Melissa D. Bridges, 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron superintendent as they were inducted to the highest rank of the enlisted force: Chief Master Sergeant.

In 1958, Congress passed The Career Compensation Act, paving the way for the new ranks of E-8 and E-9. Only one percent of the enlisted force could serve in the pay grade of E-9. Chief Master Sergeants hold key leadership roles at all levels throughout the Air Force, often serving as command chiefs that advise the wing commander on issues affecting the force, and serve as commandants, functional career field managers and superintendents. The Chief Selects and their families met with the commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing, Col. Seth W. Graham, and the command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Antonio L. Cooper, for the traditional Medallion Ceremony before the Induction Ceremony.

“The Medallion Ceremony is a private event for the Chief Selects and their families. There are many versions but the purpose is the same,” said Cooper. “It signifies a rare milestone for our enlisted leaders but also outlines the expectations, roles and responsibilities that will be

required from our future Chiefs.”

Bridges serves as the 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron superintendent on Columbus AFB. As superintendent she provides leadership and effective utilization and management to organize, equip and train 61 assigned personnel supporting the Columbus Air Force Base community and personnel medical needs. Bridges advises the squadron commander on matters concerning authorizations, assignments, personnel, morale and welfare. She is currently the 4N Functional Manager for the 14th Medical Group and is responsible for the medical development of 18 medics.

“You don’t have to be a chief to be a leader. If you have someone who is accountable, networks, sacrifices and has empathy, confidence, and emotional self-awareness, we use all of these things as a leader to recognize how we need to bring people with us,” said Bridges. “Holding people accountable and collaborating is how you build teams because we can’t do this job alone.”

Bridges entered the Air Force in January of 2002 and graduated from the Medical Services Technician course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in July of the same year. She held many roles throughout her career to include supporting OPERATION FREEDOM’S SENTINEL and the NATO Resolute Support mission.

“Excellence is a standard and not an achievement,” said Bridges. “It lays the foundation for everything we do.”

Washington served as the 14th Force Support Squadron superintendent on Columbus Air Force Base. She was responsible for providing mission support through the Manpower and Personnel, Service Sustainment, Force Development, Airman and Family Services, Community Services, Honor Guard and Installation Personnel Readiness offices to over 3000 personnel and family members. Washington provided comments during her Permanent Change of Station to her new duty location.

“As a chief I want to further advance our inclusiveness,” said Washington. “Yes, we make great strides in our Air Force to be inclusive and have diversity, but I want that to have a bigger impact to where we’re not just doing it, it’s an automatic thing. We’re not making a conscious effort to do it, it just comes natural.”

Washington graduated from the Personnel Apprentice Course at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi and has since held numerous roles in personnel programs and policy in the numbered Air Force and squadrons assigned. She deployed in support of Operations: ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, RESOLUTE SUPPORT and INHERENT RESOLVE.

“I want to leave behind great teams, and I know that sounds crazy but you’re not getting anywhere without each other,” said Washington. She also expressed the need for a teamwork mentality throughout a service member’s career in the Air Force. “We can’t build anything alone.”



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgts. Melissa D. Bridges (center left) and Joi T. Washington (center right), are joined by Chief Master Sgts., retired and active duty for a group photo at the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The Chief Induction ceremony is a separate recognition event from the monthly promotion ceremony that honors the singularly distinctive accomplishments of those inducted to the rank of Chief.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Joi T. Washington (center) posed for a photo with Col. Seth W. Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing, commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing, command chief during the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Chief Master Sgt. is the ninth and highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Air Force, these non-commissioned officers are expected to serve as mentors for the enlisted force and advisors to commanders and senior officers.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Melissa D. Bridges (center) posed for a photo with Col. Seth W. Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing, commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing, command chief during the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The Chief Induction ceremony represents the culmination of obtaining the highest enlisted rank, held only by the top one percent of the total enlisted force as authorized by 1958 Career Compensation Act.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Melissa D. Bridges, 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron superintendent (center) and family, pose for a photo with Col. Seth W. Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, at the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Bridges supported the medical needs of CAFB personnel and their families while advising the squadron commander on matters concerning military personnel, training, and equipment.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Joi T. Washington, 14th Force Support Squadron superintendent (center) and family, pose for a photo with Col. Seth W. Graham, 14th Flying Training Wing commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Cooper, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief, at the Chief Induction ceremony, July 22, 2021 on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Washington provided administrative oversight to multiple personnel and family support offices within the 14th Force Support Squadron during her assignment to CAFB. Washington departed CAFB in July 21 during a Permanent Change of Station.