

Weather

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday  Partly Cloudy High 62°F Low 28°F | Friday  Rain High 61°F Low 44°F |
| Saturday  Cloudy High 48°F Low 35°F | Sunday  Partly Cloudy High 47°F Low 28°F |

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Exchange annual inventory closure

The base exchange is closed Jan. 16 for annual inventory and will reopen during normal hours Jan. 17.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

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

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.

SUPT Class 16-04 graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-04 is graduating at 10 a.m. Jan. 22 in the Kaye Auditorium. The graduation speaker is retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, former Air Education and Training Command Vice Commander.

Inside



Feature 8

The AFE is highlighted in this week's feature.

19th AF commander to visit Columbus AFB

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Team BLAZE welcomes Maj. Gen. James Hecker, Commander, 19th Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio–Randolph, Texas, to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Hecker was commissioned in the Air Force in 1989 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was both a graduate and instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons Instructor Course. In response to the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Hecker was responsible for coordinating both civilian and military disaster relief and humanitarian assistance during Operation Tomodachi, while working with U.S. Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base. He has also worked as a military legislative assistant for the Senate majority leader in Washington, D.C. and has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. Prior to this assignment, he was the Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements at Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Hecker is a command pilot with more than 3,300 hours.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1989 - November 1990, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Sheppard AFB, Texas
2. January 1991 - March 1991, Student, AT-38 lead-in fighter training, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
3. March 1991 - August 1991, Student, F-15 replacement training, Tyndall AFB, Florida
4. August 1991 - May 1992, F-15C Pilot; 8th and 9th Tactical Fighter Squadrons, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
5. June 1992 - December 1995, Instructor Pilot, Flight Examiner and Chief, F-15C Standardization and Evaluation, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
6. January 1996 - June 1996, Student, F-15C Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nevada
7. July 1996 - August 1998, Weapons Officer, 44th Fighter

See HECKER, Page 2



Maj. Gen. James Hecker, Commander, 19th Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio–Randolph, Texas

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 (16-13) | 2.98 days | 2.12 days | Feb. 16 | 48th (16-04) | 0.03 days | 1.18 days | Jan. 22 | 49th (16-DBC) | -0.45 days | 0.33 days | Feb. 1 | T-6 | 719 | 905 | 7,844 |
| 41st (16-12) | 1.63 days | 2.54 days | Jan. 20 | 50th (16-04) | 1.13 days | 3.62 days | Jan. 22 | | | | | T-1 | 294 | 297 | 2,637 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | T-38 | 248 | 306 | 2,613 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | IFF | 156 | 164 | 1,127 |

The graduation speaker is Retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, former Air Education and Training Command Vice Commander.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 40 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.

HECKER
(Continued from page 1)

Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan

8. September 1998 - July 2000, Instructor Pilot, F-15C Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nevada

9. August 2000 - September 2001, Senate Liaison Officer, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

10. October 2001 - October 2002, Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, the Government Affairs Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

11. November 2002 - June 2003, Assistant Director of Operations, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia

12. July 2003 - September 2004, Director of Operations, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia

13. October 2004 - May 2006, Command-

er, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia

14. July 2006 - May 2007, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

15. July 2007 - July 2009, Commander, 3rd Operations Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

16. July 2009 - June 2011, Director of Operations, Operations Directorate (J3), U.S. Forces Japan, Yokota AB, Japan

17. June 2011 - May 2013, Commander, 432nd Wing, 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Creech AFB, Nevada

18. May 2013 - April 2015, Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

19. April 2015 - June 2015, Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia

20. June 2015 - present, Commander, 19th Air Force, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

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.

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 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---------|---|
| 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | 19 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Kaye | 20 19th AF/CC and CCC visit | 21 19th AF/CC All Call, 10:30 a.m. @ Kaye | 22 SUPT Class 16-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye | 23/24 | Feb. 2: Groundhog Day Feb. 5: Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 9: Wing Newcomers Orientation Feb. 10: Blood Drive Feb. 12: POW Smitty Harris Repatriation (1973) Feb. 12-13: Bishop Neal Buckon visit Feb. 15: Presidents' Day Feb. 19: SUPT Class 16-05 Graduation Mar. 8: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 11: SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation Mar. 29: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 31: 14th STUS Change of Command Apr. 8: SUPT Class 16-07 Graduation |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Fourth Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 2 p.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions Ceremony, 3 p.m. @ Kaye | 30/31 | |

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.

Jan. 18
Ice skating is scheduled at Bancorpsouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Birthday parties and private parties are wel-

come 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. 23
The WCBI-Main Street Columbus Bridal Showcase is scheduled to begin 9 a.m. for the morning session and 1 p.m.


for the afternoon session at the remodeled Trotter Convention Center in downtown Columbus. Special fashion shows emceed by WCBI News Anchor Aundrea Self and Joey Barnes start at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All brides can register to win great door prizes including a grand prize from Rick's Furniture. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. For information, visit online at wcbi.com or contact Brennan Dockery at 245-0101.

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JDRF.org

IN 2016 go from



to



CrossFit **TOP DAWG**
Strength & Conditioning
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208 Conway Drive • Columbus • 662-570-4645

At the end of the Couch to CrossFit program, you are going to be motivated and ready to take over the world as a stronger, happier, healthier version of YOU!

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.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Samsung stainless steel and black slide-in stove; four burners (two-dual) with one center warming center, three years old, \$800 firm. For more information call (719) 290-5440.

Transportation

Wanted: Looking for used vehicle; compact four-door with no more than 40,000 miles in excellent condition, immediate availability required. If available please call 329-1843.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Re-runs must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes No

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News Sports Photos Other _____

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@us.af.mil.

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IRS Form 1095 available on myPay

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — All active-duty, Guard, Reserve, retiree and civilian Airmen will need proof of health care coverage when filing their federal tax returns for 2015.

“This is the first year that Affordable Care Act requires health care validation for filing their taxes and Airmen need this information,” said Robert W. Burke, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office director, finance division.

Under the ACA, U.S. citizens and legal residents are required to obtain and maintain a minimum standard of health care insurance, called minimum essential coverage. The proof of minimum essential coverage will be provided by the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form 1095. TRICARE is one of many health providers qualifying for this coverage.

In January 2016, Defense Finance and Accounting Service is required to provide each employee with the IRS Form 1095 for employment during 2015. A hard copy form is scheduled to be mailed to each employee and the form will also be available electronically through myPay under the taxes section.

“The Air Force would like to stress the importance for Airmen to elect to receive the form electronic only,” Burke continued. “This action will save the Air Force \$200,000 and cause no environmental impact.”

Additional information about the impact of the ACA can be found online at <http://www.dfas.mil/taxes/aca.html>.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.

I am a Warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to fly, fight, and win.

I am faithful to a proud heritage.

A tradition of honor,

And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman.

Guardian of freedom and justice,

My nation's sword and shield,

Its sentry and avenger.

I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman.

Wingman, leader, warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind.

I will never falter,

And I will not fail.



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.
- If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.

For more information contact:

william.omeara.11@us.af.mil

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www.nfpa.org/education

Drive Smart, Save Lives Don't text while driving



Academic year 2016 enlisted-to-AFIT call for nominations

Education Center

The Enlisted-to-Air Force Institute of Technology program is a unique element of enlisted professional development.

In conjunction with other training and education programs, resident AFIT-sponsored science, engineering, and management graduate degree opportunities further develop NCOs' technical education and skills.

Ultimately, this program provides enhanced combat capability for diverse career fields with positions requiring a higher degree of education. This opportunity is deliberate force de-

velopment and members should expect a permanent change of station upon graduation.

This year, there are four Academic Year 2016 allocations available for the AFIT Advanced Academic Degree program. Nomination packages must be received by AF/A1DLE no later than March 4. The Enlisted-to-AFIT selection board will convene on or about March 10, if necessary. Selections will be based on the member's record as well as the degree of return on investment for the Air Force.

In addition to possessing an approved Air Force Specialty Code, prospective students must meet service eligibility standards prior to assignment availabil-

ity evaluation to attend AFIT.

Wing commanders and equivalent Field Operating Agency or Direct Reporting Unit commanders nominate NCOs and forward nomination packages.

Interested enlisted personnel must be academically eligible for admission to a graduate program offered by the Graduate School of Engineering and Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Applicants are encouraged to visit the AFIT/ENER website at aft.edu/ADMISSIONS/ or call DSN 785-6234 extension 3184 for assistance.

For more information contact the base education center at 434-2562.

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

Sponsored by:



There is no cost to participants

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

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



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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Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday hours

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Airman & Family Readiness Center | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Arts & Crafts, Wood Shop | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Back Gate | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Bowling Center | Open Jan. 18, noon – 6 p.m. |
| Child Development Center | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Columbus Club | Closed for renovations |
| Commissary | Closed Jan. 18 - 19 |
| Exchange | Open Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| Fitness Center | Open 24/7 (register at front desk) |
| Golf Course | Open Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| Medical Group | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Military Personnel and Finance | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Multimedia | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Outdoor Recreation | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Shoppette | Open Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| Visitor's Center | Closed Jan. 18 |
| Youth Center | Closed Jan. 18 |

Everyday Network Practice

Physically control Common Access Card at all times and remind others to do the same



Restart computer daily

Never plug any unauthorized devices, cameras or smartphones into a system

Digitally sign emails IAW
AFMAN 33-152

Retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens to speak at next graduation

Team BLAZE welcomes retired Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens back to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, as the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-04's graduation ceremony Jan. 22.



Owens is a former Columbus AFB pilot graduate and first-assignment instructor pilot. Before retiring in 2013 after more than 33 years of service, he was Vice Commander of Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

Owens is now the National Commander of the Order of Daedalians and a defense sector consultant specializing in air and space operations. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Owens commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels, served as vice commander of a numbered air force and twice was a major command vice commander. He also served in a variety of operational and staff positions to include assignments in the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Checkmate Division and Operations Directorate on the Joint Staff, supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and others worldwide.

Owens has broad operational experience. He is a command pilot with more than 3,100 hours in trainer and fighter aircraft. After instructor pilot duties, he flew combat missions in the first A-10 squadron deployed to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He has significant experience

in operational level command and control and Air Operations Center processes and organization. General Owens has served five tours in the Pacific, including command of the 607 Air Operations Group in Korea, commander of the 36 Wing on Guam and as vice commander of 13 Air Force and Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii. He also served as deputy commander of Joint Task Force 519 for Pacific Command.

His final assignment as vice commander of Air Education and Training Command included responsibility for strategic planning and budgeting as well as execution year budget management for the \$2.6 billion operations and maintenance training command. He oversaw the completion of the \$3 billion BRAC effort for San Antonio and the first bed down of the F-35 in the Air Force. The command supports the training and education of over 250,000 airmen annually.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1980 - July 1981, student, undergraduate pilot training, Columbus AFB, Mississippi
2. July 1981 - December 1981, student, pilot instructor training, Randolph AFB, Texas
3. December 1981 - September 1984, instructor pilot and academic instructor, 50th Flying Training Squadron and 14th Student Squadron, Columbus AFB, Mississippi
4. October 1984 - November 1987, instructor pilot, flight commander, and Chief, Check Section, 557th Flying Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
5. November 1987 - June 1988, student, A-10 upgrade training, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
6. July 1988 - July 1991, flight commander and assistant operations officer, 353rd Tactical Fighter Squadron; Chief, Current Operations, 354th Tactical Fighter Wing, Myrtle

Beach AFB, South Carolina (August 1990 - March 1991, flight commander and Chief, Current Operations, 354th Tactical Fighter Wing (Provisional), Operation Desert Storm)

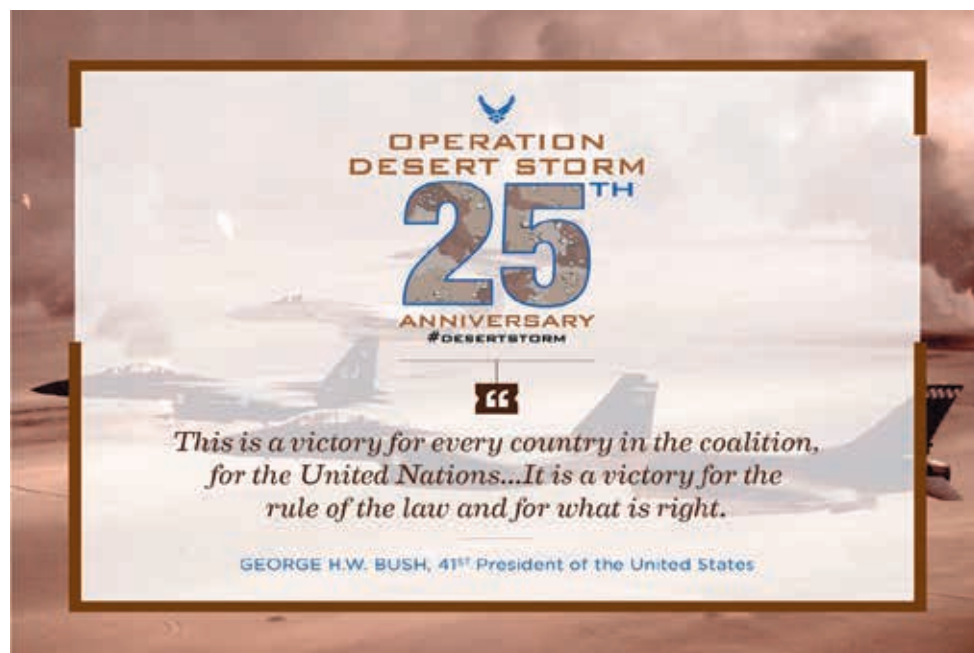
7. August 1991 - June 1992, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
8. July 1992 - July 1995, Chief, Force Applications Branch, Checkmate Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
9. August 1995 - July 1997, operations officer, 355th Fighter Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska
10. August 1997 - July 1998, student, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
11. August 1998 - June 2000, Commander, 608th Combat Plans Squadron, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
12. June 2000 - June 2002, Commander, 607th Air Operations Group, Osan Air Base, South Korea
13. June 2002 - December 2004, Assistant Deputy Director for Global Operations (J38/39), Operations Directorate, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
14. January 2005 - October 2006, Assistant Director of Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
15. October 2006 - September 2008, Commander, 36th Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam
16. September 2008 - July 2009, Vice Commander, 13th Air Force, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
17. July 2009 - September 2010, Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
18. September 2010 - 2013, Vice Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

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.

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.



More sexual assault reports show growing trust in system

Cheryl Pellerin

DOD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — More military service academy cadets and midshipmen in the 2014-15 school year reported instances of sexual assault and harassment, indicating growing trust in the reporting system, a Defense Department official said Jan. 7.

Dr. Nathan W. Galbreath, senior executive advisor for the DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), said that the increase in reporting suggests growing confidence in the response system.

Speaking via teleconference and joined by Dr. Elizabeth P. Van Winkle of the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Galbreath said the department's assessment teams found "good indicators of progress" in the DOD Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies for academic program year 2014-2015.

The academies received 91 sexual assault reports over the 2014-15 school year, an increase of 32 reports from the previous school year, Galbreath said.

Reports of sexual assault do not reflect how often the crime actually occurs, he added. Instead, he said, the department and many civilian agencies use scientific surveys to estimate how many people experienced a sexual assault.

Direct supervision

"We've seen a lot of the progress we expected to see when (then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel) last year ordered the superintendents to take sexual assault prevention and response programs under their direct supervision," Galbreath said.

Some elements of the report change from year to year, but this one contains the results of on-site assessments by DOD SAPRO officials and the DOD Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, he said.

It also includes statistical data on sexual harassment complaints and sexual assault reports, and results of on-site focus groups with academy cadets or midshipmen, faculty and staff, which were conducted by DMDC officials and documented in DMDC's 2015 Service Academy Gender Relations Focus Group Report.

Galbreath said the academies also received 28 complaints of sexual harassment during the last school year.

Preventing sexual harassment

"The service academies have done quite a bit to emphasize sexual assault prevention and response, but sexual harassment prevention and response has not received equal time and attention," he said,

adding that SAPRO encourages the academies further to incorporate sexual harassment into training, programming and prevention work.

The reason, Galbreath explained, is that sexual harassment is highly correlated with the occurrence of sexual assault in the military, and the RAND Military Workplace Study confirmed this in 2014.

"We believe that by working to prevent sexual harassment we'll also be preventing sexual assault," he said.

The report contains commendations for notable practices, suggested program enhancements and action items for recommended fixes, Galbreath said.

Notable practices

"One of the things we saw at the Naval Academy that all could benefit from was a contract that each sports team member signs with the academy," he said, "basically agreeing to a standard of conduct that ... applies not only to the sports team members but also to the coaches."

Galbreath said the SAPRO office thought that was a great way to set expectations and they're encouraging West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy to take a look at the practice.

In her comments, Van Winkle discussed the focus groups that DMDC conducted across the academies.

One thing the study found is that the emphasis on and engagement by academy leadership has been effective in getting students to take more responsibility for sexual assault and sexual harassment, she said.

"It's not just that cadets and midshipmen understand what sexual assault and sexual harassment are or how to report these behaviors," Van Winkle said, "but they're starting to understand how they can play a more active role in prevention and response ... it's not only an increased awareness but a decreased tolerance for these types of behaviors."

Social media also plays a role in students' perspective about the issue, she said.

"We heard a lot about Yik Yak, which seems to be a common platform for posting comments and opinions," Van Winkle explained.

The smartphone app lets users anonymously post comments, she said, so some have engaged in behaviors like sexual harassment, victim blaming or inappropriate sexist comments.

Van Winkle said focus group results show that students are starting to take more accountability on the site by self-policing posts, "often because of the way leadership has (discussed) how inappropriate comments ... impact the reputation of the school, the military and the department as a whole."



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Snyder
An Air Force MQ-1B Predator from the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron takes off from Ali Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft capable of conducting armed reconnaissance.

RPA crashes in central Iraq

Southwest Asia
Air Force New Service

An Air Force MQ-1 Predator crashed in central Iraq at approximately 12:50 p.m. local time Jan 7.

The remotely piloted aircraft was flying a combat mission when positive control of the aircraft was lost. The RPA crash was not due to enemy fire. There are no reports of civilian injuries or damage to civilian property at the crash site.

The Predator was destroyed and is not in enemy hands. An investigation board will convene to determine the specific cause of the crash.

For more information, contact U.S. Air Forces Central Command Public Affairs at 011-974-4458-9555 and connect to 436-4102/1412 or email afcent.pa@afcent.af.mil.

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US conducts B-52 bomber overflight in South Korea after nuke test

DoD News

WASHINGTON — A U.S. B-52 Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight in the vicinity of Osan Air Base, South Korea, in response to a recent nuclear test by North Korea, according to a U.S. Pacific Command news release issued Jan. 9.

The B-52 was joined by South Korean F-15 fighter aircraft and U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcons, the release said.

“This was a demonstration of the iron-clad U.S. commitment to our allies in South Korea, in Japan, and to the defense of the American homeland,” said Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., the PACOM commander. “North Korea’s nuclear test is a blatant violation of its international obligations. U.S. joint military forces in the Indo-Asia-Pacific will con-

tinue to work with all of our regional allies and partners to maintain stability and security.”

The bilateral flight mission demonstrates the strength of the alliance between the U.S. and South Korea and the resolve of both nations to maintain stability and security on the Korean Peninsula, the release said.

Headquartered in Hawaii, PACOM is responsible for all U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps forces over half the Earth’s surface, stretching from the waters off the west coast of North America to the western border of India, and from Antarctica to the North Pole.

The B-52 is a long-range strategic bomber and part of the command’s continuous bomber presence in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. Upon completion of the flight over South Korea, the B-52 returned to Guam, the release said.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kristin High

Lt. Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, the deputy commander of United Nations Command Korea and commander of the U.S. 7th Air Force; Lt. Gen. Wang-keon Lee, the South Korean Air Force Operations Command commander; and members of the U.S. and South Korean air forces prepare to watch a low-level pass from a U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in response to recent provocative action by North Korea in the vicinity of Osan Air Base, South Korea, Jan 10, 2016.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Benjamin Sutton

A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight in the vicinity of Osan Air Base, South Korea, in response to recent provocative action by North Korea Jan. 10, 2016. The B-52 was joined by a South Korean F-15K Slam Eagle and a U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon. The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can fly up to 50,000 feet and has the capability to carry 70,000 pounds of nuclear or precision guided conventional ordnance with worldwide precision navigation capability.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Grimm

A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight in the vicinity of Osan, South Korea, in response to recent provocative action by North Korea Jan. 10, 2016. The B-52 was joined by a South Korean F-15 Slam Eagle and a U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon. The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can fly up to 50,000 feet and has the capability to carry 70,000 pounds of nuclear or precision guided conventional ordnance with worldwide precision navigation capability.

Exploring Columbus AFB forests with Frank Lockhart

Mike Jago

14th Civil Engineer Squadron

(Author’s note: Frank Lockhart is the Conservation Manager at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. For the past 10 years, he has shaped the forests, balanced the budget, kept the fishing and hunting program alive and more. This story is the result of an interview with him about the local region forests.)

Mississippi forests can be thick, choked with privet, kudzu, cogon grass and popcorn trees; invaders that take over if unchecked.

This fall and last summer, the United States Forest Service was contracted through the Conservation Manager to provide expert assistance in eradication of these pesky plants; in particular, privet.

Privet is a hardy hedge frequently purposely placed as an ornamental plant. It is still widely available in green houses and landscape departments in the area. While not illegal, it is a bad idea to plant as the bright berries are carried by birds for miles around and planted in forests, along fences, under utility lines, and along the roads and in fields.

Once established, the plant will come up from the root and spread even with seasonal mowing. As a non-native, there are no bugs or diseases to reduce its growth.

Privet as an ornamental is a great hedge because of these properties. It is hard to over-trim; it grows thick and makes great barriers or fences. It can divide spaces or hide features like pools or air conditioners. Plus it has lovely white, lacy blossoms in the spring and berries in the fall.

With no gardener to prune it back, wild privet grows out



Courtesy photo

Cogon grass is strong grass introduced as a gardening ornamental plant. It is fibrous and grows thickly making it hard on farm and commercial mowing equipment.

of control. In the wild it grows 15 to 30 feet tall and shades out native trees and shrubs, and because it is dense, it will block many native plants and associated animals from getting established. The forests lose native ground browsers, like tortoises, and gain invasive pigs that like the protective cover.

Tall privet burns hot in a forest fire. Unlike the low native grasses, the hotter privet fires burn the pines and hardwoods. As the privet will grow back from the roots almost immediately, the forest can change to a solid tangle of privet in just one year.

This is where USFS experts come in. They know established privet branches can be three inches or more thick and very resistant to controlled burning or herbicides. By mowing and grinding the privet stands down, the plant goes into the regeneration phase of fast growth; perfect conditions to be treated with herbicides.

This one-two punch has reduced our privet problem 90 percent over the past 10 years. Even so, over 114 acres were identified for mowing and herbicide this year. Columbus Air Force Base has just over 1,400 acres of forest so this works out as 10 percent of the forest is being treated just for privet.

The eradication effort is not limited to privet. Cogon grass is a pretty and strong grass introduced as a gardening ornamental plant. It is fibrous and grows thickly making it hard on farm and commercial mowing equipment.

It burns very hot killing any plants or trees it surrounds but not harming its own roots. There is a large stand of this grass on Gunshy (Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield) stranded between the runway and the taxiway. We leave it there as it is quite good at erosion control and it isn’t spreading as long as it is mowed before it seeds.

Cogon grass is most easily identified by the pretty lacy-looking seed heads or by attempting to cut it. It grows in dense clusters and the fiber in the stem is quite strong. Deer



Courtesy photo

Privet hedge berries and leaves can be found in local forests. In the wild it grows 15 to 30 feet tall and shades out native trees and shrubs, and because it is dense, it will block many native plants and associated animals from getting established.

and cattle don’t eat it once it matures as it is too tough.

Look at yards around the area and popcorn trees are easily identified in the spring by their white popcorn blossoms. Popcorn trees, aka Chinese Tallow, are a problem in the swampy areas where cypress and hardwoods grow. This ornamental can grow 100,000 seeds annually dispersed by wind, water and birds for miles around.

It has a beautiful fall red aspen shaped leaf and a round white bud that resembles popcorn before opening into a four leaf white blossom. Like native aspens, this tree will dominate the landscape once established.

Unlike American aspen, this tree grows at all altitudes and in very marginal conditions. It “volunteers” to fill in along fences and under bird resting places. It will come up in the middle of a stand of pines and shade out the commercial timber.

The wood of the popcorn tree is unmarketable as lumber and considered an aggressive invader by the USFS due to the damage to stands of commercial pines and hardwoods. Treatment is to cut these trees down and herbicide the stumps. They can be sprayed in pine forests, but the spray also kills hardwoods so each tree must be individually found, herbicide treated and/or cut down in hardwood stands.

If all this sounds expensive, it is. Columbus AFB alone spends \$60,000 annually on mowing, spraying, and individual tree removal. This is just for about 100-200 acres of work in spots throughout the 1,400 acres of managed forest. The good news to taxpayers is it is mostly paid for through the sale of timber off of Columbus property. The better news is we thin the tree stands and give the forest a much neater, park like appearance each time.



Courtesy photo

Popcorn trees, aka Chinese tallow, are a problem in swampy areas where cypress and hardwoods grow. The wood of the popcorn tree is unmarketable as lumber and considered an aggressive invader by the USFS due to the damage to stands of commercial pines and hardwoods.

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

BLAZE Hangar Tails: U-2S Dragon Lady

Mission

The U-2S Dragon Lady provides high-altitude, all-weather surveillance and reconnaissance, day or night, in direct support of U.S. and allied forces. It delivers critical imagery and signals intelligence to decision makers throughout all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, low-intensity conflict, and large-scale hostilities.

Features

The U-2S is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Long and narrow wings give the U-2 glider-like characteristics and allow it to quickly lift heavy sensor payloads to unmatched altitudes, keeping them there for extended periods of time. The U-2 is capable of gathering a variety of imagery, including multi-spectral electro-optic, infrared, and synthetic aperture radar products which can be stored or sent to ground exploitation centers. In addition, it also supports high-resolution, broad-area synoptic coverage provided by the optical bar camera producing traditional film products which are developed and analyzed after landing.

The U-2 also carries a signals intelligence payload. All intelligence products except for wet film can be transmitted in near real-time anywhere in the world via air-to-ground or air-to-satellite data links, rapidly providing

critical information to combatant commanders. MASINT provides indications of recent activity in areas of interest and reveals efforts to conceal the placement or true nature of man-made objects.

Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts. The low-altitude handling characteristics of the aircraft and bicycle-type landing gear require precise control inputs during landing; forward visibility is also limited due to the extended aircraft nose and "taildragger" configuration. A second U-2 pilot normally "chases" each landing in a high-performance vehicle, assisting the pilot by providing radio inputs for altitude and runway alignment. These characteristics combine to earn the U-2 a widely accepted title as the most difficult aircraft in the world to fly.

The U-2 is powered by a lightweight, fuel efficient General Electric F118-101 engine, which negates the need for air refueling on long duration missions. The U-2S Block 10 electrical system upgrade replaced legacy wiring with advanced fiber-optic technology and lowered the overall electronic noise signature to provide a quieter platform for the newest generation of sensors.

The aircraft has the following sensor packages: electro-optical infrared camera, optical bar camera, advanced synthetic aperture radar, signals intelligence, and network-centric communication.

A U-2 Reliability and Maintainability



U.S. Air Force photo

The U-2S Dragon Lady is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts.

Program provided a complete redesign of the cockpit with digital color multifunction displays and up-front avionics controls to replace the 1960s-vintage round dial gauges which were no longer supportable.

Background

Built in complete secrecy by Kelly Johnson and the Lockheed Skunk Works, the original U-2A first flew in August 1955. Early flights over the Soviet Union in the late 1950s provided the president and other U.S. decision makers with key intelligence on Soviet military capability. In October 1962, the U-2 photographed the buildup of Soviet offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba, touching off the Cuban Missile Crisis. In more recent times, the U-2 has provided intelligence during operations in Korea, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. When requested, the U-2 also provides peacetime reconnaissance in support of disaster relief from floods, earthquakes, and forest fires as well as search and rescue operations.

The U-2R, first flown in 1967, was 40 percent larger and more capable than the original aircraft. A tactical reconnaissance version, the TR-1A, first flew in August 1981 and was structurally identical to the U-2R. The last U-2 and TR-1 aircraft were delivered in October 1989; in 1992 all TR-1s and U-2s were designated as U-2Rs. Since 1994, \$1.7 billion has been invested to modernize the U-2 airframe and sensors. These upgrades also included the transition to the GE F118-101 engine which resulted in the re-designa-

tion of all Air Force U-2 aircraft to the U-2S.

U-2s are home based at the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, California, but are rotated to operational detachments worldwide. U-2 pilots are trained at Beale using five two-seat aircraft designated as TU-2S before deploying for operational missions.

General characteristics

Primary function: high-altitude reconnaissance

Contractor: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics

Power plant: one General Electric F118-101 engine

Thrust: 17,000 pounds

Wingspan: 105 feet (32 meters)

Length: 63 feet (19.2 meters)

Height: 16 feet (4.8 meters)

Weight: 16,000 pounds

Maximum takeoff weight: 40,000 pounds (18,000 kilograms)

Fuel capacity: 2,950 gallons

Payload: 5,000 pounds

Speed: 410 mph

Range: more than 7,000 miles (6,090 nautical miles)

Ceiling: above 70,000 feet (21,212+ meters)

Crew: one (two in trainer models)

Unit cost: classified

Initial operating capability: 1956

Inventory: active force, 33 (5 two-seat trainers and two ER-2s operated by NASA); Reserve, 0; ANG, 0

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

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.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is held 1-2 p.m. Jan. 19. 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.

Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is 3 - 5 p.m. Jan. 19 – 21. This workshop is made to teach how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

Capstone

This class is scheduled for 8 a.m. – noon Jan 21. The Capstone is required for all separating/retiring personnel and should occur no later than 90 days prior to anticipated separation/retirement; however, if a member has less than 90 days left in the military, the member should attend as soon as possible within their remaining period of service. It verifies if service members have/have not met their Career Readiness Standards/Individual Transition Plan Checklist, DD Form 2958. The checklist, in conjunction with the ITP, will be used by the A&FRC to verify status of CRS completion. Call 434-2790 for more information.

Marketing Yourself for a Second Career

The workshop, 8 - 10:30 a.m. Jan 22, prepares you to Market Yourself. Workshop includes resume information, interviewing preparation, networking tips and negotiation strategies. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program, 5 - 7 p.m. Jan. 28, 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. Location TBD.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for

Team BLAZE celebrates MLK day with luncheon



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Maj. Daniel Akeredolu, 14th Force Support Squadron Commander, speaks to attendees of the Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon Jan. 14 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Akeredolu spoke on volunteerism and how it affects the world.

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

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan

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

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deploy-

ments, 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.

Learn How to Read Your LES

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

DRMO

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

Chapel Schedule

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

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



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds

The U-2S Dragon Lady provides continuous day or night, high-altitude, all-weather, stand-off surveillance of an area in direct support of U.S. and allied ground and air forces. It provides critical intelligence to decision makers through all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, crises, low-intensity conflict and large-scale hostilities.

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.

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. Transportation provided; must purchase tickets online or upon arrival. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Wee Babies

The Base Library is offering Wee Babies at 11 a.m. Feb. 16. This program is for 0 – 4 year olds and promotes rhythm, kinesthetic and body awareness using song, dance and activities. For more information, contact 434-2936.

Base Library Relocation

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

5K Fitness Run

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

Iceberg Golf Challenge

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a 3-person 18-hole golf scramble at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 23. 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.

Blazin' Trails Group Run/Walk

The Blazin' Trails Running Club is offering a 5-mile group run/walk at 7 a.m. Jan. 24. Meet up location is the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2435.

Bar Benders Challenge

The Fitness Center is offering a Bar Benders Challenge at 6 p.m. Jan. 25. The challenge includes 300 Club 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

Free Admission. Join the Force Support Squadron for a night of magic at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Kaye Auditorium. For ages 18 and older due to adult situational material. For more information, contact TSgt. Victoria Thornton at 434-2611.

Family 3 Point Shoot Out

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

Super Bowl Party

The Columbus Club inside the Event Center is offering a Super Bowl Party Feb. 7; doors open 4:30 p.m.; game starts 5:30 p.m. Win great prizes and enjoy All You Can Eat Buffet. Purchase your advance tickets beginning Jan. 20 Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Event Center.

The cost is only \$15 for Club members; \$20 for non-members. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20 for Club members; \$25 for non-members. Ticket prices for children ages 5 – 12 are \$7 for Club members and \$10 for non-members; under 5 years of age is free. Ribbon cutting for the re-opening of the Club will be held at 4:14 p.m. prior to the Super Bowl Party. For more information, contact 434-1583.

Story Time at the Library

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

Cosmic Bowling Special

The Bowling Center is offering Cosmic Bowling for only \$12 per person every Friday and Saturday night from 5 – 8 p.m. You also may purchase individual games for \$3 per game with purchase of \$1.50 shoe rental. For more information, contact 434-3426.

Gymnastics Instructor Needed

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

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 1 – 3 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Referees Needed

Referees 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.

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.

Make Your Shopping Easier

Force Support Squadron gift cards are available in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most Force Support Squadron facilities at Air Force installations worldwide and they never go out of style. Purchase your gift card at one of the following locations: Bowling Center, Golf Course or Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-3426.

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.

MyMC2 app



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



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for "MyMC2", or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



iPhone QR code

Android QR code

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

Getting uncomfortable

2nd Lt. Brandon Belcher

14th Flying Training Wing Equal Opportunity

Every person is unique and has his or her own habits. These habits can either help the work environment or they can hinder it.

As members of the military and as professionals, it is our job to make sure that the habits and biases we bring to the work place do not bring down the overall atmosphere. We must get out of our comfort zone and try to make the team work better every chance we get.

Comfort at work is important because it allows you to work with peace of mind. At the same time, what is comfortable for you may not be comfortable for those around you. It is important we strive to expand our minds and live outside of our comfort zone. It requires time and effort, but I can promise you it is time and effort well spent.

Expanding one's comfort zone does not have to be anything drastic; start small with trying a food you have never had before. It's not too far past the New Year to make another resolution. Maybe try a new sport or talk to someone over lunch you normally try to avoid. Get out and enjoy the scenery all around you. Anything that changes your daily grind and gets you out of your comfort zone can only help you later down the road.

Getting out of your comfort zone will also increase your awareness. Awareness of your surroundings is important. Expanding your horizons outside of the norm only increases your awareness in the long run, especially of those around you. A great exercise that seeks to get people out of their comfort zone is Johari's Window. It can be used in the work place to figure out your interactions with others and may prove per-

Expanding one's comfort zone does not have to be anything drastic; start small with trying a food you have never had before. It's not too far past the New Year to make another resolution.

ceptions can differ. Johari's Window works by having associates use adjectives to describe themselves and peers. Members of the exercise can then see what others think of them and shed light upon the difference between how they see themselves and how everyone else views them. Exercises such as this make us aware of what we are blind to. That is to say, what other people see about us we cannot see. Getting out of your comfort zone can change enough of your daily habits to decrease your blind spot and make you more aware of yourself.

Exercises that shed light on how people perceive us may make us aware we are living inside our own little comfort shell. It can make a person realize they do need to get out and live a little. Comfort has its perks but new perspectives on life are not one of them. A fresh perspective can change your mind and break down stereotypes ingrained in your brain.

I understand the joy comfort brings, but I am also a firm believer in trying something new every once in a while if it has the chance to make me a better person in the long run. The military deserves this of its members.

Commander's Action Line

434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.



AFE saves lives daily

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

Arguably, the most important thing to a pilot, besides the aircraft itself, is their gear. Without this gear, the Columbus Air Force Base mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight would be affected.

The 14th Flying Training Wing's Aircrew Flight Equipment Flight is responsible for fitting, inspecting, maintaining and repairing 100 percent of the 14th Flying Training Wing's flight gear. Every sortie incorporates numerous pieces of equipment AFE is directly responsible for.

"The first place pilots go is here, to the T-6 shop for initial fitting," said Senior Airman Nathan Fancher, 14th Operation Support Squadron AFE Technician. "When they actually start flying, they spend a lot of time here checking out and turning in gear for maintenance."

A pilot cannot step to their aircraft for a sortie without every piece of gear they take with them having been inspected and cleared for use by AFE.

"When they come here for fitting, we also teach them about their gear and how to use it," Fancher said. "They learn to recognize signs of wear, when gear needs replacing and to have it further adjusted to fit their specific body."

AFE plays an integral part not only to the wing mission, but also to the safety of the base's aviators.

"Our job is vital to the survival of anyone who takes off," said Senior Airman Darren Hussey, 14th OSS AFE Technician. "An improperly fitted mask or a leaky hose means the pilot may not be getting enough oxygen. Without the required oxygen, the pilot may become hypoxic and potentially crash the aircraft."

Instructor pilots and students in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training become familiar with AFE Airmen throughout their career, learning about several situations such as egress.

"Between AFE and Aerospace Physiology, they learn all they need to know about a situation where they need to egress," Hussey said. "There, they learn the proper procedures for egress, and here we show them the equipment provided for an egress."

Equipment that does not perform up to par, or simply does not fit, poses a threat to anyone who takes to the air.

"On a g-suit, there are bladders around your calves, thighs and abdomen that inflate whenever you g-strain in the air," Hussey said. "This keeps blood from pooling down in your feet, when it should remain in your brain. A loose g-suit or one with leaks will not inflate properly and again, may cause pilots to experience a loss of consciousness."

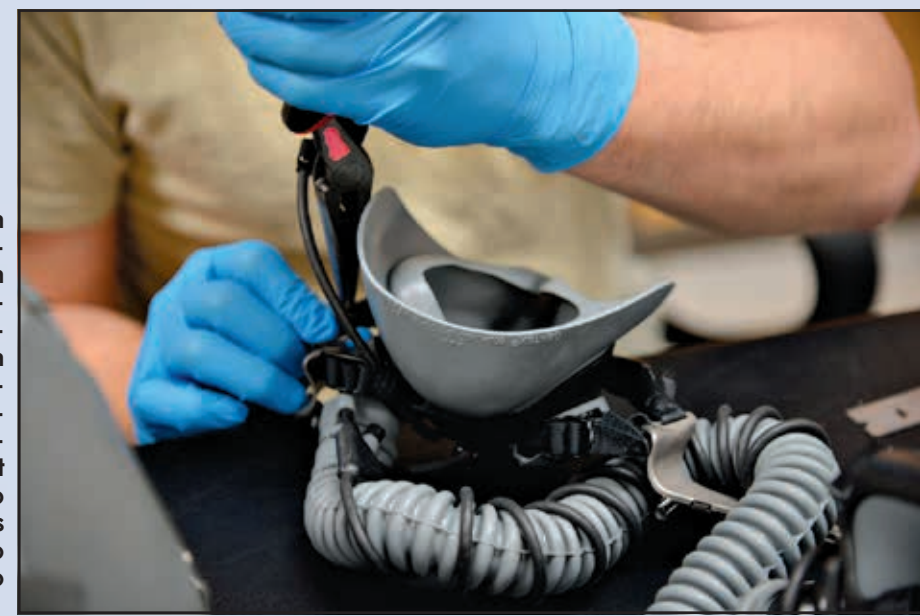
AFE is divided into shops based on each type aircraft and fabrication (parachute shop). The aircraft shops prepare pilots' helmets, g-suits, radios and harnesses. The other shop packs parachutes, life preservers and survival kits, and is operated by our civilian Airmen.

"Fab (parachute shop) takes care of modifications we are not equipped to handle and they pack our parachutes and other survival and safety equipment," Fancher said.

Pilots rely on the many moving parts that go in both on the front line and behind the scenes of the AFE shop. Without their equipment operating at peak capacity, the mission would not succeed smoothly, making AFE an absolutely vital organization to Columbus AFB's mission.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Roger Collier and Lee Horn, both contractors working for the 14th Operations Support Squadron, inspect a parachute canopy before packing it into a parachute head-box on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The entire process for packing a parachute spans over the course of two days and requires a three-ton press.



Senior Airman Nathan Fancher, 14th Operation Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician, adjusts the straps on an oxygen mask for a helmet Jan. 12 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Equipment that does not perform up to par, or that simply does not fit, poses a threat to anyone who takes to the air.

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



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day
Senior Airman Nathan Fancher, 14th Operation Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment Journeyman, cleans and inspects a mask June 4 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Wearing PPE ensures the masks stay clean and free of foreign debris as well as keeps the wearer safe.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day
Airman 1st Class Hayden Harrison, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician, tests a g-suit for the proper pressure June 4 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. AFE fits, inspects, maintains and repairs all of the flight gear that connects the pilot to the aircraft.