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Vol. 40, Issue 30

July 29, 2016

## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  PM Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 72°F	<b>Saturday</b>  PM Thunderstorms High 91°F Low 73°F
<b>Sunday</b>  PM Thunderstorms High 92°F Low 73°F	<b>Monday</b>  PM Thunderstorms High 91°F Low 74°F

Forecast provided by the 14<sup>th</sup> OSS Weather Flight

## News Briefs

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel.

### Senior NCO Induction Ceremony

The Senior NCO Induction Ceremony starts 6 p.m. Aug. 12 at the Columbus Club.

### School is starting

The school year is about to begin. Please be aware of school bus stops, children crossing roads and increased traffic during transition times.

## Inside



### Feature 8

SUPT Class 16-12 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



Courtesy Photo

A toppled vehicle lays on its side on Land Road after the driver and two children passengers were saved by Senior Airman Ramon Curtis, 14th Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster, and 2nd Lt. Christopher Kowalski, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, July 24 in Lowndes County, Mississippi.

## Airmen help save family in car wreck

### Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

What does a typical Sunday hold for an Airman? Wake-up, eat breakfast, drive to a friend's house, and save a family of three from a vehicle wreck? This is not TV, that's how two Team BLAZE Airmen spent their Sunday evening.

Senior Airman Ramon Curtis, 14th Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster wasn't expecting much to happen that July 24, but potentially fatal incident changed that.

"I was on my motorcycle heading toward the gate and I saw a

car coming out of Land Road probably pushing excess speed so I slowed down," Curtis said. "As I passed by I saw his vehicle flip over. So I turned around. As soon as I got there, the car was smoking and laying on its side."

As he got closer despite both his bike running and his helmet on he could hear the man screaming.

"I could hear him yelling for help so I jumped off my bike and ran up to pull him out," Curtis said. "He was bloody. I pulled him out of his car and laid him down."

As Curtis was removing the man from the vehicle, 2nd Lt.

See AIRMEN, Page 2

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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 (17-06)	0.89 days	-0.34 days	Aug. 12	48th (16-13)	-1.61 days	-0.02 days	Aug. 5	49th (16-KBC)	-3.87 days	-0.70 days	Aug. 23	T-6	2,250	2,211	25,572
41st (17-07)	0.62 days	1.39 days	Sept. 6	50th (16-13)	1.00 days	1.98 days	Aug. 5					T-1	765	546	8,253
* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.												T-38	716	764	8,722
The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Andrew Croft, Director of Plans, Programs, Requirements and Assessments, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.												IFF	345	356	3,571





### 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 49 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.*

**AIRMEN**  
(Continued from page 1)

Christopher Kowalski, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, was exiting the main gate.

“I was leaving base on my way to a buddy’s house, and I looked to the right [down Land Road] and I saw there was a car perpendicular to the road on its side,” Kowalski said. “I pulled off the road and that is when I saw Airman Curtis already in the process of helping the gentleman.”

During the incident, Curtis recalled thinking about the safety of the individual and his daughters who were in the back seat of the toppled vehicle.

“I got to get this dude out, that’s all I could think of was I got to get him out. I just kept telling him, everything is going to be alright, it’s going to be ok,” Curtis said. “I just wanted to make sure everybody was ok. I can’t let anything bad happen to these kids. I have kids of my own so I think my fatherly instincts took over. I’m going to do whatever I can to get these kids out.”

Kowalski helped the daughters after pulling over to the side of the road noting the vehicle was also leaking fuel.

“I heard the two little girls. I ran over there and started helping one of them out,” Kowalski said.

After the eldest daughter was helped the youngest was still in trouble stuck in the car seat. The Airmen decided to go through the trunk space.

“At that point in time we got the trunk open,” Kowalski said. “I went into the trunk and pulled everything out and unbuckled the second daughter from

the car seat and handed her up through the passenger side window to Airman Curtis.”

Curtis credited his Air Force training for allowing him the knowledge of what to do.

“All my deployment training like Self Aid and Buddy Care stuff and proper carries; it all definitely paid off,” Curtis said. “We attempted to put a tourniquet on his arm because his hand was pretty messed up.”

Curtis and Kowalski’s instincts kicked in to help the injured as best as possible before EMS showed up on the scene.

“You see someone in trouble, you go help them. You don’t just drive by; try and help out and do the best you can,” Kowalski said. “Airman Curtis was definitely on his game, he was a good guy to work with. He was the first one there. He stayed calm and collected and did a great job. We were on the same wavelength, we had the same priorities and we got everything accomplished in a safe and effective manner.”

Both Airmen worked together to accomplish this feat but to them it felt unreal.

“I couldn’t believe what I just did. It’s still kind of surreal, I actually helped save somebody’s life,” Curtis said. “I honestly don’t know where all the strength came from to curl a grown man out of a SUV. It doesn’t seem real to me almost like an outer body experience. I wasn’t doing it to be a hero I was doing what I thought was right.”

The efforts of upholding their core values turned them into model citizens for the Columbus community. For Curtis and Kowalski, it was not just another typical Sunday.

### Silver Wings

#### How to reach us

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555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
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#### Editorial Staff

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**Senior Airman Kaleb Snay**  
Editor

**Airman 1st Class John Day**  
Staff Writer

**Mrs. Tina Perry**  
Layout Designer

#### 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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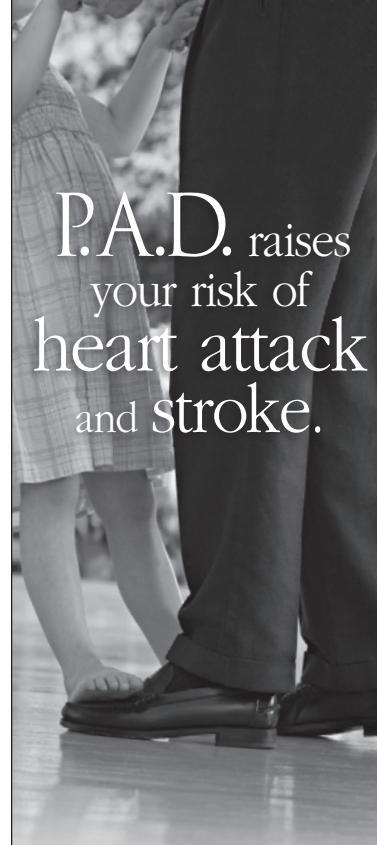
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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
1 Airman Leadership School starts  Club member free breakfast, 6:30 a.m. @ Club	2	3 Lowndes County School starts	4 Columbus City School starts	5 16-13 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club  Alabama Sales Tax Holiday	6/7	Aug. 18: Enlisted Dorm Dinner Aug. 19: SUPT Class 16-13 Graduation Aug. 20-21: Autocross Aug. 30: Wing Newcomers Orientation Aug. 31: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony Sept. 2: AETC Family Day Sept. 5: Labor Day Holiday Sept. 9: SUPT Class 16-14 Graduation Sept. 12-13: AETC/CC visit Sept. 15: 49th FS reunion Sept. 17: Air Force Birthday Ball Sept. 30: SUPT Class 16-15 Graduation
8	9 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	10	11	12 Senior NCO Induction Ceremony, 6 p.m. @ Club	13/14	





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# Upcoming EVENTS

**CPR Classes** are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. August classes will be held on the 8th and 22nd. Call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498. .

Baptist Cancer Center offers **free prostate PSA screenings** for men over 40. PSA screenings will be held in Columbus on Friday, August 26, from 8am–11:30 am. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Baptist Cancer Center will hold a **support group for cancer survivors** and their families the third Friday of every month from noon-1pm. The August 19th meeting will take place in room 6 PT, just past the Gift Shop. Topic will be on Hospice and the Five Wishes. For information call 244-2923 or 800-544-8767, ext. 2923.

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 on each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.


**BMH-GT Diabetes Support Group** - classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, room 6 PT. For more information call Lacy Smith at 662-244-1392 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1392.

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](mailto:info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org).


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## Equal Opportunity Office Closure

The Equal Opportunity Office will be closed Aug. 1-5 due to all EO personnel being on TDY. If you have a complaint or concern, please contact 2nd Lt. Jason Lapre at 662-434-3752 or [jason.lapre.1@us.af.mil](mailto:jason.lapre.1@us.af.mil) to schedule an appointment with the EO office upon their return. Contact with Lapre will count as the date of initial contact for complaints.

## Birthday Airman wins \$5000 at Birthday Ball Drawdown

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

The Air Force Birthday Ball Drawdown is an annual event put on to raise money for the upcoming Birthday Ball. Among the many prizes available to participants to win are a TV, door prizes, gift cards and the grand prize of \$5,000.

This year's grand prize was taken by Senior Airman Nick Candiano, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management Journeyman, July 22 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Even more of a pleasant surprise than winning the prize was the fact that it came on his 25th birthday.

"I knew the drawdown would be on my birthday, but I already had plans to watch a new movie," Candiano said. "Airman Ew-

ing asked me to buy a ticket and to support the Birthday Ball Committee, so I bought one. She told me that I did not need to be at the drawdown to win the prize, I thought I might as well; it definitely gave me more incentive to buy a ticket."

Never did he think that he would actually win a prize, even less the grand prize of \$5,000.

"After the movie, my phone started blowing up with messages," Candiano said. "At first I didn't believe that I won."

By the luck of the draw, not only did he win, but he did so on his 25th birthday, on a day benefiting the Air Force's birthday.

"I bought myself a nice TV, something I have been wanting for a while," Candiano said. "The remainder of the money I will put into savings and investing."

## Compulsory School Attendance: Home School

The School Liaison Office would like to remind parents of the State of Mississippi law governing school attendance particularly as it pertains to families who Home School.

Under the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, parents and guardians are required to enroll their children in a public, private or home school. This law applies to children who have reached the age of six and have not exceeded the age of 17 by Sept. 1.

Children who have attained or will attain the age of five years on or before Sept. 1 and have enrolled in a full-day public kindergarten will also be under the Compulsory School Attendance Law.


Any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the Mississippi compulsory school attendance law may be punished in a court of law.

Parents who are teaching their children at home school are required to complete a certificate of enrollment card each school year. You can complete this card at the Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Office, located in Building 730, Suite 215.

Mississippi law requires registration be completed prior to Sept. 15.

Please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at: [slo@columbus.af.mil](mailto:slo@columbus.af.mil) for an appointment to complete your registration.

## Gosney takes command of 14th Flying Training Wing




U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

**Maj. Gen. James Hecker, 19th Air Force Commander, hands the 14th Flying Training Wing guidon to Col. Douglas Gosney, the new 14th FTW Commander, at a change of command ceremony July 22 at the McAllister Fire Station on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney was formerly the Commander of the 2nd Operations Group at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. He is a Command Pilot with over 3,300 flight hours (including 212 combat hours) and has flown in the B-52H, T-38C, T-38A, T-37B, and T-3A.**

# Track Select

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1st Lt. Trevor Cutler	T-1
1st Lt. Shane Dunn	T-1
1st Lt. Stuart Hughes	Helo
2nd Lt. Rakan Aldawsari	T-38
2nd Lt. Abdullah AlGhamdi	T-38
2nd Lt. Salman Alzahrani	T-38
2nd Lt. Ryan Combelic	T-1
2nd Lt. Mitchell Dobson	T-1
2nd Lt. David Garrison	ENJPPT
2nd Lt. Molly Gilroy	T-1
2nd Lt. Gregory Gutkin	T-1
2nd Lt. Brian Jones	T-1
2nd Lt. Alexander Kenney	T-1
2nd Lt. Justin Linder	T-38
2nd Lt. Joseph Lolli	T-1
2nd Lt. Jonathan Lowell	ENJPPT
2nd Lt. Kacy Manshack	Helo
2nd Lt. Benjamin Pagano	T-38
2nd Lt. Zachary Rutledge	T-38
2nd Lt. Matthew Spretnjak	T-1
2nd Lt. Troy Timmerman	T-38
2nd Lt. Sean Williams	T-38



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# Amputee regains wings

Senior Airman Cecira Young  
23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — An HC-130J Combat King II pilot here became the sixth amputee and the first female amputee to return to the cockpit.

After an above-the-knee amputation and nearly 15 months of rehabilitation — learning to walk, run and fly again — Air Force Capt. Christy Wise, a 71st Rescue Squadron HC-130J pilot, was medically cleared to retake to the skies on July 22.

“In this day in age it’s nice to be able to show girls out there everywhere that you’re capable of anything if you put your mind to it,” Wise said. “I am the first female, which is funny because I don’t ever think of myself as a female pilot, but as a pilot. I’m not the first in any way, but I’m the sixth.”

“For me, I never even considered not getting back to flying,” Wise added. “I was going to do whatever it took to get back to flying because this is my job and this is what I love.”

Last year, what started out as a week-end of fun with friends turned into a moment in time that would take Wise out of the cockpit. On April 11, 2015, Wise was paddle boarding in a cove behind a friend’s house when a boat swerved into her path.

While the events that followed appeared to move in slow motion, within three minutes Wise was rescued by nearby boaters and rushed to a hospital. That same night, Wise was given the prognosis that she was about to become an above-the-knee amputee.

Wise mentally prepared herself for the demands of the road ahead, but also laud-

ed other amputees and fellow Airmen for their continuous support.

“I’ve had amazing support from the base, Air Force and then also other amputees,” Wise said. “They were always supporting me and talking to me all along, and that made everything so much easier.

“Everything is different now,” Wise added. “Even just walking around the squadron, practice egressing, running and returning to full duty days as an amputee, everything is more exhausting. But I learned to walk, then run, (and now) fly, and all of that was a part of the process.”

The Air Force’s physical requirements coupled with Wise’s new limited mobility didn’t change her commitment and determination. Rescue leadership says it’s this resilient attitude that made it possible.

“Wise’s positive attitude and drive never ceases to amaze me,” said Col. Thomas Dorl, the 347th Rescue Group commander. “It is no surprise that she is back in the cockpit. Her ability to overcome anything in the face of adversity, stay positive and motivated, all the while continuing to get back in the cockpit, is a true testament to her resiliency.”

The road back to the pilot seat was filled with bumps and hurdles, but Wise proclaimed she knew it would pay off in the end.

“I knew this day was going to come, I just didn’t know when or how soon,” Wise said. “One of the biggest hurdles to getting back here was passing my physical fitness test. That was the hardest thing I’ve done yet because running as an above-the-knee amputee is so difficult.”

In February, Wise scored an excellent



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ryan Callaghan  
**Capt. Christy Wise, a 71st Rescue Squadron pilot, checks the wing of an HC-130J Combat King II during preflight checks, July 22, 2016, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Wise is the sixth Air Force pilot to return to the cockpit after becoming an amputee.**

on her fitness test.

“I am incredibly proud of Christy and am honored to call her a member of the rescue group,” Dorl said. “Captain Wise’s drive and determination is an inspiration and an encouragement to others to never give up, no matter what life throws your way.”

Wise wants people to know that when faced with adversity, being surrounded by supportive people is the key to overcoming any situation.

“One amputee in my rehab center said something to me I’ll never forget,” Wise said. “He said, ‘Don’t for one second long for who you were, but recklessly pursue who you can become.’ ... We can learn from the past but we can’t get it back.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ryan Callaghan  
**Capt. Christy Wise, a 71st Rescue Squadron HC-130J Combat King II pilot, talks with co-pilots prior to her first flight back in the cockpit, July 22, 2016, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Wise is the sixth above-the-knee amputee pilot to return to flying status.**

# AF releases 2016 supplier performance ratings

Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — The Air Force, Army and Navy simultaneously released their respective 2016 Superior Supplier Incentive Program ratings July 25.

This is the third year the Air Force has provided these ratings alongside those of its sister services. The SSIP’s publication is intended to incentivize suppliers to improve performance. This year, the Air Force rated 43 business segments representing more than 20 suppliers.

Historically, supplier assessments have been accomplished on a contract-by-contract basis through the Contractor Per-

formance Assessment Reporting System. Contractor Performance Assessment Reports are created by Airmen at the base level who acquire the materiel and services provided by rated companies; their reports represent the voice of the customer on the contracts they oversee. SSIP creates a “roll-up” assessment based upon CPAR data.

Companies are evaluated using three years of CPARs and then are categorized as a Tier I, Tier II or Tier III supplier. Tier I-rated business segments are awarded the Air Force Superior Supplier status for one year.

Suppliers indicate that SSIP creates a view of the raters’ feedback at a higher level than an individual contract.

“This is a way for the Air Force to consolidate the contract performance assessments provided by our Airmen and

make it visible at the CEO level within our rated suppliers,” said Dave Weber, the former chief of the Air Force Industrial Liaison Office. “It’s taking the accumulation of their voices and presenting it as a metric to senior leadership within the suppliers, the Air Force and the (Defense Department) and making it available as a higher-level performance measurement baseline.”

SSIP also provides suppliers a different lens to look at their performance relative to their peers.

“CEOs are essentially competing with other CEOs – senior vice presidents competing with other senior vice presidents – to be the ‘best of the best’ of the major suppliers providing goods and services to the Air Force and the DOD,” Weber said.

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Capt. Marrero  
2nd Lt. Monio

Commercial 662-434-2120  
DSN 742-2120

## Ostler takes 14th MDOS reigns

U.S. Air Force photo/Melissa Doublin  
**Col. Imelda Reedy, 14th Medical Group Commander, passes the 14th Medical Operations Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Matthew Ostler, the new 14th MDOS Commander, during a change of command ceremony July 21 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.**

## 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.



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: MC-12

## Mission

The MC-12W is a medium- to low-altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft. The primary mission is providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, support directly to ground forces. The MC-12W is a joint forces air component commander asset in support of the joint force commander.

## Features

The MC-12W is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system. The aircraft are military versions of the Hawker Beechcraft Super King Air 350 and Super King 350ER. A fully operational system consists of a modified aircraft with sensors, a ground exploitation cell, line-of-sight and satellite communications datalinks, along with a robust voice communications suite.

The aircraft is equipped with an electro-optical infrared sensor and other sensors as the mission requires. The EO/IR sensor also includes a laser illuminator and designator in a single sensor package. The MC-12 system is capable of world-wide operations.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Elizabeth Rissmiller  
The first MC-12 aircraft in theater flies its first combat sortie June 10 from Joint Base Balad, Iraq. A new Air Force medium-altitude, manned, special-mission turboprop aircraft, the MC-12 provides real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability and supports coalition and joint ground forces.

## Background

The “M” is the Department of Defense designation for a multi-role version of the well-known C-12 series. In April 2008, the Secretary of Defense established a DOD-wide ISR Task Force to identify and recommend solutions for increased ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. On July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense tasked the Air Force to acquire 37 “C-12” class aircraft to augment unmanned systems. Of note, it was less than eight months from funding approval to delivery in the theater.

The MC-12 capability supports all aspects of the Air Force Irregular Warfare mission (counter insurgency, foreign internal defense and building partnership capacity). Medium- to low-altitude ISR is a core mission for the Air Force.

The first MC-12 arrived at Key Field in Meridian, Mississippi, April 28, 2009. The first MC-12W flew its first combat support sortie on June 12, 2009.

## General Characteristics

**Primary function:** Intelligence, surveillance and recon-

naissance

**Contractor:** L-3 Communications  
**Power plant:** Pratt & Whitney PT6A-60A  
**Wingspan:** 57 feet, 11 inches ( 17.65 meters)  
**Length:** 46 feet, 8 inches (14.22 meters)  
**Height:** 14 feet, 4 inches (4.37 meters)  
**Weight:** 12,500 pounds empty (5,669 kilograms)  
**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 350, 15,000 pounds; 350ER, 16,500 pounds  
**Fuel capacity:** 350, 3,611 pounds (1,638 kilograms); 350ER, 5,192 pounds (2,355 kilograms)  
**Speed:** 312 knots  
**Range:** 350, 1,500 nautical miles; 350ER, approximately 2,400 nautical miles  
**Ceiling:** 35,000 feet (10,668 meters)  
**Armament:** none  
**Crew:** Two pilots and two sensor operators  
**Initial operating capability:** June 2009  
**Unit cost:** \$17 million (aircraft and all communications equipment modifications)  
**Inventory:** Active force, 42; Reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca  
The first MC-12 aircraft in theater lands after its first combat sortie June 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Air Force’s newest intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform, the MC-12, is a medium-altitude, manned, special-mission turbo prop aircraft that supports coalition and joint ground forces.

# New commander takes charge of AFCENT

**Senior Airman Monica Ricci**  
U.S. Air Forces Central Command  
Public Affairs

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian assumed command of U.S. Air Forces Central Command from Lt. Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. during a ceremony here July 22.

U.S. Army Gen. Joseph L. Votel, the commander of U.S. Central Command, officiated the ceremony.

Votel expressed his trust and confidence in Harrigian and his gratitude toward Brown for the leadership he displayed during his tenure as AFCENT commander.

“(Gen. Brown), you leave this outstanding team in great shape and in great hands,” Votel said.

Votel described Harrigian as an incredibly smart and capable officer, one who was recognized as the top fighter pilot in the U.S. early in his career.

Harrigian returns to AFCENT after formerly serving the command as assistant deputy commander from 2011-2013.

“It’s great to be in AFCENT again and to be back in the fight,” Harrigian said. “I’m humbled and honored to be provided the chance to lead our Airmen in today’s fight – not a fight in the future, but a fight that we are in today to defend America.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christopher Maldonado  
Army Gen. Joseph L. Votel, the U.S. Central Command commander, stands with Air Force Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian, the U.S. Air Forces Central Command commander, during a change of command ceremony at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, July 22, 2016. Outgoing and incoming commanders exchange a unit’s guidon to symbolize relinquishment and assumption of command.

Harrigian, who was promoted to lieutenant general a day prior to the ceremony, takes command of an organization that

works closely with its partners in Southwest Asia to ensure stability and defense of the region. In addition to serving as AFCENT

commander, Harrigian is also the Combined Force Air Component commander for the theater.

“There is nothing more motivating than leading in combat,” Harrigian said. “Having an opportunity to work with our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, civilians and our coalition teammates to deliver airpower to the joint coalition fight is a rare opportunity that I look forward to.”

A fighter pilot with more than 4,100 flight hours, Harrigian has flown combat missions in support of Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm. He has previously commanded at the flight, squadron and wing levels. Harrigian also previously served as CENTCOM’s deputy director of operations and the Air Force’s assistant deputy chief of staff of operations. Most recently, Harrigian served as the service’s director of the F-35 Integration Office at the Pentagon.

The general commissioned in 1985 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He thanked his family for their support throughout his career and Brown for setting such a high standard.

“You’ve left me with an AFCENT machine that is delivering today,” Harrigian said of his predecessor.

Brown will move to CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, Florida, where he will serve as deputy commander.

# DOD awards TRICARE-managed care support contracts

**Military Health System Communications Office**  
Defense Health Agency

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Defense Department announced on July 22 that the next generation of TRICARE-managed care support contracts were awarded.

The new contracts, which go into effect nine months after the award, establish two TRICARE regions in the United States: East and West, instead of the current three. The East Region contract will go to Humana Government Business Inc., in Louisville, Kentucky. In the West Region, the new managed care contractor will be Health Net Federal Services LLC, in Rancho Cordova, California. These contracts are replacing current arrangements under which health care is provided to eligible members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families.

“I am pleased that our new TRICARE contracts are focused on enhancing the experience of care for our service members, retirees and their families,” said Karen S. Guice, the acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The new contracts will continue to provide for the delivery of health care, customer service, claims processing and

other administrative services to the estimated 9.4 million TRICARE beneficiaries. The new contracts do not change the TRICARE benefit and offer all the same TRICARE options.

“TRICARE is moving into a new era, making use of the lessons learned in the first three contract phases,” said Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, the director of the Defense Health Agency. “Defense Department leadership and the incumbent managed care support contractors are dedicated to managing a smooth transition to the new managed care support contractors, with minimum disruption to our beneficiaries.”

The new contracts include a requirement to improve integration between military hospitals and the civilian components of TRICARE. They also call for an upgraded electronic referral process to reduce wait times for beneficiaries who need specialty care.

After the nine-month transition period from the current contracts to the new ones, military hospitals and clinics will have real-time access to medical management data. This increased ability to share data will improve both patient care coordination and access to care. Through improved visibility of data, the Military Health System will be able to standardize

*“I am pleased that our new TRICARE contracts are focused on enhancing the experience of care for our service members, retirees and their families,” said Karen S. Guice, the acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.*

care between civilian and military facilities, which promises both better care and greater patient safety.

The Defense Health Agency will keep TRICARE beneficiaries informed of coming changes during the transition period. Those interested in the progress can visit the TRICARE website for more details.

Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



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





T-1A Jayhawk

# SUPT Class 16-12 earns silver wings



T-38C Talon



**Capt. Ali Sabah Al Maqsssoosi**  
Baghdad, Iraq  
F-16, Iraq



**1st Lt. Byron Barfuss**  
Boise, Idaho  
KC-10, Travis AFB, Calif.



**1st Lt. Sarah Collins**  
Swansea, Ill.  
EC-130H, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Twenty officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to become Air Force pilots.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 16-12 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Brig. Gen. Andrew Croft, Director of Plans, Programs, Requirements and Assessments, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, is the graduation guest speaker.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

2nd Lt. Justin Sato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Christopher Kowalski, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. Justin Sato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. David Hall, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

2nd Lt. Justin Sato, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Christopher Kowalski, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 16-12.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics,

emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

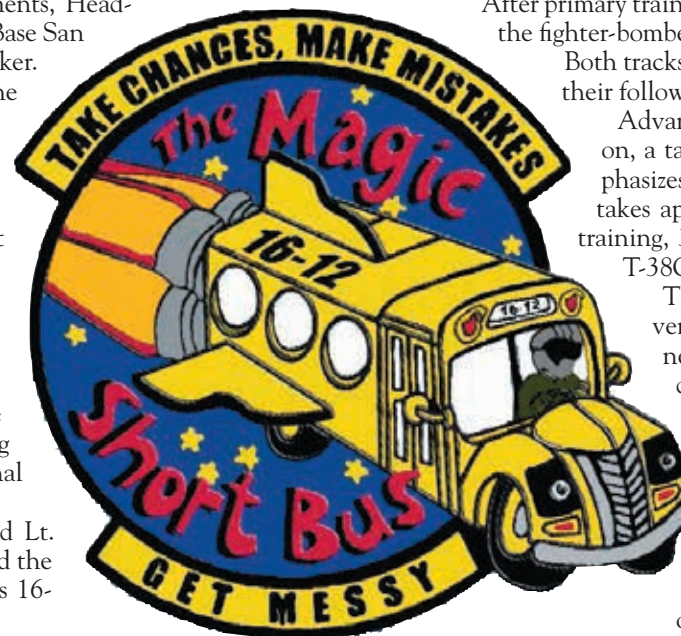
After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 16-12 pilot partners are Hughes Management.



**1st Lt. Yu Kisaki**  
Chikushiono, Japan  
C-130H, Japan



**1st Lt. Kyle Laprade**  
Worcester, Mass.  
AC-130U, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



**1st Lt. John Lu**  
Novi, Mich.  
C-17A, McCord AFB, N.Y.



**2nd Lt. Shannon Flynn**  
Sarasota, Fla.  
F-16, Tucson ANG, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Frasse**  
Kansas City, Mo.  
T-6A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**2nd Lt. David Hall**  
Kansas City, Mo.  
C-130H, Rosecrans ANG, Mo.



**2nd Lt. Byron Hernandez**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
C-130H, Niagara Falls ARB, N.Y.



**2nd Lt. Christopher Kowalski**  
Strongsville, Ohio  
C-17A, Stewart ANG, N.Y.



**2nd Lt. Jeffrey Lewoczko**  
Medina, Tenn.  
C-130J, Little Rock AFB, Ark.



**2nd Lt. Justin Sato**  
Waipahu, Hawaii  
C-17A, Hickam AFB, Hawaii



**2nd Lt. Emily Thompson**  
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



**1st Lt. Derek Demyanek**  
Atlanta, Ga.  
C-17A, Hickam AFB, Hawaii



**1st Lt. Takafumi Hara**  
Ebina, Japan  
UH-60J, Japan



**1st Lt. Barry James**  
Pollock, La.  
T-1A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**1st Lt. Michael McKone**  
Sacramento, Calif.  
F-15C, Kingsley Field ANG, Ore.



**2nd Lt. Kelsey Emig**  
Glenmoore, Pa.  
CV-22, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Michael Estrada**  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
C-130H, Niagara Falls ARB, N.Y.