

Weather



News Briefs

Wingman Skit

A Wingman skit takes place at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Kaye Auditorium. Attendance is highly encouraged.

Command Cyber Readiness Inspection

The Defense Information Systems Agency will conduct a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Dec. 14-18. The CCRI evaluates the base's cybersecurity posture and is mandated by Department of Defense to ensure Air Force networks are effectively secured.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Kaye Auditorium for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

Happy Christmas Fund Shop and Wrap

The Happy Christmas Fund Shop and Wrap is scheduled for Dec. 17. Shoppers will meet at Wal-Mart at 6 a.m. and wrappers will meet at the Youth Center Gymnasium at 8 a.m. A playgroup will be available at the Youth Center Gymnasium starting at 8 a.m. for volunteers who need childcare. It is \$5 per child. The event provides clothing, school supplies and other necessities to approximately 350 underprivileged children in the Columbus area each year.

Inside



Feature 8

The Inspector General team is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Amanda Savannah

The Defense Information Systems Agency will conduct a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Dec. 14-18. Cybersecurity practices are the responsibility of everyone on base.

CCRI to evaluate Columbus AFB

Tech. Sgt. Amanda Savannah

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Defense Information Systems Agency will conduct a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Dec. 14-18.

The CCRI team evaluates the base's cybersecurity posture and is mandated by the Department of Defense to ensure Air Force networks are effectively secured.

Lt. Col. Austin Hood, 14th Communications Squadron Commander, said the inspection will check many technical network items covered by DISA Security Technical Implementation Guides, or STIGs, for compliance. However, it will also check for security practices across the base for storage safes and security, classified material handling, safeguarding of Common Access Cards and more.

See CCRI, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-11)	0.81 days	0.80 days	Dec. 14	48th (16-03)	0.28 days	3.71 days	Dec. 18	49th (16-CBC)	0.81 days	2.42 days	Dec. 21	T-6	218	157	5,074
41st (16-12)	5.03 days	4.49 days	Jan. 20	50th (16-03)	0.05 days	2.26 days	Dec. 18					T-1	96	86	1,721
The graduation speaker is Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.												T-38	73	48	1,693
												IFF	36	21	753

2015 AETC Medical
Award winners

Congratulations to the following Air Education and Training Command award winners from the 14th Medical Group:

Best Ambulatory Clinic Patient Safety Program- 14th MDG

Outstanding Dental NCO of the Year Award- Tech. Sgt. William R. Lodge

Outstanding Dental Airman of the Year Award- Senior Airman Nathaniel R. Farinas


USAF Ophthalmic NCO of the Year- Tech. Sgt. Esteban Puga, Jr.

Aerospace & Operational Physiology NCO of the Year Award- Tech. Sgt. Benjamin L. Hoffman

Aerospace & Operational Physiology Airman of the Year Award- Senior Airman Dawn R. Edwards

USAF Public Health Airman of the Year Award- Senior Airman Dimitri S. Munoz

Outstanding Base Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year Award- Tech. Sgt. David W. Banks III



Outlook Anti-Spear Phishing

14th Communication Squadron Focal Point

Phishing is a malicious attempt to gain information such as usernames, 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.

14TH FLYING TRAINING
WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 22 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Base cookie drive; drop off 6:30 - 9 a.m., packaging 9 a.m. - noon @ Youth Center Gym	8 17-03 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m.	9	10 Wingman skit, 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	11	12/13 12th- City of Columbus Christmas Parade, 7 p.m.	Dec. 23 - Jan. 3: SUPT holiday stand-down Dec. 24: AETC Family Day Dec. 25: Christmas Holiday Dec. 29: CT fly day Dec. 31: AETC Family Day Jan. 1: New Year's Holiday Jan. 4: Safety Day Jan. 22: SUPT Class 16-04 Graduation Jan. 29: Fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony Jan. 29: Enlisted Promotions Feb. 5: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation
14 Command Cyber Readiness Inspection	15 Newcomers Orientation Brief, 8 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium	16	17 Happy Fund Shop and Wrap; shopping 6-8 a.m., wrapping 8 a.m. @ Youth Center Gym	18 Santa Claus Shuffle 5K Fun Run, 7 a.m. @ Fitness Center SUPT Class 16-03 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye Auditorium 81st FS graduation @ Moody Air Force Base, Georgia	19/20	

CCRI

(Continued from page 1)

Because cyberspace has become the newest domain of 21st century warfare, these cybersecurity practices are the responsibility of everyone on base.

"From fuel pumps on the flightline, GPS links on weapons platforms, to the computer on your desk – every system that operates in and through cyberspace represents a vulnerability to the domain," said Lt. Gen. William Bender, Air Force Chief of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, in a memorandum during Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October.

Hood said the importance of the inspection is not merely about passing it, but about maintaining a culture with the highest level of readiness possible for the network that today's Air Force has become so reliant on.

"The ultimate test of not having the highest level of security that we could have, or being in the best readiness posture from a cyber-perspective, is that our adversaries gain access to our networks," he said. "Folks that we don't want on there might be able to leverage those systems in ways that make it counterproductive for us to use them."

The inspection is a welcome component to the many checks and balances that ensure a high level of cyber readiness, Hood said, and he knows Team BLAZE will continue to safeguard its precious resources to the best of its ability.

"Just like units safeguard their time, their training schedules, and resources like the runway, cyber readiness is another resource Airmen have come to rely on and have integrated into their day-to-day processes and need it to be there day in and day out," he said. "So why not protect it to the best level you can?"

Hood said he also doesn't want people to fall under the false impression of being less vigilant or protective after the inspection.

"We've invested in the security of our network and workplaces to get us to this level of readiness and now is a good time to stay at that level," he said. "It's going to take a lot less effort to stay at this level of readiness than it was to achieve compliance with the hundreds of items required by the STIGs."

To further explain, he used the analogy of a fitness test.

"If you work hard to get your fitness

Cyber readiness tips

The 14th Flying Training Wing can follow these practices to be postured for cyber readiness:

- Log off and reboot your unclassified machine daily to ensure security patch compliance.
- Properly label removable media and have proper classification markings on communications equipment (computers, monitors, phones, etc.).
- Properly safeguard classified systems and information.
- Do not pass any information, especially information on the Critical Information List, over unclassified means, whether it be phone, e-mail, Facebook, etc.
- Remove your Common Access Card from your computer system any time you leave sight of it – even if only for a moment.
- Verify security clearances and need to know prior to allowing access to classified areas and information.
- Escort unauthorized personnel in controlled or restricted areas as well as work areas.
- Know your unit security manager and Information Assurance Officer and how to contact them.
- Never bring portable or wireless electronic devices within three meters of a classified system.
- Use document cover sheets and face your monitors away from your doors and windows.
- Never plug any sort of electronic devices like thumb drives, external and portable hard drives, portable media players or cell phones into a unclassified or classified machine unless you have an approved exemption letter.
- Be suspicious of any emails from unknown sources, especially if they contain attachments.

up to a level where you're going to pass your fitness test and be in compliance with AFIs, as soon as you pass your test it's easier on your body and easier on you to maintain that level, rather than to let your fitness atrophy and then the next time you're due for a compliance check, to ramp it back up again," Hood said. "The risk in the PT test is your health. For cyber readiness, the risk is mission accomplishment."



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Four of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony Nov. 30 in the Kaye Auditorium at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Four enlisted Airmen promoted at ceremony

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Four of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotion ceremony Nov. 30 at Kaye Auditorium.

Promoted during the month of November

were:

Senior Airman Raul Pena, 14th Medical Support Squadron

Senior Airman Kyle Hayes, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Phillips, 14th OSS

Staff Sgt. Ryan Malmquist, 14th OSS

Calhoun Community Center tours Columbus AFB



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

Twelve students from Calhoun County Career and Technical Center in Calhoun City, Mississippi, watch as Senior Airman Kameron Scott, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, fires the water cannon on one of the McAllister Fire Station fire trucks Dec. 2 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The students visited the base to learn more about military first response units.

Holiday OPSEC

Scott Shuttleworth

14th Flying Training Wing
OPSEC Program manager

As we wade through November and December, our thoughts focus on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year.

The thoughts of turkey and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing and cranberry sauce, pumpkin and apple pies linger on our minds and our taste buds.

We begin to ask questions like: Where are we going this year? What are we going to eat? How long of a trip is it to get there? Who will be there with us? Are we still going if Capt. or Sgt. X is still deployed? Do we need to let everyone know who to send a care package to?

Then to get everyone involved and make things more convenient for all, we post these same questions on various social media sites. What we don't realize is that in the realm of good intentions, we forget about OPSEC principles, both personal and for the unit.

Although social media is an easy and fun way to network, we tend to forget that the bad guys use it as well; bad guys such as stalkers, thieves, hackers, scammers, and most of all ... the enemy. They scan these networks daily looking for any opportunity to take away your personal freedoms.

Let's say you are going out of town to Uncle Jim's and Aunt Mary's house in Perry, Georgia, for the holidays. You post several weeks in advance that you will be out of town on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving and will be gone through Sunday. You post again that you will be able to leave early because the unit is releasing everyone at a specific time after lunch.

Anyone trolling the sites now knows that you will probably be gone not long after lunch, and for an extended period. So they start cruising around your neighborhood to see patterns, accessibility and alarms, along with the hundreds of others around that have posted similar holiday details. Once you are gone, they clean you out like the Grinch.

You return, as planned, only to find a crumb that is too small for a mouse. All this happened because you wanted to make communication easier. However, for them, it made you an easy target. You gave them the timeline to allow for a perfectly executed plan.

Let's take that same post and look at it from an operational side. Those enemy agents looking to make a statement now know that the units are leaving early, and when. It may be common knowledge but you just verified it. So now, they start watching the base, the traffic flows in and out, looking to see where they can make the most impact.

You post, “Just got word we are outta here at (fill in the time)” with numerous others around the base, posting and tweeting the same info. For the enemy, one simple strike at or around that time blocks the gate(s) and puts us in lockdown so no one goes anywhere. For those not hurt

in the event, they will be eating sliced deli turkey and canned ham for Thanksgiving, because now we have had an incident. The following quote concerning what the enemy is looking for is right out of the Al Qaeda handbook, "Information about government personnel, officers, important personalities, and all matters related to those (residence, work place, times of leaving and returning, wives and children, places visited)."

Remember our 14 FTW OPSEC Talking Points:

You are a target — because you or your spouse is associated with the military, either active duty, Department of Defense/Department of the Air Force civilian, or contractor, you and your family are potential targets for social media attacks. Minimize providing detailed personal information via social media.

Lockdown and restrict — Lock down privacy settings where only you have access to your settings. Be frugal with whom you share social media information (posts, photo/video). Review privacy settings frequently and especially after any software updates.

Stay quiet — Practice good OPSEC. Don't discuss details about work, no matter how seemingly benign they might be. Minimize the posting of personal info, i.e., travels/relationship status/tagged pictures/birthdays/anniversaries/full names/work history.

Think OPSEC at all times. Just because you are away from your base doesn't mean you aren't being listened to and tracked. There may not be a military base within 200 miles; however that is when we let our guard down. Scrutinize you and your family's social media footprint through the eyes of a criminal.

Here is a list of some things you probably should not share on social media: (not all inclusive)

Names and photos of you, your family and co-workers.
Especially in uniform.

Names, usernames, passwords, network details

Job title, location, salary, clearances

Physical security and logistics

Mission capabilities and limitations

Schedules and travel itineraries

Social security number, credit cards, banking information

Hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc.

Home address and phone number

Remember, in the scenario posted above, you stated when and where you were going to be. There are eyes and ears that travel just to see what information they can gather. Protect your personal data, your family and our Air Force by applying sound OPSEC principles, not just during the holidays, but at all times.

Our mission success depends on everyone getting it right all the time. The enemy only has to get it right once. Enjoy your holidays, you have earned the time off, but practice good OPSEC. Be safe in your travels, and we will see you back and ready to kick it into high gear when the time comes so we can continue mission success by Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen, and Feeding the Fight!

Astronaut Story Musgrave

Stats:

- Space Walks: 4
- Space Shuttle Missions: 6
- Academic Degrees: 7
- Days in Space: 53
- Aircraft Flight Hours: 17,700
- Part-time surgeon during astronaut career
- Disney Concept Artist, Landscape Architect, Entrepreneur



Presentations:

Friday, 4 December 2015 at 0900 & 1400

Kaye Auditorium

1.5 hr. Duration

Open to all military/civilian personnel

This event is Jointly Hosted by 14FTW and 43FTS



AF releases Form 910, implements forced distribution

Debbie Gildea
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The revised Air Force Form 910, Enlisted Performance Report (AB Thru TSGT), and Interim Change 3 to Air Force Instruction 36-2406, Officer And Enlisted Evaluation Systems, have been published on the Air Force e-Publishing website. The interim change codifies forced distribution of promotion recommendations for technical sergeants and below (including staff and technical sergeant-selects), which will be implemented using AF Form 910 for the Nov. 30 technical sergeant and technical sergeant-select EPR static closeout date.

The new form and IC, with the associated forced distribution process, are the latest significant changes to the enlisted evaluation and Weighted Airman Promotion Systems since the transformation began last summer. The promotion recommendation restrictions associated with forced distribution only apply to the Regular Air Force.

For technical sergeants and below, forced distribution limits the top-two promotion recommendations a commander is authorized to give to time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion-eligible Airmen. The restrictions under forced distribution are tied to historical promotion rates in each grade and are designed to ensure those Airmen receiving a top tier promotion recommendation have a distinct advantage for promotion while ensuring others remain competitive for promotion. The total number of forced distribution quotas is based on the total number of time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion-eligible Airmen a commander has in a specific grade on the SCOD.

Airmen who are not eligible for promotion on their EPR static closeout date will only receive a performance assessment without a promotion recommendation.

Promotion recommendations are in word-form now, rather than the numerical ratings. Recommendations include promote now, must promote, promote, not ready now and do not promote. Promote Now can be awarded to the top 5 percent of time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible Airmen from senior airman

through technical sergeant. Must Promote is limited to the top 15 percent of time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible senior airmen and top 10 percent of time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible staff and technical sergeants. There are no restrictions on the remaining three promotion ratings.

Percentages will be awarded outright by large units (those with 11 or more time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible Airmen). Small units — 10 or fewer time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible — will submit their top performing Airmen for consideration by an Enlisted Forced Distribution Panel led by the senior rater.

Once the EFDL selects the Airmen who will receive the top promotion recommendations, the remaining Airmen will receive outright promote recommendations. All EPRs are returned to the appropriate commander for final signatures. Airmen receiving “promote” recommendations from the EFDL or directly from their unit will remain competitive for promotion as the overall promotion percentages are greater than the forced distribution allocations. Eighty to eighty-five percent of

time-in-grade/time-in-service promotion eligible airmen will receive a “promote” recommendation.

All technical sergeants and below will also receive a performance assessment. The new Performance Assessment categories include “performance in primary duties/training requirements,” “followership/leadership” and “whole Airman concept.”

Under those categories, Airmen will be assessed using one of five performance descriptions: not rated, met some but not all expectations, met all expectations, exceeded some but not all expectations and exceeded most, if not all expectations. There are no associated restrictions on the five performance descriptions.

Additional guidance for completing the revised AF Form 910 is included in AFI 36-2406, IC3 on the e-Publishing website.

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 these instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website.

Deputy Defense Secretary Work spends Thanksgiving with deployed troops

Tech. Sgt. Terrica Y. Jones
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work visited service members on Thanksgiving at Al Udeid Air Base to thank them and discuss ongoing operations.

Work showed off his carving skills Thanksgiving Day as he served turkey to military members. After serving the dinner he dined and talked to more than a dozen troops about their deployment.

“My entire life has been around military men and women and extraordinary civilians supporting our military, and there is no one else I rather be around. As far as I am concerned, they represent the best of America,” Work said. “Every Thanksgiving I like to travel to tell them, look them in the eyes and thank them myself.”

“I know it’s hard to be away for Thanksgiving, but what we are doing here is very important,” he continued. “I want to thank those at Al Udeid for the sacrifices they have made in the last 14 years and the sacrifices that their families are making. I need them to drive on, they’re doing a great job.”

During his visit, Work coined military members for their service. Later, he also took a moment to answer questions about our partnership with the Qataris, operations in Syria and having a strong and balanced strategy on Russia.

“The United States is extremely grateful to the government of Qatar and the Qatar Emiri Air Force for hosting us here and I expect this partnership to remain strong and get stronger in the future,” he said. “This platform really enables U.S. and coalition operations throughout the central com-



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Terrica Y. Jones
Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work talks with service members during a Thanksgiving meal at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. There were 14 service members who had the chance to eat with Work and his wife Cassandra.

mand theatre, in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.”

Work also shared his thoughts on operations in Syria and how our current operations impact missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Previously we had a direct strategy where we used our own forces to try and solve problems in the region, which was enormously expensive and we spent \$ 1.5 trillion,” Work said. “Our strategy now is an indirect strategy where we are working with partners and whenever you have an indirect strategy it goes slower. First you have to find and vet your partners then you have to train and arm them.”

“We have a very strong coalition, and we are doing more and more,” he said. “There is still no intention for us to have large-scale operations. We think this indirect strategy will

work and what we are doing in Iraq and Syria is really not detracting at all from what we are doing in Afghanistan.”

Work added that President Barack Obama has decided to keep 9,800 troops through the next fighting season and 5,500 troops beyond 2016 to allow the government of Afghanistan to get its feet under itself and to remain strong.

“So a lot of stuff is going on in the region and what we are doing here is important,” he said.

Work also discussed the United States’ strong and balanced strategy toward Russia.

“We have a strategy, our president and (Defense Secretary Ash Carter) has called a strong and balanced strategy; strong in that we will continue to confront Russia when their aggression steps beyond international norms, but we want to maintain the opening to allow Russia to become a viable partner in the future,” he said. “That is why we call it strong and balanced.”

Work said that the U.S. is not currently coordinating with Russia.

“The only thing we are doing right now is notifying each other when our aircraft and our missiles are flying through a particular airspace,” he said. “We hope that over time the Russians will recognize that they are supporting the wrong side and perhaps in the end try to convince (Syrian President Bashar al-Assad) to leave. Until that happens we will not coordinate with Russia.”

The deputy defense secretary then concluded by showing his gratitude toward the U.S. military.

“Thank you so much for what you are doing,” he told the troops. “On behalf of Secretary Carter and I, we could not be more proud of leading the finest fighting forces of the U.S.”

Airmen attend 48th FTS reunion

1st Lt. Zach Overbey
48th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot

Heritage is an important facet of any military environment. It grounds an organization in its roots, while laying a strong foundation for the future.

Fewer squadrons around “Big Blue” have a prouder heritage than the 48th Flying Training Squadron, and although it currently resides here in Columbus, Mississippi, it has valiantly served in all corners of the world.

Eight 48th Flying Training Squadron crews from Columbus AFB recently traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to take part in the annual 48th Squadron Reunion. The 48th FTS instructor pilots who made the trek to celebrate the squadron’s storied heritage include Lt. Col. Paul Baker, Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, Lt. Col. Matthew Cunningham, Capt. Tyler Tipton, Capt. William Swinonos, 1st Lt. David Hoffman, 1st Lt. Blake Liddle and 1st Lt. Brian Weeks. These eight instructor pilots led the charge with 16 T-1 Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students on a student cross-country mission that included training stop-ins in a plethora of locations in Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma.

Columbus personnel were given a warm welcome by former 48th members and closely integrated into the weekend’s activities. The delegation from Columbus listened to multiple guest speakers, including Norma Robinson, daughter-in-law of war hero Maj. Franklin Louis Robinson. Robinson was one of the brave Army Air Corps P-38 pilots that fought in the allied invasion of Southern France, where he passed away at 25 years old after his plane went down near Six-Fours, France, on Aug. 16, 1944.

“Hearing Norma tell Major Robinson’s story and see the level of effort she has put forth to preserve his story and accomplishments is nothing short of amazing,” said Baker, who is also the 48th FTS Commander. “His story made all of us realize the tremendous cost of serving and made me even more proud to be an Alley Cat specifically, and a member of the United States Air Force overall.”

Additionally, another one of the highlights of the festivities was the honorary induction of Baker, Gilliam and Cunningham into the Tazlanglian Devils, the esteemed group of aviators that guarded the Bermuda Triangle during the Cold War while the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was located at Langley AFB, Virginia. The three Columbus leaders were inducted by retired Lt. Col. Dick Stultz, who was a member of the group creator of the Tazlanglian Devil mascot the group was named after.

Students and instructors alike listened to stories from days past into the late hours of the evening and picked up a great deal of aviation wisdom and insight. The ceremony concluded with a moment of remembrance for all squadron members who had passed away during 2015, closed out by a playing of taps by John Boudreaux. Boudreaux was a former student in Class 74-04 and First Assignment Instructor Pilot at Columbus AFB. The weekend also included student-flying training as part of a planned cross-country mission, sightseeing and a visit to the Air Force Academy.



Courtesy photo
Airmen from the 48th Flying Training Squadron attend a reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Oct. 10-12. Eight instructor pilots and 16 T-1A Jayhawk Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students went on a student cross-country mission that included training stop-ins in Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma.

Although currently a squadron that trains airlift and tanker pilots, the 48th FTS has been used for a multitude of different missions. The 48th Aero Squadron was organized at Kelly Field, Texas, on Aug. 4, 1917, and sailed to Le Havre, France, arriving in November 1917. While in France, the unit built or repaired various airdromes and participated in the Lorraine, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns. Following World War I, the squadron returned to the United States and was demobilized at Mitchell Field, New York, in August 1919. The 48th School Squadron was again active training aviation personnel between 1923 and 1927 at Kelly Field, and between 1933 and 1936 at Chanute Field, Illinois.

The unit was reactivated at Hamilton Field, California, as the 48th Pursuit Squadron in January 1941, where it flew training missions and air defense patrols along the California coast using P-40, P-66 and P-43 aircraft. The current squadron patch, the alley cat chasing a dragonfly, was designed by Walt Disney and was adopted by the 48th in 1942. In August 1942, the re-designated 48th Fighter Squadron moved to Atcham, England, and began training operations with the P-38 Lightning.

In November 1942, the 48th moved to Algeria to support the invasion of North Africa and later operations over Sicily and Sardinia. While based in Algeria, the 48th flew escort missions for B-25 and B-26 bombers, made fighter sweeps,

and flew reconnaissance missions. In December 1942, the 48th moved to Triolo, Italy, and conducted fighter escort for heavy bombers on missions to central Europe, the Balkans and Germany and also provided close air support to all allied armies pushing up the Italian peninsula.

In August 1944, the unit moved temporarily to Aghione, Corsica, and engaged in patrol, dive-bombing and armed reconnaissance missions to support the allied invasion of southern France. Through May 1945, the squadron continued operations from Italy conducting bomber escort and attacks against transportation, oil, and communication targets. The squadron was deactivated in September 1945 at Lesina, Italy.

From November 1946 until October 1949, the 48th Fighter Squadron flew air defense missions from Dow Field, Maine, using P-47s and P-84s. The 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was activated at Langley Air Base, Virginia, and flew F-84s, F-94s, F-102s, F-106s and F-15s from January 1953 until the squadron was deactivated in December 1991.

Activation of the 48th Flying Training Squadron on July 1, 1996, completed reunification of the squadrons in the World War II 14th Fighter Group, which included the 37th, 48th, 49th and 50th Squadrons, as the 14th Flying Training Wing. The 48th Flying Training Squadron now flies the T-1A Jayhawk for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: SR-71 Blackbird

Background

The Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird is a long-range, Mach 3+ strategic reconnaissance aircraft that was operated by the United States Air Force. It was developed as a black project from the Lockheed A-12 reconnaissance aircraft in the 1960s by Lockheed and its Skunk Works division. Renowned American aerospace engineer Clarence “Kelly” Johnson was responsible for many of the design’s innovative concepts.

During aerial reconnaissance missions, the SR-71 operated at high speeds and altitudes to allow it to outrace threats. If a surface-to-air missile launch was detected, the standard evasive action was simply to accelerate and outfly the missile. The SR-71 was designed to have basic stealth characteristics and served as a precursor to future stealth aircraft.

The SR-71 served with the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1998. A total of 32 aircraft were built; 12 were lost in accidents and none lost to enemy action. The SR-71 has been given several nicknames, including Blackbird and Habu. It has held the world record for the fastest air-breathing manned aircraft since 1976. This record was previously held by the related Lockheed YF-12.

Statistics

Crew: 2: Pilot and Reconnaissance Systems Officer
Payload: 3,500 lbs. of sensors
Length: 107 ft. 5 in.
Wingspan: 55 ft. 7 in.
Height: 18 ft. 6 in.
Wing area: 1,800 ft.²
Empty weight: 67,500 lbs.
Loaded weight: 152,000 lbs.
Maximum takeoff weight: 172,000 lbs.
Powerplant: 2 × Pratt & Whitney J58-1 continuous-bleed afterburning turbojets
Wheel track: 16 ft. 8 in.
Wheelbase: 37 ft. 10 in.
Aspect ratio: 1.7

Performance

Maximum speed: Mach 3.3 at 80,000 ft.
Range: 2,900 nmi
Ferry range: 3,200 nmi
Service ceiling: 85,000 ft.
Rate of climb: 11,820 ft./m
Wing loading: 84 lbs./ft.²
Thrust/weight: 0.44



Courtesy photo

The SR-71 was known for being the fastest plane in history. If a surface-to-air missile launch was detected, the standard evasive action was simply to accelerate and outfly the missile.



Courtesy photo

Reconnaissance Systems Officer George Morgan stands in front of a Cold War-era U.S. Air Force SR-71 spy plane. Nearly 40 years later, the SR-71 still holds many flight records for speed.

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.)

Spouse Deployment Class

The Spouse Deployment Class is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 8, and teaches spouses 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 from 10 to 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 scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 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 held from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Dec. 15, and is manadatory 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.

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 held from 9 to 10 a.m. Dec. 15. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop held from 1 to 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.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 17. This is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty personnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided. Call 434-2790 to register. Held at A&FRC.

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

Senior NCOs meet for Top 3 meeting



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Amanda Savannah

Team BLAZE senior NCOs gather Nov. 20 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for the monthly Top 3 meeting. The Top 3 meets the third Friday of every month at the golf course.

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.

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

Upcoming religious holidays

Advent (Nov. 29 to Dec. 24), Christian (Catholic & Liturgical Protestant): Advent is

the beginning of the Church year for Catholics and many Protestants. It is a four-week period of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time.

Saint Nicholas Day (Dec. 6), Christian: St. Nicholas Day is a popular occasion for children in many parts of Europe because children usually receive gifts on this day. Some European cities such as Bari, Italy recognize St. Nicholas as the patron saint and celebrate with different activities such as gift-giving, parades, feasts and festivals.

Hanukkah (Dec. 7-14), Jewish: This is an eight-day festival celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God (165 B.C.E.). Hanukkah also commemorates the Maccabean victory over Antiochus who sought to suppress freedom of worship. Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights, and the eight-candle Menorah is lighted.

Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 8), Roman Catholic: Observance commemorating the doctrine that Mary, from the moment of her conception, was free from the stain of Original Sin. This is a day of obligation and required church attendance.

Rohatsu - Bodhi Day (Dec. 8), Buddhist: This is the celebration of the Enlightenment of founder Shakyamuni Buddha, ca. 596 B.C.E. Services and traditions vary amongst Buddhist sects, but all such services commemorate the Buddha’s achievement of Nirvana and what this means for Buddhism today.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12), Roman Catholic: The Catholic community honors this day commemorating the legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E.

Yule/Litha (Winter Solstice) (Dec. 21 or 22), Wicca/Pagan/Christian: This is a celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life. It is also known as a Christian celebration of the light dawning in Jesus.

Mawlid an Nabi (Dec. 23), Islam: A commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 C.E. (not universally observed). The prophet’s teachings are read and religious meetings are held.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christian (Western): A celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Christian (Western): A celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Zarathosht Diso (Dec. 26), Zoroastrian: On this religious observance, Zoroastrians commemorate the death of the Prophet Zarathushtra.

Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 27), Roman Catholic: The Feast of the Holy Family commemorates the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph together. This celebration focuses on religious family life.

Holy Innocents (Dec. 28), Christian: Christians observe this solemn day in memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

Watch Night (Dec. 31), Christian: On this occasion, Christians gather to thank God for bringing people safely through another year.

me the straight answer, but those people are few and far between. I think most people today are afraid to hurt someone's feelings, so we just tell them what they want to hear.

Let's be honest with each other. "Tech. Sgt. Doughnut, you are underperforming and will not be recommended for promotion if you continue at your current level of performance." That's all it takes. Give Tech. Sgt. Doughnut a chance at his or her midterm feedback to correct the situation, as opposed to a blanket statement like, "You're doing a good job. I like the way you come into work and do ... stuff."

As a commander, I need honesty from you and I need to be honest with you. Without honest feedback from and toward each other, our performance will plateau into a nice comfort zone where we're all doing what we think is right, while those who supported the idea stand and shake their heads at our ineptitude.

I'll extend the first olive branch of honesty. Dear NCOs, instead of standing and staring in disbelief at the next silly idea your commander implements, please cut them off upfront during the idea phase and politely be honest. "Sir/ma'am, that idea is kind of dumb." You may want to use more tact, but you get the point. We'll work on that another time.



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Dublin
Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, delivers the IG oath to Lt. Col Matt Cunningham, 14th Flying Training Wing Director of Complaint Resolution, Aug. 5 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. IGs are administered this oath in addition to any oath prior to joining the military to ensure they are bound to finding the whole and unbiased truth.



Courtesy photo
Capt. Danielle Varwig, 14th Flying Training Wing Exercise Planner and Wing Inspection Team planner, facilitates the SH 15-03 DCP/CBRN exercise on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Wing Inspection Team members augment the Inspector General office during these events to provide their expertise as subject matter experts.

A team to fill two hats

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

The 14th Flying Training Wing executes its mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight every day.

To ensure this continues to happen, the base and its Airmen need to be sure they are prepared for anything that comes their way. For the inspector generals' office, this meant restructuring to accommodate new requirements.

"Before this restructuring, all we handled were complaints," said Lt. Col. Gerrod McClellan, 14th Flying Training Wing Inspector General. "At the Air Force level, they decided that it made sense for inspections to fall under the inspector general. So the office grew to encompass all the billets required to get the new job done."



Recently, the Inspector General office has grown from a one-man-show to a team of seven individuals trained to handle any task they come across. They have upsized to fill the roles of both the "black hat" and the "white hat."

The black hat involves inspections, evaluations and exercises, while the white hat focuses on IG complaints and resolving those complaints.

On the black hat side, the Wing Inspection Team members play a huge part during wing inspections.

"Essentially, we have the IG staff assigned here, and because we don't know everything about every job, we employ the WIT to augment our numbers," McClellan said. "They are subject matter experts from other career fields who are not permanently assigned to the IG office."

They are shifting the focus of inspections and exercises from fixing everything that was broken the week



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Dublin
The Inspector General team poses for a photo after swearing the IG oath Aug. 5 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Inspector General office has grown from a one-man-show to a team of seven individuals trained to handle any task they come across.

before the inspection to incorporating fixes into everyday work patterns.

"No longer are we just 'painting the grass' before an inspection," McClellan said. "No more last-minute fixes. Instead, we are implementing a continuous process that constantly maintains these inspection items every day. Now we are sowing the grass instead of painting it, so to speak."

By contrast the white hat side exists to address complaints of Airmen. It is the right of everyone to speak with the IG or members of Congress. They exist to find the ob-

jective, honest truth.

"Many people are confused as to just what the IG does regarding complaints," McClellan said. "Yes, we will listen to any complaint, but we encourage you to try to solve the problem at the lowest level; give your chain, supervisors, shirts and commanders the chance to fix the problem before you come to us."

With any complaint, IGs follow a flow starting with contact and analysis of the problem, which leads to the actual tasking. From there the five routes available to them

are to assist, dismiss, investigate, refer or transfer.

"Everything we do is checked against itself," McClellan said. "A lot of what we do has built-in checks and balances so both the complainant, you as an Airman, and the Air Force as a whole get an equal and objective perspective. The IG is an advocate for the truth and the Air Force."

At the end of the day, the IG is a resource for Airmen to enhance readiness through evaluation and exercises, and to resolve complaints of injustice, danger to safety, and fraud, waste and abuse.

