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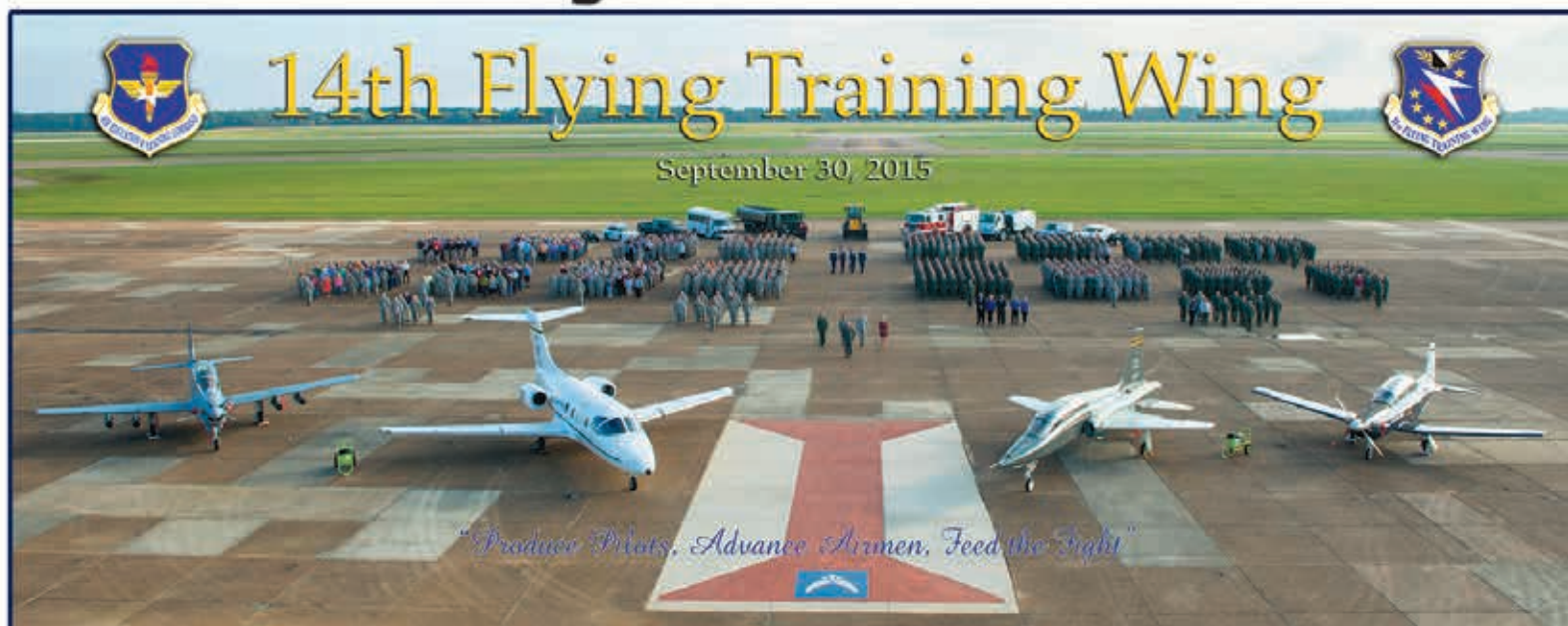
"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 40, Issue 1

January 8, 2016

2015 A year in review



Weather



Inside



Feature 7-10

2015: A Year Revisited is highlighted in this week's feature.

News Briefs

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

Most base organizations are closed Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Kaye Auditorium for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

19th AF commander, chief master sergeant base visit

The 19th Air Force commander and chief master sergeant are scheduled to visit Team BLAZE Jan. 20 - 21.

Claims announcement

Anyone having a claim for or against the estate of 2nd Lt. Benjamin Walder should please contact Maj. Brandon Jones at Brandon.Jones.5@us.af.mil.

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
11	12	13	14 Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon, 11 a.m. @ Fire Station	15	16/17	Jan. 29: Fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony Jan. 29: Enlisted Promotions Feb. 2: Groundhog Day Feb. 5: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 9: Wing Newcomers Orientation Feb. 12: POW Smitty Harris Repatriation (1973) Feb. 12-13: Bishop Neal Buckon visit Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation Feb. 22: Presidents Day Holiday Mar. 8: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 11: SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation Mar. 29: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 31: 14th STUS Change of Command
18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	19 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Kaye	20	21	22 SUPT Class 16-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	23/24	

Silver Wings

How to reach us

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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.

Today – Jan. 18
Ice skating is scheduled through Jan. 18 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.

Jan. 14
A lecture by Dr. Leslie Burl-McLemore, “What Happened to the Freedom Riders?” will be presented from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center.

Jan. 16
“To Kill a Mockingbird” will be shown from 2-3 p.m. in Rosenzweig Arts Center. The showing of this historically important film will be followed by discussion led by award-winning local author Deborah Johnson.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@us.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Transportation

For Sale: Gold's Gym Space Saver Treadmill for sale, hardly used, 10 incline settings, several programmed walking programs, cushioned track, must sell, \$195. For more information call 356-4511.

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who need us most.

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a CFC participant
Provided as a public service.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Purchasing, installing, managing software licenses

14th Communications Squadron Base Software License Manager

Compliance with software licensing requirements is mandatory by United States Code, Department of Defense, and Air Force instructions.

To ensure Columbus Air Force Base and all subordinate units comply with these requirements, strict controls have been put in place. Procedures on how to acquire, install, track and inventory software are just a few examples of these controls.

Should an individual or unit require software for their government system to support their unit's mission, they would need to contact their Information Assurance Officer to make the request through the Work Order Management System. The IAO would then work with the Base Software License Management Office of the 14th Communications Squadron to ensure the software is authorized for installation and use on Air Force networks and systems. Once an Authority to Connect is obtained, the BSLM Office can request

a quote from an authorized vendor and provide it to the unit IAO to start the unit's ordering process.

A copy of the software order containing the number of licenses should be provided to the BSLM office immediately following purchase. All software should be delivered to:

Base Software License Manager
Network Control Center
139 F Loop
Columbus AFB, MS 39710

The unit IAO will then be notified upon receipt at the BSLM office that the software is available through the Media Sign-Out process. This allows for the installations to be performed up to the limit of the licenses purchased for that unit while also maintaining the software in a secure environment when not required by the unit. A ticket to request the installation of software can be created by using the vESD program located on the desktop of government systems, clicking Software and opening the Software Wizard. The option for Install Software should be available for the requestor to create a ticket and provide the name of the

software they are requesting in the Comments field.

Once a technician receives the ticket, they will work with the BSLM office to ensure there are available licenses and to acquire the media for installation. After the software has been installed, the software is to be returned to the BSLM office where a record of the number of installations against the number of purchased licenses will be maintained in order to verify compliance with the software licensing agreement.

Maintaining software licenses and software inventories is a responsibility that users, BSLMs and the Comm Squadron all have a piece in. Without each doing their part, non-compliance with laws and applicable guidance will quickly follow. Never load personally owned software onto government systems and never make copies of software without permission of the copyright owner. United States Copyright Act, Title 17 of the United States Code, covers software from the moment of its creation and prohibits making any copies without permission of the copyright owner.

For more information with respect to software management, please contact the BSLM at 434-2375.

14TH FLYING
TRAINING
WING
DEPLOYED

As of press time, 16 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.

14th Flying Training Wing hosts Pilot for a Day

U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Derrick James, 8-year-old Pilot for a Day participant, right, his mother and two siblings stand next to a T-6 Texan II Dec. 22 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During the day, James and his family learned about the base's mission, visited static aircraft displays and more.

The Library will be closed
11-18 January
for relocation to the
Education Center
Building 916
Rooms 3, 4, & 6

Starting 19 January the Library
Hours of Operation will be
Tue, Thur, & Fri.....1030-1430
Sundays.....1300-1700
Mon, Wed & Sat.....Closed

For More Information 434-2934

Columbus AFB Training Timeline												Wing Sortie Board			
Phase II				Phase III				IFF							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-13)	2.97 days	0.63 days	Feb. 16	48th (16-04)	1.10 days	2.43 days	Jan. 22	49th (16-DBC)	0.24 days	-0.05 days	Feb. 1	T-6	261	348	7,287
41st (16-12)	2.05 days	3.16 days	Jan. 20	50th (16-04)	2.92 days	2.85 days	Jan. 22					T-1	106	117	2,540
The graduation speaker is Retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, former Air Education and Training Command Vice Commander.												T-38	194	126	2,387
												IFF	56	56	1,019

14th Medical Group Corner: Patient Travel

Elizabeth Paine and
Tech. Sgt. Aapri Gholston
14th Medical Group

Have you ever wondered if you were eligible to get reimbursed for medical travel expenses?

Not everyone can get reimbursed for a referral to a specialist. To qualify for the Prime Travel Program, you must be a non-active duty beneficiary, active duty family member, retired service member or family member, have a referral from your primary care manager, and the referral must be to a specialty provider's office 100 miles or more from your PCMs office.

The Prime Travel Program reimburses you when your PCM refers you for medically necessary, non-emergency care 100 miles, one-way, from your PCM's office, and there is no other specialty care provider, military, network or non-network, within 100 miles. The distance is determined by the Defense Table of Official Distances and this rule is set in statute and not negotiable.

Approved non-medical attendants may also qualify. The non-medical attendant must be a parent, spouse, other adult family mem-

ber age 21 years or older, or a legal guardian. If the patient is age 18 or older, the referring or treating provider must verify in writing that they need a non-medical attendant.

No two travelers can get reimbursed for the same expense. This applies to shared expenses like lodging or car rental, if applicable. You must save all of your own itemized travel receipts. Expenses you may get reimbursed for include transportation/mileage (rate .23c per mile), parking, tolls, meal(s), excluding alcoholic beverages, and lodging (if applicable).

Active-duty members can also get travel reimbursement as the traveler or as a non-medical attendant, but they do not fall under the Prime Travel Program requirements. All active-duty members referred outside a 70-mile radius of the Military Treatment Facility should contact the local travel point of contact.

Before traveling, you must contact the appropriate travel point of contact to ensure all approvals are in place before you travel. If you have a military PCM, contact Ms. Paine at 434-2212. If you have a civilian PCM, contact TRICARE South Travel Office at 1-800-576-0375.

Columbus AFB Tax Center looking for volunteers

The Columbus AFB Tax Center will open in late January and is in need of volunteer tax preparers and assistants. All of our volunteers play a critical role in assisting service members, retirees, and dependents to complete and file their tax returns. This service helps our clients maximize their tax refunds. Volunteers with special skills or training are welcome, however no prior experience is required. Training will be provided on the latest tax preparation forms and software. To be an effective volunteer you should be able to file your own tax return, work with computers, learn new things, and enjoy working with people. For more information, please contact Capt. Luke McPherson in the legal office at 434-7030.

Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™



Responding to Military Children with Exceptional Needs™ is a professional development institute designed to inform concerned adults about military-connected children with exceptional needs and the issues they may face as they transition from school to school.

Save the Date!
**REGISTER
TODAY**

Feb. 25 & 26, 2016

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

East Mississippi Community
College
8731 South Frontage Road
Mayhew, MS 39753

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the amplified transition challenges that impact mobile military-connected students with exceptional needs
- Analyze processes that support transitioning children with exceptional needs
- Design methods to ease transitions for military children with exceptional needs

Register here:

www.MilitaryChild.org/training

For more information about this training, other professional development opportunities, or support, please contact:

Myriam Virella at (254) 953-1923 x 1119 or
Myriam.Virella@MilitaryChild.org

Sponsored by:

Air Force



There is no cost to participants

Upon completion of the training (12 clock hours) participants may apply for continuing education credits for a fee of \$25.00. CE credit applications must be received within 12 months from the completion of the training.

For additional information visit: www.MilitaryChild.org/professionals/programs/continuing-education-graduate-credit



Provider #: 6283



Provider #: 1307336



Provider #: 2586

Military Child Education Coalition

909 Mountain Lion Circle • Harker Heights, Texas 76548 • (254) 953-1923 • www.MilitaryChild.org

The Military Child Education Coalition® solely exists to help the military and veteran-connected child thrive in the face of transition and separation.
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MAINTAINERS

(Continued from page 12)

Charlton, a 340th EAMU KC-135 crew chief from Vancouver, Washington. "It's worth it though because we are working on the KC-135 which impacts so many other airframes, our sister services and coalition partners."

Capt. Kelly Womble, the 340th EAMU officer-in-charge from Cookeville, Tennessee, said that without the KC-135 maintainers these aircraft wouldn't be flying.

"It takes a lot of attention and care to keep a 60-year-old aircraft running, especially with the operations tempo and environmental conditions our maintainers have to endure," Womble said.

The captain said her Airmen give aircrews the capability to provide the fuel needed for many different types of airpower across the region.

"From bombers and fighters to ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) and other refuelers, across sister services and our coalition partners — we keep the mission going," Womble said.

KC-135 maintainers perform a variety of maintenance work to keep the plane flying. Herrera shared some of his most challenging moments working on the aircraft.

"The most challenging job I had was troubleshooting a satellite triangulation switching malfunction which would not allow the aircraft to display accurate GPS data to the pilot," Herrera said. "This was caused by a bad grounding wire for a terminal lug; it caused the jet to sense a channel malfunction and wouldn't switch to the backup system. After 72 hours of troubleshooting we finally fixed it."

Herrera also fixed an issue with a KC-135's autopilot feature.

"I remember one aircraft had an autopilot failure," Herrera said. "I fixed it, which allowed the aircraft to take-off on time. I felt a great sense of accomplishment knowing the jet would refuel fighters over Iraq and support our ground forces."

Master Sgt. Benjamin McCullough, the 340th EAMU air tasking order production superintendent from Ripon, California, said he's proud of his team.

"They make the mission happen day-in and day-out," he said. "Any time something breaks we have guys out there fixing whatever may be wrong. It can get very hot on the flightline and our Airmen are out there for four or five hours, sometimes longer, working on aircraft trying to get them ready for their next flight."

"Our rates for losing sorties based on maintenance not being accomplished are also incredibly low and that's due to their diligence and hard work," he continued. "I'm very proud of them."

Into thin air: Liquid oxygen keeps pilots flying

Senior Airman Cierra Presentado
36th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — As an aircraft reaches a higher altitude, the air pressure decreases, sometimes leaving aircrews little air to breathe. When this happens, pilots and crew members are able to utilize the liquid oxygen provided by Airmen from the 36th Maintenance Squadron, thus enabling them to complete the mission.

Airmen from the 36th MXS electrical and environmental shop sustain the liquid oxygen carts that service the various aircraft on Andersen Air Force Base. The liquid oxygen is used so that pilots can breathe at high altitudes. The team ensures the carts are readily available for crew chiefs to take when needed.

"We don't know how many aircraft we may have during a given day, so it's important we have more than enough carts ready to go at a moment's notice," said Senior Airman Kevin Hakala, a 36th MXS electrical and environmental technician. "If the carts have no maintenance or mechanical issues and are good to go then we send them to cryogenics to get filled with liquid oxygen."

It is crucial for the team to guarantee there are enough carts to service all transient aircraft for all services.

"Our aircrews need to have a supply of liquid oxygen in their aircraft at all times in the event of an emergency," Hakala said. "It's pretty cool to be responsible for providing clean sanitary liquid oxygen to the guys flying the planes."

Every four to six months, bomber aircrews, operation support personnel and maintainers rotate through Andersen AFB in support of the continuous bomber presence in the Pacific. Currently, four Airmen deployed from Minot AFB, North Dakota, are assigned to the electrical environmental shop.

"Being able to work with deployed Airmen is great. We have extra hands around the shop and eager Airmen that are excited to be here supporting the mission," said Senior Airman Laenya Maze, a 36th MXS electrical and environmental technician. "We have different teams deploying in and out of here every six months, so it's always exciting to work with new people."

The team's job has proven to play a large role here. Without the liquid oxygen, pilots and crewmembers cannot fly their mission.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cierra Presentado

Senior Airman Laenya Maze, a 36th Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental technician, releases built up pressure from a liquid oxygen cart Dec. 1, 2015, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Before a cart is transported to a jet, all built up pressure is released and the cart must pass inspection.

"If the aircrews can't breathe, then they can't fly the jets," Hakala said. "The Air Force mission is to fly planes, so our job is pretty important."

The cryogenics shop, which provides the liquid oxygen to the maintenance Airmen, is one of only two Air Force production centers worldwide. The shop is able to generate, store and distribute liquid oxygen and nitrogen unlike other Air Force labs that are not able to produce their own.

"We work alongside the electrical and environmental team in making sure they get the liquid oxygen carts filled," said Staff Sgt. Jon Reid, the 36th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of cryogenic production. "We produce about 30,000 gallons of liquid oxygen a year to support the various units here. The electrical and environmental shop is a great team to work with; we produce the oxygen and they get it to the proper place."

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight



Date: Dec. 10
Category: Airman
Nominee Name/Grade: Airman
1st Class Chelsea Vergne
Unit: 48th Flying Training Squadron

Information:

- Home Town: Lima, Ohio
- Time in the Air Force: Two years
- Time at Columbus AFB: One year eight months
- Career Short Term Goals: Complete CCAF & make staff sergeant
- Career Long Term Goals: Attain Bachelors & make 100 on PT Test
- Nominated by: Tech. Sgt. Darius Williams





U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

Senior Airman Reid Nixon, left, a 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit hydraulics journeyman from Odenton, Maryland, and Senior Airman Michael Velazquez, a 340th EAMU hydraulics journeyman from Rochester, New York, join a small team of hydraulics specialists as they install a multi-purpose refueling system on a KC-135 Stratotanker at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Dec. 30, 2015. The system allows the aircraft to refuel any plane supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Maintainers keep KC-135s flying downrange

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — The 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit here maintains the largest KC-135 Stratotanker fleet in the world of more than 40 aircraft valued at roughly \$2 billion.

The unit is responsible for ensuring each aircraft is mission ready and must quickly fix any mechanical problems the planes may have. The unit has more than 350 mechanics assigned serving in a variety of specialties from hydraulics to guidance systems.

One of those mechanics, Senior Airman Christopher Herrera, a 340th EAMU guidance and control avionics specialist from Pensacola, Florida, said he enjoys working on the KC-135.

“Every time I fix a jet there is a sense of accom-

plishment,” Herrera said. “It’s a great feeling because my job makes an impact around the world. Other aircraft rely on our refuel capabilities to accomplish their mission.”

In 2015, KC-135s refueled hundreds of aircraft from 19 nations including Jordan, Australia and France as they offloaded more than 700 million pounds of fuel. The airframe is in high demand across the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility often refueling more than 90 aircraft a day.

These results are possible, in large part, because of the Airmen of the 340th EAMU who often work up to 12-hour shifts repairing aircraft.

“Working 12-hour days in the heat can be grueling and physically taxing,” said Senior Airman Michael

See MAINTAINERS, Page 13

Coalition airstrikes kill 10 senior ISIL leaders in December

Terri Moon Cronk

DoD News,
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — A high-value Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant leader killed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes Dec. 24 was just one of 10 ISIL leaders targeted and killed so far this month, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren confirmed Dec. 29.

Speaking to reporters at the Pentagon via a live satellite feed from Baghdad, Warren said Syria-based Charaffe al Mouadan was “planning additional attacks against the West,” and was directly linked to Abdelhamid Abaaoud, leader of the cell responsible for the terrorist attacks in Paris last month.

The ISIL leaders were killed in coalition airstrikes that took place from Dec. 7-27, he said, noting that several were external attack planners linked to the Paris attacks.

‘Striking at the head of the snake’

“In addition to our tactical operations, we are also striking at the head of this snake by hunting down and killing ISIL leaders,” Warren said.

Warren also provided descriptions of the other nine deceased ISIL leaders:

- Rawand Dilsher Taher, an external operations facilitator; and Khalil Ahmad Ali al-Wais, also known as Abu Wadhah of Kirkuk province, Iraq. Taher, killed Dec. 7 near Raqqah, Syria, was a trusted ISIL member who assisted with command and control and handling and transferring money and equipment. Abu Wadhah, the ISIL emir of Kirkuk province had a long history of targeting U.S. and Iraqi forces, and he was killed

Dec. 7 near Huwayjah, Iraq.

- Abu Anas, an ISIL bomb cell facilitator, was killed Dec. 8 near Kirkuk, Iraq. His death, Warren said, “will disrupt ISIL’s ability to conduct (improvised explosive device) attacks near Kirkuk.”

- Yunis Khalash, aka Abu Jawdat, who was ISIL’s deputy financial emir in Mosul, Iraq, was killed Dec. 9. His death will burden senior ISIL cadre to find a technically skilled and trustworthy replacement, Warren said. Mithaq Najim, ISIL’s deputy emir in Kirkuk province was also killed Dec. 9 near Huwayjah, Iraq. “Najim’s removal disrupts ISIL’s ability to train, command and maintain fighters in Kirkuk province,” Warren said.

- Syria-based Bangladeshi Siful Haque Sujan was killed Dec. 10 near Raqqah, Syria. Sujan was an external operations planner and a United Kingdom-educated computer systems engineer, Warren said, adding Sujan supported ISIL hacking efforts, anti-surveillance technology and weapons development. “Now that he’s dead, ISIL has lost a key link between networks,” he said.

- Akram Muhammad Sa’ad Faris, also known as Akram Aabu, an ISIL commander and executioner, was killed Dec. 12 near his base of operations in Tal Afar, Iraq.

- Abdel Kader Hakim, another ISIL external operations facilitator, was killed Dec. 26 in Mosul, Iraq. Hakim was a veteran fighter and forgery specialist who had links to the Paris attack network, who also was part of ISIL’s external operations group who enabled attacks against Western targets. “His death removes an important facilitator with many connections in Europe,” Warren said.

- Tashin al-Hayali, an external operations facilitator, was killed Dec. 27 near Mosul, Iraq, Warren said.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: HC-130P/N

The HC-130P/N is an extended-range version of the C-130 Hercules transport. HC-130 crews provide expeditionary, all weather personnel recovery capabilities to our Combatant Commanders and Joint/Coalitions partners worldwide.

Mission

The mission of the HC-130P/N “King” is to rapidly deploy to austere airfields and denied territory in order to execute all weather personnel recovery operations anytime, anywhere. King crews routinely perform high and low altitude personnel and equipment airdrops, infiltration/exfiltration of personnel, helicopter air-to-air refueling, and forward area refueling point missions.

When tasked, the aircraft also conducts humanitarian assistance operations, disaster response, security cooperation/aviation advisory, emergency aeromedical evacuation, casualty evacuation, noncombatant evacuation operations, and, during the Space Shuttle program, space flight support for NASA.

Features

Modifications to the HC-130P/N are improved navigation, threat detection and countermeasures systems. The aircraft fleet has a fully-integrated inertial navigation and global positioning systems, and night vision goggle, or NVG, compatible interior and exterior lighting. It also has forward-looking infrared, radar and missile warning receivers, chaff and flare dispensers, satellite and data-burst communications.

The HC-130 can fly in the day; however, crews normally fly night at low to medium altitude levels in contested or sensitive environments, both over land or overwater. Crews use NVGs for tactical flight profiles to avoid detection to accomplish covert infiltration/exfiltration and transload operations.

Background

First flown in 1964, the aircraft has served many roles and



U.S. Air Force photo

The HC-130P/N is an extended-range version of the C-130 Hercules transport. Its mission is to rapidly deploy to execute combatant commander-directed operations to austere airfields and denied territory for expeditionary, all weather personnel recovery operations to include airdrop, airland, helicopter air-to-air refueling and forward area refueling point missions.

missions. It was initially modified to conduct search and rescue missions, provide a command and control platform, in-flight-refuel helicopters and carry supplemental fuel for extending range and increasing loiter time during search operations.

They have been deployed to Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey in support of operations Southern and Northern Watch, Allied Force, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. HC-130s also support continuous alert commitments in Alaska and the Horn of Africa.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Rescue platform
Contractor: Lockheed Aircraft Corp.
Power Plant: Four Allison T56-A-15 turboprop engines
Thrust: 4,910 shaft horsepower, each engine
Wingspan: 132 feet, 7 inches (40.4 meters)
Length: 98 feet, 9 inches (30.09 meters)
Height: 38 feet, 6 inches (11.7 meters)
Weight: 83,000 pounds (37,648 kilograms)



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce

An HH-60G Pave Hawk with the 55th Rescue Squadron maneuvers into position to refuel from an HC-130P/N with the 79th Rescue Squadron. The HC-130 was modified to conduct search and rescue missions, provide a command and control platform, in-flight-refuel helicopters and carry supplemental fuel for extending range and increasing loiter time during search operations.

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 155,000 pounds (69,750 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 73,000 pounds (10,724 gallons)

Payload: 30,000 pounds (13,608 kilograms)

Speed: 289 miles per hour (464 kilometers per hour) at sea level

Range: beyond 4,000 miles (3,478 nautical miles)

Ceiling: 33,000 feet (10,000 meters)

Armament: countermeasures/flares, chaff

Crew: Three officers (pilot, co-pilot, navigator) and four enlisted (flight engineer, airborne communications specialist, two loadmasters). Additional crewmembers include a Guardian Angel team consisting of one combat rescue officer and three pararescuemen

Unit Cost: \$77 million (fiscal 2008 replacement cost)

Initial operating capability: 1964

Inventory: Active force, 13; ANG, 13; Reserve, 10

VIEWPOINT

Rocking 2015 as team

Col. John Nichols

14th Flying Training
Wing Commander

Team BLAZE, You rocked 2015 — and you did it together, working as a team.

We often throw around the word team, reflecting back on our memories of sporting events. However, our team extends beyond our athletic seasons, squadrons, or even our wing.

Our Joint team brings with it the might of the United States Armed Forces and is comprised of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and contractors. Columbus

Air Force Base provides the first cut in pilot production which ultimately places bombs and eyes on target and troops and equipment on the battlefield.

Columbus AFB receives hundreds of student pilots and Air Traffic Control apprentices each year. Making it to Columbus AFB takes hard work and determination — making it through our training programs requires teamwork. You matter ... to your Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class, your squadron, and to the U.S. Air Force.

We started 2016 with a great news story. Every member of our team returned to duty following the holidays with zero injuries and zero DUIs. Our 100-percent safe return is a

direct reflection of committed front line supervision and smart personal decision making.

Our Wing Safety has been equally committed, winning the Air Education and Training Command’s To-Promote-Safety Award which recognizes the 14th Flying Training Wing as having the most effective overall mishap prevention program. However, it must be executed by each one of us to be a true success. Our responsibility is to continually identify risks and hazards, mitigate them to the max extent possible, and then re-assess the remaining risk as acceptable or not in accomplishing our mission.

If the risk is too great, then we are all empowered to call a “knock it off” and find a better way. At Monday’s annual safety meeting, which marked the beginning of a new

calendar year, I challenged you to continue our level of effort into 2016 — by eliminating all DUIs and preventing Controlled Movement Area Violations on our airfield.

Lastly, I need you to take my challenge beyond just the flightline. I need each of you to be a Wingman to someone on this base. We can only support the largest Flying Hour Program, produce the largest number of SUPT graduates, and continue to operate AETC’s busiest ATC facility with you. You are the 14th FTW’s number one asset and the fuel that powers our mission execution.

One cost we cannot afford is the loss of any individual due to preventable poor decisions. Wingmen and supervisors — ask the hard questions and seek the right answers. The success of our mission depends on it.

-BLAZE 1

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.

Base Library Relocation
The Base Library will close Jan. 11 – 18 to relocate to the Education Center, building 916, in rooms 3, 4 and 6. They will reopen Jan. 19 with the following hours of operation: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and Sundays 1 – 5 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Martin Luther King Jr. Display
The Youth Center is offering a Martin Luther King Jr. Display Jan. 13 – 15. Learn more about this great leader daily from 3 – 6 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Harlem Globetrotters Youth Trip
The Youth Center is offering a trip to watch the Harlem Globetrotters perform Jan. 16. Sign up by Jan. 14. Transportation provided; must purchase tickets online or upon arrival. For more information, contact 434-2504.

5K Fitness Run
The Fitness Center is offering a 5K run/walk Jan. 22 at 7 a.m. Commander's trophy points are awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

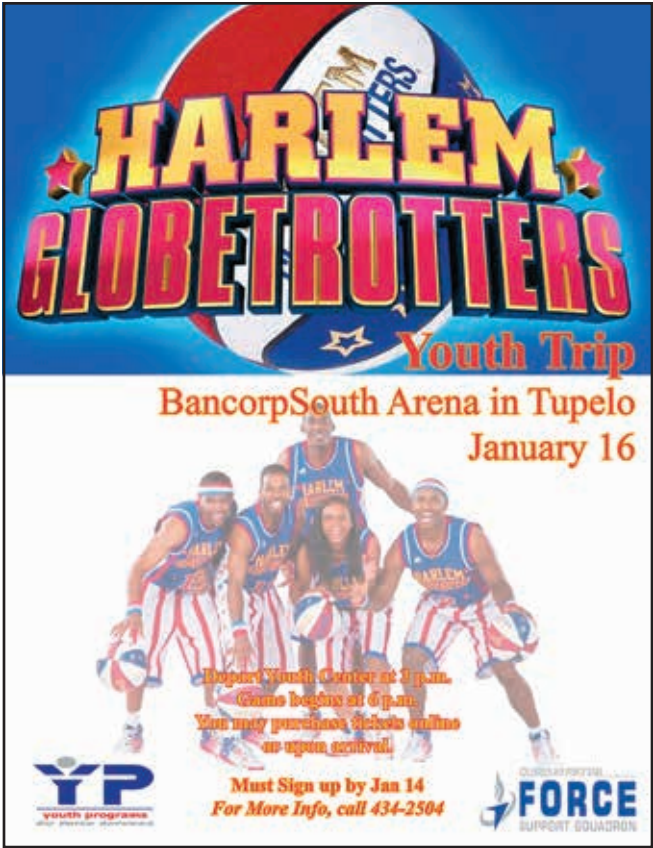
Iceberg Golf Challenge
Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a three-person 18-hole golf scramble Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. The cost is only \$10 plus green fees and cart. Entry fee includes hot dog, chips and a drink. Must register and pay by noon Jan. 22. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Bar Benders Challenge
The Fitness Center is offering a Bar Benders Challenge Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. The challenge includes 300 Club 1 Rep Max and Max Reps at 185 pounds. Each participant who successfully bench presses 300 will receive a free shirt. For more information or to sign up, contact 434-2772.

Matt the Knife Magic Show
Join the 14th Force Support Squadron for a night of magic Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Kaye Auditorium. For ages 18 and older due to adult situational material. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Victoria Thornton at 434-2611.

Family 3-Point Shoot Out
The Youth Center is offering a Family 3 Point Shoot Out and Hotspot Competition Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. For ages 6 – 18 and each child must compete with an adult. Register no later than Jan. 28. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Gymnastics Instructor Needed
Gymnastics Instructors are needed at the Youth Center. For more information, contact Kayline Hamilton at 434-2503.



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

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.

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

Volleyball Open Play
The Fitness Center offers volleyball open play every Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2772.

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

GoPro Rental
Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero 3 from Outdoor Recreation. Cost is only \$10 for a 2-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a 2-day rental at no charge during Single Airman programming events. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Play Paintball
Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per

person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class
Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Wood Shop Self Help
Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

RV Storage Lot
Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

Green Plate Special
The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

Instructional Classes at Youth Center
Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Fitness on Request
CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

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

Ride in Style
If you don't want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Transportation one way is \$175 for Birmingham and \$50 for Columbus. Call 434-2505 for more information.

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

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.)

Career Technical Training
This transition event is held 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Jan. 11-12. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of 8 participants to make, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Smooth Move
This class is held 10-11:30 a.m. Jan. 12. It is a class that provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

Troops To Teachers
This workshop is 10:30 a.m. – noon Jan. 13. 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop
This workshop is held 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 13. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

Military Life Cycle
The Military Life Cycle workshop is held 1-2 p.m. Jan. 15. This workshop allows the VA contractors to explain to service members, whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation
This brief is held at 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Kaye Auditorium. It is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2839.

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.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
A rare sight of flooding on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, was seen as water from Buttahatchee River gathered around the north base area covering SAC Lake and more Dec. 28. Family housing, the airfield and industrial area were all unaffected.

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan
Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling (662) 434-2720.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program
The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities
If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program
The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

Base News
Learn How to Read Your LES
Having a hard time understanding your Leave and Earning Statement? Need a refresher so that you can mentor your subordinates on their entitlements? Finance has you covered. If you would

like for Finance to come to your next CC call or Professional Organization event, you can contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs at DSN 742-3068 or Senior Airman Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

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

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

Chapel Schedule
Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

The Chapel offers 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

REVISITED

(Continued from page 7)

against women.

On May 8, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and other local community members, who contributed to the planning and construction of the Lowndes County, Mississippi's, \$1.9 million small arms range, attended the official opening. Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Maj. Brenton Pickrell, 14th Security Forces Squadron Commander, led a line of 14 shooters to officially open the Columbus Lowndes County Small Arms Range. The range is used jointly by Columbus AFB Airmen, Lowndes County, city of Columbus and other local law enforcement departments for weapons qualification and training. On that same day, thirty-seven Columbus AFB Airmen were awarded their Community College of the Air Force degrees in the Kaye Auditorium.

The Columbus AFB Fitness Center unveiled and executed a policy change from the facility's limited hours of service to an unlimited 24/7 service operation which began in June. Tim Dill, 14th Force Support Squadron Fitness Center Assistant Manager, said the purpose of the new movement is "to provide for service members who work unconventional shifts, such as security forces and firefighters, and to allow them to maintain mission readiness and to boost morale by providing access to the gym."

Over 7,000 people enjoyed food vendors, live music, a fly-over and a fireworks display at the July 4 Fireworks on the Water celebration held at the Stennis Lock and Dam in Columbus, Mississippi. On July 21, Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson took command of AETC in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Two F-35A Lightning II aircraft arrived on Columbus AFB July 23, one of which was piloted by Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus, Commander of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, Arizona, who later gave an F-35A capabilities brief at Phillips Auditorium.

Twenty honor guardsmen from Columbus AFB and four T-38 Talons supported a Missing In Action ceremony Aug. 10 for a Mississippi Airman whose aircraft crashed exactly 63 years earlier. The 14th FTW's 48th Flying Training Squadron also conducted a mass launch of 12 T-1A Jayhawks to practice the combat capability of safely and swiftly launching a large number of aircraft.

Members of Columbus AFB and the local community spent the evening of Sept. 18 celebrating the 68th Air Force Birthday at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus, Mississippi. Later during the month, Street Smart, an organization which presents

safety and preventive training to a targeted audience, held an event which addressed a topic designed to "Make young adults aware of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, texting and/or e-mailing while driving, not wearing seat belts, and the trauma associated with these dangers."

In October, aircraft from each of the 14th FTW flying squadrons were represented in a dissimilar formation above Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The T-1A Jayhawk from the 48th Flying Training Squadron led the formation with two T-38C Talons, one from the 50th Flying Training Squadron (SUPT) and one from the 49th Fighter Training Squadron (IFF), two T-6A Texan II aircraft from the 37th Flying Training Squadron and the 41st Flying Training Squadron, and the 14th FTW's newest addition, the A-29.

The Columbus AFB website migrated to the new standard design in October. The web page now resembles the Air Force's main site, aka Air Force Link. The changeover created a more uniformed experience among Air Force web pages in both form and function.

Also, the Columbus Club renovation committee invited Team BLAZE members to participate in a fun-filled contest to rename the bar formerly known as Indy's. The intent of the contest was to give the bar a name that captured the history and heritage of Columbus AFB. During the latter part of October, all departments of the 14th Medical Group began moving into the newly renovated Koritz Clinic, which included the Dental, Mental Health and Physical Therapy Clinics.

Nov. 19 marked the 39th anniversary of the American Cancer Society Great American Smoke-out. Columbus AFB Health Promotion celebrated by distributing "quit kits" to tobacco users who challenged themselves to give up their tobacco for 24 hours.

During early December, Team BLAZE members performed a fun-filled and informative skit titled, "You don't know Jack like I know Jack." The play presented humorous storylines, used as a tool to entertain, inspire and enlighten the audience in terms of resiliency and various prevention services, such as 434-RIDE and ADAPT, available at Columbus AFB.

Mid-month, the 81st FS graduated the first class of combat-ready attack pilots. According to Col. John Nichols, 14th FTW Commander, this graduation represented the first step in fulfilling the requirement from the International Security Assistance Force to conduct training outside of Afghanistan. Also, the Defense Information Systems Agency conducted a Command Cyber Read-

14TH Flying Training Wing

2016 Upcoming Events

Looking Forward

Jan. 20 -21:
19th AF Commander and Command Chief visit

Jan. 29:
Illusionist/Comedian Show

Feb. 5:
Annual Awards Ceremony

Feb. 12 -13:
Bishop Neal Buckon visit

March 25:
Happy Irbby Golf Tournament

March 31:
14th STUS Change of Command

On the horizon
Honorary Commander Change of Command
Club re-opening
48th FTS Change of Command
41st FTS Change of Command
14th MDSS Change of Command
81st FS Change of Command
14th OG Change of Command
14th MDOS Change of Command
14th FTW/CC Change of Command
14th FTW/CCC Change of Command

iness Inspection of Columbus AFB, in which the graded areas received ratings of "Acceptable" and "Excellent."

The tree lighting ceremony kicked-off the holiday season which also marked the end-days for the many events and accomplishments experienced by the base throughout 2015. In addition to those tasks, the 14th FTW successfully met its primary mission requirement to produce military pilots, thereby training and graduating over 320 new Air Force pilots, as well as 16 international allied

nation's pilots, resulting in 53,514 sorties and 75,816 flying training hours.

During the course of the year, the wing gained new wing-level and squadron-level leadership as a result of its many change of command ceremonies. Regrettably, the wing lost forever several valued team members who passed away but will always be remembered.

As we say goodbye to 2015 and greet 2016, Team BLAZE members can look forward to an exciting and challenging year.

FEATURE

2015: A Year Revisited

14TH Flying Training Wing

2015 First Quarter Events




1st Lt. Luke Williams, 48th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot, Lt. Col. Paul Baker, 48th FTS Commander, and Col. Bob Jessup, USAF, Ret, a former member of the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, speak during the 48th FTS's tail flash unveiling ceremony Jan. 9 in the Walker Center at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The speakers, all proud members of the 48th, showed immense pride for their squadron in the form of personal stories and historic tales of past Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration)



Gen. Robin Rand, Commander of Air Education Training Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC Command Chief, host a question-and-answer session with Columbus AFB chiefs and first sergeants in the Base Chapel Annex, Jan. 23, 2015. Rand and Tapia shared their positions and experiences with Columbus AFB senior enlisted leadership. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day)



Twelve Annual Award winners pose with Maj. Gen. Garrett Harenack, Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Rita Felton, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, Feb. 6 at the Columbus AFB Club. Harenack spoke during the banquet about the incredible impact the Airmen nominees have on the Columbus AFB mission, and how they need to continue their hard work. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



Members of Airman Leadership School Class 15-3 lower the American flag during a retreat ceremony March 12 at the flag pole in the Richard "Gene" Smith Plaza on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The retreat ceremony encompasses decades of Air Force history and American pride and is performed at the end of the duty day. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman John Day)



One of the 100 Columbus Air Force Base T-6 Texans weathered the two day sleet and snow storm Feb. 25. The base was closed Feb. 25-26 as more than 5 inches of snow were recorded on the base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, stands alongside Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hogan, 81st Fighter Squadron Commander and Senior Master Sgt. Dexter Wallace, 81st FS Superintendent, at the 81st FS activation ceremony Jan. 15 at Moody AFB, Georgia. The 81st FS will train Afghan student pilots and maintainers as part of the light air support training mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson)



Under Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning prepares for takeoff in an A-29 Super Tucano Jan. 15, 2015, at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Fanning visited Moody for an orientation flight in the A-29 and to familiarize himself with the 81st Fighter Squadron's Afghan pilot and maintenance training mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ryan Callaghan/Released)



Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, Second Air Force Commander, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. speaks to attendees of the Columbus AFB Black History Month luncheon at the Columbus Club Feb. 20. During his speech, Brown spoke about historical and inspirational Black Americans who made significant changes in the Air Force. This year marks the 100th February celebrating African American's contributions and achievements in American History. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)

Dr. Doris Crusoe
14th Flying Training Wing Historian

As we revisit the last 12 months of the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission, it can be said without a doubt, it was a busy and fun filled year.

Perhaps at one point in time, we have all heard the old saying, "My, how time flies." Well, 2015 is a shining reminder of how swiftly time passes, especially when you are a Team BLAZE member for one of the busiest flying training wings in all of Air Education and Training Command.

In January, Headquarters AETC announced the 14th Flying Training Wing received its 12th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. During the same month, the U.S. Air Force reactivated a historic unit, the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, to train Afghan pilots and maintainers on the A-29 Super Tucano fighter aircraft. Although the 81st FS is a tenant unit at Moody AFB, the squadron falls under command of the 14th Operations Group and 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

Later during that month, Gen. Robin Rand, Commander of AETC, and Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, AETC Command Chief, visited the 14th Flying Training Wing. Also, AETC announced the winners of the 2014 Public Affairs Awards for Excellence in which the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs office won the Brigadier General Harry J. Dalton Jr. Award for Best Overall Communication Program.

February brought the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop Neal Buckon, Archdiocese for military services U.S. Army, to town. Buckon celebrated Catholic Mass with the Columbus AFB community members; 11 of Team BLAZE's enlisted Airmen were promoted during the enlisted promotions ceremony; and on behalf of the 14th OG, Lt. Col. Robert Mozeleski, 14th Operations Group Deputy Commander, accepted the Columbus Air Force Base Commander's Trophy, which is an annual award given to the group who collectively both participates and excels in the intramural sports program.

Airmen of Columbus AFB saluted as the graduates of Airman Leadership School Class 15-3 lowered the flag during a retreat ceremony on March 12, held on base at the Richard "Gene" Smith Plaza. March 14 marked the 42nd anniversary of Smith's repatriation after he served as a Prisoner of War in Vietnam for five years. James Poe was named Retiree Activities Office Director for Columbus AFB, a position that was vacant for a number of years. Poe provided information and assistance to over 4,000 local retirees and the base.

During the month of April, after successfully undergoing the first-of-its-kind unit effectiveness inspection, Columbus AFB received an "effective" rating for displaying a consistency of performance. In support of Domestic Violence Month, a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response awareness briefing held at the Kaye Auditorium inspired Airmen to change the culture of violence.

14TH Flying Training Wing 2015 Second Quarter Events



Team BLAZE Airmen and civilians line up for free hamburgers during the Columbus Air Force Base post-Unit Effectiveness Inspection burger burn April 9 at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Members also got a chance to participate in a variety of sport activities such as 3-on-3 basketball, 1-pitch softball, sand volleyball and free golf to celebrate the passing of the UEI. (U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Col. James Boster, 14th Operations Group Commander, passes the 14th Operations Support Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Matthew Baugh, the new 14th OSS Commander during a change of command ceremony April 9 at the McAllister Fire Station on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Baugh was previously the Director of Operations for the 50th Flying Training Squadron on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra)



Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Maj. Brenon Pickrell, 14th Security Forces Squadron Commander, lead a line of 14 shooters to officially open the Columbus Lowndes County Small Arms Range May 8 in Lowndes County, Mississippi. Distinguished shooters included Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and other local community members who contributed to the planning and construction of the \$1.9 million facility. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile)



14th Flying Training Wing Honor Guardsmen fold the base flag before retiring it at a 14th FTW Memorial Day retreat May 21 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. After retiring the flag, formations of Airmen paused for a moment of silence before saluting to honor the fallen while Taps was played. (U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens/U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay)



Grog bowls are guarded by Team BLAZE Airmen during the Enlisted Combat Dining In June 19 at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The warriors in uniform endured an obstacle course, food and an intense water gun battle. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra)



Thirty-seven Columbus Air Force Base Airmen are awarded their Community College of the Air Force degree May 8 at the Kaye Auditorium. The CCAF is a federal program offered by the United States Air Force which grants two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees in association with Air University. (U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)



Columbus Air Force Base Autocross participants wait for the first 2015 event to begin May 30 on the SAC Ramp of Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The Mississippi Region of the Sports Car Club of America holds the event on base several times a year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Amanda Savannah)



14th Security Forces Squadron Airmen salute the flag during the Columbus Air Force Base Police Week retreat ceremony May 15 at Smith Plaza. After a week of celebration, defenders closed the events by honoring all the fallen officers who sacrificed their lives in the past year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay)



Tops in Blue Airmen from around the world perform for Columbus Air Force Base Airmen and members of the local community June 20 at the Mississippi University for Women's Whitfield Hall Rant Auditorium in Columbus, Mississippi. Before they start their tour, Tops in Blue Airmen undergo 60 days of intense training where they learn what it takes to become world-class performers. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)

14TH Flying Training Wing 2015 Third Quarter Events



(U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)



Attendees watch in awe of the fireworks display July 4 at Fireworks on the Water event. The event included food vendors, live music and an 18-minute fireworks display. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)



Bully, the Mississippi State University mascot, hangs out with company-grade officers from the 48th Flying Training Squadron July 24 in the 48th FTS Heritage Room on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During his tour, Bully had the opportunity to see some of the aircraft and units of Columbus AFB. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Elizabeth Owens)



Maj. Gen Richard Clark, Commander, Eighth Air Force, gives a speech at the 2015 Air Force Birthday Ball Sept. 18 at the Trotter Convention Center in Downtown Columbus. Clark spoke to the crowd about having a purpose and committing to that purpose. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson)



Team BLAZE members enjoy a wing picnic and sports day Sept. 30 at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The picnic started soon after the monthly Enlisted Promotions ceremony followed by a thank-you speech from Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander. (U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra)



The Number three aircraft initiates its pull up to begin the Missing Man formation flight tribute to Capt. Fredrick Partridge Aug. 10 at the end of his memorial service at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The four-ship of T-38C Talons from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, performed the aerial salute to Partridge exactly 63 years after his disappearance during the Korean War. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile)



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



Senior NCO inductees pause for a photo with Columbus Air Force Base senior leaders at the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Aug. 21 at Lion Hills Country Club in Columbus, Mississippi. The ceremony honored the newest master sergeant selects from Columbus AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)

14TH Flying Training Wing 2015 Fourth Quarter Events



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Oct. 1. The formation flight was performed to showcase the capability of Columbus' aircraft to incorporate the A-29 into a formation of six aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Lile)



Airman 1st Class Brianna Brown, 14th Flying Training Wing Honor guardsman, salutes the flag during the presentation of Colors at the 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 in Columbus, Mississippi. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)



An F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, sits on the flightline of Columbus Air Force Base, 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. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kaleb Snay)



A group of Columbus Air Force Base members run from a zombie during the third annual Zombie Run 5k Oct. 31 at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The participants had to protect three flags hanging from their waist as they went through obstacles and past the undead. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)



The Defense Information Systems Agency conducted a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Dec. 14-18. Cybersecurity practices are the responsibility of everyone on base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Amanda Savannah)



Airmen and their families from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, attend the Christmas Tree Lighting in front of the Base Chapel Dec. 3. The tree was lit by the family of an Airman that is currently deployed. (U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Lauren Woods)



Dr. Story Musgrave, Retired NASA Astronaut, entrepreneur, Marine Corps Crew Chief and neurosurgeon, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Dec. 4 to speak to Airmen about his life. Musgrave detailed what he attributed to his success and explained his work philosophy to the attendees. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day)



Derrick James, center, 8-year-old Pilot for a Day participant, and 2nd Lts. Steve Brown, left, and Travis Jackson, right, 41st Flying Training Squadron Pilots, stand next to a T-6 Texan II for their "Hero Shot" Dec. 22 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. James and his family were paired with host instructor pilots from the 41st FTS for a day of "red carpet" treatment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin)