

Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain
High 85°F Low 50°F	High 81°F Low 54°F	High 77°F Low 55°F

News Briefs

Wing Commander's Calls

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, is hosting three commander's calls Oct. 29 in the Kaye Auditorium. The calls are scheduled for 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. for Team BLAZE personnel.

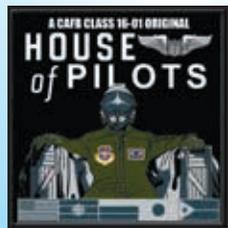
Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony

The third Quarterly Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Enlisted Promotions Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 16-01 graduates today at 10 a.m. in the Kaye Auditorium.

14th FTW aircraft fly dissimilar formation



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile

On Oct. 1, 2015, an aircraft from each of the 14th Flying Training Wing flying squadrons were represented in a dissimilar formation above Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The T-1A Jayhawk from the 48th Flying Training Squadron led the formation with two T-38C Talon aircraft from the 50th Flying Training Squadron and 49th Fighter Training Squadron, two T-6A Texan II aircraft from the 37th Flying Training Squadron and the 41st Flying Training Squadron, and the 14th FTW's newest addition, the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft from the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, Columbus AFB's geographically separated squadron. The formation flight was performed to showcase the capability of Columbus' aircraft to incorporate the A-29 into a formation of six aircraft.

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 (16-11)	0.57 days	0.65 days	Dec. 14	48th (16-01)	0.00 days	2.40 days	Oct. 23	49th (16-BBC)	7.99 days	4.95 days	Nov. 18	T-6	1,922	2,050	2,050
41st (16-10)	3.28 days	3.08 days	Nov. 17	50th (16-01)	-1.35 days	0.60 days	Oct. 23					T-1	644	608	608
												T-38	588	637	637
												IFF	280	314	314

The graduation speaker is Col. Jerome Hayes, Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Division Chief, Air Force Senate Liaison Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

****Flu Vaccine Notice****

Presently we are experiencing delivery delays in our shipment of Flu Vaccine.

We ask for and appreciate your patience.

Currently, our priority is focused on our High-Risk patients who include:

Children under the age of 5

Women who are pregnant or planning on being pregnant

Patients over the age of 50

Adults & children who have the following disorders:

- Pulmonary (including asthma)
- Metabolic (including diabetes)
- Cardiovascular
- Renal
- Hepatic
- Neurologic
- Hematologic

Individuals with immunosuppression

-including those caused by medications or HIV infection

Deployers

Personnel PCSing before December 30, 2015

Thank you for understanding and your gracious support.

We will notify all once our shipment arrives.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
26 Hunter Safety Class, 6 p.m. @ Phillips	27	28	29 Wing Commander's Calls, 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. @ Kaye Dorm Dinner/Halloween Party, time TBD @ Village	30 Third Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 2 p.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Kaye	31/1 31st: Zombie Run, 10 a.m. @ Near Fire Station 31st: Halloween Trick or Treat, 6-8 p.m. @ Base housing 1st: Daylight Savings Time Ends	Nov. 11: Veterans Day Nov. 11: Tupelo Veteran's Day Celebration Nov. 12: International Spouses Luncheon Nov. 17: Newcomers Orientation Brief Nov. 18: IFF 16-BBC graduation Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Holiday
2	3	4	5 F-22 Brief/Static Display, 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. @ Phillips	6	7/8 7th: Veteran's Day Parade, 10 a.m. @ Main Street 7th: Veteran's Day Ceremony, 11 a.m. @ Court-house	Nov. 27: AETC Family Day Dec. 1-3: 19th AF/CC visit Dec. 15: Newcomers Orientation Brief Dec. 18: SUPT Class 16-03 graduation Dec. 24: AETC Family Day Dec. 25: Christmas Holiday Dec. 31: AETC Family Day Jan. 1: New Year's Holiday

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

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Oct. 23
The Sickey Smiley Block Party featuring MC Lyte, Tank, Doug E. Fresh and Karen Brown begins at 7 p.m. at the Bancorp South Arena, Tupelo, Mississippi. Tickets are \$33 - \$63 plus applicable fees.

Oct. 24
The Ha-Ha-Larious Comedy Show is scheduled at 7 p.m. at The Southern. Tickets are \$15, and can be purchase from Eventbrite.com. Ticket includes cheese, wine, and a show.

Oct. 28
The Children's fair fundraiser is scheduled to be held at the Courtyard Columbus. Entry fee is \$3 and features games, booths, a cupcake walk, and hotdogs/burgers for a small price.

All proceeds benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Oct. 30, 31
The Columbus Police Department is hosting a Haunted House at 6 p.m. at the Trotter Convention Center. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and proceeds benefit injured local policemen as well as the Firefighter's Scholarship & Disability Fund. They are also looking for volunteers to help provide scares. For more information, contact by email at rsanders@columbusms.org.

Nov. 5 - 8
Disney On Ice presents "Let's Celebrate" at the Bancorp South Arena, Tupelo, Mississippi; show times vary. Tickets are \$52 VIP Rinkside, \$37 VIP Risers, \$27 Upper level/Children 2-12 \$12, and Upper Side Level \$17/Children 2-12 \$12.

Nov. 7
The Columbus Veterans Day Parade is free and open to the public. The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the Columbus Municipal Complex and marches down Main Street, ending at the Court House. The wreath laying ceremony begins at 11 a.m. at the Lowndes County Courthouse. Col. John Nichols, Commander 14th Flying Training Wing, will be the keynote speaker for the event which contains a T-38 flyover.

Nov. 11
A Veterans Day ceremony and F-105 dedication begins at 9 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park in Tupelo, Mississippi. The rain location is at the Tupelo Aquatic Center.

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.

Transportation

For Sale: 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid, 138K miles, silver w/gray leather interior, new tires and meticulously maintained. Asking \$6,000 or best offer. For more information please call 386-9100.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: IBM T61 Laptop, Intel 2.10ghz central processing unit, Windows XP operating system, 80 GB hard drive, 2 GB Ram, Wi-Fi, USB, CDRW/DVD, very good condition, \$135 or best offer. C-Spire Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphone, excellent condition, \$175. C-Spire Samsung Galaxy S3 smartphone, excellent condition, \$120. Call 386-6981 if interested.

Intel 2.10ghz central processing unit, Windows XP operating system, 80 GB hard drive, 2 GB Ram, Wi-Fi, USB, CDRW/DVD, very good condition, \$135 or best offer. C-Spire Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphone, excellent condition, \$175. C-Spire Samsung Galaxy S3 smartphone, excellent condition, \$120. Call 386-6981 if interested.

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.

Airmen in C-130 crash identified, memorialized

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Several Air Force members mourn the loss of six Airmen who died Oct. 2 when their C-130J Super Hercules crashed shortly after takeoff from Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan. One of the six Airmen assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing who died was Capt. Jordan Pierson, a Columbus Air Force Base Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training graduate from Class 12-07. The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing held a morning fallen comrade ceremony Oct. 3 to honor the Airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice while doing their duty on the combat frontier and to allow their wingmen to pay their respects and mourn their loss. In addition to Pierson, the fallen Airmen include Capt. Jonathan Golden, Staff Sgt. Ryan Hammond, Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris, Senior Airman Nathan Sartain and Airman 1st Class Kcey Ruiz. Lt. Col. Mitchell Spillers, the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, offered condolences and a message to support those grieving, while reminding all to stay focused on the mission at hand to honor the sacrifices of the lost Airmen.

"We've taken a blow, but I'm proud of the way we've come together and supported each other. That must continue," Spillers said. "We're a tactical airlift unit that provides a lifeline to our forces (that no one) else can. Our mission will continue and we must carry on. Jordan, JJ, Ryan and JH all loved what we do, and would expect nothing less." Maj. Met Berisha, the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander, echoed that the fallen Airmen loved what they did, and added they did their duty without regard for their own safety to deliver airpower capabilities here. He emphasized that Airmen must stay strong and continue the mission. "We must mount up and get back to our posts, get back to our patrols, and get back in those aircraft and continue to do what we do best: project combat airpower for our nation," Berisha said. "We all know deep in our hearts, defenders, that's exactly what Sartain and Ruiz would have wanted." (Editors note: Information from a 455th Air Expeditionary Wing article contributed to this story. Capt. Jordan Pierson is scheduled to have his name added to the memorial wall at Smith Plaza on Memorial Day.)



Courtesy photo
Capt. Jordan Pierson, Columbus Air Force Base Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-07 graduate and 48th Flying Training Squadron T-1 instructor pilot, pauses for a photo after graduation at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Pierson was one of six Airmen who died Oct. 2 when their C-130J Super Hercules crashed shortly after takeoff from Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan.

2015 Intramural Flag Football Standings

#	Teams	Wins	Losses	Ties	Forfeits	Total Games Played	%	Offensive Points Scored	Defensive Points Allowed	Offensive Avg. Points Scored / Per Gm.	Defensive Avg. Points Allowed / Per Gm.	Point Diff.
1	Rapcon	4	0	1		5	0.800	149	40	29.80	8.00	109
2	48th	3	0	1		4	0.750	99	48	24.75	12.00	51
3	49th/50th	3	1	1		5	0.600	118	93	23.60	18.60	25
4	CS/CE	3	2	0		5	0.600	103	85	20.60	17.00	18
5	37th/41st	2	2	1		5	0.400	111	84	22.20	16.80	27
6	STUS	2	3	0		5	0.400	114	106	22.80	21.20	8
7	Tower	1	4	0		5	0.200	64	141	12.80	28.20	-77
8	MDG	0	3	1		4	0.000	33	89	8.25	22.25	-56
9	FSS/CPTS	0	3	1		4	0.000	50	154	12.50	38.50	-104

**Two forfeits = elimination from the league

1 Forfeit
2 Forfeits



Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil



Informational Webinar for The UPS Store Franchise Opportunities in Mississippi.

Date: Thursday, October 29
Time: 9:00 am CST

Call Jessica, your Area Sales Representative,
for webinar details. 334.799.4564

GOOD LUCK TO BOTH TEAMS!

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Columbus AFB dental, medical services under one roof

14th Medical Group

On Oct. 29, all departments of the 14th Medical Group will begin moving into the newly renovated Koritz Clinic here.

Only the affected departments will be closed during the move. Departments already located in the new facility will remain open, to include the Pharmacy and Primary Care.

The Dental, Mental Health and Physical Therapy Clinics will block their schedules for the move starting Oct. 29 and will reopen along with all the other affected areas Nov. 2 at their regular business hours. Signs will be posted at the old facilities regarding the move dates and a map with the new layout identifying key department areas.

Once all departments have moved into the new facility, the old Dental Clinic and temporary facilities will be demolished and the sites restored to their original state. Although the majority of the move will occur

over the weekend, please note there will be some minor repairs within the main Koritz Clinic Building as the contractor completes all requirements to ensure our patients' and staff safety.

Other than Dental, Mental Health and Physical Therapy clinics, the TRICARE Service Center, Referrals Management, Bio-Environmental Engineering, Command Section and all support services will be located in the two-story portion of the building. Please note all dental services will be located on the second floor, accessible by elevator or stairs. With this final move, patrons will now be able to enjoy both medical and dental services offered on base within one single building.

Design for the newly remodeled clinic started in the Fall of 2012 and just three years later in the Fall of 2015 it will be complete. The members of the 14th MDG would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding throughout the project.



Courtesy photo

The Dental Clinic and several other 14th Medical Group organizations are moving to the Koritz Clinic as of Oct. 29. The clinics will block their schedules for the move starting Oct. 29 and will reopen along with all the other affected areas Nov. 2 at their regular business hours.

Parrish receives 30-year pin for service



U.S. Air Force photo/Richard Johnson

Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, presents Johanna Parrish with a certificate Oct. 14 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The certificate recognized her 30 years of service to the government.



MSG HAUNTED HALLS!

(Not too scary—family friendly...bring the kids!)

4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28

14th Mission Support Group (Bldg 730)

The fun begins in the first floor main lobby and tours throughout the building

Final Event will be the CFC Pie in the Face

5 p.m. in the main lobby



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.

'A blood transfusion saved my life'

Staff Sgt. Debbie Lockhart

50th Space Wing Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Many children dream of taking a trip to Disneyland, and in 2001, 1st Lt. Fanita Schmidt's family set off to make it a reality.

But the family's dream suddenly turned into a nightmare when Arizona winds blew their minivan off the road, causing the vehicle to roll down a hill.

"I lost my brother that day," said Schmidt, a 4th Space Operations Squadron orbital analysis engineer. "My sister's knee cap was sliced off, my father's ribs broke ... everyone was hurt."

Schmidt was immediately knocked unconscious. She suffered six broken bones above the hip and lost a large amount of blood.

"Because I passed out, I wasn't able to control my body, which is why I had so many more injuries than the others," she said.

Due to the extent of her injuries, Schmidt was airlifted to a hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she could be properly cared for. Her outlook was grim at the time, she said, but doctors knew what they needed to save her life: blood.

"I was told I had less than a few hours to get a blood transfusion so that I could live," Schmidt said. "If that wasn't available to me, I would've died."

Schmidt received a blood transfusion that helped save her life, and now, 14 years later, she said she pays it forward by donating blood every chance she gets.

"I try to go to all the blood drives I can," she said. "I've even stopped myself from getting tattoos so I am actually able to donate."

According to the Red Cross, "although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do each year."

Schmidt encourages everyone who is physically able to donate blood.

"I do understand that it is a scary process for a lot of people to actually sit in that chair, have a needle put in and feel like a part of you is draining out, but you have to understand that it just takes a small part of you to



U.S. Air Force photo/Christopher DeWitt

1st Lt. Fanita Schmidt, a 4th Space Operations Squadron orbital analysis engineer, donates blood at the 3rd annual blood drive hosted by the 21st Medical Dental Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Oct. 6, 2015. Schmidt explained her decision to donate was based on personal experiences from her childhood, when she received a blood transfusion after a devastating car wreck.

make a whole of someone else," she said.

The Red Cross says one pint of blood is taken during a blood donation, which can save up to three lives.

"I was a child when a blood transfusion saved my life, and look where I am now," Schmidt said.

Schmidt insists that all it takes is time and courage to become someone's hero — something she learned by watching her father.

"My father graduated from the first class of the Air Force Academy in 1959," she said.

"He was a fighter pilot and he actually saved a lot of peoples' lives — maybe not by donating blood — but he earned four Distinguished Flying Crosses, so he's a true hero."

Her father's legacy inspired her to follow in his footsteps and serve in the Air Force, she said.

"If you have the physical, mental and psychological capability to serve and help others, then why not do it?" she asked. "And that correlates to donating blood — I really do believe that even if you don't get the

chance to go into a cockpit, you can still save someone's life."

Donating blood is a safe process and typically takes about 10 minutes, according to the Red Cross.

"We couldn't save lives without our donors," said Army Lt. Col. Jason Corley, the Armed Services Blood Program deputy director of operations. "As a program, we have saved thousands of lives this year and that happened because of our donors' support. They are the silent heroes."

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

Obama adjusts troop levels for continuing Afghanistan mission

Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced at the White House Oct. 15, that he will keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan through 2016 and a lesser number into 2017 to sustain coalition efforts to train and strengthen Afghan forces.

Joining Obama at the podium were Vice President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As part of a four-step plan that he said would best ensure lasting progress in Afghanistan, Obama said he would maintain the current posture of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of 2016.

Rather than reduce troop levels to a normal embassy presence in Kabul by the end of 2016, Obama said the U.S. will maintain 5,500 troops and a small number of bases, including at Bagram Airfield and Jalalabad Airfield in the east and Kandahar in the south.

The mission in Afghanistan will not change, the president said.

Critical missions

“Our forces ... will remain engaged in two narrow, but critical, missions,” the president said, “training Afghan forces and supporting counterterrorist operations against the remnants of al-Qaida.”

Obama said he decided on new troop levels after a request in March by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for continued support and following consultations with his national security team, international partners and members of Congress, and with Ghani and Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

“America’s combat mission in Afghanistan is over, but the commitment to Afghanistan and its people endures,” Obama said.

The final parts of Obama’s plan are to work with allies and partners to align the U.S. plan with their own presence in Afghanistan after 2016, and to continue to support Ghani and the national unity government as they pursue critical reforms.

“In Afghanistan,” Obama said, “we are part of a 42-nation coalition, and our NATO allies and partners can continue to play an indispensable role in helping Afghanistan strengthen its security forces, including respect for human rights.”

Delivering progress

In an Oct. 14 conversation with Ghani and Abdullah, Obama said he told the Afghan leaders that their efforts to deliver progress



DoD photo/U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

Defense Secretary Ash Carter speaks with reporters during a Pentagon press briefing about the U.S. troop posture in Afghanistan Oct. 15, 2015.

and justice for the Afghan people will continue to have strong U.S. support. They also discussed American support of an Afghan-led reconciliation process, he added.

Said sanctuaries for the Taliban and other terrorists must end, the president said.

“Next week, I’ll host Prime Minister (Nawaz) Sharif of Pakistan,” Obama continued, “and I will continue to urge all parties in the region to press the Taliban to return to peace talks and to do their part in pursuit of the peace that Afghans deserve.”

Carter said Afghan forces have proven themselves capable and resilient fighters who can provide security for their nation.

Difficult fight

“They have performed admirably this fighting season, the first for which the responsibility to fight the Taliban has fallen squarely on their shoulders,” the defense secretary said. “But Taliban advances in parts of the country underscore the reality that this is and remains a difficult fight.”

Afghanistan still needs help, he continued, and through NATO’s Resolute Support mission, the Defense Department is working closely with the Afghan national defense and

security forces and the country’s security ministries to ensure they’re prepared to protect the Afghan people and set conditions for stability in the region.

“This extends beyond our U.S. military presence and includes the important financial commitments we will need to make in support of the Afghan security forces,” Carter said.

The U.S. military’s presence and financial sustainment will send a strong message to the international community that the U.S. is committed to Afghanistan and is intent on fostering long-term stability, he added.

U.S. commitment

“We anticipate that the U.S. commitment will in turn garner the commitment of other members of the coalition that U.S. forces have operated with,” Carter said. “I have already initiated consultations with key allies to secure their continued support for this mission.”

Over time, he added, “we will reduce our footprint in Afghanistan, but not our commitment to the country and its people.”

In a statement from Kabul, Army Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of U.S.

forces in Afghanistan, said Obama’s decision “provides us the ability to further develop a lasting strategic relationship with our Afghan partners, and allows us to counter the rise of violent extremism in a volatile part of the world.”

He added, “Our continued efforts to stabilize Afghanistan will benefit the entire region and in turn offer greater security for the U.S. homeland and Americans abroad and at home.”

Vital mission

Before Obama left the podium, he spoke directly to the Afghan people, to the men and women in uniform and to the American people.

To U.S. service members, the president said he doesn’t send them into harm’s way lightly.

“It’s the most solemn decision that I make,” Obama said. “I know the wages of war in the wounded warriors I visit in the hospital and in the grief of Gold Star families. But as your commander in chief, I believe this mission is vital to our national security interests in preventing terrorist attacks against our citizens and our nation.”

In-Service Recruiter visits Columbus AFB



(U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)

Master Sgt. Dustin Ballingham, In-Service Recruiter, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Oct. 14-15 to brief on the Air Force Reserve and the Palace Chase/Front programs. Ballingham touched on the different ways to join the Air Force Reserve, the benefits and lifestyles as a Reservist, the opportunities to cross train or change location and the programs for serving in the Reserves.

2015 COLUMBUS VETERANS’ DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY



In honor of those who have fought for our freedom

Saturday, 7 November 2015

Parade begins at 10 a.m.

at Columbus Municipal Complex (1501 Main Street)

and proceeds down Main Street

Join us at 11 a.m. for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Lowndes County Court House (502 2nd Ave N)

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.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amanda Grabiec

An E-3 Sentry from the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron takes off from Kadena Air Base, Japan, June 25. The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft that provides all-weather surveillance, command, control and communications needed by commanders of U.S., NATO and other allied air defense forces.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John McDowell

An E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, flies a mission. The E-3 Sentry is a modified Boeing 707/320 commercial airframe with a rotating radar dome.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-3 Sentry (AWACS)

Mission

The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft with an integrated command and control battle management, or C2BM, surveillance, target detection, and tracking platform. The aircraft provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center. AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an area of responsibility, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

Features

As an air defense system, E-3s can detect, identify and track airborne enemy forces far from the boundaries of the United States or NATO countries. It can direct fighter-interceptor aircraft to these enemy targets. Experience has proven that the E-3 Sentry can respond quickly and effectively to a crisis and support worldwide military deployment operations.

AWACS may be employed alone or horizontally integrated in combination with other C2BM and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance elements of the Theater Air Control System. It supports decentralized execution of the air tasking order/air combat order. The system provides the ability to find, fix, track and target airborne or maritime threats and to detect, locate and ID emitters. It has the ability to detect threats and control assets below and beyond the coverage of ground-based command and control or C2, and can exchange data with other C2 systems and shooters via datalinks.

tem, the Sentry has a greater chance of surviving in warfare than a fixed, ground-based radar system. Among other things, the Sentry's flight path can quickly be changed according to mission and survival requirements. The E-3 can fly a mission profile approximately 8 hours without refueling. Its range and on-station time can be increased through in-flight refueling and the use of an on-board crew rest area.

Background

There are 31 aircraft in the U.S. inventory. Air Combat Command has 27 E-3s at Tinker. Pacific Air Forces has four E-3 Sentries at Kadena AB, Japan and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

As proven in operations Desert Storm, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector the E-3 Sentry is the world's premier C2BM aircraft. AWACS aircraft and crews were instrumental to the successful completion of operations Northern and Southern Watch, and are still engaged in operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. They provide radar surveillance and control in addition to providing senior leadership with time-critical information on the actions of enemy forces. The E-3 has also been deployed to support humanitarian relief operations in the U.S. following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, coordinating rescue efforts between military and civilian authorities.

The data collection capability of the E-3 radar and computer subsystems allowed an entire air war to be recorded for the first time in the history of aerial warfare.

In March 1996, the Air Force activated the 513th Air Control Group, an AWACS Reserve Associate Program unit which performs duties on active-duty aircraft.

through the Radar System Improvement Program. RSIP is a joint U.S./NATO development program that involved a major hardware and software intensive modification to the existing radar system. Installation of RSIP enhanced the operational capability of the E-3 radar electronic counter-measures and has improved the system's reliability, maintainability and availability.

General characteristics

- Primary function:** airborne battle management, command and control
- Contractor:** Boeing Aerospace Co.
- Power plant:** four Pratt and Whitney TF33-PW-100A turbofan engines
- Thrust:** 20,500 pounds each engine at sea level
- Rotodome:** 30 feet in diameter (9.1 meters), 6 feet thick (1.8 meters), mounted 11 feet (3.33 meters) above fuselage
- Wingspan:** 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters)
- Length:** 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters)
- Height:** 41 feet, 9 inches (13 meters)
- Weight:** 205,000 pounds (zero fuel) (92,986 kilograms)
- Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 325,000 pounds (147,418 kilograms)
- Fuel Capacity:** 21,000 gallons (79,494 liters)
- Speed:** optimum cruise 360 mph (Mach 0.48)
- Range:** more than 5,000 nautical miles (9,250 kilometers)
- Ceiling:** Above 29,000 feet (8,788 meters)
- Crew:** flight crew of four plus mission crew of 13-19 specialists (mission crew size varies according to mission)
- Unit Cost:** \$270 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
- Initial operating capability:** April 1978
- Inventory:** active force, 32 (one test); Reserve, 0; Guard, 0

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.)

Medical Coding

The Medical Coding Class is conducted by EMCC Workforce Development and starts Oct. 27 and meets twice a week for four weeks on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6 - 9 p.m. The Class is free but purchase of a binder is required for \$75. For more information call 434-2790, seats are limited.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Nov. 2 to Nov. 6. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has Seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. It is recommended that Airmen eight to 12 months prior to separation/retirement attend this workshop. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register call 434-2839.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held Nov. 9 - 10, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participants to make, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is Nov. 10, 9 - 10:30 a.m. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs, Call 434-2790 to register.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held, Nov. 12 - 13, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., The Entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Pre-separation Counseling

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

Volunteers support Youth Center renovations



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

Volunteers from the 14th Student Squadron help move furniture Oct. 22 at the Youth Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The volunteers moved the furniture so the youth center could renovate the rooms with new paint and carpet. The Youth Center is undergoing several renovations. Renovations are scheduled to be complete by mid-December. For more information, contact 434-2504.

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 marital 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

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.

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.

Starting Sept. 23, the Chapel is offering the following weekly programs:

- 6 p.m. - AWANA, a religious education program for children ages three years old to 6th grade
- 6 p.m. - Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John
- 6 p.m. - Youth Group

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
- Wednesday:** 11:30-12:30 p.m. - Holy Hour

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

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.

Thursday Night Football

The Bowling Center will offer NFL games on Thursday nights at 7:25 p.m. Catch all the action Oct. 29 Miami Dolphins vs. New England Patriots. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is a free event. No bowling will be available during football games. The Bowling Center closes at 2 p.m. on game day and re-opens at 6:30 p.m. You could win a \$50 FSS Gift Card at each game and enter to win tickets to a regular season NFL game of your choice. Catch the action at the Bowling Center and have a chance to win big. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Introduction to Woodworking

Arts and Crafts will offer an Introduction to Woodworking class from 10 a.m. – noon Oct. 24. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, contact 434-7836.

Free Ant-Man Movie

Enjoy a free movie at the Bowling Center on Oct. 24. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Ant-Man movie at 6 p.m. Drink and food specials available. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Ladies Night Out

The Golf Course will offer a free movie “Magic Mike XXL” at 6 p.m. Oct. 30. Margaritas and food will be available for purchase. Sign up by Oct. 29. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Halloween Teen Lock-In

The Youth Center is offering a Teen Lock-In at 8 p.m. Oct. 30 until 7 a.m. Oct. 31. The cost is \$15 per teen ages 12-18. Enjoy fun and spooky games, speakers and great food all night. Must have 12 registered to offer. Sign up by Oct. 26. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Annual 5K Zombie Run

The Fitness Center is offering the Annual 5K Zombie Run Oct. 31 at the graveyard on Independence Avenue. Check in at 9 a.m.; run at 10 a.m. All paid participants receive a medal, T-shirt and food. The cost is \$20 for single Airmen and \$25 for active-duty military and DoD employees. The cost to the public is \$35 per person or \$25 each for teams of four or more; register at active.com. For rates for kids or more information, contact 434-2772.

November FootGolf Special

Come kick with Whispering Pines Golf Course every Sunday in November. Special includes nine holes of FootGolf

Columbus Air Force Base Third Annual 5K ZOMBIE RUN
Open to the Public

ATTENTION
New Information!

\$35 Civilians
\$25 Military ID Holders
\$20 Single Airmen
\$20 Kids (5-11)

October 31 Check-in 9am
Race start 10am
at the graveyard on Independence Ave
across from the Fire Station

Civilians without base access can register for \$35 at Active.com no later than **October 23** (no registration accepted after this date). Individuals with base access (Military, CAC, Sponsor ID, etc.) can register for \$25 at the Fitness Center until **October 30**. Single Airmen cost is \$20 at the Fitness Center. All kids (civilian & military) ages 5-11 may register for the 1 mile run for \$20. Medal, t-shirt, & food to all paid participants.

For More Information (662) 434-2772

with a hamburger and drink for only \$7.50 per person. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Dodgeball Tournament

The Fitness Center is offering a Dodgeball Tournament at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 10. To sign up or for more information, contact 434-2772.

Veterans Day Golf Special

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a Veterans Day golf special Nov. 11. The cost is only \$15 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, hamburger and a drink. No rain checks. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Free Lunch for Veterans

Whispering Pines Golf Course is honoring Veterans Day Nov. 11. All veterans enjoy free hamburgers on the patio from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., while supplies last. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Youth Center Renovation

The Youth Center will undergo several renovations. The Youth Center staff will work to keep you informed of any updates or changes. Renovations scheduled to be completed by mid-December. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Referees Needed

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

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.

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.

October is
Depression
Awareness
Month

DEPRESSION SUPPORT INITIATIVES

AIR FORCE MEDICINE
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A tradition of excellence: The more things change, the more things stay the same**Lt. Col. Charles “Spanky” Gilliam**

14th Student Squadron Director of Operations

As I returned to Columbus Air Force Base after leaving in January 2005, I was surprised by the amount of change and growth in the area.

I was equally surprised by which businesses still remained. The Little Kitchen, Harvey's, Ruben's Fish and Steakhouse, the Leigh Mall and many others provide a welcoming quality of life unique to Columbus, Mississippi. While many of the “new” businesses may not be “new” to you and your family, the growth was evident as I drove into town this summer.

Columbus now has a MALCO Theater, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chick-Fil-A, Cracker Barrel and Krispy Kreme. Yes, Columbus, Mississippi, has changed and so has life here on the base.

The unique sound of the mighty T-37 Tweet has been replaced by the much quieter, more powerful T-6 Texan. I quickly noticed some Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students at Columbus AFB wearing unusual hats, distinctive insignia, and a unique flag patch on their shoulder. That's because the number of international students trained on base has increased drastically since I left in 2005. Despite the changes, Team BLAZE continues to exude excellence in every aspect of life at Columbus AFB.

The BLAZE spirit permeates all facets of the mission at Columbus AFB. We continue to “Build Leaders, Advancing Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do” as we produce pilots, advance airmen, and feed the fight.

Compared to other SUPT bases, Team BLAZE trains more pilots for the Air Force than any other. There is a graduation every three weeks. During this ceremony, the graduates celebrate the completion of one of the most challenging training programs in the Air Force. It is a wonderful sight to watch.

What really struck me was the number of pilots graduating. In fact, our wing here will graduate over 300 pilots this year from SUPT and an additional 50 international students. That's a staggering number to me given the conflicts we find ourselves in currently, and the fact that many of these new pilots could find themselves in harm's way shortly after leaving.

The SUPT program requires time, dedication and hard work. It is not for the weak or faint of heart. I am still amazed that we continue to produce one-third of the nation's pilots while also mentoring them as future officers and leaders in our Air Force. The program output remains the same — prepare the student for success in follow-on training and leadership in our Air Force. If you need a shining example of hope, or if you need a pick-me-up, or are unsure about the future of our great Air Force, attend one of the graduations every three weeks. The ceremony will inspire you and give you assurance our nation is in very bright and capable hands.

BLAZE excellence is not only evident at the graduation ceremonies, but I've noticed it as I completed my in-process-

ing checklist around base. I saw many friends and familiar faces around base from my time as a student and first assignment instructor pilot between 2001-2005. The Military Personnel Flight handled my transition to Columbus with professional grace sprinkled with Southern hospitality. Old colleagues, who once wore the uniform, now serve as civilians providing unmatched service for so many.

From finance, to the club, the medical group providers, the transportation management office and countless others, I truly appreciated the seamless transition to becoming one of the newest members of Team BLAZE. Every civilian, military and contract professional made me feel welcomed.

Here, I was not just another number or a warm body entering an office for service. I was treated with the same level of professional courtesy and respect I received as a first assignment instructor pilot trying to find my way in the Air Force as I honed my skills as a T-1 Jayhawk instructor. The spirit of Team BLAZE has not changed in over ten years. The tradition of service and excellence continued well after my base in-processing was complete.

During my short time at Columbus AFB I've enjoyed the privilege of flying my theater indoctrination sorties with several instructor pilots from the 48th Flying Training Squadron. Theater indoctrination is designed to introduce new pilot instructor training graduates to the Columbus AFB local operating area, executing the SUPT syllabus, and flying with student pilots.

During my TI sorties, I had the opportunity to fly with young first assignment instructors, seasoned reservists, and other T-1A Jayhawk instructors from a variety of major weapon systems aircraft from across the inventory. These instructors thoroughly impressed me with their willingness to work hard to overcome the challenges inherent with training new instructors.

Each of these officers has a unique story and represents the best and brightest in Air Education and Training Command. The flights were not only conducted in a professional manner, but each instructor took the opportunity to get to know me personally. They went out of their way to provide first-class service to me as I became reacquainted with local flying procedures at Columbus AFB.

Many of these professional aviators will one day hold high positions within our nation's military, government or civil aviation industry. I count it my honor and privilege to have flown with them. The excellent service provided to me during my indoctrination represents the best that Team BLAZE instructors have to offer.

Excellence was the standard when I left in 2005 and that tradition continues in 2015. I am proud to return to Team BLAZE. We still produce pilots, darn good pilots who will serve our nation and our partners. BLAZE professionals throughout the installation continue to welcome new members and provide an unmatched level of service. I hope to once again add to this tradition of excellence as we accomplish the mission together.



T-1A Jayhawk

SUPT Class 16-01 earns silver wings



T-38C Talon



Capt. Craig Clark
Reading, England
B-52, Barksdale AFB, La.



Capt. Ronald Johnson
Fayetteville, N.C.
C-17, Charleston AFB, N.C.



1st Lt. Ramon Kristofer Engay
Tuao, Cagayan, Philippines
TBD

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-01 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Col. Jerome Hayes, Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Division Chief, Air Force Senate Liaison Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, is the graduation guest speaker.

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

2nd Lt. Mark Onorato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Sean O'Donnell, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award is presented to 2nd Lt. Mark Onorato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Joshua Redmon, T-1.

The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

2nd Lt. Mark Onorato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Sean O'Donnell, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 16-01.

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

mation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

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

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

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

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

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 16-01 pilot partners are The Eat With Us Group and BankFirst.



2nd Lt. Jason Cryder
Douglasville, Ga.
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Ryan Day
Harpers Ferry, W.V.
C-17, Martinsburg ANG, W.V.



2nd Lt. Travis Frazier
Blythewood, S.C.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



1st Lt. Ricardo Torres
Plant City, Fla.
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Mohammed Alsharif
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Eurofighter, Saudi Arabia



2nd Lt. Asem Alshehri
Saudi Arabia
GR-4 Tornado, Saudi Arabia



2nd Lt. Tyler Frazier
Charlotte, N.C.
CV-22, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2nd Lt. Daniel Groff
Florence, S.C.
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. Matthew Hardin
Keiser, Ark.
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. David Hunter
Northport, Ala.
E-8, Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Kyle Kryder
Aurora, Colo.
HC-130, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Nabeel Mohammad
Dallas, Texas
KC-135, Andrews AFB, Md.



2nd Lt. Sean O'Donnell
Bethpage, N.Y.
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Mark Onorato
Aurora, Colo.
F-16, Tucson AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Joshua Redmon
Saint George, Utah
C-130H, Delaware ANG, Del.



2nd Lt. Patrick Reven
Lawrenceville, N.J.
T-38, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Jeyson Rincon Vargas
Villavicencio, Colombia
SK-350 Super King Air, CATAM,
Bogota, Colombia



2nd Lt. Christopher Rollins
East Meadow, N.Y.
MQ-9, Creech AFB, Nev.



2nd Lt. Dylan Smith
Holland, Mich.
MQ-9, Creech AFB, Nev.