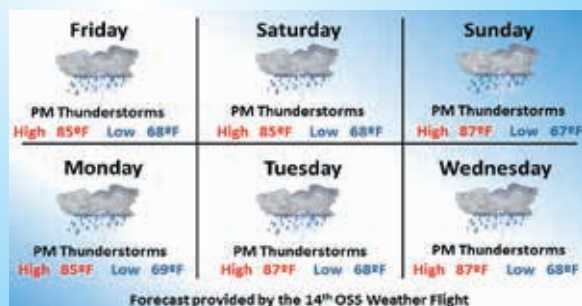


## Weather



## News Briefs

### Enlisted Promotions Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. May 29 in the Kaye Auditorium.

### AAPIH Month Luau

An Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Luau is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 30 at Independence Pool.

### 37th FTS Change of Command

The 37th Flying Training Squadron Change of Command ceremony is at 9:37 a.m. June 4 at the Fire Station.

### 14th CPTS Change of Command

The 14th Comptroller Squadron Change of Command ceremony is at 9:14 a.m. June 5 at the Fire Station.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The L-3 aircraft maintenance team is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens/U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

**14th Flying Training Wing Honor Guardsmen fold the base flag before retiring it at a 14th FTW Memorial Day retreat May 21 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. After retiring the flag, formations of Airmen paused for a moment of silence before saluting to honor the fallen while Taps was played.**

## Team BLAZE remembers, honors fallen

### Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, hosted a retreat ceremony May 21 in honor of the men and women who have fallen in the line of duty.

The base retreat was at Smith Plaza as base personnel lined up in formation and the U.S. flag was taken down and folded in honor of those immortalized in the spirit of U.S. military members to this day.

Memorial Day is recognized annually on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died.

Even more significant for Team BLAZE members is that Me-

morial Day heritage traces its roots here in Columbus, Mississippi, at Friendship Cemetery. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died in military service.

On Memorial Day, the United States flag is raised to the top of the staff and then slowly lowered to half-staff position, remaining there until noon when it is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day. The flag is set at half-staff position in remembrance of the more than one million men and women who have given their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living U.S. military members, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight.

See RETREAT, Page 3

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-03)	3.80 days	6.05 days	June 8	48th (15-10)	-1.91 days	-1.20 days	May 29	49th (15-HBC)	0.22 days	0.57 days	June 2	T-6	2,262	2,317	18,413
41st (16-04)	10.24 days	8.04 days	June 30	50th (15-10)	-4.05 days	-0.79 days	May 29					T-1	880	828	6,764
												T-38	644	684	5,547
												IFF	337	315	2,559

The graduation speaker is Retired Lt. Michael Gould, former Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

# Marosko stresses core values to 15-09 graduates

**Airman 1st Class John Day**

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The commander of the 325th Operations Group at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, spoke to the Air Force’s newest pilots during the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 15-09 graduation at Columbus Air Force Base May 21.

Col. Max Marosko began his speech by thanking the graduates for their hard work, the international partners for training at Columbus AFB, and the family and friends of the new pilots.

“Congratulations fellows, you’ve done it,” Marosko said. “Over a year’s worth of what I would be willing to say is the hardest work you have ever done.”

During his speech, Marosko emphasized the Air Force Core Values and how they start to take on a larger meaning when looked at through the scope of a military aviator. He began with Integrity First.

“You are about to move into a world where other people are going to rely upon you,” he said. “So whether you are a new wingman in a fighter squadron or a new copilot in a mobility squadron, people are going to depend on you and trust you.”

He continued with Service Before Self, explaining how actions can be larger than oneself and have far-reaching impact across the globe.

“Service is more than raising your right hand and taking an oath,” Marosko said. “You will be the one trying to keep the world safe from our enemies. That is what service means to you now.”

*“You are about to move into a world where other people are going to rely upon you,” he said. “So whether you are a new wingman in a fighter squadron or a new copilot in a mobility squadron, people are going to depend on you and trust you.”*

The last core value Marosko spoke on was Excellence In All We Do.

“It does not matter what weapon system you are in,” he said. “You have to strive to excel and to be the best you can be because part of excellence isn’t just performance, but the ability to get the mission done.”

The colonel ended his speech with the three things he wanted the graduates to take away from his words.

“Number one, be true to the team, and welcome to the team; number two, be true to the mission; and number three, always find a solution, we are relying on you for that,” Marosko said. “This is a momentous day for you all. Congratulations, I wish you all the best of luck, Godspeed and tailwinds.”

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
1 Fitness Center open 24/7	2 Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Kaye  15-HBC IFF Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS	3	4 37th FTS Change of Command, 9:37 a.m. @ Fire Station	5 14th CPTS Change of Command, 9:14 a.m. @ Fire Station  USAFA Parents Club base visit and dinner, @ Fire Station	6/7	June 15: LGBT Information Fair June 15: CGOC Mentorship Luncheon June 16: 50th FTS Change of Command June 19: 49th FTS Change of Command June 19: Enlisted Banquet June 20: Tops In Blue June 25: 14th SFS Change of Command June 26: Col. McArthur, 14 FTW/CV retirement June 26: LGBT Color Run June 30: Enlisted Promotions July 1: SUPT Class 15-11 Graduation July 2: AETC Family Day July 3: Independence Day Federal Holiday July 4: Independence Day July 4: Fireworks on the Water July 24: SUPT Class 15-12 Graduation July 28: Quarterly Awards Ceremony July 31: Enlisted Promotions
8	9 AETC/SG visit  SAPR training session 5/6, 8 a.m. @ Kaye	10	11	12 SUPT Class 15-10 graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	13/14 13th - Col. McArthur farewell block party, 4 p.m.  13th & 14th - Autocross, @ SAC ramp	

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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**Airman Daniel Lile**  
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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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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

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) 328-2427.



## Correction

The incorrect photo was published in the May 21, 2015, edition of Silver Wings for SUPT Class 15-09 graduate 1st Lt. Andrew Smith. The correct photo appears below. We sincerely apologize and regret this error.



**1st Lt. Andrew Smith**  
Albion, Ind.  
KC-135R, Phoenix ANG, Ariz.



## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 30 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile

**Columbus Air Force Base Airmen stand at parade rest at the beginning of a Memorial Day retreat ceremony May 21 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The formal retreat ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.**

### RETREAT

(Continued from page 1)

"It's an honor and heartfelt responsibility for Columbus AFB to stop our busy mission and take the time to remember those military members who paid for our way of life with their lives," said Col. Howard McArthur, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander. "As we

move beyond Memorial Day, I like to remember the words of Ronald Reagan, 'Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.'"

## Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website, with exception of Air Force publications, through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

## Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Retirees, did you know that you can fish at SAC Lake on Columbus Air Force Base with a fishing license for only \$7 from Outdoor Recreation? For more information call 434-2005 or call the Retiree Activities Office at 434-3120 or 3121.





# feds feed families

[www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies](http://www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies)  
1 June thru 31 August

## MOST WANTED ITEMS

High Fiber, Low Sugar, Low Sodium

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- Canned Fruits  
(in light syrup or its own juices)
- Hot & Cold Cereal  
(oatmeal, cheerios, corn-flakes, raison bran)
- Grains  
(brown & white rice, pasta, macaroni & cheese)
- Canned Soups

- Canned Vegetables  
(low sodium, no salt added)
- Healthy Snacks  
(apple sauce cups, raisons, granola bars)
- Peanut Butter
- 100% Juice  
(all sizes, including juice boxes)
- Canned or Dry Beans

Please place non-perishable food items in the labeled red bins at these locations:

- Bowling Alley
- CDC
- Chapel

- Columbus Club
- Commissary
- BX

- Your Squadron



## Air Force leaders' Memorial Day message

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III send the following Memorial Day message to the Airmen of the Air Force and their families:

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force and their Families:

On Memorial Day, Americans pause in solemn remembrance of the more than one million Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who gave their lives to secure our freedoms. American flags will be lowered to half-staff in town squares, on military bases, private homes, and American government facilities around the world in everlasting tribute to those who gave their all in our Nation's defense.

This year is particularly poignant as it marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. With each passing day, the memories of war, the faces of the fallen, and the stories of heroism in battle fade as the surviving members of the Greatest Generation become fewer. Their spirit of sacrifice and devotion to duty, however, remain steadfast. America's debt to its brave servicemen and women is one that can only be repaid by continuing their legacy of patriotism and valor. To the families of all who have served and who serve today, we offer our humble gratitude on behalf of a grateful nation.

At noon on Memorial Day, flags will once again be raised to full staff – a symbol of the resilience of America and those who serve her even today in countless areas around the globe. To those who are currently defending our Nation, we say "thank you!" We are privileged to stand with you in service to the United States of America.

### May 30

Open Mic night begins at 7 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center on Columbus Main Street. Tickets are \$10 at the door. To sign up or perform, visit the Columbus Arts Council or call 328-2787.

### June 4, 18

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series is scheduled from 7 – 9 p.m. Enjoy local musical entertainment at Riverwalk Park. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

### June 27-28

The Tennessee Williams Tribute Committee will have auditions for the play "Summer and Smoke" at 2 p.m. June 27 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center Omnova Theater and at 2 p.m. June 28 in St Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. The play will be presented at the Whitfield Building in the Rent Auditorium on the Mississippi University for Women campus in September. For more information call 328-5413.

### FOR SALE



**2011 Cadillac CTS Coupe** with custom black rims, and K&N air filter. **Like new!** \$24,900 firm. Call 662-574-4330 for more details.

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## Upcoming EVENTS

**CPR Classes** are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. For class dates call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Join us for a weekly education/support group meeting for people with **congestive heart failure** at Baptist Golden Triangle. Program runs on a 6-week cycle, you may begin at any time. Held each Thursday, 11am-noon, Outpatient Pavilion Board Room. For information call 244-1953 or 244-2132.

Stan McCarver with the Alzheimer's Assoc., will discuss learn how to recognize and assist loved ones who are **dealing with dementia** at Baptist Golden Triangle's free community education luncheon Tuesday, June 9, noon-1p, rooms 4 & 5 PT, near the Gift Shop. Lunch provided. Seating is limited; call 662-244-1132 to register by June 2.


**Baptist Cancer Center** offers **free prostate PSA screenings** for men over 40 the last Friday of each month. June PSA screenings will be held in Columbus. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Baptist Golden Triangle offers **childbirth classes** each month. Classes are held on each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

**Diabetes Self-Management Education Class** meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Baptist Golden Triangle Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center. Physician referral is required. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

**BMH-GT Diabetes Support Groups** - day classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, and evening classes are the 2nd Thurs. each month, 6-7 pm, rooms 4 & 5 PT. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

For more information contact the numbers listed above or email [info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org](mailto:info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org).

 **BAPTIST** | MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

## BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil) or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

### Garage Sale

Garage Sale: 7 - 10 a.m. May 30 on Military Road across from Lowes. Holiday and household items, appliances, toys, books, clothes, DVDs and furniture. Rain day will be June 6. Proceeds will support World Race Mission, learn more at [kristenshreiner.theworldrace.org](http://kristenshreiner.theworldrace.org).

### Transportation

For Sale: 2006 Victory Jackpot, 11,000 miles, 250-wide rear tire, stage 1 and drag pipe, K&N filter, custom paint. Bike is in excellent condition, title in hand, asking \$7,000 or best offer. For more information, call or text 251-1400.



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## BUCKLE UP



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# Aerospace medicine school welcomes C-17 trainer, first in AF

Gina Marie Giardina

88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Sections of a C-17 Globemaster III fuselage, transformed into an aeromedical evacuation trainer by the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, began arriving here May 18.

“This platform will be used for simulated in-flight and ground training for over 600 nurses, doctors and medical technicians attending the Flight Nursing, Aeromedical Evacuation Technician and Critical Care Air Transport Team courses to enhance their ability to render en route care at altitude for stable to traumatically wounded critical care patients,” said Col. Annette Gablehouse, the International and Expeditionary Education and Training Department chairwoman, at the 711th Human Performance Wing’s U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM).

Transformed from a Boeing durability test model, this C-17 aeromedical evacuation trainer is the first in the Air Force, Gablehouse said.

This project, which began in 2011, when the Air Force purchased the fuselage from Boeing, creates a realistic C-17 aeromedical training environment for students at USAFSAM. The C-17 is the most commonly used aircraft for aeromedical evacuation, and will provide students with a realistic training environment that includes simulated capabilities such as aircraft noise, temperature changes, smoke, low-light operations and other in-flight mission variations.

“Students will hear the same sounds they hear on the ground: engines running up, taking off, in-flight sounds, landing, and powering down,” said Michael White, a 502nd Trainer Development Squadron engineer technician.

Various sections of the C-17, which were dismantled for transportation, will continue to arrive here on semitrucks over the next month, will be reassembled in June, and then moved into USAFSAM’s Aeromedical Evacuation Training



U.S. Air Force photo/Al Bright

Disassembled sections of a C-17 Globemaster III were delivered by truck to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, May 18, 2015. Various sections of the C-17, which were dismantled for transportation, will continue to arrive at Wright-Patterson AFB on semitrucks over the next month, will be reassembled in June, and then moved into USAFSAM’s Aeromedical Evacuation Training Facility in mid-July.

Facility in mid-July.

According to Master Sgt. Raymond Owens of USAFSAM, this trainer will be ready for student and instructor use in October.

USAFSAM currently has two C-130 Hercules inside their training facility, but will move one outside onto a newly constructed large concrete slab in order to move the new C-17 trainer into the facility.

# Deli-bakery contract awarded for 44 commissaries

Rick Brink

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — A new contractor will start taking over deli-bakery operations next month at 44 Midwest commissaries that were impacted when a contractor-provided service ceased at the end of February, due to performance issues.

“I’m pleased to announce that Military Deli and Bakery Services Inc. (MDBS), has been awarded the contract and this will allow us to transition these stores back to contractor-operated deli-bakeries,” said Joseph Jeu, the Defense Commissary Agency director and CEO.

Since the end of February, the commissary agency has been providing limited deli-bak-

ery services at all the commissaries with the exception of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This was primarily done by hiring many of the former contractor’s employees on temporary appointments as government employees.

Starting June 1, MDBS will begin taking over the deli-bakery operations in a phased roll out that includes the restoration of fresh sushi bars at stores that offer this service. The deli-bakery roll out is expected to be complete by the end of May. The sushi bar roll out is expected to be complete by mid-July.

Commissaries involved are (\* annotate locations with sushi bars):

- Alabama: Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base Annex, Maxwell AFB\*, Redstone Arsenal\*, Fort Rucker\*
- Arkansas: Little Rock AFB\*

- Colorado: Buckley Air Force Base\*, Fort Carson\*, Peterson Air Force Base\*, U.S. Air Force Academy
- Illinois: Scott AFB\*, Naval Station Great Lakes\*
- Indiana: Harrison Village
- Kansas: McConnell AFB\*, Fort Leavenworth\*, Fort Riley\*
- Kentucky: Fort Campbell\*, Fort Knox\*
- Louisiana: Barksdale AFB\*, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Fort Polk\*
- Michigan: Selfridge Air National Guard Base
- Mississippi: Columbus AFB\*, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport\*, Keesler AFB\*
- Missouri: Fort Leonard Wood\*,

Whiteman AFB

- Nebraska: Offutt AFB\*
- New Mexico: Cannon AFB, Holloman AFB\*, Kirtland AFB\*, White Sands Missile Range
- North Dakota: Grand Forks AFB, Minot AFB\*
- Ohio: Wright-Patterson AFB\*
- Oklahoma: Altus AFB, Fort Sill\*, Tinker AFB\*, Vance AFB
- Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh area
- South Dakota: Ellsworth AFB\*
- Tennessee: Naval Support Activity Mid-South (Memphis)\*
- Texas: Fort Bliss\*, Sheppard AFB\*
- Wyoming: F.E. Warren AFB

# Getting ‘Fit to Fight’ just became more convenient

14th Force Support Squadron

As part of an Air Force services transformation initiative, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is one of the next Air Force Fitness Centers to implement unmanned hours at its fitness center, making it accessible 24/7.

Prior to Columbus AFB opening their doors 24/7, test bases drew more than 25,000 visits during the test phase of the unmanned hours. That many visits showed a definite need for unmanned access.

With the completion of the test phase and its positive results, the Columbus AFB Fitness Center is ready to unveil their facility to the 24/7 process.

“The purpose of the 24/7 movement is to provide for

service members who work unconventional shifts, such as security forces and firefighters, and allow them to maintain mission readiness and to boost morale by providing access to the gym,” said Tim Dill, 14th Force Support Squadron Fitness Center Assistant Manager.

Fitness center users must register to use the center during unmanned hours. Registration for the program started May 26 for authorized users of the fitness center who are 18 years and older. Users must have a valid government common access card in order to register. Dependents and others without a CAC will be issued a proximity card for entry.

On June 1, the facility will become accessible to all registered users.

“Emergency equipment such as an Automated External Defibrillator and first-aid kits will be readily available, as well

as phones with emergency number lists and clear procedures for fire department access,” said Steven Bocek, 14th FSS Fitness Center Director. “The facility will be monitored with a sophisticated surveillance system that will provide patrons a safe and secure way to get fit during hours which previously were unavailable. Additionally, the cameras will provide the staff and/or emergency personnel appropriate data in case of an incident.”

When people come to register, they should expect to stay for at least a half hour to fill out a Statement of Understanding, which each eligible patron must sign. Then a facility orientation will be given explaining emergency procedures.

Fitness Staff look forward to providing this opportunity to Team BLAZE in an effort to support the Wing Mission to “Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and Feed the Fight.”

# Beneficiaries targeted by ‘call centers’ for unsolicited medical prescriptions

TRICARE

The Defense Health Agency, Office of Program Integrity, has received a significant number of concerns from our TRICARE beneficiaries regarding unsolicited attempts by “Call Centers” to encourage them to provide personal identifying information and health information so that they can allegedly provide prescribed cream medications to the TRICARE beneficiary.

TRICARE and its contractors never call and ask for personal identifying information or health information. Beneficiaries should be wary of unsolicited attempts by any entity asking them for personal or health information, either by phone or in person.

The “Call Center” will normally cold call and say, “I am a representative calling from XYZ, we are calling to tell you about a benefit TRICARE will cover for you for a prescription pain cream you are eligible for. Do you have any of the following medical issues (list of issues) or pain? If so, TRICARE wants to get you taken care of, all we need are your doctor’s name and your TRICARE information and we will contact your doctor and get these medications or supplies out to you immediately and submit a claim.”

DHA PI strongly advises you not to give any information to these types of unsolicited request for your personal health information and personal identifying information. Often



You can report fraud  
to the Express Scripts Inc.  
Fraud Tip Hotline at  
1-866-759-6139  
or by e-mail  
TRICAREfraudtip@express-scripts.com

these “Call Centers” have identified what limited information they have through on-line searches or through individuals who have approached you independently and obtained information directly from you.

Should you receive a phone-call for this information, provide no information. Also, please immediately submit a fraudulence report to our Pharmacy Benefits contractor ESI. You can report the issue to the Express Scripts Inc. Fraud Tip Hotline at 1-866-759-6139 or by e-mail TRICAREfraudtip@express-scripts.com. ESI can also flag your profile and reject attempts to bill for these medications. If you do receive unsolicited medication in the mail, you can refuse delivery.



United States Air Force  
**Freedom's Song**  
2015 World Tour  
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From the Home Front to the Front Line  
Free Event  
**Saturday, June 20 5:00pm**  
**Rent Auditorium**  
on the Campus of Mississippi University for Women  
**Doors Open 4:15 for Military ID Holders**  
**4:30 for General Public**  
Sponsored in part by: [Logos for various sponsors]



# Mold prevention, control: keep things clean, dry

Mike Jago  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Welcome to Columbus, Mississippi, the Friendly City. Allow me to introduce you to your new neighbors, mold and mildew.

Actually, they are like Superman and Clark Kent; the same person just different disguises. Warm, damp weather promotes mold and prevention is a must.

First things first, you should know your enemy.

Despite what many people may assume, mold and mildew are the same thing. The mildew in the bath is mold and the mold on bread is mildew. There are thousands of different types of mold, ranging from black to red, blue, yellow and the common green.

Technically, mold is a plant. There are so many types, most are not yet named. Mold can grow just about anywhere it can get some water, light and something to grow on. Our troublesome mold needs warm and humid surfaces to live on; this is where you can stop mold before it starts.

Temperature and humidity are key in prevention. This can be tricky since mold has a wide range of growing temperatures, but a limited humidity band. Mold does not grow in hot, dry places, it instead likes the same temperatures you probably like, around 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to a University of Florida study, mold doesn't live and reproduce below 68 percent humidity. If we cut humidity below 68 percent to a nice comfortable 50 percent, problem solved right? But how can that be accomplished?

Humidity is the amount of water in the air and derives from opening the door, showers, sinks, washing machines, refrigerators, and even sweating, breathing, cooking and sleeping. The warmer the air, the more water it can hold, so cooling it makes the water condense, or "fall" out of the air. Air conditioners do a great job of squeezing the water out, but only if they are operated correctly and set up right.

Here are a few quick pointers to dry out the air without running up the electric bill. With air conditioner systems, they are set up to cool quickly and drop the temperature quickly, or cool gradually and slowly so it has time to dry the air.

To be comfortable but not cold, dry the air by making sure

*Temperature and humidity are key in prevention. This can be tricky since mold has a wide range of growing temperatures, but a limited humidity band. Mold does not grow in hot, dry places, it instead likes the same temperatures you probably like, around 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit.*

the air conditioner is running longer, so it has the critically-needed time to dry the air. If it is blowing the air out of the vents vigorously, the coils may never get a chance to form condensate. This condensate can also cause "snow" out of the vents, or wetness and mildew in the vent pipes.

The dew point is the critical factor here, not how cold the air is. If the temperature is below the dew point, which is around 65 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer, the area will cool quickly but the vent will form water, and that is the start of a mold problem.

Overcooling can also cause moisture to form on walls, furniture and even windows as they cool below the dew point of the room. This can cause major mold problems.

Energy is often a concern, and having your air conditioner serviced is the first step to energy efficiency. Low or high pressure in the freon will make the system work inefficiently. Fans need to be set to move air at the right speed.

If your system is 10 or more years old, it may be time to invest in a new one. The efficiency of many new machines is so good they could pay for the installation in less than three years in energy savings alone. I moved from a 20-year-old system to a proper new system and it paid for itself in two years. Don't forget to change filters monthly and put in HEPA-rated filters during pollen season to help keep the system and your living area cleaner.

This leads to a great argument of what I call "thermostat wars." What is the right setting? Here in Mississippi, it is all about the humidity. Get a hygrometer, or a relative humidity meter, normally sold for as little as \$5. Use it to try and manage humidity to below 70 percent, but above 40 percent. To achieve this ideal humidity, adjust the thermostat where your air conditioner will not run. Let it sit for about five minutes to make sure. Then set it down two degrees. Let it cycle and watch the hygrometer drop. If after overnight it has not dried the air and the air conditioner is cycling normally, set it down another two degrees. If this doesn't drop the humidity to 60 percent or lower, get the system serviced and explain you are trying to get a wet bulb temperature of around 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Problems may arise if the cooling area is not well insulated or gets lots of outside air. Business offices or children running in and out will cause the same issue, which may freeze your air conditioner into a block of ice. This is a combination of high humidity and no off-cycle time for the unit. Air conditioner units need to cycle and push air through to dry the coils. Many cars have the same problem.

Mold cannot grow on a clean surface. Keep areas that mold easily clean and dry and don't be afraid of it. If it is really bad, spray it down with any cleaner with bleach in it and let it sit for a minute before wiping it up. Wet, soapy mold will not give off spores, which is what gets the allergies going.

The dreaded "black mold" is a very specific variety and rarely found. You may believe you have it, but it is far more likely you have one of the other 20,000 varieties that are just annoying.

In conclusion, check the air's humidity. High humidity is unhealthy and creates breeding grounds for mold. If you see it, clean it and get cracking on controlling the humidity. For facility managers and supervisors, the policy for all U.S. Air Force installations is:

- 1) User must clean mold first
- 2) Take actions to control humidity
- 3) If humidity remains high and mold returns, put in a work order for HVAC service after step 1 and 2

For more information about mold control and prevention, go to the EPA website, [epa.gov/mold/preventionandcontrol.html](http://epa.gov/mold/preventionandcontrol.html), then try 434-7974.

to the last three EPRs of personnel with weighted factors since becoming TIS/TIG eligible for promotion.

"Because changes to the process are significant, we are testing every aspect of the system to ensure accuracy," said Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "Anticipated sew-on dates for this list will begin in August and therefore

the delay will not affect actual promotion dates. Airmen who are selected for technical sergeant will still sew on based on their line number and in sync with the normal cycle."

Once the validation is complete, Air Force officials will announce the promotion results release date on [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and [www.afpc.af.mil](http://www.afpc.af.mil). In addition, Airmen can monitor myPers for updates.

## 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.)

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. June 2. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Kaye Auditorium. For more information call 434-2839.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. June 2, allows the VA contractors to explain to service members (whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran) what services the VA offers, what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and for more information please call 434-2790.

### Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop 9 – 10:30 a.m. June 3 gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and cover letters. For more information or to sign up, call 434-2790.

### Bundles of Joy

The workshop is 1 - 3:30 p.m. June 4 for active-duty families assigned to Columbus AFB who are expecting or have a child up to 4 months of age. This is an Air Force Aid Society program with informational presentations about topics such as Tri-Care, Child Care, Breastfeeding, Car Seat Safety, Nutrition & Fitness during and after pregnancy, and Labor & Delivery. To register please call 434-2790.

### Smooth Move

This class is 10 - 11:30 a.m. June 10 and provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

### Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon June 10. It is an informational workshop for members pursuing or interested in a teaching career after the military. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

### Spouse Deployment Class

The class, 5:30 - 7 p.m. June 11, is for spouses to learn what is involved in a deployment. Several other agencies will give a short description of how their office can offer support to a spouse and family. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

### First Term Officer's PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop, 9 - 10 a.m. June 16, is required by AFI for all newly assigned personnel to

## Outdoor Recreation available to Team BLAZE



U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

**Outdoor Recreation is here to fulfill Team BLAZE members' needs for outdoor equipment rentals and more, and is also the location to start Information, Tickets and Tours leisure travel. Outdoor Recreation is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday; and closed on holidays from April 1 - Sept. 30. For more information call 434-2507.**

their first station. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

### Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon June 18. The Capstone is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/ have not met their Career Readiness Standards/ Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. June 23. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Kaye Auditorium. For more information call 434-2839.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. June 23, allows the VA contractors to explain to service members, whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

### Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at

least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

### Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

### 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. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at (662) 434-2720.

### Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors 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, call 662-364-0504.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or [tim.griggs-1.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:tim.griggs-1.ctr@us.af.mil).

### Temporary Jobs for the Summer

Job opportunities include: Clerical, Life-guard, Recreation Aid, Computer Clerk, General Laborer and others. Posting on USA Jobs began March 9 at [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov).

## Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

### Catholic Community

**Sunday:**  
3:15 p.m. – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Chapel Annex)  
3:45 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)  
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)  
5 p.m. – Mass w/Children's Church  
**Tuesday:**  
11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass

### Protestant Community

**Sunday:**  
9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service  
**Tuesday:**  
5 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)  
**Wednesday:**  
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

# Technical sergeant promotion release delayed to allow system validation

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Technical sergeant promotion selection results, originally scheduled for release May 28, will be delayed to enable the Air Force to continue to validate extensive system changes to the Weighted Airman Promotion System

(WAPS), officials announced.

The 2015 technical sergeant promotion cycle is the first to incorporate recent changes in the enlisted evaluation report (EPR) and promotion system. Recent alterations affecting this promotion cycle include changes in the WAPS calculation, revised points for time-in-service (TIS) and time-in-grade (TIG), EPR point value of 250 points, and the inclusion of up



**Force Support Squadron Website**  
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

**Free Pool Passes and FootGolf**  
Independence Pool Passes are included with Whispering Pines Golf Membership. FootGolf is coming July 1 and is also included with membership. If you have an individual golf membership, you receive an individual pool pass and if you have a family golf membership, you receive a family pool pass. Visit Outdoor Recreation for your free pool pass today. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**Free Sewing Class**  
The Arts and Crafts Shop is offering “Intro to Sewing: Make Your Own Apron” at 10 a.m. May 30. The following items should be brought with you: a sewing machine, choice of fabric (one and a half yards of primary color and half to one yard of accent color) and matching thread. Only ten spots available. Register by May 28 by contacting 434-2594.

**Summer Reading Program**  
The Base Library is offering a summer reading program for all ages. Program kick off will be held at 11 a.m. June 2. Register at the library and enjoy a summer of stories, activities, crafts and tons of fun. The program will run until July 23 with a Summer Reading Awards Ceremony at 1 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

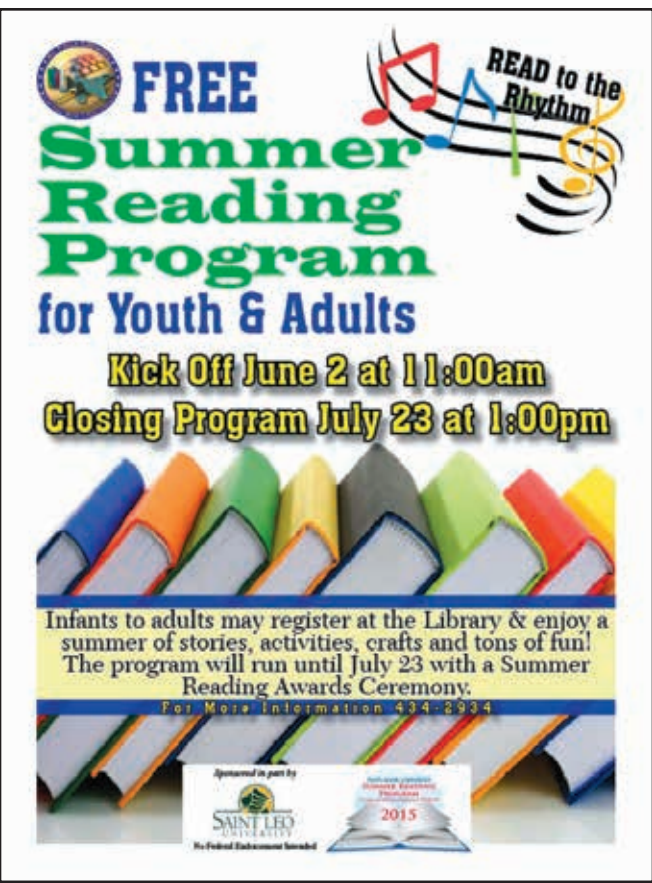
**Missoula Children’s Theater “Sleeping Beauty”**  
Missoula Children’s Theater presents “Sleeping Beauty” June 13 at the Youth Center. All youth in grades 1 – 12 are welcome. The first meeting will be at 10 a.m. June 8 at the Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Disc Golf Tournament**  
The Fitness Center is offering a single round 18-hole disc golf tournament at 5 p.m. June 8. Commander’s trophy points awarded. All equipment provided. Sign up at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**British Soccer Camp**  
The Youth Center is offering British soccer camp June 8 – 12 for ages 3 – 18. The cost varies according to age. Stop by the Youth Center or call 434-2504 for more information or register online at challengersports.com.

**Super Sweet Scramble**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a 4-person, 18-hole golf scramble June 13 - 14. Cost is \$40 per person and includes cart, green fees, prize fund, and lunch both days; sponsored in part by Sweet Peppers Deli. Mulligans may be purchased for \$40 per team (one mulligan per person per day). Win prizes for longest drive, closest to pin, or hole-in-one. Register by noon June 1 and receive one free round of golf with cart prior to the tournament. Register no later than June 6 by contacting the Pro Shop at 434-7932.

**Bridgestone Golf Ball Fitting Challenge**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a golf ball fitting challenge. Choosing the right golf ball for your game can make a



**FREE Summer Reading Program for Youth & Adults**

**Kick Off June 2 at 11:00am**  
**Closing Program July 23 at 1:00pm**

Infants to adults may register at the Library & enjoy a summer of stories, activities, crafts and tons of fun! The program will run until July 23 with a Summer Reading Awards Ceremony.

For More Information 434-2934

Sponsored in part by  
**STANTON COUNTY LIBRARY**  
The Public's Educational Resource

2015

dramatic difference in your performance on the golf course. Stop by between 1 – 6 p.m. June 17 and find the right ball for you. All Bridgestone golf balls are 15 percent off. For more information, contact 434-7932.

**Youth Golf Clinic**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a Youth Golf Clinic at 4:30 p.m. for ages 6 – 9 and 5:15 p.m. for ages 10 and up June 17, 18, 22, 24 and 25. Clinic includes course etiquette and basics of golf. The cost is \$25 per person (with own clubs) or \$125 per person (receive golf clubs to keep). You must register by June 9. For more information, contact 434-7932.

**Celebrate International Picnic Day**  
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering Picnic Buffet on the Patio from 5:30 – 7 p.m. June 18. The cost is \$8.95 per person; \$4.75 ages 5 – 9; free ages 4 and under. Buffet includes hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, cookies, and drinks. For more information, contact 434-7932.

**Father’s Day 5K Run/Walk**  
The Fitness Center is hosting a Father’s Day 5K Run/Walk at 7 a.m. June 19. Commander’s Trophy Points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Youth Golf Registration**  
The Youth Center is offering Youth Golf. Open to ages 6 – 18. Cost is \$40 per youth; register at the Youth Center by June 19. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Tops In Blue**  
The Youth Center presents a free Tops in Blue performance

“Freedom’s Song” at 5 p.m. June 20. Performance held at Rent Auditorium on the campus of Mississippi University for Women. Doors will open at 4:15 p.m. for military ID holders; 4:30 p.m. for the general public. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**FootGolf Grand Opening**  
Join Whispering Pines Golf Course for a FootGolf Grand Opening ribbon cutting at 9:14 a.m. July 1. Enjoy free FootGolf all day with food and drink specials. Door prizes to be given away. For more information, contact 434-7932.

**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class**  
Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Wood Shop Self Help**  
Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

**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 434-2505.

**Green Plate Special**  
The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

**Instructional Classes at Youth Center**  
Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

**Fitness on Request**  
CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

**Space A Lodging**  
The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

**Ride in Style**  
If you don’t want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Transportation one way is \$175 for Birmingham and \$50 for Columbus. Call 434-2505 for more information.

**Hot and Easy to Use**  
Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style.

# Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans

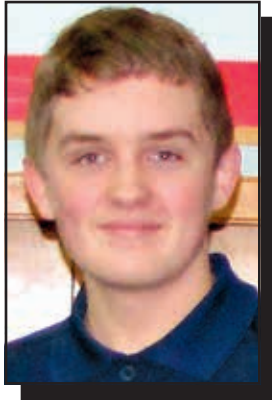
**Patrick Oakden,**  
**son of Col. Neil Oakden**  
14th Operations Group  
Deputy Commander

The average American doesn’t truly understand the sacrifices veterans make to protect our freedoms and our way of life.

In order to thank these veterans for what they have done, you have to understand what being a veteran means.

By definition a veteran is “a person who has had long service or experience in an occupation, office, or the like.”

This suggests in some form or



fashion we all are veterans, but this is not the type of veteran to which I am referring. I am talking about a service member who has been on active duty, whether it was serving in a combat zone or just doing a job in the military. We also cannot forget those who have retired from the armed forces or died in the line of duty.

Many of you remember what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m. It was a day that showed everyone how important it is to have people who will stand up and defend our country and what we believe in.

My family has generations of military veterans, including my great-grandfather who served in the Marine Corps in World War II, my grandfather who was in the Army in Vietnam, my uncle who retired after 24 years in the Army, and my father who is in his 22nd year in the Air Force. This is one of the reasons I feel so strongly about veterans. Veterans not only protected us throughout history, they make sure that

we are still here today.

I am so thankful for veterans, because not only do they guard this land, they defend our freedoms. They protect us in ways few people can remotely imagine, willing to give their lives so we don’t have to. I’m a military kid who moves every few years and my dad is currently deployed, yet I still can’t even begin to fathom what these heroes have been through.

I will honor all veterans today, tomorrow, and every year to come. A decade from now, I plan on being a veteran myself, following in my dad’s footsteps. Without veterans, none of us would have the privileges we do now. Only because of them are we able to stand tall and pledge our allegiance to the Star Spangled Banner that yet waves o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

*\*Editor’s note: This essay was submitted by a middle school student that won the Veteran of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Ladies Auxiliary Youth Essay Award Dec. 16, 2014, and placed third for the VFW’s Patriot’s Pen Award May 15, 2015.*

## Commander’s Action Line 434-1414

The Commander’s Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. 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 phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.



## 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.



**School's Out!**  
**BE SAFE!**



**Cycle safe,  
wear a helmet**

**Be safe on the water,  
wear a life preserver**

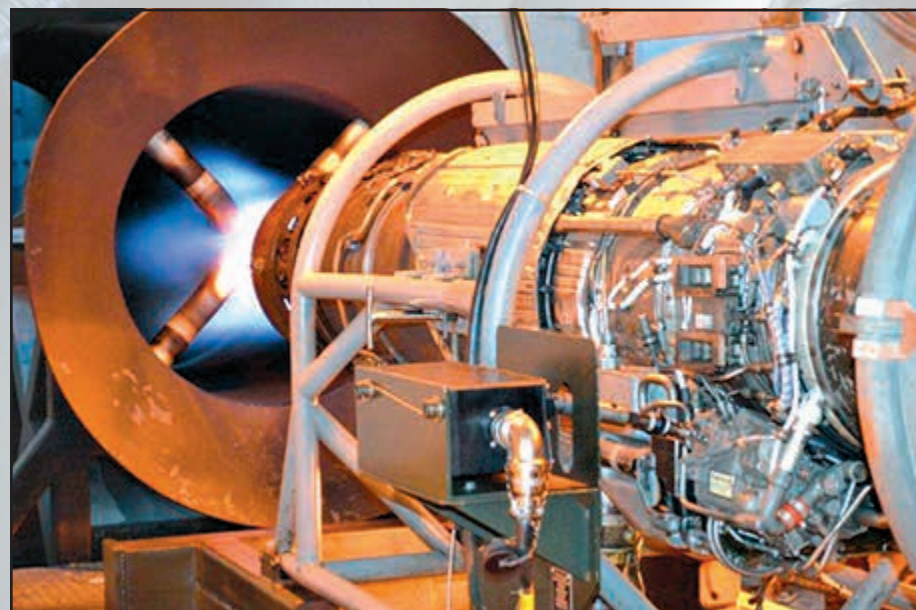






Photos courtesy of L-3

ABOVE: Robert Wilson, left, and Brandon Smith, right, L-3 Corrosion Control, media blast the left nose surface of a T-38 Talon on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This newer process uses corn starch instead of chemicals to remove paint from aircraft. It was implemented to reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals used to strip the paint coatings from aircraft.



LEFT: A J85 engine is test-cell run for compressor stall troubleshooting at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The first J85 engine was originally designed to power the ADM-20 Quail missile in the 1950s.



# L-3 provides essential support for Team BLAZE mission

## L-3 Leadership

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Mississippi — The L-3 aircraft maintenance team at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is responsible for maintaining the base's aircraft fleet.

They have close to 500 dedicated employees on site to maintain safe, effective aircraft in support of the 14th Flying Training Wing mission.

The most visible and widely-recognized product of the L-3 effort is an aircraft ready to launch or one flying overhead. What many

people don't recognize are the parts of the operation that occur behind the scenes. From forecasting critical engineering inspections and tracking performance data to shipping and receiving explosive components used in egress systems, the maintenance shops provide essential support for aircraft-production activities.

Without a successful orchestra of support activities, the end product of a safe, effective aircraft would not be possible.

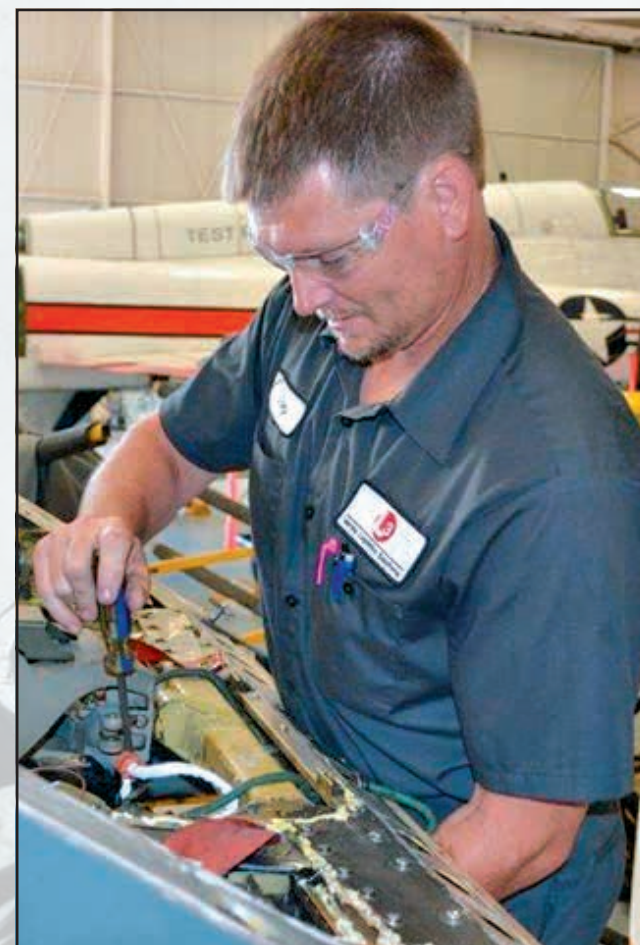
For example, wheel and tire shop personnel tear down, clean, inspect and rebuild wheel assemblies for the three aircraft types flown at Columbus. On average, 600 wheel and tire assemblies are processed each week due

to normal tire wear or unusual occurrences such as hard landings. Wheel assemblies are inspected during normal tire changes. Annual inspections require X-rays of wheel halves and bolts. The inspection and rebuild process can take anywhere from two days for normal tread replacement to five days for the annual inspections.

The unique way Columbus aircraft are painted is another aspect of the L-3 mission. The media blasting process, which uses corn starch instead of chemicals to remove paint from aircraft, was implemented to reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals used to strip the paint coatings from aircraft. Complete

paint removal occurs every 12 years or so and is required to allow for inspection of the bare aircraft surfaces for corrosion, stress cracks and other damage. The media blasting process takes an average of eight to 10 days per aircraft; five days of prep and three to five days for blasting and de-prep. Additionally, each aircraft takes an average of seven days to paint and stencil.

These are just two examples of the functions the maintenance professionals at Columbus perform. Together, the different sections comprise a comprehensive unit ensuring the functionality of our aircraft and the safety of our pilots.



Joey Gardner, L-3 Aircraft Mechanic, inspects an aircraft for deficiencies on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The T-38 Talon phase docks perform scheduled preventive inspections on 87 U.S. Air Force and 10 U.S. Navy aircraft. Inspections are based on how many hours the aircraft is flown. This is typically the time to perform any upgrades or limited-life component replacements.



Lonnie Johnson, L-3 Wheel and Tire Specialist, prepares a T-38 Talon wheel for assembly on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Wheel and Tire shop personnel tear down, clean, inspect and rebuild wheel assemblies for all three aircraft types on base. An average of 600 wheel and tire assemblies are processed through the wheel and tire shop each week due to normal tire wear or unusual occurrences such as hard landings.



John Ferretti, L-3 Engine Mechanic, removes the top-half of a compressor on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Throughout the years, it was subsequently used in military jets and adapted for civilian aircraft. The engine is still in use today, and L-3 engine shop personnel perform maintenance on all aspects of the J85 engine from hourly inspections, testing and troubleshooting to complete engine rebuilds.