





Weather

Friday  Partly Cloudy High 56°F Low 34°F	Saturday  Partly Cloudy High 60°F Low 34°F
Sunday  Partly Cloudy High 67°F Low 47°F	Monday  Rain High 68°F Low 49°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. Feb. 29 at the Columbus Club.

Air Force Assistance Fund begins

The Air Force Assistance Fund at Columbus Air Force Base is set to begin Feb. 29. For more information contact your unit POC.

SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-06 is graduating at 10 a.m. March 11 in the Kaye Auditorium.

Inside



Feature 8

Team BLAZE awards are highlighted in this week's feature.



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

Capt. Jason Greer, 14th Flying Training Wing Safety Officer, discusses with community members the threat of drones to manned aircraft operations during the 'Drones 101' seminar Feb. 18 at Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Starkville, Mississippi. As of Feb. 19 any drone, or unmanned aerial system, over .55 pounds is required to be registered with the FAA.

Columbus AFB Safety pairs with GTRA, MSU, Aurora to teach 'Drones 101'

2nd Lt. Lauren Woods

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Did you know drones cannot be flown within five miles of an airport without first contacting air traffic control?

Did you know all drones must be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration? This even includes the ones sold in toy stores.

On Feb. 18, more than 60 members of the local communi-

ty gathered to learn these facts and more from a "Drones 101" course at Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Columbus, Mississippi.

This free-to-the-public seminar, sponsored by GTRA, Aurora Flight Sciences, Mississippi State University's Flight Research Laboratory and Columbus Air Force Base, discussed the basics of unmanned aerial systems and safety regulations surrounding

See DRONES, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (16-15)	3.71 days	2.59 days	Apr. 1	48th (16-06)	-0.97 days	2.44 days	Mar. 11	49th (16-EBC)	-2.75 days	-0.09 days	Mar. 3	T-6	1,965	2,187	11,335
41st (16-14)	2.48 days	3.15 days	Mar. 10	50th (16-06)	-0.58 days	1.51 days	Mar. 11					T-1	738	715	3,832
												T-38	671	678	3,708
												IFF	308	290	1,594

The graduation speaker is Col. Uriel Bruce Strickland, retired Mississippi Air National Guard, former 286th Air Operations Group Commander.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 50 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.

2016 Tax Center hours

The Columbus AFB Tax Center is located on the first floor of the old Personnel Center, bldg. 926, room 105.

If you are an active duty member, retiree, or dependent with a combined family income under \$58,000, then you may qualify for this free tax preparation service.

The hours of operation are:

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday by Appointment only (Friday afternoon scheduling varies upon volunteer availability)
- Walk-in hours are from 8 a.m. - noon on Mondays for simple 1040 returns.

Dorm residents may also contact Master Sgt. Jeffrey Randolph at 434-2392 to schedule on-site tax preparation with him.

The scope of our tax preparation is limited. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the updated Tax Center number at 434-7030.

Voting via absentee ballots

Voting Assistance Office

All military service members and their families are encouraged to complete election forms in early 2016.

The Federal Post Card Application ensures you are registered to vote, and requests an absentee ballot for all federal elections in 2016.

FVAP.gov offers an online assistant to walk through completion of the form, and provides a blank fillable form. Once complet-

ed, do not forget to print and sign the form before submitting it to your local election office. Don't forget to follow up with election officials to ensure registration was received.

Voting is a personal choice. Voting assistance is available to help provide the tools and resources needed to successfully vote absentee.

For additional assistance, contact the Unit Voting Assistance Officer or the Installation Voting Assistance Officer at 434-3680 or via email at vote4@us.af.mil.

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
29 Enlisted Promotion Ceremony, 3 p.m. @ Club Air Force Assistance Fund begins	1	2	3 IFF Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS	4	5/6	Mar. 24: ALS Graduation Mar. 25: 16-07 Assignment Night Mar. 25: Air Force Assistance Fund ends Mar. 25: Happy Irby Golf Tournament Mar. 29: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 29: Women's History Lunch Mar. 31: 14th STUS Change of Command Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony
7	8 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	9	10	11 SUPT Class 16-06 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	12/13	Apr. 1: IFF Graduation Apr. 5: Retired Chiefs Luncheon Apr. 8: SUPT Class 16-07 Graduation Apr. 15: 16-08 Assignment Night Apr. 19: Wing Newcomers Orientation Apr. 29: First Quarterly Awards Ceremony

INDOOR WASH

(Continued from page 13)

eration modules. Water is filtered, then run through a reverse-osmosis system before being introduced back into the wash cycle.”

The corrosion control section washes aircraft at a rate of two per day, four days a week, Sundman said. Most of the wing’s aircraft have a 90-day wash cycle.

Sundman said aircraft are subjected to temperature extremes and condensation, which causes metals to corrode, so washing aircraft on a regular basis is important to combat corrosion.

“The last thing you want for high-performance aircraft is for the structure to get weakened by corrosion,” he said.

Sundman said converting Hangar 42 into a wash rack was challenging, but the conclusion of that 15-month project merged seamlessly with the installation of the recycling system, which was completed in one month.

“You don’t see what this building used to look like,” he said. “It used to have insulation sprayed everywhere inside that had to be removed. So we had about three or four months when people were in here in spacesuits

trying to take all that insulation off everywhere – from the roof, the walls and all over.

“By the time the building was released to us,” Sundman said, “the water recycling system was also done, so we were able to start our very first washes with recycled water and not ever waste any water or put any contaminants into the sewage from this operation.”


Although the hangar, which had most recently been used for storage, was challenging to retrofit from an environmental standpoint, it already had a drain ditch to capture water from the washing and rinsing process for recycling.

Sundman concurred with Turnbull that being indoors is one of the big advantages of the new wash rack.

“This allows us to wash aircraft year-round,” he said. “We don’t have to worry about it being too cold, too wet, too hot or too sunny. We also don’t have to worry as much about corrosion on the aircraft.”

Mario Tarin, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate corrosion control work leader, gave the hangar and recycling system high marks.

“We really like it,” he said. “It takes us out of the elements and makes our job easier.”



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Upcoming EVENTS

SUMMER Teen Volunteer Program – Deadline to apply for the Summer Teen Volunteer program at Baptist-GT is April 1. Students must be 16 years old, complete an application and interview process. Applications available at BMHGT gift shop, or check with your school counselor. For information call 662-244-1165.

CPR Classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. Call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498 for more information.

Baptist Cancer Center offers **free prostate PSA screenings** for men over 40. PSA screenings will be held in Starkville on Friday, March 18 from 9am–11:45am. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Baptist Cancer Center will begin a **new support group for cancer survivors and their families** the third Friday of every month from noon-1pm. The March 18 meeting will take place in room 4 PT, first floor, patient tower just past the Gift Shop. For information call 244-2900 or 800-544-8767, ext. 2900.

Join us for a weekly **education/support group meeting for people with congestive heart failure** at Baptist Golden Triangle. Program runs on a 6-week cycle, you may begin at any time. Held each Thursday, 11am-noon, Outpatient Pavilion Board Room. For information call 244-1953 or 244-2132.


Baptist Golden Triangle offers **childbirth classes** each month. Classes are held each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Diabetes Self Management Education Class meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Baptist Golden Triangle Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center. Physician referral is required. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

BMH-GT Diabetes Support Groups - day classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, and evening classes are the 2nd Thurs. each month, 6-7 pm, rooms 4 & 5 PT. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

Baptist Golden Triangle is seeking caring, compassionate people to join an elite group of volunteers to help in a variety of hospital settings. For more information, call 662-244-1165.

For more information contact the numbers listed above or email info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org.

 **BAPTIST** | MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

DRONES

(Continued from page 1)

their use.

Among the lessons learned – what is a drone?

A drone, or unmanned aerial system, is anything over .55 pounds and below 55 pounds, explained Greg Stewart, director of development at Aurora Flight Sciences. Anything below the .55-pound limit that cannot be flown beyond line of sight is considered a toy.

Stewart went on to explain the basic rules regarding safe drone usage. Drones should only be flown below 400 feet and only within line of sight. If the operator is distracted or occupied, a spotter should be used to monitor for hazards.

Another key point was as of Feb. 19, any individual over 13 years of age is required to register their drone with the FAA. Children under 13 must have a guardian register their UAS for them.

Not all drones are used by hobbyists. Dallas Brooks, Director of Research for the Raspet Flight Research Laboratory at MSU, discussed the various technological advantages UAS systems have already brought. Positive impacts include tracking wildlife migrations, monitoring weather patterns, and surveying transportation lines for damage.

“The things UAS do well are things that require high precision, things that require long loiter times, things we call dull, dirty or dangerous,” Brooks said.

Also speaking was Capt. Jason Greer with the Columbus AFB Wing Safety Office. As the largest airspace operator in the

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.

IFLY SAFE

All drones are aircraft—even the ones at the toy store. So when I fly a drone I am a pilot. Before I fly I always go through my pre-flight check list. I regularly check the safety guidelines at faa.gov/uas

 Federal Aviation Administration

knowbeforeyoufly.org | faa.gov/uas

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST

- I fly below 400 feet
- I always fly within visual line of sight
- I’m aware of FAA airspace requirements: faa.gov/go/uastfr
- I never fly over groups of people
- I never fly over stadiums and sports events
- I never fly within 5 miles of an airport without first contacting air traffic control and airport authorities
- I never fly near emergency response efforts such as fires
- I never fly near other aircraft
- I never fly under the influence

JASDF colonel visits Columbus Air Force Base

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Col. Takayuki Terasaki, Japanese Air Self-Defense Force Head of Training Division, paid Columbus Air Force Base a visit Feb. 23-25.

Terasaki came to the base to observe JASDF personnel currently in the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program.

The JASDF is the aviation branch of the Japan Self-Defense Forces responsible for the defense of Japan airspace. They carry out combat air patrols around Japan, while also maintaining a network of ground and air early warning radar systems. While both the U.S. Air Force and JASDF have very similar training programs, the U.S. focuses more on Warfighting techniques, while Japan focuses more on self-defense.

Terasaki was given a Columbus AFB mission brief before he toured the many Team BLAZE training organizations in the 14th Operations Group and met with students, instructors and leadership during his visit.



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, front left, and Col. Takayuki Terasaki, Japanese Air Self-Defense Force Head of Training Division, front center, stand with Team BLAZE leadership and JASDF staff members Feb. 24 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Terasaki came to the base to observe JASDF personnel currently in the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program.

14th Medical Operations Squadron AOP Flight Chief wins 2015 AF level award

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight Chief claimed the Air Force AOP NCO of the Year Award for 2015.

After a competitive battle with Airmen all around the world, Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hoffman came out on top, putting not only himself in the spotlight but his squadron and base as well. "I felt honored and humbled," Hoffman said. "Because I'm in a small career field, I knew a lot of the other contenders. In fact, I've worked with them. Every single one is hard-working and I'm proud to be part of that group."

The AOP training systems portfolio consists of training systems that include altitude chambers, Reduced Oxygen Breathing Devices and Hypoxia Familiarization Trainers, parachute descent and landing trainers, ejection seat and egress trainers and Barany chairs across six major commands. The program provides critical aircrew training and mishap prevention efforts in support of the Department of Defense.

Hoffman can also attribute this award to his many achievements including becoming NCO of the Quarter, being selected by the 14th Flying Training Wing Commander as a Unit Effectiveness Inspection "Superior Performer," significant self-improvement of education, and more.

"Ultimately, the achievement was only possible because of the team we have at Aerospace and Operational Physiology," Hoffman said. "The airmen work hard to be experts at delivering the best training on a consistent basis. I have leadership that not only takes the time to mentor us, but they also fight for their people. That's not the case everywhere and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by great people."

When asked, Hoffman's leadership said he "is truly deserving of his



U.S. Air Force photo/
Senior Airman Stephanie Englar

Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hoffman, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight Chief at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is the Air Force's Aerospace and Physiology NCO of the Year for 2015. The AOP training systems portfolio consists of training systems that include altitude chambers, Reduced Oxygen Breathing Devices and Hypoxia Familiarization Trainers, parachute descent and landing trainers, ejection seat/ egress trainers and Barany chairs across six major commands.

recognition."

"He always looks for ways to improve himself and the unit," said Lt. Col. Andrew Cruz, 14th MDOS Commander. "The work he has done at Columbus and Little Rock (AFB, Arkansas) impact today's Air Force mission of ensuring members are ready to fly, fight and win. He makes certain our warfighters have the physiological capability to do their jobs on a daily basis."

"Anytime you win an AF-level award, it's a big deal," said Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander. "I am very proud of Tech. Sgt. Hoffman and his exceptional execution of the mission that allowed him to win this very competitive award."

Sumja tells pilot graduates 'work is just getting started'

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Col. Timothy Sumja, 23rd Fighter Group Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-05 during their graduation ceremony Feb. 19.

During the ceremony Sumja started by thanking all the distinguished guests, and the graduate's families.

"For the families and spouses here today, thank you very much for your support, now, and I want to thank you in advance for your support in the future," he said. "What we do in the Air Force is possible because of your dedication and support."

He jokingly spoke of changes in the graduates and how they might have inherited the "secret Air Force language."

"I realize you've already had to deal with some vocabulary changes," Sumja said. "When you're talking to your spouse, son, or daughter, instead of getting a 'yes' you will probably get a 'roger' or 'affirm.'"

Sumja took the time to describe his experiences in the U.S. Air Force and what kind of deployments and sorties he went through and attributed them to his training and discipline.

"I know at times some of the things we do seems very tedious and repetitive. But it's all there for a reason," he said. "That training, and taking pride in what we do, allows us to be flexi-



U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin

Capt. Jennifer Walters, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-05 graduate, hands Col. Timothy Sumja, 23rd Fighter Group Commander and guest speaker, a framed class picture Feb. 19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Sumja took the time to describe his experiences in the U.S. Air Force and what kind of deployments and sorties he went through during his speech.

ble to go out and complete every mission."

Sumja also reminisced about his pastimes at Columbus AFB during his visit.

"It was 21 years ago; it's amazing how fast time goes by," he said. "It's an honor to be back and it brings back a lot of memories. A lot has changed; I was flying the T-37, there was no T-6 or T-1 back then."

After the ceremony Sumja requested that the graduates be proactive seeking out opportunities throughout your career.

"The work is just getting started; you feel like you just completed a year of pilot train-

ing and all is well, but now you've got to learn a whole new aircraft and a whole new weapons system," he said. "Show up to your new unit with an open mind and learn from those around you, and take care of your maintainers."

In the end Sumja wanted all the graduates to celebrate the day for their great achievement.

"To [SUPT] Class 16-05, congratulations, you've achieved a very significant milestone; one of the first milestones throughout your career and you should be very proud," Sumja said. "Again, congratulations, and thank you for having me. I wish you the best in your career."



**Cycle safe,
wear a helmet**

Indoor wash rack for aircraft increases productivity, conserves water

Robert Goetz

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas —

For years, members of the 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate corrosion control section washed the wing's trainer aircraft outdoors, where temperature extremes, inclement weather and water-use restrictions often interfered with their work.

Those days are over.

The 14-member corrosion control team now has its own indoor wash rack in Hangar 42 with benefits that include washes unimpeded by weather conditions and an environmentally friendly water-recycling system that conserves water, saving the Air Force \$174,000 per year, said Lincoln Sundman, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate aircraft maintenance supervisor.

The new wash rack represents the merger of two projects, he said.

"We've got a good news-good news story here," Sundman said. "We have two different contractors ... and we're able to meld the two projects together — one to turn the building into the wash rack and capture the water through the ditch system that's already in the building and the other to provide the water recycling, which saves 1.4 million gallons of water

per year."

Not only does the water-recycling system conserve water, it prevents contaminants from entering the San Antonio River Authority wastewater system, he said.

Yet another benefit is the availability of soft and warm water during washes and rinses, Sundman said. Soft water during the final rinse helps prevent spotting, which can lead to corrosion.

Vernon Turnbull, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate Fabrication Branch chief, sees three distinct advantages to the indoor wash rack.

"First and foremost is getting the folks out of the elements — San Antonio's summer weather," Turnbull said.

He said the optimum temperature range for washes is 40 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Another plus is the wash rack's new recycling capabilities, Turnbull said.

"Recently we've been under water-usage restrictions and had to defer washing aircraft for several months," he said. "The new wash rack allows us to keep the wash schedule mandated by Air Force Instructions."

Turnbull said the wash rack also enhances efficiency.

"Going back to San Antonio's weather, before we had to wash each aircraft in sections as to not allow the soap to dry," he said, noting that soap drying on the aircraft causes corro-

sion. "This would effectively turn a two-hour job into a four-hour job, so indirectly it increases productivity by freeing up personnel sooner to focus on other maintenance tasks."

The washing process begins with masking the aircraft for water intrusion, followed by washing it with soap using scrub pads that won't scratch the paint, said Danny Rodriguez, 12th FTW Maintenance Directorate corrosion control supervisor.

"We then rinse the aircraft with recycled water as we move along, not letting the soap dry," he said. "Once the aircraft is completely washed and rinsed, we do a spot-free rinse. Then we de-mask the aircraft and do a corrosion inspection."

Water captured in the drain first goes to an oil-water separator, where contaminants are captured and removed for disposal, and travels through piping to the recycling system, which was installed by a company that specializes in large-scale wash technologies and corrosion control facilities designed for aircraft, military and other applications.

The recycling system is housed in a shipping container near the front of the hangar and features a series of filters ensuring water in a 2,300-gallon water holding tank meets minimum filtration standards. The wash rack also contains eight electric rewind hose reel stations.

"Water from the drain goes into the filtration tanks," Rodriguez said. "The tanks are stainless steel settling and oil-sep-

See INDOOR WASH, Page 14

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Air Force senior leaders share lessons learned from Desert Storm



U.S. Air Force photo/Zach Anderson
Brig. Gen. Craig La Fave, the special assistant to the chief of the Air Force Reserve and military deputy to the total force continuum, deputy chief of staff strategic plans and programs, visits with Air Force ROTC Detachment 130 cadets at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, 2016. La Fave, who served as a C-141 Starlifter pilot during Operation Desert Storm, spoke to the cadets about his experiences serving in the conflict 25 years ago and discussed how lessons learned from Desert Storm have helped shape the Air Force of today.

Zach Anderson
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — During recent visits to Howard University and the University of Maryland, two Air Force senior leaders shared memories and lessons learned from Operation Desert Storm with more than 160 Washington, D.C., area Air Force ROTC cadets as part of the Air Force’s focus on the 25th anniversary of the conflict.

Brig. Gen. Craig La Fave, the special assistant to the chief of the Air Force Reserve and military deputy to the total force continuum, deputy chief of staff strategic plans and programs, visited AFROTC Detachment 130 cadets at Howard University Feb. 10. La Fave flew C-141 Starlifters during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, taking part in the massive airlift effort that made the successful buildup and execution of the war effort possible.

During his time with the cadets, La Fave shared personal stories and discussed how the Gulf War shaped the way airpower is used today, as well as how it changed the tactics used by our enemies.

“Operation Desert Storm was a great example of what an overwhelming Air Force can do,” La Fave said. “Today, our enemies have learned from that and they know they cannot challenge us out in the open. We may

never see that type of warfare again. Our enemies now try to fight us from within cities and through cyber warfare. And we have to be capable in both types of warfare.”

Maj. Gen. Vincent Mancuso, the mobilization assistant to the Air Force chief of staff, spoke to AFROTC Detachment 330 cadets at the University of Maryland Feb. 18. Mancuso flew F-4 Phantom “Wild Weasel” aircraft throughout Desert Storm. He spoke to the cadets about personal leadership lessons he learned as a young pilot during the conflict and how those lessons are applicable to the cadets as they begin their Air Force careers as officers.

“This was a fantastic opportunity to help shape our next generation of Airmen,” Mancuso said. “They are hungry to understand what they will face when they get into the active Air Force. It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to share with them, to give them that understanding and share some wisdom that might make their own journey a little better. I find that to be particularly valuable.”

Cadets said the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts from Desert Storm veterans was an invaluable experience.

“We read about these wars in the history books, but to hear from someone who has that firsthand experience and can tell us what they did and why things happened really helps us to apply the lessons learned,”

said Cadet Maj. Daniela Carchedi, who is assigned to AFROTC Detachment 130. “We are able to draw from that to prepare us for what we will be facing in the future. The lessons we learn from these leaders who came before us are extremely valuable.”

Lt. Col. Gardner Joyner, the AFROTC Detachment 130 commander, said the importance of the interactions between Air Force senior leaders and the cadets cannot be measured.

“To have someone from the Pentagon here, it really reinforces the lessons we are trying to impart on them,” Joyner said. “To have the general here to discuss the lessons learned from Desert Storm helps the cadets to understand why we do what we do.”

Imparting knowledge gleaned from Desert Storm was rewarding for the Air Force senior leaders as well.

“This is really full circle for me,” La Fave said. “I started as an AFROTC cadet and now I have the opportunity to come back 30 years later and speak to a detachment and tell my story and the Air Force story and discuss how effective we were and what we learned through Desert Shield and Desert Storm. It was special to see these sharp, young cadets ready to go at the front end of their careers.

“I hope my story can help to shape their future. They have a great future in the Air Force.”

KC-135 crew saves F-16 pilot from ejecting over enemy lines

Senior Airman David Bernal Del Agua
22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — A KC-135 Stratotanker crew from McConnell Air Force Base saved an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot from ejecting over Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-held territory in 2015, which could have resulted in the Airman’s captivity or death.

While deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the crew responded to an F-16 fuel emergency and escorted the aircraft from ISIL territory to allied airspace.

“We were in the area of responsibility and were already mated with some A-10 Thunderbolt IIs that were tasked with observing and providing close air support for our allies on the ground,” said Capt. Nathaniel Beer, a 384th Air Refueling Squadron pilot. “The lead F-16 came up first and then had a pressure disconnect after about 500 pounds of fuel. We were expecting to offload about 2,500 pounds.”

After the F-16 disconnected a second time, the pilot went through his checklists and told the crew he had a fuel system emergency. Over 80 percent of his total fuel capability was trapped and unusable.

The F-16 could only use up to 15 minutes of fuel at a time, so the crew escorted the aircraft to its base while refueling every 15 minutes to avoid an emergency.

“The first thought I had from reading the note from the deployed location was extreme pride for the crew in how they handled the emergency,” said Lt. Col. Eric Hallberg, the 384th ARS commander. “Knowing the risks to their own safety, they put the life of the F-16 pilot first and made what could’ve been an international tragedy a feel-good news story. I’m sure they think it was not a big deal, however, that’s because they never want the glory or fame.”

Even after the crew escorted the F-16 back, they completed the rest of their daily missions, achieving 100 percent success.

“In my thoughts, what motivates them is a higher calling to be the best at the mission and take care of their fellow Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen,” the commander said.

Tankers like the KC-135 have made it possible to extend the range and persistence of Operation Inherent Resolve air operations, enabling coalition aircraft to maintain a 24/7 presence.



Courtesy photo
Senior Airman Jonathan Nigl, left, a 384th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, Maj. Robert Bradley and Capt. Nathaniel Beer, both 384th ARS pilots, pose for a photo in front of their aircraft.

14th MDG corner: February is Heart Health Month

Robert Pagenkopf
14th Medical Group
Health Promotion Coordinator

February is Heart Health Month and time for each of us to pay attention to our health.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. One in three deaths is from heart disease and stroke.

CVD is the leading cause of disability which prevents Americans from working and enjoying family activities.

Limiting the amount sodium that you consume in your diet can lower your blood pressure. Here are some tips from choosemyplate.gov to help you cut back:

- Skip adding additional salt when cooking

- Cook at home so you can control what is in your food
- Fill up with veggies and fruits, they are naturally low in sodium
- Read the label and look for foods labeled “low sodium” or “no salt added”

“Get moving!”
The 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans says you need two types of physical activity each week to improve your health.

- 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity every week.
- or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity every week.
- or an equivalent mix of moderate and vigorous intensity aerobic activity

- add muscle-strengthening activity on two or more days a week that work all major muscle groups

Limit Alcohol
The Dietary Guidelines for Americans define moderate drinking as no more than one drink per day for women and no more than two drinks per day for men.

Excessive alcohol use over time can lead to the development of chronic diseases including, but not limited to:

- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Stroke

Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for heart disease. If you do smoke, quit as soon as possible.

Contact Health Promotion at 434-1688 for more info on how you can strive for a healthy heart.



U.S. Air Force photos/Sharon Ybarra

Team BLAZE hosts four aircraft static displays

LEFT: An F-16 Fighting Falcon Static Display is set up on the flightline Feb. 19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations.



An A-10 Static Display is set up on the flightline Feb. 19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Two A-10 aircraft were flown in for the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-05 Graduation.



An F-15 Static Display is set up on the flightline Feb. 19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The F-15 is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15 Eagle

Mission

The F-15 Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.

Features

The Eagle's air superiority is achieved through a mixture of unprecedented maneuverability and acceleration, range, weapons and avionics. It can penetrate enemy defense and outperform and out-fight any current enemy aircraft. The F-15 has electronic systems and weaponry to detect, acquire, track and attack enemy aircraft while operating in friendly or enemy-controlled airspace. The weapons and flight control systems are designed so one person can safely and effectively perform air-to-air combat.

The F-15's superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing loading. Low wing-loading (the ratio of aircraft weight to its wing area) is a vital factor in maneuverability and, combined with the high thrust-to-weight ratio, enables the aircraft to turn tightly without losing airspeed.

A variety of air-to-air weaponry can be carried by the F-15. An automated weapon system enables the pilot to perform aerial combat safely and effectively, using the head-up display and the avionics and weapons controls located on the engine throttles or control stick. When the pilot changes from one weapon system to another, visual guidance for the required weapon automatically appears on the head-up display.

For low-altitude, high-speed penetration and precision attack on tactical targets at night or in adverse weather, the F-15E carries a high-resolution APG-70 radar and low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night pods

Background

The first F-15A flight was made



A row of F-15 Eagles from Kadena Air Base, Japan, line up before a takeoff. The F-15 Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.

in July 1972, and the first flight of the two-seat F-15B (formerly TF-15A) trainer was made in July 1973. The first Eagle (F-15B) was delivered in November 1974. In January 1976, the first Eagle destined for a combat squadron was delivered.

The single-seat F-15C and two-seat F-15D models entered the Air Force inventory beginning in 1979. These new models have Production Eagle Package (PEP 2000) improvements, including 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of additional internal fuel, provision for carrying exterior conformal fuel tanks and increased maximum takeoff weight of up to 68,000 pounds (30,600 kilograms).

F-15C, D and E models were deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm where they proved their superior combat capability. F-15C fighters accounted for 34 of the 37 Air Force air-to-air victories. F-15E's were operated mainly at night, hunting SCUD missile launchers and artillery sites using the LANTIRN system.

They have since been deployed for air expeditionary force deploy-

ments and operations Southern Watch (no-fly zone in Southern Iraq), Provide Comfort in Turkey, Allied Force in Bosnia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Tactical fighter



An F-15 Eagle takes off from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The F-15's superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing loading.

Contractor: McDonnell Douglas Corp.

Power plant: Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100, 220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners

Thrust: (C/D models) 23,450 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 42.8 feet (13 meters)
Length: 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)
Height: 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)

Weight: 31,700 pounds
Maximum takeoff weight: (C/D models) 68,000 pounds (30,844 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 36,200 pounds (three external plus conformal fuel tanks)

Payload: depends on mission
Speed: 1,875 mph (Mach 2 class)

Ceiling: 65,000 feet (19,812 meters)

Range: 3,450 miles (3,000 nautical miles) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks

Crew: F-15A/C: one. F-15B/D/E: two

Armament: One internally mounted M-61A1 20mm 20-mm, six-barrel cannon with 940 rounds of ammunition; four AIM-9 Sidewinder and four AIM-120 AMRAAMs or eight AIM-120 AMRAAMs, carried externally.

Unit Cost: A/B models - \$27.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars); C/D models - \$29.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Initial operating capability: September 1975

Inventory: Total force, 249

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. March 7-8. The Workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of 8 participants to make, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

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

First Term Officer's PFR

The First Term Officers' Personal Financial Readiness Workshop is required by AFI for all newly assignment personnel to their first station. The event is 9 - 10 a.m. March 8. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. March 8, 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

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

Troops To Teachers

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

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 10-11. The Entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

This class 10 - 11:30 a.m. March 15, is a class

Team BLAZE celebrates Black History Month with 5k fun run



Members of Team BLAZE run throughout the base during the Black History Month 5k Fun Run Feb. 19 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 5k was one of many events during February that celebrated Black History Month to include a food tasting and a luncheon with a guest speaker.

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

Pre-separation Counseling

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

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

Survivor-Benefit Plan

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

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

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

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, 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.

Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact Ms. Delores Sherman, Personal Financial Counseling, for appointment, 426-2527, or 434-2790, ColumbusAFB-PFC@MFLC.Zeiders.com. She can help manage finances, resolve financial problems, and reach long-term goals such as getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement.

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.

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.

Catholic Community

Sundays:
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
Tuesdays:
11:30 a.m. - Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. - Adoration
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Adult Bible Study
Friday:
5 p.m. - Lenten Stations of the Cross

Protestant Community

Sundays:
9 a.m. - Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service
Tuesdays:
5 p.m. - Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesdays:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Ecumenical services

Wednesdays:
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

I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

Team BLAZE accolades awarded 2015 - present



Wing Staff Agencies

2015 To Promote Safety Trophy
Safety Office

2015 Financial Management Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Sabrina Spriggs

Outstanding Chaplain Assistant Senior NCO
Master Sgt. Christopher Thompson

Outstanding Communication NCO Award
Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah

AETC Media Contest Awards:
Commentary, Series, Outstanding New Writer,
News Photography, Outstanding New Photographer
Airman 1st Class John Day

Photojournalism, Pictorial Photography
Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

Graphics Illustration
Senior Airman Stephanie Englar



14th Operations Group

2015 AFA Aerospace Award
37th Flying Training Squadron
2015 National Organization
for Mexican American Rights

Capt. Jose Sanchez

2015 Weather Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Ramon Curtis

2015 Weather Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Samuel Gutierrez

67th Annual Arthur Flemming Award
Maj. Jonathan Byard

2015 Resource Advisor of the Year Installation Level
Kristina Conwill

Test Pilot School (Mult-Engine Pilot Category) Award
Capt. Joseph Demonte

U.S. AFCENT Fiscal Year 15 PH II Flight Safety
Officer of the year
Maj. Eric Goff

AETC 2015 Airfield Operations and Ground
Radar and Airfield Systems Annual Awards:

TERPS Specialist of the year
Master Sgt. Daniel Schell

OSA Systems Specialist of the year
Modesto Cedano



14th Mission Support Group

Outstanding Contingency Contracting Officer
1st Lt. Jacqueline Littlefield

Outstanding Installation Management Flight:
Maj. Gen. Del R. Eulberg Award
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

2015 AETC Outstanding AF Logistics Readiness
Airman of the Year award
Senior Airman Steven McCray

2015 AETC DoD Fire Department of the Year
(Medium Category)
Fire Emergency Services Flight,
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

14th Medical Group accolades awarded 2015 - present



2015 AETC Best Ambulatory Clinic Patient
Safety Program
14th Medical Group

2015 AETC Outstanding Aerospace and Operational Physiology Airman of
the Year Award
Senior Airman Dawn Edwards

2015 AETC Outstanding Base Bioenvironmental
Engineering NCO of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. David Bank

2015 AETC Outstanding Ophthalmic NCO
of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. Esteban Puga

2015 AFMS Aerospace Physiology NCO of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hoffman

2015 AETC Outstanding Dental NCO of the Year Award
Tech. Sgt. William Lodge

2015 AETC Outstanding Public Health Airman
of the Year Award
Senior Airman Dimitri Munoz

2015 AETC Outstanding Dental Airman
of the Year Award
Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Farinas

2015 AETC Flight Surgeon of the Year
Capt. Quinton Keigley

*Editor's note: This section was omitted from the previous week's
feature, we apologize for any inconvenience.