

Weather

Sat 22	Sun 23	Mon 24
Overcast	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy w/ TS/TMS
NE @ 5-10KT	NE @ 5-10KT	NE @ 5-10KT
70°F	69°F	64°F
Mostly Cloudy w/ chc TS/TMS	Mostly Cloudy w/ chc TS/TMS	Partly Cloudy
NE @ 5-10KT	N @ 5-10KT	N @ 10-15KT
87°F	88°F	85°F
Sunrise: 0620L Sunset: 1922L	Sunrise: 0621L Sunset: 1921L	Sunrise: 0622L Sunset: 1930L

News Briefs

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sept. 1 at the Kaye Auditorium for newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel.

Water Works Run

The Air Force Ball committee is hosting the Water Works Run 5k and 10k 7:30 a.m. Aug. 22 starting near the base dental clinic. Online registration and valid ID required for participation.

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. Aug. 31 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Inside



Feature 8

The Education Center is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

2nd Lt. Andrew Basanta, SUPT class 15-13 leader, hands Brig. Gen. Jesse Simmons, Georgia Air National Guard Commander, a gift of appreciation for speaking at their graduation. Class 15-13 contained 19 graduating officers.

Simmons encourages new aviators

Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Jesse Simmons, Georgia Air National Guard Commander, spoke to Columbus Air Force Base's newest Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training graduates Aug. 14 in the Kaye Auditorium.

During his speech Simmons spoke of stories from his person-

al experience relating to what it will take to succeed in a young pilot's new career.

"Tomorrow will just be the beginning of your career," He said. "It will require strength, courage and sacrifice to continue. You are required to live by the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all you do. They will

See **SIMMONS**, Page 2

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)	2.06 days	-0.32 days	Sept. 3	48th (15-14)	0.55 days	1.22 days	Sept. 3	49th (15-KBC)	-0.48 days	2.07 days	Aug. 24	T-6	1,634	1,511	25,616
41st (16-08)	5.71 days	2.68 days	Sept. 28	50th (15-14)	-2.61 days	2.26 days	Sept. 3					T-1	520	503	9,569
The graduation speaker is Retired Col. Scott Manning, former Commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp Detachment 009 at Yale University.												T-38	528	477	7,795
												IFF	279	235	3,678

Medical Group promotions

Congratulations to Team BLAZE's newest 14th Medical Group promotees.



Major selects:

Jason Bingham
Carmella Essien
Anna Friscia



Lieutenant colonel select:

Michael Fleming

SIMMONS

(Continued from page 1)

guide you to success."

Simmons continued to elaborate on the effects of attitude and hard work.

"You will need to move forward in the best way you can with the best attitude you can," Simmons said. "I have seen to many negative attitudes ruin a person's career and reputation. Continue to work hard and to do all you can to accomplish the mission. You need to have a lot of pride, confidence and a positive attitude and you need maintain that throughout your entire career."

Simmons explained just how much he enjoyed his career and congratulated SUPT Class 15-13 on making it to graduation day.

"Looking back on my career and on my

life I can say with certainty; you who are about to put on the silver wings are about to start a wonderful adventure," He said. "Congratulations class 15-13, you made it. I know exactly what you have encountered over the past year and you should be proud of your accomplishments."

Simmons concluded his speech by telling a story about an air battle between two eagles and three crows. He explained that similar to the eagles, we as the Air Force rule the sky.

"Class 15-13, today you become a part of a great organization represented by those two eagles, an organization that owns the sky," Simmons said. "Take pride in that, keep confidence in that and always keep that positive attitude. Congratulations again and we are all proud of you. Thank you for what you are about to do for your family and your country."

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 38 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
24 Nigerian Air Force visit IFF 15-KBC graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49 FTS	25	26	27	28 SUPT Class 15-14 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	29/30	Sept. 7: Labor Day holiday 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: 14th FTW dissimilar photo Sept. 30: Enlisted Promotions Sept. 30: Wing Down day Sept. 30: Wing photo Sept. 30: Wing picnic Oct. 2: SUPT Class 15-15 Graduation Oct. 2-3: Autocross Oct. 12: Columbus Day Holiday Oct. 20: Newcomers Orientation Brief Oct. 23: SUPT Class 16-01 graduation Oct. 27: Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony Oct. 30: Enlisted Promotions Oct. 30: Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony
31 Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	1 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	2	3 Blood Drive, 8 a.m. @ Fitness Center ALS graduation, 11 a.m. @ Lion Hills	4 AETC Family Day	5/6	

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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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.

Aug. 21-23
Gates open for the Columbus Ultimate Fair at 5 p.m. and at 4 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Columbus Fairgrounds. Events include nightly pig racing, an Ultimate Michael Jackson experience, American Idol CJ Harris, DJ Gary, GWF pro wrestling, rides, games and food booths.

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.

For Sale: 2001 Toyota Carolla LE, 130,000+ miles, \$2,500 or best offer. For more information, please call 574-7988.

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.


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.





Cooper's Closet

Semi-Annual Children's Consignment Sale & Marketplace

The Golden Triangle's ORIGINAL and LARGEST Children's Consignment Event

August 27th - 29th

Gateway Shopping Center

(former Dirt Cheap building)
201 V Alabama Street – Columbus, MS

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[instagram.com/cooperscloset](https://www.instagram.com/cooperscloset)
coopersclosetcolumbus@gmail.com

Save the Date

2015

Trotter Convention Center
Friday, Sept. 18, 2015

Social hour begins at 6 p.m.
Dinner begins at 7 p.m.

Columbus Air Force Base

brings you the

AIR FORCE BALL

A TRADITION OF HONOR ★ A LEGACY OF VALOR

Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Richard M. Clark, Commander, Eighth Air Force
Day care is provided at both the CDC and Youth Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



AFSA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

RECRUIT 10 OR MORE MEMBERS

- Recruit 10 or more members using your membership ID #
- Win \$50
- Dates: July 27 – Sept. 16
- Winner Announced during Chapter meeting noon, Sept. 17, at the Whispering Pines Golf Course
- Membership Trustees: Nesha Willis and Danielle Lachney

President: Erica McInnis
Treasurer: Sylvia Allen

Vice President: Lucila Sanchez
Secretary: Lakendra Huddleston

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.

Staff Sergeant selects

Congratulations to Columbus Air Force Base's newest staff sergeant selectees:

Rommel Aquino, 14th Security Forces Squadron
Sarah Bruce, 14th Operations Support Squadron
Robert Carino, 14th Medical Operations Squadron
Kwadwo Dankyi, 14th MDOS
Kyle Ellis, 14th OSS
Stephanie Englar, 14th Wing Staff Agency
Dillon Freeman, 14th Communications Squadron
Kathleen Greene, 14th MDOS
Bridget Holling, 14th OSS
Robert Labore, 14th SFS
Dennisse Mallari, 14th Comptroller Squadron
Ryan Malmquist, 14th OSS
Joel Molina, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron
Anthony Parsons, 14th SFS
Jimmy Phillips, 14th WSA
Terrell Phillips, 14th Contracting Squadron
Darin Smith, 14th SFS
Viviana Zittel, 14th MDOS

Track Select

Capt. Mark Puffenbarger	T-1
2nd Lt. Mohammad Aklahtani	T-38
2nd Lt. Fahad Nasser Al Anazi	T-38
2nd Lt. Brian Brookover	T-1
2nd Lt. Anthony Ciaccio	T-1
2nd Lt. Ethan Curry	T-1
2nd Lt. Nicholas Gibson	T-1
2nd Lt. Jessica Gros	T-1
2nd Lt. Korey Harris	T-1
2nd Lt. Tyler Heck	T-38
2nd Lt. Brian Hinckley	T-1
2nd Lt. Maxwell Jones	T-1
2nd Lt. William Loving	T-1
2nd Lt. Garrett Manley	T-38
2nd Lt. Ryan Manning	T-1
2nd Lt. Jacob Schomaker	T-1
2nd Lt. Jody Sullins	T-1
2nd Lt. Lindsey Summerlin	T-1
2nd Lt. Benjamin Volk	T-38
2nd Lt. Marcus Walker	Helo
2nd Lt. Benjamin Wild	T-1
2nd Lt. Benjamin Zaiser	T-38



DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSED

Dubisher Award

2nd Lt. Tyler Heck

Top Guns

Contact: 2nd Lt. Tyler Heck
Instrument: 2nd Lt. Benjamin Volk
Formation: 2nd Lt. Tyler Heck

16-06

AIR FORCE
TEAM COHESION CHALLENGE



2 SEPT • 0600

Complete various obstacles in 5 hours totaling 10 miles
To sign-up or for more information call 434-2772
or email joshua.chambers.9@us.af.mil

Brought to you by the Air Force Services Activity Recharge for Resiliency


This event is in cooperation with

No Federal Endorsement Intended

\$10 Per Person Military I.D. Card Holders
Registration deadline 18 August
Location and additional information provided
upon registration at the Fitness Center

Retiree Affairs Did you know...?

Retirees, did you know survivors (widows/widowers) of retirees can obtain routine grants for rent, utility bills, dental bills, hearing aids, and more on a monthly or a one-time basis? Amounts range from \$175 to \$625 for monthly bills and one-time amounts from \$3,000 to \$4,000. These grants require minimum paperwork and are readily available to needy survivors of Air Force retirees. For more information, log on to lemay-foundation.org, or call (951) 697-2009 or call the Retiree Affairs Office at 434-3120.



EMS, EMS or EMS?

Mike Jago
14th Civil Engineer Environmental Chief

The military loves acronyms. Most people would understand “ASAP”, “M-16” or “Sgt.” if they saw it, but EMS may forever be the one that shows up after you call 911; at least to me and everyone I directly ask.

Apparently we have at least three people at Columbus Air Force Base that have “EMS manager” as their duty title and it means very different things for each position. One is the emergency 911 manager aka Emergency Medical Services, the other one takes care of military evaluation records aka Evaluation Management System, but the one I want to talk about works with bugs and bunnies.

Let me tell you about the Environmental Management System manager, Ms. Kim Davis. Her job is to make all the wheels turn on the EMS machine. The first moving part of the machine is the Wing Commander’s EMS policy. It gets to be first because a policy is enforceable and demands a standard be met. For the military, failure to follow official policy is a violation of UCMJ article 103, which is a firing offense. So, the first EMS may save your life, the second may get you promoted, but the bugs and bunnies ems can get you in hot water? Yep, that sums it up.

This policy is posted in your work center with a photo on it of Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander. Basically, the EMS policy states we will recycle because congress declared that we will not put chemicals and trash where they don’t belong, and think about better ways to take care of the base and community.

The next wheel of the EMS machine is you. Your predecessors have already built recycling into your work area, identified the chemicals and registered them with any hazards appropriately. They have also worked with Bioenvironmental engineering to get rid of any work place hazards. Even after that, plenty of work remains. Everyone must maintain the protections already in place, meaning training and upkeep on machines and equipment. New equipment and processes mean the older protocol may no longer be valid. Standards change and pollution regulations tighten so the old way may not be good enough. Office and staff workers are not exempt from this pattern. Offices are not what they were ten years ago and are far different than 30 years ago. Look around and make sure the changes haven’t left you with a “we always did it that way” problem. There are lots of remnants of technology around that don’t do anything anymore, consider putting them in the scrap heap for recycling.

The EMS machine has about 18 or more wheels which contain problems that can’t be fixed at your level, especially if you are a technician. One of the tasks built in to EMS was to identify each and every task done on Columbus Air Force Base and make sure it doesn’t create problems elsewhere. Since Bioenvironmental and Safety have already done most of this work already, the next look was to evaluate the trash. The trash in question is the stuff coming off Columbus AFB to include rain water, sewage, smoke, chemicals, metals and garbage. EMS demands we turn over the trash and take a hard look at it. What is in there that shouldn’t be? Can we sell the metal scrap? Is the washing process for weapons causing water pollution? Is the wash water from aircraft engines safe? And so on.

Once the problems are identified, they must be divided into aspects

See EMS, Page 5

Undergrad flying training applications due in November

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Eligible active duty officers must apply by Nov. 20 and selection results will be released in February 2016.

To be eligible, applicants must have a Jan. 25, 1986, or later, date of birth and a total active federal commissioned service date after Jan. 25, 2011.

Additional eligibility requirements and application instructions are available on the myPers website. Select

“Any” from the search drop-down menu and enter “2016 Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training” in the search window.

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

The government wears many hats.
We put them all in one place.



From Social Security benefits to government jobs to tips on cutting energy costs, USA.gov has you covered. It's your official source for all federal, state and local government information.

USA.gov
1 (800) FED-INFO

**American Legion**
308 Chubby Drive ★ Columbus, MS
662-329-4130

If you have served in the armed forces,
you are eligible for membership!
Army ★ Navy ★ Air Force ★ Marines
CALL TODAY TO JOIN!

Lounge Open to the Public
Open Monday-Thursday @ 2pm. Friday-Sunday @ 1pm
Must be 21 for lounge admittance

**Every Monday & Friday Night!**
Sales start at 6pm. Must be 14 or older to play, minors must be accompanied by adult

VLC Machines
7 Days a Week
Drink Specials
Pool Tables
No Cover Charge

Karaoke
with Eddie Hall
Every Saturday Night at 8pm



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody consoles Jan Binnicker, widow of ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Binnicker, before he is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 14, 2015. Binnicker passed away March 21 in Calhoun, Ga.

9TH CMSAF
(Continued from page 12)

Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. “He believed them, he shared them, and most importantly he lived every day by them. He dedicated all he had to our service and he continued his life’s work as a wingman, leader and warrior.”

At the conclusion of a long and distinguished career, the time came for Binnicker to retire. Much like when hearing loss didn’t stop him from serving, a retirement ceremony wouldn’t stop his relentless drive to support the men and women of the Air Force.

In March 2000, Binnicker became the president and CEO of the Air Force Enlisted Village, a nonprof-

it charity located in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, that provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted military personnel.

As the morning dew still clung to the grass, a caisson trailed by a long line of Airmen, family and friends followed Binnicker to his final resting place in section 57.

After a 21-gun salute, the playing of Taps, and a B-52 Stratofortress flyover, Cody once again spoke. This time he did so on bended knee with a folded flag in both hands and his words were reserved only for Binnicker’s wife, Janice.

The ninth chief master sergeant of the Air Force now rests in the shadows of the Air Force Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Preston Webb



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook

TOP: A group of former chief master sergeants of the Air Force attend the funeral for ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Binnicker in Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 14, 2015. Binnicker passed away March 21 in Calhoun, Ga.
RIGHT: Members of the Old Guard escort the ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 14, 2015. Binnicker passed away March 21 in Calhoun, Ga.

9th CMSAF laid to rest

Tech. Sgt. Daniel DeCook
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. — “If you’ve met Chief Binnicker, you’ve met an icon — a hero, a legend,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James A. Cody.

Cody said these words as he delivered the eulogy for former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker at the Fort Meyer post chapel in Arlington, Virginia, Aug. 14.

As Binnicker’s flag-draped casket lay in front of more than 500 family, friends and fellow Airmen, a hushed silence fell over a visibly somber crowd as Cody reflected on Binnicker’s impact on today’s Air Force.

“If you’ve met Chief Binnicker, you’re a better Airman today for it, for those moments, or that moment you spent together,” Cody said. “If you’ve met Chief Binnicker, you’re better prepared to lead because of the truth and wisdom he likely shared, even when the truth hurt a little.”

Binnicker was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, on July 23, 1938. He, like many others, was drawn to the possibility of one day becoming a pilot, but high-frequency hearing loss in his right ear prevented him

“Taking care of our Air Force family is not a one-time deal, it’s a forever deal; those are Chief Binnicker’s words not mine,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

from flying. It didn’t stop him from a chasing his dream, however. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1957 and spent most of his early career on the flight line.

Originally in the personal equipment career field, Binnicker cross-trained into air operations. While deployed to Vietnam, he planned flights for missions with the 22nd Tactical Air Support Squadron.

After Vietnam and before serving as the ninth chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Binnicker spent time as the senior enlisted adviser for the 12th Air Force, Headquarters



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Preston Webb

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody gives a eulogy in honor of the ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker, before he is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 14, 2015. Binnicker passed away March 21 in Calhoun, Ga.

Pacific Air Forces and Headquarters Tactical Command. He also represented the Air Force as senior enlisted adviser on the President’s Commission on Military Compensation.

“Taking care of our Air Force family is not a one-time deal, it’s a forever deal; those are Chief Binnicker’s words not mine,” said Air See 9TH CMSAF, Page 13

EMS

(Continued from page 4)

and opportunities. These must be discussed at your environmental representatives meetings with Hazardous Material Management Program and the Unit Environmental Coordinator. The issues Airmen cannot solve or don’t have the money to solve, get elevated. Problems the base can’t fix now or need a long term solution get discussed and planned at the command level. Another level, another wheel, which proves the EMS process works best when informal.

You have the power to make a positive and long term impact on your future. By using EMS, you get to make decisions in your area and you get to contribute to the Air Force making smarter choices about where we will invest next.

You can learn more about the USAF EMS program by visiting <https://cs1.eis.af.mil/sites/edash-ins3/Columbus/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

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.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

An F-15E Strike Eagle flies over Afghanistan. The F-15E’s primary role in Afghanistan is providing close-air support for ground troops.



U.S. Air Force photo

Two F-15E from the 90th Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, fire a pair of AIM-7Ms during a training mission. The mission took place over the Gulf of Mexico just off the coast of Florida.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15E Strike Eagle

Mission

The F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night, and in all weather.

Features

The aircraft uses two crew members, a pilot and a weapon systems officer. Previous models of the F-15 are assigned air-to-air roles; the “E” model is a dual-role fighter. It has the capability to fight its way to a target over long ranges, destroy enemy ground positions and fight its way out.

The aircraft’s navigation system uses a laser gyro and a Global Positioning System to continuously monitor the aircraft’s position and provide information to the central computer and other systems, including a digital moving map in both cockpits.

The APG-70 radar system allows aircrews to detect ground targets from long ranges. One feature of this system is that after a sweep of a target area, the crew freezes the air-to-ground map then goes back into air-to-air mode to clear for air threats. During the air-to-surface weapon delivery, the pilot is capable of detecting, targeting and engaging air-to-air targets while the WSO designates the ground target.

The low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night, or LANTIRN, system allows the aircraft to fly at low altitudes, at night and in any weather conditions, to attack ground targets with a variety of precision-guided and unguided weapons. The LANTIRN system gives the F-15E unequaled accuracy in weapons delivery day or night and in poor weather, and consists of two pods attached to

the exterior of the aircraft.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Air-to-ground attack aircraft
Contractor: The Boeing Company
Power plant: Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-220 or 229 turbo-fan engines with afterburners
Thrust: 25,000 - 29,000 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 42.8 feet (13 meters)
Length: 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)
Height: 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)
Weight: 37,500 pounds (17,010 kilograms)
Maximum takeoff weight: 81,000 pounds (36,450 kilograms)
Fuel capacity: 35,550 pounds (three external tanks plus conformal fuel tanks)
Payload: depends upon mission
Speed: 1,875 mph (Mach 2.5 plus)
Range: 2,400 miles (3,840 kilometers) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks
Ceiling: 60,000 feet (18,288 meters)
Armament: One 20mm multibarrel gun mounted internally with 500 rounds of ammunition. Four AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles and four AIM-120 AMRAAM, or eight AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles. Any air-to-surface weapon in the Air Force inventory (nuclear and conventional)
Crew: Pilot and weapon systems officer
Unit cost: \$31.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: September 1989
Inventory: Total force, 219



Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil

A true, true hero

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

“Man, it is way too hot to be out here.”

That was the only thought in my mind as I stood in the grass of the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery in full Honor Guard ceremonial uniform and holding my rifle, waiting for the family to arrive.

On Aug. 10, I got the opportunity to participate in a Missing in Action memorial ceremony for a true, true hero.

This man, Capt. Frederick Partridge, an F-51 pilot from the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Kimpo Air Base, South Korea, was shot down over Korea Aug. 10, 1952. While returning from a recon mission and taking subsequent enemy fire, his aircraft began to smoke. He planned to eject once he reached friendly airspace, but the damage was too great he and quickly lost too much altitude.

Partridge’s wingman discovered his crashed aircraft with no sight of him or his parachute, leading the wingman to the conclusion that Captain Partridge would be never seen again.

Fast forward exactly 63 years later to a sweltering hot, 100-degree, southern Mississippi day. As I stood there waiting for the ceremony to start, I thought nothing of Captain Partridge. I thought only of myself and when I would be able to enjoy a cold drink and get out of the sweat-drenched blues I was wearing.

All these selfish thoughts faded as the ceremony started and the pastor began to speak. He talked about this Airman and his character, but that is not what struck me. He began to detail just what it means to be a hero. He said that a hero is somebody that signs the bottom of a blank check. Sometimes the cost of that check can be your very life.

And it did. It cost Captain Partridge his life, but it was what he stood for that made him feel this check was worth signing.

Freedom. The freedom of you and I, our families, our allies and their families.



Airman 1st Class John Day

In that moment, I forgot about the heat. I’m sure it was hot in the cockpit of that F-51 as it was going down uncontrollably over enemy territory in Korea, but that did not stop Partridge from making his sacrifice or giving up and calling it quits.

I lost all desire to wipe the sweat from my face or to shift to a more comfortable position. Instead, I felt a surge of pride as the Honor Guard Colors Team I was on was called to attention and given the order to raise my rifle and salute this fallen hero.

Today, think about what it means to be a hero and realize that it is not about just you. We are a band of true, true heroes fighting to preserve what we hold most dear.

Freedom.

It’s Your Eulogy

Lt. Col. Marc Deshaies
14th Flying Training Wing Director of Staff

As Director of Staff, I am not a commander, but I do have the opportunity and privilege to work alongside every commander at Columbus Air Force Base. I have also had the honor of working with young enlisted and junior officers in one of the busiest wings in the U.S. Air Force. One question asked by most young Airmen is, “what do I need to do to get ahead?” I have compiled what I find to be my top five responses, applicable to both officer and enlisted, to navigate through this Air Force.

1) **A good attitude-** describing it would be difficult, but you know when it turns bad. Often times, you might be the only one who can provide a “good” attitude or silver lining to an otherwise dismal situation. Anyone can have a bad attitude, but the following quote by author and radio host Dr. Charles Swindoll can help put attitude into perspective:

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”

2) **A healthy balance between work and home-** Much like attitude, it’s hard to see the balance but you know when it’s off. In 2005, one story changed my life, and how I viewed my balance. A friend of mine was at a garage sale in Fayetteville, North Carolina and said:

I saw a crate of decorations from an Army veteran. There were silver stars, purple hearts and several personal letters from all kinds of generals. I asked, “Whose are these?” thinking the owner would immediately brag about their loved one. The answer, “They’re my dad’s. He left my mom and me for the Army 30 years ago. You can have them for \$5.”

Where was the balance? The legacy left behind did not include the family; instead, it was a career fit in a crate worth no more than \$5. So take care of one another, let your wingman know when only one of his or her baskets is full of eggs and moments away from an omelet.

3) **Good communication-** Vital to promoting good order and discipline at every level in the chain. By keeping everyone informed and having an open dialogue, leaders and followers become more “in the know” and effective at ensuring standards are met. When the health of the unit is suffering due to an Airman’s missteps and mistakes, a good leader will provide fairness and consistency when rendering disciplinary actions.

4) **Don’t look to be offended-** The Airmen I have enjoyed working with the most are the ones who minimize drama, always giving the benefit of the doubt and choosing not to be offended. Why? Because being offended is often a choice. If the words are overtly offensive, approach the individual and elevate only when appropriate.

5) **Protect your good name-** it is worth more than any stratification or distinguished graduate. Your name will follow you throughout this small Air Force. Don’t sacrifice it or a peer to get a smaller numerator. Don’t negotiate for a better stratification, earn the stratification. The three ways to best accomplish this are: Keep your boss out of trouble, elevate your peers, and take care of your subordinates.

Rather than recap, let me just ask, “In the end, what will be your legacy?” How will your family and peers best remember you at your eulogy? I doubt you will hear the words: Stratification, formal complaint or negative attitude. Instead, I believe if you use this list as a guide, your legacy will last, and your funeral will be standing room only with all those denominators you helped along the way.



Lt. Col. Marc Deshaies
14th Flying Training Wing Director of Staff

RPAs prove vital in fight against ISIL

Tech. Sgt. Nadine Barclay
432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — From August 2014 to August 2015, the 432nd Wing has directly supported Operation Inherent Resolve, a U.S. Central Command and partner nation’s campaign to conduct targeted airstrikes in Iraq and Syria as part of the comprehensive strategy to degrade and defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

“OIR has highlighted the strengths of (remotely piloted aircraft) operations, namely a single-weapon system that can (find, fix, track, target, engage, and assess) with flexibility, endurance and precision,” said Lt. Col. Erik, the 15th Reconnaissance Squadron commander. “In addition, we have the communications necessary to reach back to multiple supporting agencies, and disseminate our (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) feed real-time to multiple end users. This builds situational awareness of the (area of responsibility), which is especially important due to the dynamic nature of OIR combat operations.”

While the RPA mission in Iraq and Syria initially focused on information gathering and battlespace awareness, the 432nd WG’s involvement quickly escalated as the demand for ISR grew to accurately capture real-time operations.

“Things progressed very quickly, we were playing a reactive part, now we are much more established and proactive,” said Senior Airman Jeffery, a MQ-1B Predator intelligence instructor. “The nature of the mission is much more clear and precise then it was at the beginning which has allowed us to be as effective as possible.”

In OIR, the 432nd WG/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing has contributed approximately 4,300 sorties, employed 1,000 weapons and conducted 400 ‘buddy lase.’ A buddy lase is when aircrew from one aircraft uses a combat laser to guide weapons released another aircraft to a target. A majority of the sorties and strikes were performed by the 432nd WG. The strikes are an experience Capt. Ryan, a 15th RS Predator pilot, knows all too well.

“I had the first RPA strike of OIR,” Ryan recalled. “It was exciting to know what the threat was and to protect the guys on the ground was exhilarating. I felt like I was able to directly contribute.”

Although many sorties were flown by RPAs, joint efforts capitalized on the capabilities of the joint warfighter thus integrating manned and unmanned assets to assist friendly ground forces.

“This has been one of the biggest improvements to RPA operations in recent years,” Erik said. “One of the strengths of RPA cockpits is the ability to use multiple means of communication (computer, phone and airborne radio) to integrate with other assets. The challenge facing our crews is how to leverage the strengths and weaknesses of these various communication means, and we have made great strides in OIR to optimize this.”

As part of this integration process, manned aircraft like the Navy F-18 Hornets use RPAs to buddy lase targets.

To some, changing the misconceptions associated with



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

An MQ-9 Reaper performs touch-and-go flight patterns June 13, 2014, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets.

this revolutionary aircraft is sometimes a mission in itself, but illustrating the platforms capability in combat is setting the stage to clear up misunderstandings associated with RPAs.

“Before OIR many people may not have known what an RPA was truly capable of,” Ryan said. “Now before combatant commanders take the risk of potentially losing a manned aircraft they will come to us and ask if we’ve found them targets. We have 24/7 coverage, so we know what the battlefield looks like and how it has changed. They’re using us for their situational awareness which improves their safety as well.”

A unique aspect of the RPA enterprise is that these aircrew members will see sustained direct combat support very early in their Air Force careers, which is less common in other aircraft platforms.

“From the very beginning, I’ve felt I’ve had impact in the mission that we are doing,” Jeffrey said. “I don’t feel I would have had this experience and impact had I been in another career field. It’s a great thing to be in the RPA enterprise as a brand new Airman starting out.”

In the RPA career field today, the average age of Airmen flying combat missions is 18-24 years old, something rarely seen in traditionally manned aircraft career fields.

“I can’t be more proud of our crews and the professional airmanship they exhibit on a daily basis,” Erik said. “Due to the growth of the RPA community, we have a large percent-

age of relatively young crew members. Based on the nature of our combat operations, they build experience at a much faster rate than the norm. Their pride, motivation and discipline are unquestionable and directly lead to our success in combat operations.”

As OIR passed the one year mark on Aug. 8, Ryan said morale is high and the men and women of his unit are the most professional people he has had the pleasure of working with.

“Every day they surprise me with how they act and react to the changing environment of war,” Ryan said. “I am extremely proud of what I do. Our motto is P2P, which is short for perform to prevent. The meaning behind it is that we perform at our best to keep Soldiers from deploying into harm’s way. It pushes us to do our jobs, which is to save American lives.”

According to Defense Department as of Aug. 7, 2015, airstrikes have been responsible for damaging or destroying more than 10,684 targets that further deny the enemy the capability to inflict damage to America or its allies.

“It’s an honor to know that we are able to lead the way, and rapidly execute missions in a new AOR based on orders from our national leadership,” Erik said. “It’s also true that this is an honor shared by the entire RPA community. Collectively, we present unique and effective airpower options for our combatant commanders to achieve their objectives.”

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

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.

Team Cohesion Challenge

The Team Cohesion Challenge program is coming to Columbus Air Force Base Sept. 2 at 6 a.m. The cost is only \$10 per Military ID card holder.

Each participant will complete various obstacles and team building activities within a five hour period, totaling between 7 - 10 miles. To sign up or for more information, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772 or email joshua.chambers.9@us.af.mil.

100 Mile in a Month Challenge

The Fitness Center is offering a 100 Mile in a Month Challenge. The first 39 Columbus Air Force Base personnel to run or walk 100 miles in the month of August will receive a t-shirt. The miles must be documented with the Fitness Center personnel or on a smart phone app. For more information, contact 434-2772.

U.S. Space & Rocket Center Family Trip

The Youth Center is offering a family trip to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama Aug. 22 at 6:30 a.m. Transportation is free. Purchase admission tickets upon arrival. You must register at the Youth Center. For more information, call 434-2504.

Fall Soccer Registration

The Youth Center is offering fall soccer registration Aug. 17 – Sept. 18. The cost is \$35 per child ages 3 – 4 and \$40 per child ages 5 – 18. Save \$5 per youth if registered by Aug. 21. All games played on base. Physicals required at registration. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Free Movies at the Pool

Join us for free movies “Pitch Perfect 2” (pg-13) Aug. 28 and “Inside Out” (PG) Sept. 6 at Independence Pool. Doors open at 8 p.m.; movie 8:30 p.m. Snack bar will be open. For more information, contact 434-2310.

Referees Needed

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

Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play

The Youth Center is offering free games and fun activities to celebrate Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play. Youth ages 5 – 18 are invited Sept. 17 from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. to the Youth Center's parking lot, weather permitting. For more information, call 434-2504.

Boys and Girls Club Day for Kids

The Youth Center is offering a free club day Sept.17 from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Youth Center's parking lot, weather permitting. All ages welcome. For more information, call 434-2504.

Superintendent's One Person Scramble

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a one person/two ball scramble Sept. 19. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is only \$40 per golf member and \$50 per non-member. Cost includes green fees, cart, prize fund, lunch and door prizes. Each participant receives

Presented by the Columbus Club at the Bowling Center during Club renovations...

ENTER TO WIN A TRIP TO WATCH UFC LIVE IN VEGAS!

Food & Beverages Adult Themed Entertainment Door Prizes

Event Held @ The Bowling Center
(bowling will not be available)

For more information 662-434-2310

a sleeve of golf balls and a glove. Scramble flights are based on number of entries. Prizes awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Before and After School Child Care Registration

Sign up now for before and after school child care at the Youth Center. The program is nationally accredited, with highly trained staff, exceptional supplies and equipment, and offers developmentally challenging programs. Cost based on annual household income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

GoPro Rental

Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero three from Outdoor Recreation. Cost is only \$10 for a two-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a two-day rental at no charge during Single Airman programming events. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Play Paintball

Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Volunteers Needed

The Fitness Center is offering the third Annual Zombie Run Oct. 31. We want you to serve on the Zombie Run Planning Committee. Available opportunities include: check-in, set-up obstacles, zombie makeup artist, zombies, water stations, tear down obstacles, oversee adult run or kids run, and more. To volunteer or for more information, contact 434-2772.

Free Pool Passes and FootGolf

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

Story Time

The Base Library is offering Story Time each Friday at 10:30 a.m. for all ages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

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.

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.)

Bundles of Joy

This workshop is 1 - 3:30 p.m. Aug. 25 for active-duty families assigned to Columbus Air Force Base who are expecting or have a child up to four 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, and Nutrition & Fitness during and after pregnancy, Labor, and Delivery. To register, please call 434-2790.

Medical Terminology

Starting Aug. 22 – Sept. 22, this workshop is designed to teach medical terminology for a possible career change. It will be held at A&FRC, on Tuesday and Thursday nights, taught by EMCC Work Force Development. No cost to participates, books furnished, but limited to eleven seats. For more information and to register call 434-2790.

Hearts Apart Social

The Hearts Apart Social program is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active duty personnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided for attendees. This month the social will be from 5 - 7 p.m. Aug. 27. Location is to be determined, please call 434-2790 to register.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 7:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Sept. 1 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. Sept. 1, 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.

Smooth Move

This class, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Sept. 2, is a class that 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.

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

Members of Team BLAZE participate in triathalon

Courtesy photo

Members of Columbus Air Force Base stand together during the 5th annual Possum Town Triathalon Aug. 15 at Columbus, Mississippi. The Triathalon consisted of a 600 yard swim, 17 mile biking, and a 3.3 mile run.

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 (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.

Base News

Learn How to Read Your LES

Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Finance has you covered. If you would like for Finance to come to your next CC call or Professional Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Senior Airman Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

DRMO

Recycle first by using the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office as your facility's source of supply. Authorized personnel may retrieve property free of charge if the property is still physically located here in Base Supply and marked at DRMO facilities. Other DRMO processing is available via the web at www.drmo.dla.mil. Cost of shipping will apply. Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

Last Look Area

Recycling is what the Last Look Area provides! Slightly used furniture and equipment is available to all Columbus Air Force Base facilities for free. Pick-up and delivery is the customer's responsibility. There is a three-day maximum for customers who wish to reserve items. Facility hours are from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Need more information? Contact Inspections at 434-7231 or 434-7332. Parking is available at the back of building 158.

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

The Importance of Off-Duty Education

Larry Brooks

14th Force Support Squadron
Chief of Education and Training

Why is off duty education important? Primarily it is because it improves your skill sets, but more importantly, it makes you a criti-

cal thinker, which also improves your professionalism.

Education is a key component of developing our Air Force. All airmen are expected to develop their skills and pursue self-development opportunities; one way to do this is by pursuing an advanced academic degree through voluntary off-duty education.



2nd Lt. Phillip Butler, 14th Student Squadron, checks for college opportunities online at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. All airmen are expected to develop their skills and pursue self-development opportunities; one way to do this is by pursuing an advanced academic degree through voluntary off-duty education.

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class John Day

For the active duty Airman, you may not think you need a degree to boost your skills; however, the day will come when you will transition out of the Air Force, and an advanced academic degree will greatly aid in your transition to a civilian career. Higher education benefits also make you a critical thinker, thus increasing your skill sets. Years ago, before on-line education was available, it often took years to complete an advanced academic degree, and many times you lost credits when transferring to a new school due to residency requirements. Online learning has removed this obstacle for most of us, and with our transient lifestyle, you can complete your degree no matter where you serve the U.S. Air Force.

At Columbus Air Force Base, we have 118 active duty enlisted members in Community College of the Air Force Advanced Standing. These members are within 15 semester hours of completing their Associate of Applied Science Degree; most can complete this degree in less than one year. We need leaders at all levels to encourage these personnel to complete their CCAF Degree.

To aid Team BLAZE, we have two on-base schools to assist you in your academic endeavors. East Mississippi Community College offers the Associate of Arts in General Studies, and their Site Director can be reached by calling 434-2600. Saint Leo University offers the Bachelor of Science Degree in Technology Management and Criminal Justice. Their site director can be reached by calling 434-8844. The advantage of attending on-base schools is the customer service and individualized attention during the application, advising and enrollment processes. On base school advisors can also assist in helping members determine which of their courses will transfer into the members degree granting institutions.

Airmen also have what's known as Tuition Assistance and testing to aid them in degree completion. TA is currently set at no more than \$250 per semester hour, not to exceed \$4,500 per fiscal year. For a baccalaureate degree, this equates to approximately \$15,000 without utilizing Veteran Affairs benefits. East Mississippi Community College and Saint Leo University both accept CLEP and DSST exams toward degree requirements. Testing saves the

Education is a key component of developing our Air Force. All airmen are expected to develop their skills and pursue self-development opportunities; one way to do this is by pursuing an advanced academic degree through voluntary off-duty education.

member time and text book costs, while saving the Department of Defense \$645.00 per three-hour course. Utilizing TA while on active duty also saves your VA benefits for post-service educational opportunities.

We are fortunate to have an on-base National Test Center operated by Saint Leo University. The NTC opened in June 2014, and prior to this, Team BLAZE members had to travel to Mississippi State University to take a CLEP Exam or Meridian to take a DSST Exam. College level testing can save tuition funds and

travel costs. By utilizing our on-base National Test Center, you can take a CLEP or DSST exam for \$105 each with the first exam at no cost for active duty, guard, and reserve personnel. Average tuition at our two local state universities is \$823.50 per three semester hour course or \$432 at East Mississippi Community College. This equates to a significant amount of savings.

Now is the time to take advantage of TA, CLEP, and DSST exams to complete your degree. Please visit the two on-base schools or the education center for academic advising.



Harriett Drummond, Assistant Academic Advisor, hands college brochures to an Airman seeking education opportunities at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Saint Leo University offers the Bachelor of Science Degree in Technology Management and Criminal Justice. Their site director can be reached by calling 434-8844. East Mississippi Community College offers the Associate of Arts in General Studies, and their Site Director can be reached by calling 434-2600.