

Weather



News Briefs

Thanksgiving Holiday

Most Base Organizations are closed Nov. 26 – 27 in observance of Thanksgiving and an Air Education and Training Command family day.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The Base Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for 5:14 p.m. Dec. 3 outside the Chapel.

Blood Drive

A blood drive is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Chapel annex.

Inside



Feature 8

The Military Working Dogs are highlighted in this week's feature.

Columbus AFB wraps up 2015 CFC

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 2015 Columbus Air Force Base Combined Federal Campaign came to a close in true Team BLAZE style Nov. 11.

Team BLAZE pledged \$107,277 for local, national and international charities. The tireless efforts of the squadron keyworkers resulted in the 14th Flying Training Wing exceeding the wing goal of \$88,000.

"Thank you Team BLAZE for another spectacular Combined Federal Campaign," said Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander. "Thanks to your generous donations, the 14th FTW not only met our goal, but exceeded it by over \$19,000! These donations make a huge difference to so many folks, including positive impacts on base and in the local community."

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support humanity through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all, according to the CFC website. The wing campaign stepped up to the plate and executed that mission flawlessly. Most impor-

See CFC, 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 (16-11)	0.69 days	1.22 days	Dec. 14	48th (16-03)	2.92 days	3.22 days	Dec. 14	49th (16-CBC)	2.75 days	1.28 days	Dec. 21	T-6	1,615	1,421	4,287
41st (16-20)	1.28 days	0.56 days	Jan. 20	50th (16-03)	2.04 days	2.60 days	Dec. 14					T-1	473	488	1,378
												T-38	642	477	1,418
												IFF	324	225	639

The graduation speaker is Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 24 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

CFC

(Continued from page 1)

tantly, all federal employees here were given the opportunity to participate, with each unit's CFC keyworkers guaranteeing 100-percent contact.

"Thank you to all who contributed

donations of time and money to make the 2015 Columbus Air Force Base Combined Federal Campaign a Success," said Maj. Neil Gregory, 14th FTW CFC project officer.

For specific local questions, contact Maj. Neil Gregory at 434-7665 or at neil.gregory@us.af.mil.

Education facility closures

Mr. Laurence Brooks

Chief, Education and Training

Team BLAZE, due to manning and the upcoming holiday season, our on-base schools will be closed during the following periods:

Saint Leo University

Nov. 16 – 19, 26 - 27

Dec. 21 – Jan. 1

East Mississippi Community College

Nov. 23 - 27

Dec. 14 – Jan. 1

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
23 Native American Indian Food Tasting, 11 a.m. @ Chapel Annex	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday	27 AETC Family Day	28/29	Dec. 15: Newcomers Orientation Brief Dec. 17: Happy Fund Shop and Wrap Dec. 18: SUPT Class 16-03 graduation Dec. 24: AETC Family Day Dec. 25: Christmas Holiday Dec. 29: CT fly day Dec. 31: AETC Family Day
30 Columbus tree lighting, 5:30 p.m. @ Riverwalk	1	2	3 Base Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:14 p.m. @ Chapel	4 Blood Drive, 9 a.m. @ Chapel Annex Dr. Story Musgrave, NASA Astronaut/pilot visit, 9 a.m., 2 p.m. @ Kaye 16-03 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Kaye	5/6	Jan. 1: New Year's Holiday Jan. 4: Safety Day Jan. 6-7: CSAF All-Call Jan. 22: SUPT Class 16-04 Graduation Jan. 29: Fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony Feb. 5: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation

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.

Nov. 21

A holiday market is from 9 a.m. – noon at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street North in Columbus. The event features a showcase of the best local art, produce and more. For more information, visit www.columbusmainstreet.com.

Nov. 22

The Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome Center is scheduled to have an open house event starting 2 p.m. featuring a book signing and meet and greet with Mississippi State University and NFL Reggie Kelly. Autographed mini-footballs will be given to the first 50 children attending. Free Tasting of Kyvan Products will be available. For more in-

formation, go online to visitcolumbusms.org.

Nov. 28 – Jan. 18

Ice Skating is scheduled throughout December and January located at Bancorpsouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Birthday parties and private parties are welcome with special price ranges. Tables and chairs are provided in a location by the ice rink, and you are able to bring your own food and drink. Individual ticket prices are \$10 and include skate rental. For more information, go online at bcsarena.com.

Nov. 30

The Columbus Tree Lighting and festival is from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the east end of the Old Tombigbee River Bridge in Columbus.

Christmas carols begin at 5:30 p.m. and the tree lighting will take place about 6:15 p.m. The event includes children's take-home crafts, Santa's elves, caroling, cookies and hot chocolate. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Dec. 4

The Historic Downtown Columbus Wassail Fest takes place from 5 – 8 p.m. in downtown Columbus. Sample wassail and enjoy door prizes, special activities and caroling through downtown.

Continue the Wassail Fest fun during Wassail at the W from 8 – 10 p.m. at the Pohl Gymnasium on the MUW Campus. The event includes MUW carolers, tours of Stark Recreation Center, wassail, hot chocolate

and coffee, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

The Mississippi State University vs. Auburn Ice Hockey game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. located at Bancorpsouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. General Admission is \$8 per person. For more information, go online at bcsarena.com.

Dec. 5

The band 3 Doors Down is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. at Horseshoe Casino's Bluesville in Robinsonville, Mississippi. Guests 18 years and under may attend the event with someone 21 years or older. Doors open at 6 p.m. Ticket prices may vary depending on seat, for more information, go online at <https://www.caesars.com/horseshoe-tunica/shows>.

IFF Class 16-BBC graduates from 49th FTS

49th Fighter Training Squadron

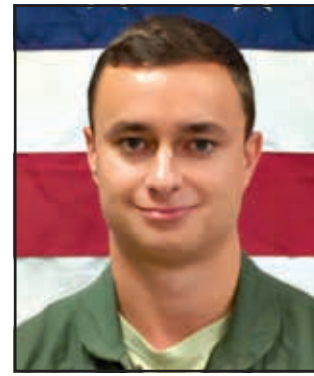
The 49th Fighter Training Squadron will graduate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Class 16-BBC Nov. 18.

Five members will graduate this phase of their training on their way to becoming fighter pilots in the Combat Air Forces of the U.S. Air Force.

The 49th FTS is responsible for active duty, guard, reserve and international flying training in the T-38C IFF aircraft. The squadron provides training to fighter pilots and Weapon Systems Officers entering Air Force major fighter weapons systems, which include the A-10C, F-15C, F-15E, F-15S,



2nd Lt. Ahmed Alshamrani
F-15E



1st Lt. Ryan Kunce
F-22



1st Lt. Kyle Nazarek
F-22



1st Lt. Joseph Stephenson
F-22



1st Lt. Zachary Taylor
F-22

F-16 and F-22.

The nine-week course begins with tactical formation flights and then introduces pilots and Weapon Systems Officers to basic fighter

maneuvers and air-to-air employment in offensive, defensive, and high aspect fight scenarios. Wingmen bound for aircraft with an air-to-ground attack capability then

move on to basic surface attack and surface attack tactics phases learning to employ ordnance against ground targets. The skills learned during IFF directly translate to the

fighters these wingmen will fly in their follow-on training and employment in combat.

Congratulations to the following fighter wingmen.

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

Wanted: Looking for old artificial Christmas Trees to recycle and will pick up for free. For more information, call 352-4940.

For Sale: Pearl seven-piece drum kit for sale: \$1,200 or best offer. Comes with a base with double kick pedal, snare and stand, five tom drums, two crash and one ride Zildjian cymbals, high-hat and all stands; drum mufles included. For more information, please call 205-712-0835 or 434-2924.

Visit us
online!
www.columbus.af.mil

RESUME

(Continued from page 14)

official, web-based job board. You can store up to five resumes and 10 candidate documents on the site so they're ready to submit. It's free and available to everyone. There's also a helpful resume builder to take you through each step of the process.

One benefit to adding a current resume to the site is that recruiters can use it to help determine if there are qualified candidates for a job.

Always double check if a resume has been attached to specific job packages.

Also, keep it simple and easy to read, and focus on delivering the most current, best representation of yourself to prospective employers.

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

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Columbus International Spouses Club celebrates culture at annual luncheon



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

Seventy community members and internationally-born military spouses met at Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point, Mississippi, Nov. 12 for the 11th annual Columbus Air Force Base Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the Columbus International Spouses Club, which included socializing, dining and a flamenco demonstration. The Columbus International Spouses' Club was founded in 2004 by Patricia Wilson to create a community for the women who would otherwise feel isolated due to cultural differences.

14 MDG flight commander supports off-base Veterans Day ceremony



Courtesy photo

Jack Cook, Starkville, Mississippi, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5573 Commander, and Maj. Carmella Essien, 14th Medical Group Tricare Operations and Patient Administration Resource Management Flight Commander, stand next to an older uniform following a ceremony dedicated to the 91 men of Oktibbeha County who perished in the line of duty and for all who have and are honorably serving. The Starkville High School Junior ROTC was the Color Guard for the event, which drew an audience of more than 25 veterans.

MSU AFROTC students visit Columbus AFB



Lt. Col. Dan Hingley, 33rd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety and 58th Fighter Squadron Instructor Pilot from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, talks with Mississippi State University ROTC students Nov. 13 at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The MSU ROTC students toured the base to learn about the operational Air Force and various careers available to them as future Airmen.



Capt. Andrew Barstow, 37th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot, and 1st Lt. Jeffrey Leonard, 41st Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot, discuss the T-6 Texan II aircraft's capabilities to a group of Mississippi State University ROTC cadets Nov. 13 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The MSU cadets visited as part of a career day to learn more about the base and future opportunities in the Air Force.

Outlook Anti-Spear Phishing

14th Communication Squadron Focal Point

Phishing is a malicious attempt to gain information such as user-names, passwords, and card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity.

Spear phishing takes this idea further by gathering information about the subject in question such as names, location, career field and using this information to appear even more genuine.

Spear Phishing is one of the most successful techniques used by attackers today and poses a serious threat to the U.S. Air Force and its members.

In order help combat these attacks and protect users, Outlook e-mails will no longer have the ability to open up web pages via hypertext. In order to navigate to web pages all users will have to copy and paste links from the e-mails while validating the link is the correct. While this may be inconvenient, this will prevent users from selecting links accidentally and being redirected to potentially dangerous websites.

Remember to report any phishing/spam/hazardous e-mails sent to your official unit Information Assurance Officer. We appreciate your time and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

HEALTH PROMOTION STEPPIN' THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS 10,000+ STEP PEDOMETER CHALLENGE



Want a fun way to help keep the holiday pounds off?

Get your **FREE** pedometer and start steppin'.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 individuals with the most steps

Contest starts November 23rd and ends January 9th

Please call Health Promotion at 434-1688 or email robert.pagenkopf@us.af.mil to sign up by November 20th and receive your Step Pedometer/Info packet

Sharpening a résumé with purpose, relevance

Jenny Gordon
Robins Air Force Base
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Writing a resume for federal employment consideration doesn't have to be daunting.

In fact, it's about providing an applicant's best qualities when it comes to showcasing workplace responsibilities, education and career accomplishments.

Keeping a current resume has a purpose and several benefits, from being able to respond and apply for an immediate job posting, to staying abreast of job duties and highlighting ongoing significant activities.

"A resume is relevant information to give an employer an understanding of your duties and experience gained over a number of years," said Angelia Solomon, the staffing section chief for the Air Force Personnel Center's operating location at Robins Air Force Base. "It's very important that an applicant be clear and precise with information provided on a resume."

When writing a resume, there are several key pieces of information that should be included when describing work experience and education. There's not a particular desired layout.

Personal information should detail your full name, mailing address and day and evening telephone numbers with area codes.

Social security numbers aren't required, however when completing your total application package, an occupational questionnaire will ask for it, however, it's used for verification purposes only.

On work experience, detailed information should include an employer's name and address, employment dates (from month and year to month and year, or month and year to present) and job title.

This area should include thorough descriptions of all paid and nonpaid positions related to the job for which an applicant is applying as well as descriptions of all duties performed. Copies of job descriptions should not be included.

Other information to include: salary, number of hours worked per week, supervisor's name and phone number, series and pay plan or grade if for a federal position and other accomplishments and related skills.

Education information should include the school or program name and address, type of degree or level attained, completion date with

month and year, major field of study, total credits earned in semester or quarter hours, honors, relevant coursework, licenses and certifications.

Copies of transcripts will be requested as needed.

Other information: job-related training courses with title and year; job-related skills such as languages, computer software and hardware known, tools, machinery, typing speed, etc.; job-related certificates and licenses; and job honors, awards and special accomplishments, to include publications, professional memberships, leadership activities and performance awards.

If applicable, include other languages known, and volunteer experience. References are optional.

Unlike in the private sector, when writing a resume for a federal job, there's no limit to the number of pages you can include. There's also no limit when including work experience.

"There's no one resume," Solomon said. "People may think there's one generic resume when there's not. Each job is different with specialized duties, so you may have to alter your resume just to include what's needed."

All federal positions are posted on usajobs.gov, the federal government's

See RESUME, Page 14

Eglin crew chiefs advance with F-35

Senior Airman Andrea Posey
33rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — As the Air Force continues to develop their newest fighter jet, the F-35 Lightning II, the 33rd Fighter Wing ensures the Airmen tasked with taking care of it receive the training they need to advance with it.

Crew chiefs who have worked alongside the F-35 since its production, have transformed into a new breed of maintainer, capable of navigating the upgrades a fifth-generation fighter jet will go through.

Crew chiefs start early, preparing jets for the first sortie of the day at 7 a.m. Throughout the day, these Airmen maintain the mechanical integrity of the planes before and after sorties. Unlike other maintainers, crew chiefs perform routine and preventative maintenance on the entire aircraft, as opposed to focusing on a particular system or subsystem. On the flightline, it's these Airmen's job to guarantee everything on the aircraft is upheld according to exacting standards to keep pilots safe while flying.

"When I'm out on the flightline, I make sure I know — confidently — the jet is going to come back," said Airman 1st Class Emily Peil, a 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "(The pilot) takes the chance and trusts me to get them back. It is a necessity we don't lose jets out in the field."

Crew chiefs at the 33rd FW were introduced to the F-35 in 2011 and have worked with the jet's development to train on the technological advancements the fifth-generation fighter offers.

With aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35 provides next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness and reduced vulnerability for the U.S. and its allies, according to the Air Force F-35A factsheet.

The 33rd FW is home to more than 20 F-35A variants with close to 80 crew chiefs to maintain them. Crew chiefs have plenty of opportunities to interact with the new capabilities of these aircraft as the jets participate in more than 65 sorties a week, said Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Edwards, the 58th Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent.

Edwards, who has been in the military for 18 years, 15 of which were in the maintenance career field, has experienced the technological advances from the legacy aircraft to the fifth generation firsthand.

"The technical prowess of the maintainer has advanced alongside the technological advances of the aircraft (itself)," Edwards said. "Our crew chiefs, avionics and weapons personnel work hand in hand to solve complex issues that often cross over from one system to another due to data integration and sensor fusion."

The abilities of the F-35 uncover new territory for crew chiefs at the 33rd FW, empowering them to create guidelines and regulations for future maintainers to follow.

"Technology guidance was not complete when the program started, so we had to fix problems as we met them," said Tech. Sgt. Vicente Martinez, a 33rd AMS training monitor. "In some cases, we write guidelines for the F-35 (or) we run into incorrect guidance and have to stop and fix (it). That process can be frustrating because it's time-consuming, but in the end it's rewarding because it sets us up for the future."

Martinez, a crew chief for 10 years, is also one of the maintainers selected to transition from a legacy aircraft, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, to the F-35.

"The transition was easy because of the previous experience I had," Martinez said. "Most of the concepts are the same."

One difference Martinez noted is the way day-to-day maintenance is carried out. In legacy aircraft, maintainers use visual gauges or other equipment to do inspections and operational checks. On the F-35, an internal computer within the jet performs the majority of these duties.

The computer completes a vehicle system built-in test that tells maintainers if there are malfunctions within the aircraft that require attention.

"(The computer) can tell (us) everything about the jet and help (us) control aspects of (it)," Peil said. "It gives (us) control (we've) never had on jets before."

Unlike Martinez, Peil has no experience with legacy aircraft as she is part of the new generation of crew chiefs that graduate technical school specifically for the F-35. Peil foresees this program enhancing her career.

"I think being a part of (this program) will impact my career in a positive way," Peil said. "The things we're doing now will lead to great things in the future. We work day in and day out and in a few years we will see the impact of all of our work."

The F-35 program has reached many milestones since its creation in 2006 and is scheduled to move to initial operational capability in fall 2016.

Other future plans for this program are to expand its fighter fleet within the U.S. and Italy to around 200 aircraft in one year. Within the next five years, the Air Force plans to have nearly 650 aircraft in the United States, Italy, France, Canada, Turkey, Australia, the United Kingdom and Norway.

"I think the F-35 program has developed a lot since the beginning," Martinez said. "We have been training, growing, developing, hitting milestones and making history. The program will continue to develop in the same manner well into the future."



Airmen assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron recover an EQ-4 Global Hawk at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Nov. 11, 2015. The Global Hawk nicknamed the “workhorse” by local maintainers, completed its 500th sortie on Veterans Day.

Global Hawk reaches new milestone, helps in fight against ISIL

Tech. Sgt. Frank Miller
380th Air Expeditionary Wing

SOUTHWEST ASIA — As the morning sun beat down on its nearly 131-foot wingspan, the EQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned aircraft descended from its 60,000-foot perch for the 500th time, coming to rest at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Nov. 11.

The Veterans Day landing was a historic one for the Global Hawk. It was the first time that a single weapon system reached the 500-sortie milestone, and with nearly 13,000 flight hours logged, this weapon system is living up to the nickname “workhorse.”

“We call this one the workhorse because it’s putting in all the hours,” said Staff Sgt. Bradley, a 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron tactical aircraft maintainer craftsman. “Reaching 500 flights is a pretty big accomplishment, especially for how new the fleet is.”

Battlefield commanders rely upon several different configurations of the Global Hawk to provide the intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities they require.

“These platforms are on both ends of the kill table, from developing targets to enabling strikes through communications they provide,” said Col. John, the 380th Expeditionary Operations Group commander.

Three RQ-4 Global Hawks were converted to an EQ-4 relay configuration carrying the Battlefield Airborne Communication Node (BACN) in 2009 to enhance communications between the operators on the ground and air.

“The EQ-4’s Global Hawk’s primary mission is BACN, which is essentially a cell phone tower in the sky,” said Master Sgt. Matthew, the 380th EAMXS lead production superintendent. “There are three EQ-4s in the world, and they are all located here in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.”

The Global Hawk helps fight the war against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant by enabling U.S. forces on the ground to radio in an airstrike to friendly aircraft by bridging the communication gap from the ground to elevations as high as 60,000 feet.

“When you have guys on the ground fighting the war and

you have the Global Hawk in the air acting as a satellite, it ensures the guys on the ground can talk to the guys in the air,” said Senior Airmen Michael, a 380th EAMXS tactical aircraft maintainer journeyman. “Flying at altitudes of 60,000 feet gives the Global Hawk UAV an added level of security.”

The EQ-4 also provides connectivity between coalition partners, which is vital when attempting to deconflict airspace and prioritize targets on the ground.

“If an (allied F-15 Fighting Falcon) aircraft needed to talk to one of our F-15s, this Global Hawk enables them to do that,” Bradley said. “It will also allow allied troops on the ground to get in touch with our jets.”

Once the Global Hawk’s mission is complete it returns home where maintainers are able to complete ground maintenance within five hours to return the aircraft to mission ready. However, these aircraft are usually able to have a day off in between their 30-plus hour missions.

Editor’s note: Full names are not used in the story to protect the individuals involved.

49th FTS IP turned F-22, F-35 pilot returns to Columbus AFB

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Two F-35A Lightning II aircraft visited Team BLAZE Nov. 13 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Piloting one of the aircraft was Lt. Col. Dan “Freeze” Hingley, 33rd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety and 58th Fighter Squadron Instructor Pilot from Eglin AFB, Florida.

Hingley was a prior 49th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot who was happy to see how things have changed.

“It’s good to see the changes on base and the 49th (FTS),” Hingley said. “I came over here in 2007. I was in the 49th (FTS) teaching Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals for about a year and a half and then I PCS’d to Holloman AFB to fly the F-22(Raptor).”

Hingley explained his development as a pilot going from a training base to flying the U.S. Air Force’s most advanced aircraft.

“I was the first guy to go to the F-22 from a non-radar-equipped fighter at the time,” Hingley said. “The Raptor is an incredible



An F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, sits on the flight-line of Columbus AFB, Mississippi, Nov. 13. Two F-35 aircraft and their pilots visited Columbus to talk about the aircraft’s fighter capabilities with Team BLAZE Airmen and visiting Mississippi State University ROTC students.

platform. I was just excited to be flying it.

“I was at Nellis AFB for my last assignment flying with the 65th Aggressor squad-

ron which closed down. I knew the Air Force was looking for some guys with F-22 experience to fly the F-35 and I was able to get a job

at Eglin AFB.”

The F-35 is the U.S. Air Force’s latest fifth-generation fighter. It will replace the U.S. Air Force’s entire aging fleet of F-15 Eagle, F-15E Strike Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, which have been the primary fighter aircraft for more than 20 years, and bring with it an enhanced capability to survive in the advanced threat environment in which it was designed to operate.

“It’s awesome,” Hingley said. “This is the first time I’ve taken it off station. It feels good to talk to guys going through pilot training and others going through fighter training. The F-35 especially is going to be a growth industry. With jets being produced more and more there is going to be a need for pilots in the next couple of years.”

Hingley wanted to assure pilots, both in training and instructing, the Air Force offers the chance to excel and try out new things like the F-35. His transformation from T-38 to F-22 to F-35 pilot shows Airmen to never give up on reaching for the best.

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.



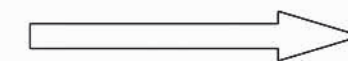
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Contact your Unit Security Manager for more information

FOR TRAINING PURPOSE ONLY

A Command Cyber Readiness Inspection is scheduled Dec. 14-19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.



A KC-135 Stratotanker flies over Mt. Rainier during a mission. The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years.



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

BLAZE Hangar Tails: KC-135 Stratotanker

Mission

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

Background

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

Under another modification program, a re-engined tanker with the TF-33-PW-102 engine was designated the KC-135E. In 2009, the last KC-135E retired from the inventory.

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

an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.

Features

Four turbofans, mounted under 35-degree swept wings, power the KC-135 to takeoffs at gross weights of up to 322,500 pounds. A cargo deck above the refueling system can hold a mixed load of passengers and cargo. Depending on fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo.

Nearly all internal fuel can be pumped through the flying boom, the KC-135's primary fuel transfer method. One crewmember, known as the boom operator, is stationed in the rear of the plane and controls the boom during in-flight air refueling.

A special shuttlecock-shaped drogue attached to and trailing behind the flying boom may be used to refuel aircraft fitted with probes. Some aircraft have been configured with the multipoint refueling system, which consists of special pods mounted on the wingtips. These KC-135s are capable of refueling two receiver aircraft at the same time.

General characteristics

Primary Function: Aerial refueling and airlift
Prime Contractor: The Boeing Company
Power Plant: CFM International CFM-56 turbofan engines

Thrust: 21,634 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 130 feet, 10 inches (39.88 meters)
Length: 136 feet, 3 inches (41.53 meters)
Height: 41 feet, 8 inches (12.7 meters)
Speed: 530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)
Ceiling: 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)
Range: 1,500 miles (2,419 kilometers) with 150,000 pounds (68,039 kilograms) of transfer fuel; ferry mission, up to 11,015 miles (17,766 kilometers)
Maximum Takeoff Weight: 322,500 pounds (146,285 kilograms)
Maximum Transfer Fuel Load: 200,000 pounds (90,719 kilograms)
Maximum Cargo Capability: 83,000 pounds (37,648 kilograms), 37 passengers
Pallet Positions: 6
Crew: Three: pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. Some KC-135 missions require the addition of a navigator. The Air Force has a limited number of navigator suites that can be installed for unique missions.
Aeromedical Evacuation Crew: A basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added for aeromedical evacuation missions. Medical crew may be altered as required by the needs of patients.
Unit Cost: \$39.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Date Deployed: August 1956
Inventory: Active duty, 167; Air National Guard, 180; Air Force Reserve, 67

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.)

Resume and Cover Letter

This workshop, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2, gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and Cover Letters. To sign up call 434-2790.

Bundles of Joy

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

WorkKeys

The tests are scheduled for 9 a.m. - noon Dec. 7, and noon - 3:30 p.m. Dec. 8. EMCC will administer the tests, and each session is limited to eleven seats. The WorkKeys® system measures the skills required in the everyday workplace. It helps to improve America's workforce by sharpening the workplace skills of students or employees. This system benefits individuals, businesses and educators by providing a common language for describing basic skills needed for jobs. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Spouse Deployment Class

The Spouse Deployment Class is 5:30 – 7 p.m. Dec. 8, and teaches a spouse what is involved in a deployment. Several other agencies will give a short description of how their office can offer support to a spouse and family. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is 10 - 11:30 a.m. Dec. 9, and provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Troops To Teachers

This workshop is 10:30 a.m. - noon Dec. 9. It is an informational workshop for members pursuing or interested in a teaching career after the military. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

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

Chief Felton holds female all-calls



Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, held two female all-calls Nov. 16 in the Phillips Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During the all-call, attendees discussed AFIs and concerns and listened to Wing Airmen's stories.

First Term Officer's PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop is required by AFI for all newly assignment personnel to their first station. The event will be 9-10 a.m. Dec. 15. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. Dec. 15, 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 a

Pre-separation Counseling

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

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling (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.

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 Dec. 3, Green Bay Packers vs. Detroit Lions. 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. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Fresh Hot Pizza Now Available
The Bowling Center is now offering fresh hot pizza. Call in your order today. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Youth Basketball Registration
The Youth Center is offering Youth Basketball registration until Dec. 1. The cost is \$35 for ages 3 – 4; \$40 for 5 – 18. All games played on base. Physicals must be on file at Youth Center before first practice. Coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

NAF Warehouse Sale
Come out and get great deals on used furniture, televisions and more Nov. 20 at Outdoor Recreation. Active duty may shop from 7 – 8 a.m.; anyone with base access 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cash only; some items are limited to two items per customer. For more information, contact 434-1583.

Southaven Outlet Mall Day Trip
Outdoor Recreation is offering a shopping trip to the Southaven Outlet Mall Nov. 21. The cost is only \$35 per person. Depart from Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Breakfast with Santa
The Youth Center is offering Breakfast with Santa from 8 – 10 a.m. Dec. 5. The cost is only \$5 per person if purchased before Dec. 1; \$10 per person after that date. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa. Volunteers needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

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

Fresh HOT pizza
made to order!

Call the Bowling Center to order yours!
434-3426

New Military Personnel Hours of Operation
The Military Personnel Section is now open from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 7:30 a.m. – noon Thursdays. For more information, contact 434-2626.

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.

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed
Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? For more information, contact 434-7836.

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.

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.

MyMC2 app

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

Directory

MyMC² Support

14th Medical Group

Airman and Family Readiness Center

American Red Cross

Chapel

Columbus Air Force Base

Columbus Family Housing

Columbus Spouses Club

Company Grade Officers Club

Force Support Squadron

School Liaison Officer

Youth Programs

App contains links to group Facebook pages and important numbers

Displays upcoming mission and social events

Columbus AFB, MS

Full Moon Run
May 14 2014, 07:45 PM

National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
May 15 2014, 02:00 AM

SUPT Class 14-09 Graduation
May 16 2014, 10:00 AM

America's Kids Run
May 17 2014, 08:00 AM

Arts and Crafts Fair
May 17 2014, 10:15 AM

Free Soccer Camp
May 18 2014, 03:00 PM

Disc Golf Tournament
May 19 2014, 08:00 PM

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



iPhone
QR code

Android
QR code

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

While you sleep, SFS defends

Staff Sgt. Chris Jones
14th Security Forces Squadron

When your alarm clock goes off and you start your morning with a fresh cup of “Joe,” the mighty 14th Security Forces Squadron defenders stand the watch. In rain, sleet or snow, they guard Columbus Air Force Base continuously. While more than 71,000 hours are dedicated to training in the skies, each second is owned by the 14th SFS to protect our number one resource, the people. Ensuring sorties take off and taxi at a steady rate happens in part because Columbus is hardened by defenders each day.

The first line of defense begins at the Visitor's Center where defenders process more than 3,500 backgrounds check annually; the center produces 3,300 base passes while also denying access to more than 300 personnel who pose a potential threat to the Team BLAZE community. The 14th SFS maintains 24-hour law enforcement, base defense, reports and analysis, and trains to improve contingency response capabilities. The squadron also teams with federal, state and local law enforcement to conduct training on active shooter response tactics, breathalyzer administration, and K-9 utilization. The Investigations Section and Anti-Terrorism offices periodically assess threats and implement procedures to mitigate risks affecting the base.



The 14th SFS Motto, “We Defend, Day and Night,” holds greater value when incorporating a mission requiring unwavering security at all times. The defenders are there, no matter the situation, big or small.

“Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen, and Feeding the Fight” triangulates the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission, empowering each defender to act swiftly to deescalate any situation. These men and women are entrusted with the authority of the wing commander to defend your families, deny access, and provide assistance. The 14th SFS Motto, “We Defend, Day and Night,” holds greater value when incorporating a mission requiring unwavering security at all times. The defenders are there, no matter the situation, big or small.

The defenders deploy globally in support of the Air Force's Total Force mission, which keeps us safe, home and abroad. Their dedication to the mission requires readiness at all times. When the local community requires their attention, they respond. When security is needed, they stand tall, and when your families are sleeping peacefully, one of those defenders is standing for their safety. Incorporated as a pillar into every mission, they ensure that we all can Fly, Fight and Win.

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.

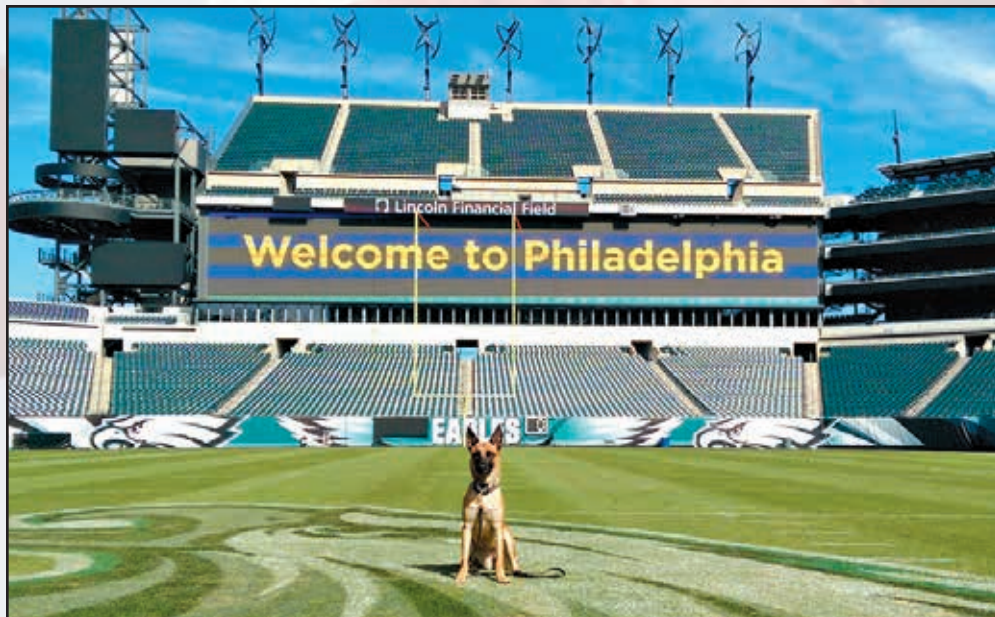
I am an American Airman.
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Senior Airman Michael Hitchens, 14th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, and MWD Ooleg challenge Staff Sgt. Karl Stefanowicz, 14th SFS Kennel Master, simulating as a suspect while Scott Clark, High Drive K-9 owner, records the situation during a training event Nov. 10 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The training demonstration highlighted the MWD team's members, handlers and dogs alike, in scenarios where the team would have to deploy their skills.



Courtesy photo

Military Working Dog Nnora from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, sits in the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Nnora and her handler were tasked to provide canine security for the 2015 World Meeting of Families where Pope Francis was set to visit from Sept. 22 – 28. While in the city, Nnora took to some local attractions to include a private tour of the field while it was closed.

MWDs: Enhancing law enforcement for centuries

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Throughout history, canines have been used in warfare supporting combat operations. As time moved on, they were used for a variety of tactics from the armor-clad Roman war dogs to Napoleon's wall detectors warning of an impending attack.

Although the methods have changed quite a bit, Military Working Dogs still play a big role in both combat operations and base security.

MWDs are deployed around the world to accomplish the Air Force mission by serving in a variety of roles such as tracking, search and rescue, and detection. Their role is paramount to keeping Airmen and communities safe, according to Staff Sgt. Karl Stefanowicz, 14th Security Forces Squadron Kennel Master.

"Our mission is to supplement and support the 14th SFS by providing MWDs who can help protect our community," Stefanowicz said. "Our dogs are patrol and detectors, they can go out and help apprehend suspects possibly with a bite if the situation requires force, they can locate a suspect in hiding and they often support vehicle inspections detecting contraband and bomb-making ingredients."

Those roles don't stop at the gate. These capabilities are often used outside the base community.

"We provide a lot of off-base support along with our on-base support," Stefanowicz said. "There was recently a bomb threat at Baptist (Memorial) Hospital last Friday (Nov. 13). The only bomb dog Lowndes County had was out of state at the time, so we went there and swept the whole building with our MWDs. In that aspect we provide a huge bonus amount of protection to the local community."

Cooperation with local community law enforcement as well as other base defenders is pertinent for mission success, according to Senior Airman Valentino Blank, 14th SFS MWD Handler.

"It's important for our law enforcement needs, they enhance our capabilities," Blank said. "We work in cohesion with other defenders all the time such as vehicle searches and patrols."

"That dog has the ability to detect things we can't. If they do it becomes probable cause that we can act upon."

When these moments arise, handlers must be confident in their MWD.

"You can't beat a dog, you just can't," Stefanowicz said. "The psychological impact and force multiplier the MWDs bring has a great impact. We can use an MWD to find a barricaded suspect in about two minutes, whereas it may take an entire team 20 plus minutes."

MWDs have been used by the U.S. Military since World War I. At the time, a diversity of breeds were accepted from German Shepherds and Dobermans to Labradors. The German Shepherd has remained the most frequently used dog to this day, such as MWD Nnora who was chosen provide canine security for the 2015 World Meeting of Families where Pope Francis was set to visit from Sept. 22 – 28.

"She's a monster, one of our most well-rounded dogs as far as de-



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Dublin

Military Working Dog Nnora attacks Scott Clark, High Drive K-9 owner, while wearing an aggression muzzle for training purposes Nov. 10 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. High Drive K-9 creates reality based K-9 training to enhance the MWD capabilities and keep them ready for an attack.

tection and patrol goes," Stefanowicz said. "Nnora was set to detect abnormalities in luggage the other services we were working with deemed suspicious."

Although real life situations don't always arise, handlers are able to keep their MWDs ready through training and demonstrations.

"During our demonstrations we show off a lot of bite work and the dog's ability to maintain its bearings when we are interviewing someone," Blank said.

He said the handler asks for the person's identification, then releases the person. Then they call the person back and have them agitate the dog.

"That's when we will warn the person to stop," Blank said. "When they don't, we release the dog."

The agitator will often be wearing either a body suit or some other form of protection, as the MWD's fierce bite bears down on them during the simulation.

"It takes a lot of mental preparation to take the bite, knowing that dog is going to bring you down to the ground in an instant," Blank said.

In the real world, these dogs can come across aggressors in any environment, whether it be combat or not. These confrontations can lead to the MWD getting injured in the line of duty, so a handler is also trained to act quickly.

Blank said the handlers are trained to place an IV, treat heat stress, tend to wounds and more when needed, until they can get the dog to proper care.



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Michael Hitchens, 14th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, and MWD Ooleg maintain control of a suspect during a training exercise with High Drive K-9 Nov. 10 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. MWDs are deployed around the world to accomplish the Air Force mission by serving in a variety of roles such as tracking, search and rescue, and detection.

"It is very important that they are transported immediately," he said. "We have a really good working relationship with Mississippi State University and the Army veterinarians that come here as well."

With no members currently deployed, there are six total MWD and handler teams at Columbus AFB. They provide vehicle detection, law enforcement support and more for the Team BLAZE community.

"The MWD section on any installation is extremely important to the mission and the security of the base," Blank said.