

Weather



News Briefs

Autocross

Autocross is April 16-17 at the Columbus Air Force Base SAC Ramp. Drivers are able to race their personal vehicles around a track, competing against others for the best time.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. April 19 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

48th FTS Change of Command

The 48th Flying Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 8:48 a.m. April 21 at the Columbus Club.

43rd FTS Change of Command

The 43rd Flying Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 10:43 a.m. April 22 at the Columbus Club.

Inside



Feature 8

The 37th FTS is highlighted in this week's feature.

Update database, save lives, continue mission

Columbus Air Force Base Emergency Communication Center

Imagine yourself in your work area and one of your co-workers falls to the floor grasping at their chest. What would be your first reaction?

Perhaps the best reaction would be to ask that person about their condition and call 911 after determining the severity of your coworker's situation.

While this is only a scenario, it underscores the importance of updating E911 records. The emergency responders deploy to the building and office that the 911 database shows is the location the number was called from.

What is the E911 system? It is a database that manages all phone numbers on base with a location, giving dispatchers a prompt location and immediate response to anyone who dials 911 on base.

If you just moved offices from a different building and updates were not added to the system, the responders could go to the wrong building and your co-worker could be missing out on critical care. When you move offices ensure you notify your Cyber Security Liaison so the E911 Database can be updated with the most current information on the location of the phones in your office to include room and building number.

Follow these simple steps to complete a test for your Automated Number Identification and Automated Location Identification



tification for Columbus AFB 911. First, contact the Emergency Communication Center at 434-2262. Once the dispatcher approves, hang up and dial 911. Stay on the line and the ECC will verify the address information that appears for your phone number.

If you need to update the phone's address for an individual who has moved of-

fices, notify their Cyber Security Liaison to put in a Comm Focal Point ticket with the physical address, building, room, telephone number, and user or position title. If there is no room number use the best description such as Flight Medical or Finance.

For more information contact the ECC at 434-2262.

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 (17-02)	3.20 days	2.24 days	May 17	48th (16-08)	-2.09 days	2.50 days	Apr. 29	49th (16-GBC)	2.64 days	3.10 days	May 2	T-6	1,075	1,248	15,992
41st (17-01)	2.44 days	2.23 days	Apr. 25	50th (16-08)	-1.13 days	-0.02 days	Apr. 29					T-1	369	276	5,190
												T-38	387	411	5,278
												IFF	168	179	2,186

The Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-08 graduates April 29.



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 48 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.

Motorcyclists required to attend briefings

All active-duty military motorcycle riders must attend a motorcycle fatalities briefing at either 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. April 22 at the Kaye Auditorium, as directed by Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, Commander of Air Education and Training Command. It is also highly encouraged for civilian motorcycle riders to attend.

Tell us your story: Why did you join the Air Force?

Team BLAZE wants to hear your story. This is an opportunity to get your voice heard through the Silver Wings newspaper, base website and more and makes for a great performance report bullet reaching an audience of more than 3,000 base and Columbus community members.

The theme is, "Why did you join the Air Force?"

Requirements include:

- Times New Roman 12-point font size
- Length not to exceed two double-spaced pages with 300 - 500 words

- Turn in by the deadline; close of business April 25

Once you have finished, send your document to silverwings@us.af.mil. The Silver Wings editor will assist in style, format and grammar, which are unique to newspaper writing. The most unique chosen stories will be published in the April 29 issue of Silver Wings. Current official photos are also welcome to be published alongside stories.

For more information, call 434-7073 or 434-7068.

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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The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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) 328-2424.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
18	19 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club Honorary Commander Reception, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	20 Leadership Lowndes County base tour Heartlink, 11:45 a.m. @ Club	21 48th FTS Change of Command, 8:48 a.m. @ Fire Station	22 Lafayette HS JROTC base tour Motorcycle Fatalities Brief, 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. @ Kaye 43rd FTS Change of Command, 10:43 a.m. @ Fire Station	23/24	May 4-5: Holocaust remembrance May 6: 16-09 Assignment Night May 10: Wing Newcomers Orientation May 13: CCAF Graduation May 14: BLAZE-fest May 20: SUPT Class 16-09 graduation May 25: 16-10 Assignment Night May 26: Capt. Pierson memorial May 27: Independence Pool Opens May 31: Wing Newcomers Orientation May 31: Enlisted Promotions June 3: Dodgeball tournament June 9: 41st FTS Change of Command June 10: SUPT Class 16-10 graduation June 16: 14th MSG Change of Command
25	26	27	28	29 SUPT Class 16-08 graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye First Quarterly Awards Ceremony, 2 p.m. @ Kaye Enlisted Promotions Ceremony, 3 p.m. @ Kaye	30/1	

Mitten gives newest aviators lessons

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

Retired Col. Murry Mitten, former Director of Staff of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, visited Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, April 8 to speak at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-07's graduation ceremony.

Mitten earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater in 1986. He received his commission in 1988 as a graduate from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee.

From there, he entered undergraduate pilot training in August 1988 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 126th Air Refueling Squadron, 128th Air Refueling Wing, Gen. Mitchell IAP, Wisconsin, as a KC-135 co-pilot.

Mitten has held numerous positions over his career including Chief of Training, Pilot Scheduler, Flight Safety Officer, EWO Training Officer and Operations Support Flight Commander and Operations Group Commander. He assumed command of the 128th ARW as Wing Commander. After his time in command he accepted a job as the Director of Staff of the Wisconsin Air National Guard at state Headquarters where he then retired.

He began his speech by expressing gratitude to the audience for allowing him to



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John Day
U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Senior Airman Stephanie Englar
Retired Col. Murry Mitten, former Director of Staff of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, speaks April 8 during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-07's graduation ceremony at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Mitten gave advice not only to the graduating class, but to Class 17-07, the class exactly one year behind the graduates.

share his wisdom with the crowd.

"I would like to thank the class of 16-07 for having me here today," Mitten said. "I can't begin to tell you how much of an honor it is to speak to you on this graduation day."

Before advising the graduating class, Mit-

ten turned to the most recently formed class of 17-07 to offer his wisdom.

"Before I address 16-07, I want to talk to 17-07," Mitten said. "Nothing short of the best will do and America deserves the best. All of you are considered America's finest.

You would not be here if you were not the best. Hang on and enjoy the ride. It's going to be the toughest, most challenging and most rewarding year of your life that you will never forget."

He talked about the trials and tribulations Class 16-07 faced and how those experiences would shape them and make them better officers and pilots.

Mitten pointed out the diversity of the class and explained that each of them would bring something new to their squadron, wing and mission set.

"Times have changed," Mitten said. "Now it takes all three, Active Duty, Reserve and Guard to complete the mission and make it successful. I am pleased to see that each are represented in Class 16-07."

He went on to offer a final word about how their lives would forever change as soon as they pinned on their wings.

"I'm going to leave you with a small bit of advice that I hope stays with you," Mitten said. "Your career will be tough. Long days, difficult flights, split second decisions that you're going to have to make, both in the air and on the ground. And you will make these decisions because of what you are."

"People around base may not know who you are, but they will know what you are. Do not disappoint them. After today, you will always be a United States Air Force pilot. Wear your wings with pride and humility."



Columbus AFB offers new Single Parents Group

Tech. Sgt. Danielle Lachney
NCO in Charge of Equal Opportunity

I have now been a single parent in the military for two years. All I have to say is "Holy Cow, this is hard!"

I give mad props to those who have been doing this much longer than I.

With that said, in my time as a single parent I have noticed some very challenging situations only a single parent in the military would understand. For example, who do I give power of attorney over my children to on my Family Care Plan? How can I overcome the challenge to go grocery shopping with two young kids?

As a result, I am inviting all single parents, military or civilian, to come together and support one another. I believe, as a responsible Airman, when I see something broken in the system, or in this case lacking, I should do my best make it

better.

Here is the 411: this is a support group for single parents and gives the parents an avenue to address concerns. We will meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the club in the Happy Irby Room. Each meeting I will invite a guest from around the base or local community to inform the single parents what event or services are available. A quarterly event is for members to come together and get to know one another and their kids is also in the works.

A meeting is scheduled for noon April 19 to finalize the upcoming potluck and to discuss other items. Currently the group is in need of a senior leader, officer or enlisted, who has been or is currently a single parent in the military who can provide mentorship to the junior Airmen.

For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Danielle Lachney at 434-2546.

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight



- Category:** Airman
- Nominee Name/Grade:** Justin Keller E-4
- Unit:** 14th Operations Support Squadron
- Information:**
- Home Town:** Corryton, Tennessee
 - Time in the Air Force:** 4.5 years
 - Time at Columbus AFB:** 4 years
 - Career Short Term Goals:** Get promoted to staff sergeant
 - Career Long Term Goals:** To commission
 - Nominated by:** Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Arce
 - Nomination reason:** Senior Airman Keller is a professional workhorse. He not

only helps separate more than 5K ATC in the Control Tower, he is also a member of the Honor Guard where he helps oversee 40,000 miles in support of his team, and is an active college student. He is responsible for equipment worth \$22,000 and the associated MICT checklist that goes with it. He also completed a master sergeant level tasker during a void within the flight and its findings were highlighted to the Air Education and Training Command. Keller tracks, compiles, and reports to AETC a monthly record of all tower operations which directly provides the wing's data points that go on Officer Performance Reports and Enlisted Performance Reports. The time spent with the Honor Guard is also demanding; recently he performed nine details, folded six flags for the families of fallen heroes, and helped train three new members. All this, while also completing two classes, in the last two months, toward his Community College of the Air Force degree. He has embraced the Air Force's vision, on what it means to be an Airman, and deserves to be in the "Spotlight."



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

First Lt. Rob Curry, 14th Student Squadron, conducts training on maintenance checks and cleaning for a Tactical Meteorological Equipment-53 Sensor with 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight members April 5 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The TMQ-53 Sensor's capabilities include the tracking of wind speeds, airfield pressure, visibility, precipitation and altimeter settings. The weather readings are put into a weather model to help predict weather patterns and are used in deployed environments for daily reports to aircrews preparing for missions.

Forecasters receive training on weather instruments

1st Lt. Rob Curry
14th Student Squadron

The 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight trained on forecasting instruments April 5 including the Tactical Meteorological Observing System at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The instrument helps provide weather information to forecasters so they can observe weather trends, take data and provide information pilots need to carry out missions in a deployed environment.

The weather flight provides critical, timely and accurate weather intelligence as well as mission-execution, seasonal climatology and local weather familiarization briefings in support of Columbus Air Force Base. Using satellite and radar imagery, computer-gener-

ated graphics and weather-communication equipment and instruments, these weather forecasters can analyze atmospheric-space data and information.

The Weather Flight works cooperatively with the regional forecasting hub at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. They interact with at least one regional forecaster to form a better forecast to be as accurate as possible, issuing warnings and advisories to alert the community of critical weather.

"If at any time we receive any severe criteria weather, we can transition to 24-hour support," said Staff Sgt. Ian Lorenz, 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Forecaster. "Severe thunderstorms can mean 50 knot winds, large hail greater than one-half inch or tornadoes."

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.

Air Force approves RPA initiatives

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Air Force recently approved two initiatives for the remotely piloted aircraft career field. First, eight RPA reconnaissance squadrons will be redesignated as attack squadrons. Second, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III authorized RPA aircrews to log combat time when flying an aircraft within designated hostile airspace, regardless of the aircrew's physical location.

The changes were two of many recommendations that emerged as part of Air Combat Command's Culture and Process Improvement Program, which seeks to address a number of issues affecting operations and the morale and welfare of Airmen across the RPA enterprise.

"The Airmen who perform this essential mission do a phenomenal job, but we learned from the RPA pilots, sensor operators and their leaders that these Airmen are under significant stress from an unrelenting pace of operations," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "CPIP was established to help stabilize the RPA enterprise. These policy changes are steps toward addressing issues highlighted by RPA operators in the field."

The redesignation will affect the names, but not the core missions of RPA squadrons at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico; Whiteman AFB, Missouri; and Creech AFB, Nevada. These units, consisting of approximately 600 officers and 700 enlisted Airmen, will continue to provide real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to commanders, close air support to ground

"Aerial warfare continues to evolve. Our great RPA Airmen are leading that change. They are in the fight every day," Welsh said.

troops, and post-operation battle damage assessment to senior leaders.

Previously, squadrons consisting of MQ-9 Reaper aircraft were designated attack squadrons, while squadrons of MQ-1 Predator aircraft were designated reconnaissance squadrons. The redesignation anticipates the Air Force's ongoing transition to an all MQ-9 fleet and acknowledges the capability of these units to support military operations that can include strikes against targets. The cost of the redesignation is minimal, mostly affecting signs, stationary and other local items that display the unit's name or emblem.

"Aerial warfare continues to evolve. Our great RPA Airmen are leading that change. They are in the fight every day," Welsh said. "These policy changes recognize the burdens they bear in providing combat effects for joint warfighters around the world."

Since their first employment over the Balkans, Air Force RPAs have been in high demand, according to Air Force senior leaders. This has led to rapid expansion of both the number of squadrons and the number of operators.

Unique organizational structures and names evolved during this time, and the Air



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Nadine Barclay

The Air Force recently approved two initiatives for the remotely piloted aircraft career field. Eight RPA reconnaissance squadrons will be redesignated as attack squadrons, and the Air Force has also authorized RPA aircrews to log combat time when flying an aircraft within designated hostile airspace, regardless of the aircrew's physical location.

Force is now taking steps to standardize operations and improve conditions for operators.

The RPA mission "is instrumental to achieving decision advantage against our enemies, is an indispensable asset to our national security, and is the backbone to the success of our fights in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and other areas combating extremism and terrorism," Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of ACC, said March 16 in his testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services. "The Air Force is fully invested in continuing to achieve sustainability of this enterprise."

The Air Force reduced the number of

combat lines to 60, from 65 in 2015. They also increased incentive retention pay for pilots to \$25,000, matching incentive pay for rated pilots in other airframes.

ACC is expanding the training pipeline for operators, creating a more robust force and decreasing the current operational tempo. A combat operations-to-dwell ratio of 2:1 will provide Airmen predictable schedules, improve work-life balance, enable further professional development, offer increased training opportunities, and ultimately improve readiness, according to Col. Jeffry Long, ACC's director of CPIP.

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: White Kenmore chest freezer with power light, sliding basket and in excellent condition; must sell, \$195. For more information call 356-4511.

For Sale: Olde Town 146 Saranac Green Canoe, used only three times

and stored indoors. High back seats with center seat storage, bought new for \$699, asking \$450 or best offer. For more information call Mike at 574-0369.

For Sale: Several items for sale: Pro form whirlwind dual action stationary bike for \$150; Health rider for \$200; EZ Bole Regal three wheel adult bike \$250; Two Dyson vacuums, \$50 for both; Shark floor cleaner mop with two pads for \$8; six shelf book case \$20. All items are in good shape, for more information, call 328-3977.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

April 19

Visit Mississippi's 2016 Americana in Mississippi Tour is set to start at 6 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center in Columbus. This spring, Rambling Steve Gardner & The Jericho Roadshow will headline this exciting tour. They'll be joined by notable local musicians at each stop, and one of those stops is none other than Columbus, Mississippi. For more information visit online at visitcolumbusms.org.

April 21

Noon Tunes featuring Dawn Barham runs 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., in

Trotter Convention Center Courtyard, downtown Columbus. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch is available for purchase from Zachary's; drinks provided by Clark Beverages. For more information visit online at visitcolumbusms.org.

April 29

The Mississippi University for Women Jazz Ensemble Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Mississippi University for Women Kossen Auditorium in Poin-dexter Hall. The event is free and open to the public. For more information visit online at visitcolumbusms.org.



A B-52 Stratofortress from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, touches down at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 9, 2016. The B-52 offers diverse capabilities including the delivery of precision weapons. The aircraft and its crew have deployed in support Operation Inherent Resolve. This deployment is the first basing of the B-52s in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in 26 years.



U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, arrive at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 9, 2016 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the operation to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the threat they pose to Iraq, Syria and the wider international community, and as needed in the region. The B-52 offers diverse capabilities including the delivery of precision weapons.

B-52 Stratofortress joins coalition team

Air Forces Central Command Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, arrived at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, April 9, in support of theater requirements and Operation Inherent Resolve, the operation to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and the threat they pose to Iraq, Syria and the wider international community.

“The B-52 will provide the coalition

continued precision and deliver desired airpower effects,” said Lt. Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., the commander of U.S. Air Forces Central Command and Combined Forces Air Component. “As a multi-role platform, the B-52 offers diverse capabilities including delivery of precision weapons and the flexibility and endurance needed to support the combatant commanders’ priorities and strengthen the coalition team.”

The 19-nation air coalition consists of numerous strike aircraft and the B-52s will bring their unique capability to the fight against ISIL.

The B-52 is a long-range heavy bomber that can perform a variety of missions including strategic attack, close-air support, air interdiction and maritime operations.

Crews will be available to carry out missions in both Iraq and Syria as needed to support air tasking order requirements.

“The B-52 demonstrates our continued resolve to apply persistent pressure on (ISIL) and defend the region in any future contingency,” Brown said.

This deployment is the first basing of the B-52s in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in 26 years. The B-52s were

based in Saudi Arabia supporting Operation Desert Storm. The B-52s were last flown operationally during Operation Enduring Freedom in May 2006, and during Exercise Eager Lion, a USCENTCOM-led multilateral exercise in Jordan, in May 2015.

The coalition conducted more than 33,000 airpower missions in support of OIR. Since the beginning of the operation, the coalition struck about 459 vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, 776 mortar systems, 1,933 logistics buildings housing these weapons, 662 weapons caches, and 1,341 staging areas.

Get your purple on to recognize military children

Jim Garamone

DOD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Time to get your purple on, America.

April 15 is Purple Up! day, a time for Americans to show their support for military families. Department of Defense Education Activity schools will celebrate the event April 20 because of spring recess.

“It’s to build awareness for the needs of military families,” said Barbara A. Thompson, the director of DOD’s Office of Family Readiness Policy.

This is not a DOD program, but a grassroots effort that began in 2011 as a way to honor the sacrifices military chil-

dren make every day for the nation. According to the 4-H Military Partnerships website, 4-H clubs in New Hampshire developed the “Purple Up! for Military Kids” initiative while working with children of deployed guardsmen and reservists, and they saw Purple Up! as a way to build awareness in their communities.

“It’s grown like wildfire across the United States and now DOD has embraced it, too,” Thompson said.

The 4-H went with purple because it is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. “It is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy blue,” according to the 4-H. “The goal of ‘Purple Up!’ is for military youth to actually see the support in their school, youth groups and the community.”



Courtesy illustration

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

JUSTICE TIMES: APRIL 2016

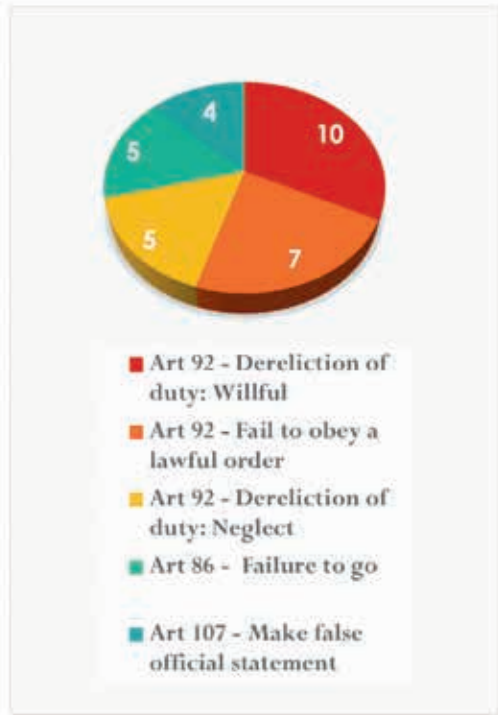
“Again and Again and Again”: Airman Found Guilty of Repeated Substance Abuse

In both a random urinalysis test and then a unit sweep that occurred a week later, Airman Basic Ryan Troester, 14th Security Forces Squadron, tested positive for methamphetamine. Pursuant to Col. John Nichols’ urinalysis retesting policy, members that test positive for controlled substances are notified they are required to provide additional urinalysis testing until they produce a sample which tests negative for controlled substances. After being notified of the retesting policy, Troester ultimately tested positive for methamphetamine on another two occasions. Troester also tested positive for oxycodone on three occasions. Investigation also revealed Troester consumed alcohol during this same time period, while under the age of 21 on at least two separate occasions.

At a special court-martial hearing, Troester pleaded guilty to underage drinking, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ and wrongfully using methamphetamine, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. Troester pleaded and was found not guilty of wrongfully using oxycodone, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced Troester to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 25 days, and forfeitures of \$780 pay. The sentence was approved by the convening authority, Col. John Nichols, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander.

STATUS OF DISCIPLINE BY THE NUMBERS- 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016

19th AF Top Article 15 Offenses



Amount of 19th AF Courts-Martials and Article 15s

Luke	3 Courts-Martial 8 Article 15s
Altus	0 Courts-Martial 8 Article 15s
Columbus	1 Courts-Martial 4 Article 15s
Laughlin	7 Courts-Martial 2 Article 15s
Vance	0 Courts-Martial 2 Article 15s
19th AF Totals	4 Courts-Martial 29 Article 15s

JUSTICE FACTOID: Airmen are afforded the right to not accept an Article 15 and demand trial by court-martial.

Columbus AFB Article 15s

An airman 1st class received an Article 15 for failing to refrain from playing an intramural sport while on a medical profile with a duty limiting condition (violation of Art. 92, dereliction of duty: willful), and failing to attend or cancel scheduled medical appointments (violation of Art. 92, dereliction of duty: neglect). The Airman received a suspended reduction to E-2 and a reprimand. Details regarding the remaining three of the Article 15s that occurred at Columbus this quarter will be provided in next quarter’s Justice Times.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: P-38 Lightning I

Mission

The versatile P-38 Lightning I performed many different missions during World War II, including dive bombing, level bombing, bombing through clouds, strafing, photo reconnaissance and long range escort. It first went into large-scale service during the North African campaign in November 1942, where the German pilots named it Der Gabelschwanz Teufel or “The Forked-Tail Devil.” When the Lightning began combat operations from England in September 1943, it was the only fighter with the range to escort bombers into Germany.

Background

The P-38 was originally conceived as an advanced, high-performance twin-engine interceptor. On Feb. 11, 1939, Lt. Ben Kelsey set a coast to coast record of 7 hours, 48 minutes in the sleek prototype Lightning, but crashed while landing. Despite the accident, development continued and the first of 13 service test YP-38s flew on Sept. 16, 1940. Early model P-38s experienced turbulent airflow over the tail and problems at high dive speeds, known as compressibility, but later modifications corrected these difficulties.

The first major production version was the P-38E, which had a 20mm cannon rather than the earlier 37mm cannon.



Courtesy photo/John Rossino

A Lockheed P-38L cockpit sits open at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. When the Lightning began combat operations from England in September 1943, it was the only fighter with the range to escort bombers into Germany.

Production of the E began in September 1941 and 210 were built. The next version, the P-38F, introduced pylon racks that could carry either bombs or droppable fuel tanks, greatly extending its range. Production of the G began in August 1942, followed by the P-38H in May 1943, which had a more powerful version of the Allison V-1710 engine.

The P-38J, introduced in August 1943, was considerably improved over earlier models. It had better cockpit heating (a notable problem on earlier models), more efficient cooling for its engines, a flat bulletproof windscreen, additional fuel in the wings, and increased maneuverability.

Features

The Lightning truly shined in the Pacific theater; seven of the top eight scoring USAAF aces in the Pacific flew the P-38. On April 18, 1943, the long range of the P-38 enabled USAAF pilots to ambush and shoot down an aircraft carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who was the planner of the Pearl Harbor raid and the commander of the Imperial Japa-

nese Navy. The P-38 became the standard USAAF fighter in the Pacific theater until the closing months of WWII.

The final production version was the P-38L, which could carry two 300-gallon drop tanks. Deliveries of the L began in June 1944 and continued until August 1945. Of the 10,038 P-38s built, 3,923 were P-38Ls.

General characteristics

Armament: Four .50-cal. machine guns and one 20mm cannon

Engines: Two Allison V-1710s of 1,475 hp each

Maximum speed: 414 mph

Cruising speed: 275 mph

Range: 1,300 miles

Ceiling: 40,000 ft.

Span: 52 ft.

Length: 37 ft. 10 in.

Height: 12 ft. 10 in.

Weight: 17,500 lbs. loaded



U.S. Air Force photo

A Lockheed P-38L Lightning sits at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. The versatile P-38 Lightning I performed many different missions during World War II, including dive bombing, level bombing, bombing through clouds, strafing, photo reconnaissance and long range escort.

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 from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. April 19, 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 will be 9 - 10 a.m. April 19. Call 434-2790 to sign up.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, 1 - 2 p.m. April 19, 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 434-2839/2790.

Heart Link For Spouses

This event from 8:30 a.m. - noon April 20, is for spouses new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. The event is held at Columbus Club. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus AFB. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Smooth Move

This class, 10 - 11:30 a.m. April 20, 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.

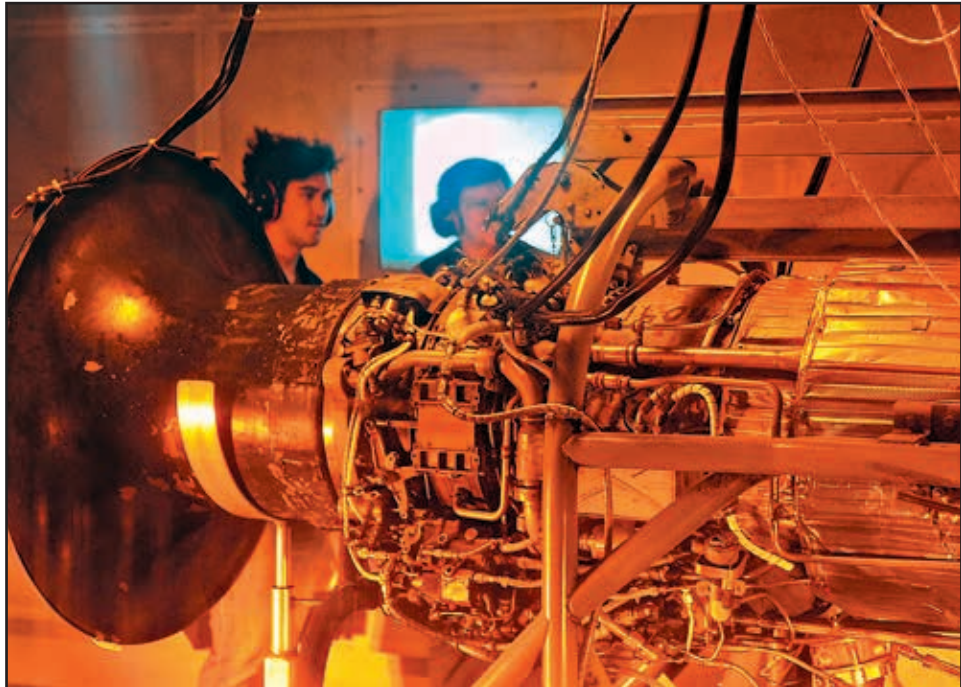
Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program 5- 7 p.m. April 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.

Career Technical Training

This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. May 9-10 and 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 participates to make, to register and more information call 434-2790.

MSU Aerospace Engineering class tours Columbus AFB



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

Steve Wallis, L-3 Communications, shows off the power of a T-38C Talon engine to Joseph Alethhawe, Mississippi State University senior, during a tour of the testing facility April 12 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Aerospace Engineering class toured the BLAZE hangar, propulsions lab, and the T-38C Talon test cell.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. May 10 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 434-2790.

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.

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:

11:30-12:30 p.m. – Adoration

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

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.

The Overrun Now Open Evenings
The Overrun is open each Thursday 4:30 – 8 p.m. and Friday 4:30 p.m. until midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Supply Drive for St. Jude and Baptist Hospitals
The Youth Center is collecting donations for St. Jude Children's Hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital. Drop off school supplies at the Youth Center Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. April 1 – 30. For more information and a complete list of items needed, please contact 434-2504.

Shuttle Service to “I Love the 90s” Concert
Outdoor Recreation is offering shuttle service to the “I Love the 90s” Concert April 16. The cost is only \$18 per person. You must purchase your own tickets. The bus will leave the BX parking lot April 16 at 4 p.m. To reserve your seat or for more information, contact 434-2505.

Air Force vs. Army Bench Press Competition
The Fitness Center is offering an Air Force vs. Army Bench Press Competition April 18 at 6 p.m. Competition includes: 1 rep max and max reps, male and female divisions, 300 Club qualification, and overall winner. All participants receive a free t-shirt. For more information or to sign up, contact 434-2772.

FREE Movie on the Green
The Golf Course is offering “Kung Fu Panda 3” Movie on the Green April 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Reserve your seat in a golf cart for only \$5; includes hot dog, chips and a drink. Golf cart seating is limited. The cost day of event: \$4 for hot dog combo only. You may bring lawn chairs or blankets. Popcorn available for purchase; rain date April 23. For more information, contact the Golf Course.

Learn to Cross Stitch like a Pro
The Arts and Crafts Center is offering a free cross stitch class on Mondays and Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Classes begin April 25. Participants must provide their own materials for the class. For more information, contact 434-7836.

Free Breakfast for Club Members
The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast for club members May 2 from 6:30 – 8 a.m. Non-members pay \$8 per person. Become a Club member and eat for free plus enjoy all the benefits of being a member. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Cinco De Mayo Family Buffet
The Columbus Club is offering an All You Can Eat Mexican Buffet May 5 from 5 – 8 p.m. The cost is only \$10 for members; \$12 non-members; \$5 ages 5 – 11; 4 and under free. For more information, contact 434-2489.

National Fitness Month Fitness Run
The Fitness Center is offering a 5K fitness run May 6 at 7 a.m. This event will kick off National Fitness Month. Commander's trophy points awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Independence Pool Opens
The Independence Pool at the Columbus Club will open May 27 at noon. The pool will be open daily from noon – 7 p.m. Pool passes available for purchase at Outdoor Recreation beginning

“PG-13”



MOVIE ON THE GREEN

April 22

7:30 pm

FREE

*Rain Date: April 23

Golf Cart Seating is limited. Reserve your seat for \$5; includes Hot Dog, Chips & Drink!



Day of Event: \$4 for Hot Dog Combo Only. Bring Blanket or Lawn Chairs. Popcorn Available for purchase.



434-7932



April 15. Book a pool party for your next event, birthday party, or squadron activity. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Columbus Club Lunch Buffet Specials
The Columbus Club is offering a lunch buffet Monday - Friday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Monday – Mexican Buffet, Tuesday- Italian Buffet, Wednesday – Pizza and Wings Buffet, Thursday- Southern Buffet, Friday – Catfish and Spaghetti Buffet. Cost of buffet is only \$7.95 for Club members and \$8.95 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Story Time at the Library
The Base Library is offering Story Time every Friday at 10:30 a.m. for all ages. The library is located in the Education Center, building 916, rooms 3, 4, and 6. Hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Sundays 1 – 5 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Bowling Center Party Specials
The Bowling Center is offering two options for all your party needs. Option 1 includes 2 hours of unlimited bowling and shoe rental for only \$8.50 per person. Option 2 includes 2 hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, and a child meal for only \$11.50 per person. Choice of meal includes chicken tenders, hot dog, corn dog, or grilled cheese served with fries and drink. You may bring in a cake, cupcakes, and ice cream. No other outside food and drinks allowed. For more information, contact 434-3426.

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.

Lawn Mower Repair
Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. For more information, contact 434-2507.

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

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

GoPro Rental
Capture the moment by renting a GoPro Hero Three from Outdoor Recreation. The Cost is only \$10 for a two-day rental. Single Airmen may receive a two-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
Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Monday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

Supporting ‘tip of the spear’

1st Lt. Jonathan Harris
37th Flying Training Squadron Instructor Pilot

I have a unique history with Columbus Air Force Base and the 14th Flying Training Wing. I was born in Columbus when my father was stationed here as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot.

I guess you could say I'm a legacy FAIP. Even with this special history, I was initially a little bummed out about being a FAIP.

After pilot training I was excited to be on the “tip of the spear” and I wanted to fly something with afterburners and missiles. That started to change after listening to my father's war stories. He was in Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 86-07 and stayed at Columbus AFB until 1990. Afterward, he flew the KC-10 in support of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After pilot training I was excited to be on the “tip of the spear” and I wanted to fly something with afterburners and missiles. That started to change after listening to my father’s war stories.

We both learned something important as a result, the necessity of a support role and what it means to be a FAIP. As he flew around Europe and the Middle East, he couldn't

walk into a squadron's base operations section without one of his former students walking up to reminisce. They often talked about one particular good or bad sortie they had flown with him or something he had taught them that “saved their butt” one day. He didn't realize the impact instructor pilots have on the tip of the spear, and neither did I.

It would be impossible for the other major commands to take a brand new second lieutenant and put them in the right seat of a C-17 or a single seat fighter. At Columbus AFB, we fulfill an important role in supporting the war fighters. We may not be on the tip of the spear, but Columbus AFB strives to produce the best undergraduate pilots and seasoned Airmen in the Air Force — and we do because we take pride in the mission of Columbus AFB — Produce Pilots, Advance Airman, Feed the Fight.



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

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

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.



37th FTS turns pedestrians into pilots



The 37th Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, has been active as a FTS since 1972. Students learn basic aircraft characteristics and control, takeoff and landing techniques, aerobatics, and night, instrument and formation flying in the T-6 Texan II.



A statue and flagpoles depicting the 37th Flying Training Squadron mascot sits outside the building April 12 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Before it was a training squadron, it was first established as the 37th Pursuit Squadron in January 1941, where it flew the P-38 Lightning I.

Airman 1st Class John Day

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

No pilot starts out flying a C-130 or an F-22. Everybody starts somewhere.

The 37th Flying Training Squadron teaches Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students the basics of flying here at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The 37th FTS utilizes the T-6 Texan II for flying training for brand new pilots. Before it was a training squadron, it was first established as the 37th Pursuit Squadron in January 1941, where it flew the P-38 Lightning I.

As the 37th Fighter Squadron, it saw combat during World War II in the Mediterranean and European Theaters, and was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation in 1944. It was inactivated in 1945.

The squadron was reactivated with Air Defense Command in the northeastern United States from 1946 to 1949. Originally equipped with propeller fighters, it became one of the first units equipped with the Republic F-84 Thunderjet.

From 1952 to 1960, the 37th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron was assigned the mission of defending the northeastern United States.

In 1972, Air Training Command, now Air Education Training Command, activated the 37th FTS, combining all the heritage from the previous incarnations of the 37th into what it is today.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," said Lt. Col Jason Loe, 37th FTS Commander. "Here we take a pedestrian and turn them into a pilot, giving them the foundation of flying for the rest of their careers."

Students learn the primary techniques of aviation in the 37th FTS before they can proceed in their training. This builds their foundation for flight in whatever weapon system they proceed to fly. They are taken through four basic categories of contact, full contact, instruments and formation.

"Students come out of Phase I with very basic academics and a small amount of simulator training," said Capt. Travis Cord, 37th FTS T-6 Instructor Pilot and Thunderbolt Flight Commander. "When they come to us, they are exposed to 63 sorties in the aircraft, totaling 86 hours of

"This is where the rubber meets the road," said Lt. Col Jason Loe, 37th FTS Commander. "Here we take a pedestrian and turn them into a pilot, giving them the foundation of flying for the rest of their careers."

actual flight."

Many of their beginning flights are simply observing instructors, trying to grasp the basics of takeoff, landing and flying in a set pattern.

"We call this contact," Cord said. "Getting from point A to point B and back again while learning to apply all their instruments."

Using those instruments, students then learn to fly without using visual aids, useful for flying at night where there may be little to no visibility. During cross country flights, students fly into other bases and airports, learning how to interact with places with different procedures than Columbus.

"This builds their experience in interacting and navigating to different airfields and environments," Cord said. "We take them through mission planning and how to get back home from these unfamiliar aircraft."

Lastly, students deal with formation flight, the art of flying alongside another aircraft.

"We perform two-ship formations practicing taking off together; doing wingwork, meaning staying in proximity during a turn; and some aerobatics, meaning they stay following their lead aircraft through a series of maneuvers," Cord said.

Each section culminates in a solo flight. These solos boost confidence, signaling they are ready to move on in their training.

"When they leave the T-6, the students have grasped the basics of flying," Loe said. "As a weapon, they are a blunt sword. In Phase III they will be honed to a razor sharp edge, soon delivering Airpower for the United States."



The 37th Flying Training Squadron heritage room shows the flying history and heritage at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 37th FTS has flown many aircraft from the P-38 Lightning to the T-37 Tweet.



Various aircraft parts line the walls of the 37th Flying Training Squadron April 12 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 37th FTS utilizes the T-6 Texan II for flying training for brand new pilots.



The heritage room for the 37th Flying Training Squadron holds many items and pictures of previous incarnations of the 37th FTS April 12 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Mugs for permanent party personnel are hung along its walls.