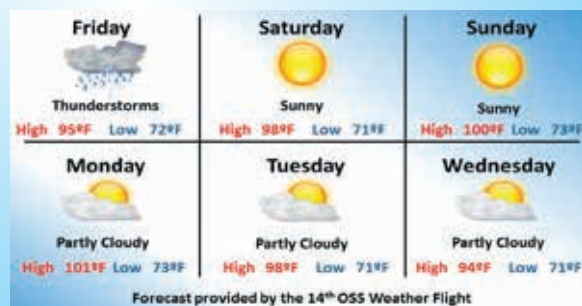


Weather



News Briefs

SUPT Class 15-13 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 15-13 is graduating at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Jesse Simmons Jr., Georgia Air National Guard Commander.

Autocross

An Autocross event is scheduled for Aug. 15-16 on the SAC ramp. All Team BLAZE personnel are welcome to participate in the vehicle course.

Senior NCO Induction Ceremony/Dinner

The Senior NCO Induction Ceremony and Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Lion Hills to celebrate Columbus Air Force Base's newest master sergeant selects.

Inside



Feature 8

The Bioenvironmental Engineering Enterprise is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, hands the 14th Medical Group guidon to Col. Imelda Reedy, the new 14th MDG commander, at a change-of-command ceremony July 31 at the Fitness Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Reedy most recently served as the Chief Nurse for the 96th Medical Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Reedy takes command of 14th MDG

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Col. Imelda Reedy took command of the 14th Medical Group in a ceremony at the Columbus Air Force Base Fitness Center here July 31.

As the commander of the 14th MDG, she advises the wing

commander on medical readiness, healthcare and aeromedical evacuation issues.

Colonel Reedy provides and coordinates comprehensive healthcare for a community of 7,800 beneficiaries including occupational and public health, as well as physiological training

See REEDY, 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 (16-07)	2.99 days	0.15 days	Sept. 3	48th (15-13)	0.02 days	2.13 days	Aug. 14	49th (15-KBC)	0.68 days	0.34 days	Aug. 24	T-6	377	465	24,570
41st (16-06)	0.98 days	3.34 days	Aug. 12	50th (15-13)	-1.90 days	-0.04 days	Aug. 14					T-1	144	144	8,423
The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Jesse Simmons, Jr. Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard.												T-38	117	86	7,446
												IFF	72	59	3,502



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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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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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
10	11	12	13	14	15/16	Aug. 31: Enlisted Promotions Sept. 1: Wing Newcomers Orientation Sept. 3: ALS graduation Sept. 4: AETC Family Day Sept. 7: Labor Day Sept. 11: SUPT Class 15-14 graduation Sept. 18: Air Force Birthday Ball Sept. 22: Wing Newcomers Orientation Sept. 26: Retiree Appreciation Day Sept. 28-29: 14th FTW dissimilar photo Sept. 30: Enlisted Promotions
17	18	19	20	21	22/23	15th & 16th - Autocross, 8 a.m. @ SAC Ramp SAPR Large Group Training, 1 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium SUPT Class 15-13 graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium Senior NCO Induction Dinner, 6:30 p.m. @ Lion Hills 22nd - Water Works Run, 7:30 a.m. @ Dental Clinic

Aug. 7-8

The Columbus Arts Council will commence their Season Kick-off event with Art Rocks! Flathead Ford starts at 8 p.m. Aug. 7. Stop by the Grazing Station for food. Finish the week off with Rock Art starting at 10 a.m. with more fun activities planned throughout the day. Friday tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door, other events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 328-2787.

Aug. 15

The Possum Town Triathlon is an annual endurance event held in Columbus at 7 a.m. located near

Stennis Lock and Dam. Go to racesonline.com/events/possum-town-triathlon to register online before Aug. 13 at 10 p.m. There will be no race day registration.

Sept. 3

Columbus Main Street and the Columbus Arts Council partner to bring Art Walk Downtown where local artists are paired with downtown merchants for an evening of shopping fun from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Stroll the streets of downtown Columbus, shop in participating stores, purchase unique art and enjoy local entertainment.

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 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.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Two IBM T61 Laptops with

Intel 2.10ghz CPU, Windows XP, and 2gRam; asking \$145 for the 120ghd and \$135 for the 80ghd. For more information, call 386-6981.

Transportation

For Sale: 2005 Honda CBR 600 motorcycle, 4,500 miles. Comes with two medium-size helmets and a medium-size riding jacket. \$4,500 or best offer. For more information, call 497-2120.

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REEDY

(Continued from page 1)

for 3,000 wing employees. She provides the strategic plan and guidance for the comprehensive healthcare provided during 29,400 annual outpatient visits, valued at \$2.4M.

Colonel Reedy also coordinates the physiological academics and training for all student pilots and aircrew. In addition, she directs the execution of the business plan and an \$8 million fiscal program including a \$23 million facility.


Not too far from home, Reedy grew up in Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, where

she attended Louisiana State University and majored in nursing. Reedy was first stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi, following her commission.

From Keesler AFB, Reedy held a variety of positions in both military and civilian medical facilities in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Reedy most recently served as the Chief Nurse for the 96th Medical Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Her past clinical and leadership experience spans from large hospitals to small limited scope clinic facilities.


**Columbus Air Force Base
Blood Drive**



TAKE A BREAK
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Friday, August 7
9 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.
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14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 37 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

Four of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony July 31 at the Columbus Club.

Four enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Four of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony July 31 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Promoted during the month of July were:

Senior Airman Jason Dasch, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Nabila Ivaldi, 14th Construction Squadron

Senior Airman Jason Rodriguez, 14th Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Parth Shah, 14th Medical Operations Squadron


Alabama Sales Tax Holiday

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. central standard time on Aug. 7, and ending at midnight on Aug. 9, Alabama will hold its 10th annual sales tax holiday giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, and clothing free of state sales or use tax. Retailers are required to participate and may not charge tax on items that are legally tax-exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday. For more information go to revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/SalesTaxHol.cfm.


Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Retirees, did you know retirees and veterans have a right to choose the Veteran Affairs Medical Center of their choice? Regardless of where you live you may register with any VA medical center. For more information call the VA at 1-800-829-4833 or call your Columbus Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office at 434-3120.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens
Col. John Nichols, Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing, along with other key base leadership, prepares to cut the ribbon for the opening of the Aerospace and Operational Physiology's new Spatial Disorientation trainer in the AOP simulator training room Aug. 6 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This new device simulates SD in an environment similar to that of a T-6 Texan II and will save lives by providing exceptional SD training to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students and instructor pilots when it is implemented to the syllabus beginning in Jan. 2016.

Air Force upgrades 100-year-old technology

Airman 1st Class John Day
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Spatial Disorientation, the inability to determine ones position in an open space, can be a cause of aircraft accidents.

This is caused when the body's internal gyros do not match up with aircraft instrument readings and what the pilot expects to see. SD occurs because current SD trainer technology is not of a high enough quality.

With the implementation of a new simulator into Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, the quality of SD training will rise higher than ever before.

Columbus Air Force Base held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new SD flight simulator, the GYRO Integrated Physiological Trainer II, Aug. 6.

The GYRO IPT II will allow Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students to begin SD training before they even enter the aircraft.

"What this will do is let the students get realistic, hands-on experience in an environment much like the one in the T-6," said Maj. Michael Fleming, 14th Medical Group Aerospace Physiology Flight Commander. "Our new simulator lets them be in the same sitting position and the same posture they would be in while flying and still experience that same spatial disorientation they would experience while flying."

The simulator exposes users to typical vestibular (inner ear) and visual illusions found in aviation, teaching them

to recognize, confirm, prevent and recover from SD before they fly for the first time.

The former SD simulator device was the Barany chair. By maintaining certain body and posture positions while spinning on the chair, it could give a sense of the effects of SD, but not in a cockpit.

"We are literally replacing 100-year-old technology here," said Capt. Sharon Elliott, 14th MDG OIC, Physiology operations. "Before we could use the Barany chair to manipulate SD, but now they will get to experience it in the most realistic environment possible."

Fleming explained how the GYRO IPT II is able to simulate various sensations of roll, pitch, yaw and the sense of acceleration and tilt felt during takeoff.

In addition to feeling the effects of SD, in the GYRO IPT II users actually fly the simulator in a fully interactive flight training environment, similar to that of a T-6 Texan II, and experience flying under those effects without the repercussions of crashing an actual aircraft.

"SD causes mishaps in the Air Force and so we have been looking for a solution to this problem for years," Fleming said. "This device will save lives in the long run because it will prepare them for experiencing SD inside the aircraft, allowing them to respond and react to it faster."

By January 2016, Sheppard AFB, Texas, Vance AFB, Oklahoma, Columbus AFB, Mississippi, Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, will all have the simulators in their facilities and as part of the syllabus for student and instructor pilot training.

Family Spiritual-Resiliency Event

BACK TO SCHOOL LAWN PARTY

Come out to the Chapel Lawn and Enjoy Pizza, Drinks, Live Music, and Inflatables!

August 12 | 1700-1900

ColumbusChapel | 434.2500

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Compulsory School Attendance: Home School

The School Liaison Office would like to remind parents of the State of Mississippi law governing school attendance particularly as it pertains to families who Home School.

Under the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, parents and guardians are required to enroll their children in a public, private or home school. This law applies to children who have reached the age of six and have not exceeded the age of seventeen by Sept. 1.

Children who have attained or will attain the age of five years on or before Sept. 1 and have enrolled in a full-day public kindergarten will also be under the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

Any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the Mississippi compulsory school attendance law may be punished in a court of law.

Parents who are teaching their children at home are required to complete a certificate of enrollment card each school year. You can complete this card at the Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Office, located in Building 730, Suite 215.

Mississippi law requires this card to be completed prior to Sept. 15, 2015.

Please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at: slo@columbus.af.mil for an appointment to complete your registration.

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.

Senior master sergeant evaluations to be on new EPR form

Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Senior master sergeant enlisted performance reports, which closed out July 31, will be accomplished on the newly published Air Force Form 911, the EPR for master sergeant through senior master sergeant, which was made available July 31 on the e-Publishing website.

Development of new evaluation forms is part of ongoing Air Force enlisted evaluation and promotion process changes, underway since July 2014. The Form 911, previously used for all senior NCOs, is now for master sergeant-selects, master sergeants, senior master sergeant-selects and senior master sergeants only. Technical sergeants selected for promotion during the 15E7 promotion cycle will have a July 31 EPR on the new form.

The Form 911 was developed to complement the senior NCO feedback form: Air Force Form 932, Airman Comprehensive Assessment worksheet, which is for master sergeant through chief master sergeant.

The ACA, available since July 2014, opened more in-depth, two-way communication between the rater and ratee and included a self-assessment, detailed evaluation of expected and/or current performance, and specific discussion areas and questions like personal finances and relationships. In addition, the form requires the rater to clarify the Airman's role in support of the mission.

Midterm ACAs accompany each enlisted and officer performance report and are accessible by the rating chain. As such, the forms complement each other in that the evaluation form includes two assessment areas that correlate with the senior NCO ACA.

Performance

This area enables a rater to evaluate a senior NCO's performance in a variety of areas such as mission accomplish-

ment, team building, mentorship, communication skills, compliance with and enforcement of standards, and others, as described on the feedback form.

Raters will have a maximum of eight lines of text to describe an Airman's performance in this area, and a minimum of at least one line of text.

This is the primary focus of the evaluation, where raters tell Airmen how they're doing and will illustrate to commanders whether an Airman is ready for promotion, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody explained.

A senior NCO must meet or exceed all expectations in the performance assessment area to be evaluated in the second assessment area.

Whole Airman Concept

This assessment area allows raters to evaluate a senior NCO on actions and behaviors based on the Whole Airman Concept in relation to Air Force core values, to include personal and professional development, esprit de corps and community relations, as detailed on the feedback form.

Raters have up to two lines of text in this area to evaluate an Airman's performance and accomplishments in relation to the Whole Airman Concept, with a minimum of one line.

"Senior NCOs lead Airmen in daily mission accomplishment, set the example for junior members through mentorship, and advise commanders and senior leaders on issues affecting enlisted members, unit mission accomplishment and more," said Will Brown, the Air Force Evaluation and Recognition Programs Branch chief. "Thus, the senior NCO feedback form and new EPR form focus on technical proficiency and professional leader areas. The new forms and processes will enable the Air Force to identify senior NCOs with the highest propensity to lead and rate them accordingly."

Possible performance ratings for each assessment area include the following:

- Exceeded most if not all expectations

- Exceeded some but not all expectations
- Met all, exceeded some expectations
- Met some but not all expectations

"Very few Airmen will be rated as 'exceeded most, if not all expectations,' because that performance level is considered significantly above the norm," Brown said.

Likewise, few will be rated as "met some but not all expectations."

Additional rater and commander comments are optional. When used, additional raters can use one or two bullets, and commanders can include one bullet and up to three recommendations for future roles, such as first sergeant, military training instructor or other developmental opportunities, that best serve the Air Force and continue the ratee's professional development.

For promotion-eligible senior NCOs, the form also includes a block for the final evaluator's promotion recommendation, including a block for use by senior raters only for senior rater endorsement and stratification. Stratification is restricted to the senior rater's top 10 percent of promotion-eligible master sergeants and top 20 percent of promotion-eligible senior master sergeants.

"When raters use the ACA process and feedback form to communicate expectations and routinely update Airmen on how well they are meeting those expectations, raters will be better prepared at EPR time to accurately evaluate an Airman's performance," Brown said.

Additional information on restricted endorsement and stratification, and other changes to the evaluation and promotion systems, are available on the myPers EES/WAPS changes page.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to the myPers website. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website.

AF launches MyVector, mentorship resources for Airmen

Tech. Sgt. Torri Hendrix
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — The Air Force recently launched an improved and re-branded Career Path Tool, called MyVector, which encourages mentorship between Airmen at all levels.

The first step in the success of MyVector is for Airmen to volunteer to be mentors and share their experience and expertise with other Airmen.

"Mentoring and networking are two of the most important things for leaders to embrace," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "Mentoring represents an investment — one where we may not know

the impact until many years later."

The reconfigured online platform supporting mentoring has a modern look and feel. These new configurations support not only the traditional by-name request method of requesting a mentor, but also provide a mentor-matching capability based on weighted characteristics identified by the Airman searching for a mentor.

"Mentoring and networking are two of the most important things for leaders to embrace," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "Mentoring represents an investment — one where we may not know the impact until many years later."

MyVector has a real-time mentoring plan, discussion forums, a bullet tracker to document accomplishments, and the ability to dialogue online with your mentor. A resource page is also available to assist both parties with mentoring questions and relationships.

"Air Force mentoring fosters a culture of inclusion for all Airmen while maximizing

their strengths, and is aligned with the culture of the Air Force for mission accomplishment," said Dr. Patricia McGill, the doctrine, institutional competencies and mentoring chief. "MyVector captures Airmen experiences within and across Air Force specialty codes and occupational series. Mentors will be able to provide feedback on their mentees' career progression."

Mentorship requires time, effort and dedication. To assist with this process, there is a "Mentoring Checklist" in Air Force Manual 36-2643, "Air Force Mentoring Program," which outlines how to plan for the different mentoring sessions.

"No matter your age, it's important to help each other," James said. "Seek a mentor and be a mentor."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexa Ann Henderson
Airmen 1st Class Colby and Travis Wakefield, both are 36th Security Forces Squadron entry controllers, stand at the entry to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 29, 2015. While they are brothers in arms who serve together, they are also fraternal twins who have worked together since entering the Air Force in October 2013.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexa Ann Henderson
Airmen 1st Class Travis and Colby Wakefield, both are 36th Security Forces Squadron entry controllers, prepare for a shift together July 29, 2015, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. While they are brothers in arms who serve together, they are also fraternal twins who have worked together since entering the Air Force in October 2013.

Seeing double: 36th SFS twins defend Andersen together

Airman 1st Class Alexa Ann Henderson
36th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Driving through the gates at Andersen Air Force Base, someone could easily mistake two Airmen that stand guard there and it’s easy to see why.

Though not exactly identical, they could almost be the same person, but one has longer hair. They have the same Washington state accent, stand at about the same height with little difference in their features and they bear the same name on their vests.

Airmen 1st Class Colby and Travis Wakefield, fraternal twins, are both 36th Security Forces Squadron entry controllers who serve and defend Andersen AFB together.

However, this is not their first time working together since beginning their military careers.

Travis and Colby both signed up for security forces and left for basic training on the same day after asking if they could go together. After arriving at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, for basic military training, they found out they were in the same flight and fought their through to graduate and become Airmen.

Once they reached technical training, they found a way to become roommates. However, this is not where their camaraderie was destined to end.

“After we had been at tech school for a week or so, we decided to look and see where we were going to be stationed,” Colby said. “I looked first, and it said Andersen Air Force Base. My brother decided to look next, and it also said Andersen. We don’t know how, but we got stationed together.”

“After we had been at tech school for a week or so, we decided to look and see where we were going to be stationed,” Colby said. “I looked first, and it said Andersen Air Force Base. My brother decided to look next, and it also said Andersen. We don’t know how, but we got stationed together.”

The brothers graduated technical training and went home before reporting to their first duty station.

“It was easier to come here, because I had my brother with me,” Colby said. “We were going through the same thing.”

After spending the first 18 years of their lives with each other, the brothers arrived here in April 2014 to perform the same job within the same squadron.

The brothers currently share the same work schedule, so their days off often coincide.

“We spend a lot of our off time doing the same things,” Travis said. “We play golf and other sports with our squadron.

We grew up playing a lot of the same sports. We pretty much do everything together.”

Having two Airmen who look very similar and share a last name can be confusing to a squadron, so they were given nicknames.

“We call Colby ‘Regular Wakefield’ and Travis ‘Baby Wakefield,’ because they were born one minute apart,” said Tech. Sgt. Alicia Goetschel, the 36th SFS flight chief.

The overseas returnee listing for the twins is scheduled to be released soon, but they hope it won’t be the end of them working together.

“We were told there’s a possibility we could be kept together until we reach (higher ranks),” Colby said.

They both agreed that joining the Air Force was one of the best decisions of their life, and they hope to continue their careers together wherever the Air Force may take them.

The Wakefields also have an older sister, a mother and father who live in Washington.

“Every time I call them on the phone to see how they’re doing, they always tell me the same thing,” said the twin’s mother. “They tell me how happy they are with joining the Air Force and how they are so proud to see just how far they have come.”

The twin’s aren’t the only ones who have pride in what they are doing, though.

“It’s been a blessing to have them stay together,” the mother said. “It’s also comforting to us, too; I always find out what’s going on from one of the boys. We are so proud of them and all that they have accomplished.”

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Watch for Windows 10 scams

Douglas Mace

Air Education and Training
Command Alternate
Information Assurance Officer

Microsoft is in the process of releasing their new Windows 10 Operating System. This is an upgrade you do not pay for, promises to fix problems with earlier versions and claims to be more secure.

They plan to upgrade a billion personal computers, causing inevitable confusion among PC users.

Bad guys are trying to exploit this confusion. You might get calls from scammers claiming to be Microsoft technical support and try to charge you for the upgrade using your credit card.

Be very careful with any email claiming to be from Microsoft about “your Windows 10 Upgrade.” Make sure that any links in the email really go to Microsoft or do not click on any link or open any attachment. Instead go to the Microsoft website at microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-upgrade? for more information.

Regarding Windows 10 itself, it is recommend to hold off upgrading your users wholesale until more field testing has been done. Some new features like the “Windows Update Delivery Optimization, which works like torrents do, makes your machine part of a peer-to-peer network delivering to other users using your bandwidth, and the new Wi-Fi Sense which makes Wi-Fi more available and accessible for better or for worse.

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BLAZE Hangar Tails: KC-135 Stratotanker

Mission

The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. This unique asset enhances the Air Force’s capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach. It also provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. The KC-135 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Aerial refueling and airlift

Prime Contractor: The Boeing Company

Power Plant: CFM International CFM-56 turbofan engines

Thrust: 21,634 pounds each engine

Wingspan: 130 feet, 10 inches (39.88 meters)

Length: 136 feet, 3 inches (41.53 meters)

Height: 41 feet, 8 inches (12.7 meters)

Speed: 530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)

Ceiling: 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)

Range: 1,500 miles (2,419 kilometers) with 150,000 pounds (68,039 kilograms) of transfer fuel; ferry mission, up to 11,015 miles (17,766 kilometers)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 322,500 pounds (146,285 kilograms)

Maximum Transfer Fuel Load: 200,000 pounds (90,719 kilograms)

Maximum Cargo Capability: 83,000 pounds (37,648 kilograms), 37 passengers

Pallet Positions: six

Crew: Three: pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. Some KC-135 missions require the addition of a navigator. The Air Force has a limited number of navigator suites that can be installed for unique missions.

Aeromedical Evacuation Crew: A basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added for aeromedical evacuation missions. Medical crew may be altered as required by the needs of patients.

Unit Cost: \$39.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Date Deployed: August 1956

Inventory: Active duty, 167; Air National Guard, 180; Air Force Reserve, 67

Background

Air Mobility Command manages an inventory of 414 Stratotankers, of which the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard fly 247 aircraft in support of AMC’s mission.

The Boeing Company’s model 367-80 was the basic design for the commercial 707 passenger plane as well as the KC-135A Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its future 732-plane fleet. The first aircraft flew in August 1956 and the initial production Stratotanker was delivered to Castle Air Force Base, Calif., in June 1957. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965.

Of the original KC-135As, more than 415 have been modified with new CFM-56 engines produced by CFM-International. The re-engined tanker, designated either the KC-135R or KC-135T, can offload 50 percent more fuel, is 25 percent more fuel efficient, costs 25 percent less to operate and is 96 percent quieter than the KC-135A.

Under another modification program, a re-engined tanker with the



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Paul Clifford

A KC-135 Stratotanker sits on the flightline at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Ground crews will have to de-ice the tanker before it can take off on a refueling mission.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Rob Wieland

A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels an F-16 Fighting Falcon during a past Northern Edge exercise. Northern Edge ‘08, a joint training exercise hosted by the Alaskan Command, involved more than 120 Air Force, Army, Air National Guard, Navy and Marine aircraft.

TF-33-PW-102 engine was designated the KC-135E. In 2009, the last KC-135E retired from the inventory.

Through the years, the KC-135 has been altered to do other jobs ranging from flying command post missions to reconnaissance. RC-135s are used for special reconnaissance and Air Force Materiel Command’s NKC-135As are flown in test programs. Air Combat Command operates the OC-135 as an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.

The KC-135RT aircraft continue to undergo life-cycle upgrades to expand their capabilities and improve reliability. Among these are improved communications, navigation, autopilot and surveillance equipment to meet future civil air traffic control needs.

Separated but not alone

Senior Airman Lauren-Taylor Levin
366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho — As the dawn broke out over the mountains, I woke up to the sun peeping through my window.

Once I got up I went straight to the kitchen to make my family breakfast yet in the back of my mind, all I could think about was, “how am I going to manage taking care of my children, dogs and work life.” Just the thought of knowing I’ll have twice the amount of things to do at home all while balancing my military work, made my heart sink a bit.

Growing up as a military child myself, I knew separation could be extremely hard and hit at any time. Looking back, I now know how alone my mother felt whenever my father went on deployments or TDY. It seems like an eternity waiting for your loved one to return home so you aren’t carrying all the weight on your shoulders.

There are dozens of base agencies to make these separations easier, but I didn’t realize it yet.

After just three days of being with my children and trying to balance everything I felt like the world was crashing down on me. It was as if I was a first-time mother trying to figure out if I was doing anything right and becoming completely overwhelmed. My office was starting to notice a change in my attitude and how quickly I would become agitated to otherwise insignificant events.

My co-worker and I decided to hang out once a week to discuss everything that was on our minds. Although it was nice to vent and get some relief, it only went so far with reducing the stress.

Unfortunately, because of the hours my husband worked, I could only see him for an hour or two each day on Skype, after I put the children down to sleep for the night.

A week went by and I had to pick up my children one afternoon, and I was stopped by a staff member at the child development center.

She asked, “Is there anything going on in your household?”

I explained how my husband was currently on TDY and I’ve been dealing with a lot of stress lately.

Shortly after my explanation she notified me that my son wasn’t acting like himself either. I was so consumed with my own problems I didn’t even notice how my family was doing.

The caregiver said, “Your son is starting to become antisocial, not eating as much food and becoming a bully at daycare.”

I felt as if I was failing as a mother and I had to get help, not only for my son, but myself as well. The only problem is I had no idea where to start.

The caregiver gave me a pamphlet about dealing with separation and inside was a card. I called to make an appointment to talk to the counselor about how I could help my son and myself through this time of separation.

As I met with the counselor, we discussed my everyday routine. Not only did I find out I wasn’t failing as a mother, but I felt some kind of comfort.

The counselor explained that regardless of a child’s age, they can tell when a family member is gone or stressed. Although you may think it won’t rub off on them, it does.

As we continued our conversation he recommended I try some exercises with my children and see their reactions to it.

One exercise in particular was the 1-2-3 method, also known as the “count” to stop behavior method. If your child happens to have a tantrum or isn’t listening this is a great exercise to try.

This exercise helps to lead your child to learn, think and take responsibility for their actions. Doing this gives the message that your authority is not negotiable before you act with

a consequence. This consequence doesn’t necessarily have to be a big thing. It can simply be redirecting your child toward doing something else, like assisting you with putting items away or reading a book with them.

He explained that the more I get involved with my children’s life, the better. I should replace that sense of separation with love and care, helping to distract that feeling of loneliness.

Once we finished discussing how I could help my children; the counselor asked, “how are you handling all this?”

Just as I was going to start talking my face turned bright red because I knew everything I was carrying on my shoulders was finally about to be lifted off of me. I began to discuss my struggles of trying to make sure everything was the same as it was before my husband left. I was so focused on trying to make sure everything was perfect I became overwhelmed and stressed, not only myself, but my kids too.

He later explained that no matter how much I want things to be the same, they aren’t, and all I can do is make the best of each situation. Not only that, but I should take time to help myself relax by finding a hobby to diminish the stress.

I really took what he said to heart. My son is no longer being antisocial; he’s eating more and being a lot nicer. I still have to deal with his “terrible-two” moments, with and my 1-year-old daughter deciding to join him, but with some redirection, they’re back to normal.

Even when you feel there’s nowhere to turn for help, there’s always someone who cares and can guide you in the right direction. There are other resources on base to support you in times of need, such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center, key spouse groups, first shirts and mental health.

Whether it’s a friend, family member, counselor or even just writing a journal there are always avenues for help.

You’re not alone.

MyMC2 app

Welcome to the My Military Communities information page. MyMC2 is the mobile application that centralizes all of your installation’s community events, organizations and services right in your pocket.



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for “MyMC2”, or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



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If you have any questions or need support please visit www.facebook.com/mymc2support

Securing Alaska’s airspace: Radar sites work around the clock

Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — All around Alaska and out into the Pacific, little white domes dot the mountainside, coastlines and islands — the only tangible evidence of America’s invisible armor.

The domes are operated 24/7 year-round by a small crew of mostly contracted civilian Airmen.

They drive up precarious, ice-covered slopes, braving 40 mph winds in minus 40-degree temperatures with little to no medical support nearby as part of their daily work.

These are the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center long-range radar sites. Their mission is to track aircraft through Alaska’s airspace and along its borders.

The PRSC manages 21 installations across the Pacific, which, due to their locations, cannot be accessed by normal means, said Lt. Col Robert Bartlow, the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

The only way to get in or out is by plane or by barge.

In addition to constantly scouting the skies, some of the installations also serve as emergency airfields to which Air Force aircraft can divert should they need to make an unscheduled landing. Others, such as Wake Island, also serve as halfway points — gas stations for planes to refill at while on their way to other Pacific locations.

“The missions at each one of those installations is a little bit different,” Bartlow said. “Eareckson Air Station serves as an airfield, but also has a Cobra Dane radar system, which is essentially a space-tracking asset that supports Air Force Space Command and the Missile Defense Agency.”

Much like an air base wing would support its squadrons, the PRSC does the same with its three squadrons and one detachment, Bartlow said.

However, the difference is that the PRSC is a tenant unit, which means that they do not have their own base and infrastructure. For that, the PRSC relies on the 673rd Air Base Wing and 3rd Wing for transportation to and from their sites. It is this support from



The Indian Mountain long-range radar site is one of many sites with a mission is to track aircraft in Alaska’s airspace and along Alaska’s borders for unauthorized aircraft. The sites aid in the ongoing defense of U.S. airspace.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson units that enables the PRSC to ensure unauthorized aircraft do not come into U.S. airspace.

The long-range radar sites are primarily run by contracted employees, with the maintenance being contracted as well. These contracts are accomplished through a partnership. The 766th Specialized Contracting Squadron handles the larger contracts and the 673rd Contracting Squadron provides construction and commodity contracts.

Because of its unique facilities and mission, the PRSC offers opportunities base Airmen may not normally have, Bartlow said.

Airman 1st Class Joshua Quap, a 673rd CS contracting specialist, became one of those few when he flew up to Indian Moun-

tain to perform a final inspection for a boiler that was recently installed through his contracting squadron.

“It’s definitely a different place, it really is. It was awe-inspiring, to say the least,” Quap said. “It really shows Alaska for what it is.”

The mission partnership also involves members of the 673rd Civil Engineer Group. “We exchange personnel from time to time to expand their experience,” Bartlow said. “We’ve received support with a couple of their engineering assistants who have been helping us out for several months to augment our folks and go out to these sites.

“It’s great for us because we had more work than we could cover with the people we had,” he said. “It’s also great for them because it’s

an opportunity to get out and see something different, and to have an opportunity to provide direct oversight on some very unique projects. It’s a win-win.”

The 673rd Force Support Squadron manages all PRSC manpower; all of their funding goes through the 673rd Comptroller Squadron; and the 673rd Logistics Readiness Group provides vehicle maintenance to PRSC locations. Many different squadrons enable the PRSC mission’s success.

“We’ve got working relationships with all of them and are very pleased with the support they offer,” said Capt. Ben Shearer, a PRSC executive officer. “Our mission would absolutely not be possible without their support. They enable us every single day to do our jobs.”

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.



Beheading of John the Baptist (Aug. 29)
Christian: This feast honors the memory of John the Baptizer, who is known for preparing the people so they would recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



Airman 1st Class Rolando Chavez, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Technician, uses a chemical identification system to check for contaminate vapors Aug. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The instrument makes it faster for users to detect and identify toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents right at the scene of an incident.



Airman 1st Class Rolando Chavez, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Technician, gathers water Aug. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, to be sent to the Mississippi State Department of Health. Bioenvironmental checks the water supply on base bimonthly to ensure proper contaminate control.

What is the Bioenvironmental Engineering Enterprise?

Maj. Andrew McUmbert
Bioenvironmental Element Chief

The Bioenvironmental Engineering Enterprise consists of officer and enlisted career fields specializing in providing operational health risk assessment expertise to decision makers at all levels, to improve the health of Airmen and the base public.

Bioenvironmental Engineers and BE Technicians proactively identify health hazards, assess health risks, and determine appropriate control measures to protect worker health.

In ensuring a healthy population of military and civilian professionals, training effectiveness and combat capabilities are optimized by preventing negative health

effects and enhancing performance installation-wide.

At Columbus Air Force Base, there is sometimes confusion about the name Bioenvironmental, which does not exist outside of the Air Force. Despite popular belief, BE does not provide pest control service or clean-up of chemical spills. Throughout industry, academics and government, this vital

function is actually a collection of different disciplines: industrial hygiene, health physics, industrial engineering, toxicology, bioinformatics, environmental science, safety and emergency response.

Historically, when commands began to recognize the need for this special role, each base eventually received its own BE shop. The BEE has existed in the AF since 1964, after the career merger of the Sanitary & Industrial Hygiene Engineers. The name itself derives from its membership in the Biomedical Sciences Corps, which is part of the AF Medical Service.

BE personnel must follow the rules put into law by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Defense. Members of Team BLAZE might be interested to know that the BE office in 14th Medical Operations Squadron performs its routine surveys in over 30 industrial shops on base, which involve all Group Commands and many Wing Staff Agencies. This number will change if existing shops close, or if new industrial processes are created in others.

BE also provides drinking water surveillance for all areas except privatized housing, which is considered separate. Finally, BE staff operate as emergency responders; if a chemical, biological, or radiological crisis occurs, BE will be called to action.

The preventive medicine community has many players, and BE can be considered the tip of the MDG spear. Through on-scene hazard identification, data analysis and recommended controls, the workers who maintain aircraft, roads, pipes and buildings, likewise receive important guidance on staying safe in the workplace. The many-sided role of BE at Columbus AFB is the culmination of over 50 years of history. From the 1960s to the present, BE roles and responsibilities have shifted with the changing global mission.



Senior Airman Kevin Morgan, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Technician, gives an Airman a gas mask fit check Aug. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. A fit check should be performed each time a tight-fitting respirator is donned to ensure the seal is adequate.



Senior Airman Kevin Morgan, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Technician, checks a confined area with a multi-gas reader in a Level-A response suit Aug. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gas detectors can be used by Airmen to detect combustible, flammable and toxic gases in the area.



Airman 1st Class Rolando Chavez, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Technician, tests the chlorine level of the base's water supply outside of State Village Aug. 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Too much chlorine can affect the taste of the water and cause drinkers to seek other sources of water, but not enough chlorine will allow bacteria and other microorganisms to survive causing water supplies to carry diseases.

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