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Vol. 40, Issue 42

October 21, 2016

Weather

Friday Mostly Cloudy High 71°F Low 49°F	Saturday Partly Cloudy High 72°F Low 44°F
Sunday Partly Cloudy High 78°F Low 46°F	Monday Sunny High 81°F Low 52°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

SUPT Class 17-01 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-01 graduates 10 a.m., Oct. 28 at Kaye Auditorium.

Base Trick-or-treating

Team BLAZE Trick-or-treating time is set to start 6 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Hunt Housing areas. During the event, the back gate will be open for members to use. A general rule to abide is to only visit homes with porch lights on during the event.

Quarterly Awards/Enlisted Promotions

The third quarterly awards ceremony is scheduled to be held 2 p.m. Oct. 31 at the Columbus Club. The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is set to follow immediately after the quarterly awards ceremony.

Inside



Feature 8

The Honor Guard is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force graphic by Senior Airman Chip Pons

A year in review: State of the command

Senior Airman Chip Pons

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Just over a year into his command, Air Education and Training Command's Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson reflected upon the highlights and challenges of this past year, what it means to be a First Command Airman, and where he aspires to lead the men and women of AETC during his time as their commander.

"I can't believe it has already been a year," Roberson stated. "What a phenomenal privilege and honor it is to be the commander...especially during this year."

"I've had the chance to get out and see the breadth of our command and been to all the bases," he continued. "The biggest thing for me has been interacting with the people. The

Airmen — active, Guard, Reserve and the civilians — who make a difference and make sure our mission is done. There has been so much accomplished, really important, foundational issues that AETC has been able to take on for our whole Air Force."


Challenges and Successes

Roberson knows full well that the challenges the Air Force faces are directly impacted by the work of Airmen in AETC. He was therefore proud to announce the accomplishment of a Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Secretary of the Air Force tasking; successfully accessioning over 31,000 new active-duty airmen into our force.

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual				
37th (17-10)	-1.69 days	1.43 days	Nov. 17	48th (17-01)	71.35 days	24.89 days	Oct. 28	49th (17-ABC)	-0.30 days	-1.02 days	Oct. 21	T-6	1,632	1,784	1,784				
41st (17-09)	1.15 days	1.01 days	Oct. 21	50th (17-01)	0.85 days	-1.19 days	Oct. 28	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	528	400	400				
The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. James Barkley, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command.												T-38	544	606	606				
												IFF	268	265	265				




14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 9 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.

Hunt Housing tip of the week



Be proactive about the upcoming holiday season and test your oven to ensure it is working properly. Don't wait just to discover the oven is not properly working while in the midst of preparing a holiday meal for loved ones.



Drive Smart, Save Lives Don't text while driving

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
24	25	26 48th FTS Reunion	27	28 SUPT Class 17-01 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	29/30 29th: Hearts Apart, 1:30 p.m. @ Country Pumpkin 29th: Base Halloween Trick or Treat, 6 p.m. @ Housing (Back gate open)	Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Holiday Nov. 12: Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony Nov. 12-13: Autocross Nov. 15: Wing Newcomers Orientation Nov. 16: Retiree Appreciation Day Nov. 17: Dormsgiving Nov. 17: Wingman Day Nov. 18: SUPT Class 17-02 Graduation Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 25: AETC Family Day Nov. 30: Enlisted Promotions Dec. 9: Blood Drive Dec. 13: Wing Newcomers Orientation Dec. 16: SUPT Class 17-03 Graduation
31 Third Quarterly Awards/Enlisted Promotions, 2 p.m. @ Club	1	2	3	4 Chief Master Sgt. Thomas retirement, 2:14 p.m. @ Club	5/6 5th: MSU/Texas A&M Military Appreciation Game	

Silver Wings

How to reach us

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Submission Deadline

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

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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.

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The Dispatch is preparing to honor military veterans and active service members from the Golden Triangle in a special Veterans Day tribute section. We're asking veterans or their families to complete and submit this form, along with photos that can be used in the publication. Submissions can be made in person, through the mail or by email. All physical photos submitted will be scanned and available for pick up after the publication prints on Friday, Nov. 11. **Deadline for submissions is Nov. 1.**

Name: _____ Age: _____

City of Residence: _____

Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Time of Service: _____ Foreign Tours: _____


Combat Experience: _____

Why You Joined the Military: _____

Thoughts/Memories from Your Service: _____

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YEAR IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

"The biggest challenge we have taken on was to bring in more Airmen than what was scheduled and only have nine months to accomplish that task," Roberson said. "The SECAF and CSAF came to AETC and tasked us to try to get from 310,000 airman in our force to 317,000.

"All of our recruiters, our basic military training and technical training instructors and our systems that are in place had to go into overdrive to make this happen," he enthusiastically continued. "I am ecstatic to be able to say that we not only broke that challenge... we shattered it."

Roberson also reflected on the public declaration of the initial operational capability of the F-35 Lightning II and the efforts that First Command Airmen put forth to ensure that successfully happened.

"One of the great things in AETC over the last year was IOC for the F-35," Roberson stated. "The training of all of those pilots and maintainers was instrumental and critical to making sure our Air Force could declare the F-35 as operational."

When the Secretary of Defense requested more remotely piloted aircraft pilots, Roberson and AETC accepted that challenge head on.

"This gave us the opportunity to fix both foundational and fundamental issues in how we accomplish RPA training," said Roberson. "Over the course of a year, we were able to take a step back and put in place what we needed to do to double the number of RPA pilots we produce.


"As we accepted this challenge, we have increased our annual RPA pilot production from 192 to 384," he continued. "This month, we are commencing our first four enlisted RPA pilots, which is fundamental to our Air Force operations and history."

Another huge success this past year was the continued execution of the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence (PACE) and core developmental programs, specifically Airmen's Week following graduation from BMT.

"We have changed the culture of our Air Force starting with our newest Airmen," Roberson said in reference to the creation of Airmen's Week. "The infusion of professional development into all of our programs is really making a difference and has been a tremendous success."

Implementation of Priorities

Just a few months after Roberson assumed responsibility of the First Command, he released his 2016 Air Education and Training



U.S. Air Force photo/Elizabeth Owens

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, speaks with Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Sept. 12, 2016 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Command Strategic Plan in which he outlines his four major focus areas: Motivational Mission Accomplishment, Compassionate Care of our Airmen and Families, Innovation, and Leadership.

"Those four focus areas essentially drive most of the emphasis and effort we put toward making sure we are accomplishing our mission and taking care of our people," Roberson stated.

"Seeing our Airmen dive into the individual challenges that AETC is facing has been remarkable," he continued. "They are making very focused, deliberate efforts to motivate while we do our mission and to really reach out to take care of our families, because time and time again, we remind ourselves that we recruit Airmen, but we retain families. We are not only trying to attract the best and brightest to become Airmen, but we are doing everything we can to keep our Airmen in the Air Force."

Roberson noted that while his priorities were designed specifically for the First Command, they are nested with the priorities of the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

"We deliberately look at making sure we are aligned with priorities that start with the national military strategy and work their way down to us," said Roberson. "What makes our priorities unique of course is the focus on training Airmen in the best way we possibly can, and that is always a challenge.

"How do we keep implementing technology? How do we become more innovative to give the best possible training to all of our Airmen? We look at these types of questions every single day to adapt and bring on new ways of training to ensure we are in tune with our new Airmen."

Being a First Command Airman

Just like every Airman adds to the Air Force's melting pot, every major command has a distinct mission and set of standards unique to them. AETC is no exception.

"We have such an impact on everyone who comes into the Air Force," said Roberson. "We get to take people straight off of the street and immerse them in what it means to be an Airman. We develop and forge them into becoming the best Airman they can be by providing opportunities for the rest of their lives that they literally can't get any other place around the world.

"The First Command is a critical command," he continued. "It is a foundational and fundamental command and it is where airpower starts. Whether you are a student in training or one of our instructors, everyone involved is critically important to the success of AETC."

Roberson strongly advises new AETC Airmen to plant their roots deep, blossom where they land, and watch what happens.

"Become really engaged in what you are doing," Roberson urged. "Learn your job,

become a part of the team, and understand the role that you play in accomplishing the mission. Every person within AETC is critical for mission accomplishment...there are no extras here."

Aspirations for the Coming Year

While Roberson reflected on the exceptional year the men and women of AETC have accomplished, he also looked forward to the coming year and beyond.

"There is a lot that I am hoping to accomplish before I leave this command," said Roberson. "Some of the more critical goals are continuing all the lessons learned in BMT-Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence In All You Do. In addition, we need a review of all of our training and operations in order to institutionalize them so it becomes a routine part of how we do business.

"Infusing PACE and professional development for all of our Airmen throughout AETC is another area that I'm going to continue to push until I leave," he continued.

With the programs set in place to help accomplish these goals, Roberson acknowledges that nothing can be accomplished without Airmen.

"It always comes back to our Airmen," he said. "What I'm hoping to achieve before I leave is we continue to work hard to increase the value of an AETC assignment. That the importance of what we do gets recognized by the entire Air Force community and that we do everything we can to take care of our Airmen and their families, in a way that motivates people to be a part of our team."

With Roberson's first year in command in the books, the lasting impressions from the men and women of the First Command speak volumes to the innovative and inspiring community of which Roberson feels privileged to be a part.

"I would like to thank all of the members of AETC for the unbelievable work over the last year," Roberson humbly said. "It is a privilege for me to be a part of this command because every day we are doing very important work. It is through the hard work and effort of all of our Airmen that were able to achieve this vital mission.

"What we do is so critical and fundamental," he concluded. "Airpower really does start right here in AETC and every Airman that is a part of making that happen is doing a tremendous service to our country and our Air Force."

Barkley to speak at next SUPT graduation

Team BLAZE welcomes Maj. Gen. James Barkley to Columbus Air Force Base as the graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-01 Oct. 28.

Barkley is the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. AETC includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces and Air University. The command operates nearly 1,370 trainer, fighter and mobility aircraft, 23 wings, 12 bases, and five geographically separated groups. It trains more than 293,000 students per year with approximately 62,000 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, civilian and contractor personnel.

Barkley earned his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and received his commission through Officer Training School. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, and received the "Top Stick" award for his pilot training class. General Barkley was selected as a T-38 instructor pilot and served as a check/evaluator pilot and squadron scheduler. Prior to his current position, he was Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa, Ramstein



Air Base, Germany.

Barkley is a command pilot in the KC-135R and C-5. He has commanded an air refueling squadron, an expeditionary squadron, deployed multiple times in leadership positions, and has flown numerous missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1986 - January 1987, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Williams AFB, Ariz.
2. March 1987 - June 1987, Pilot Instructor Training, Randolph AFB, Texas.
3. July 1987 - March 1990, Check Pilot, Chief Squadron Scheduler, T-38 Instructor Pilot, Runway Supervisory Unit Controller, Williams AFB, Ariz.
4. March 1990 - November 1991, Operations Officer, Standardization and Evaluation, T-38 Evaluator Pilot, March Accelerated Copilot Enhance program detachment, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.
5. November 1994 - November 1995, C-5 Pilot, 709th Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.
6. November 1995 - February 2000, C-5 Aircraft Commander, 312th Airlift Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.
7. February 2000 - December 2007, Chief of Strategic Airlift Training, Headquarters 4th Air Force, March ARB, Calif. (July 2005 - August 2005, mobilized as Stage Manager, Ramstein AB, Germany; May 2007 - October 2007, mobilized as Chief, Mobility Operations, Al Udeid AB, Qatar)
8. December 2007 - July 2009, Commander, 336th Air

Refueling Squadron, March ARB, Calif. (November 2008 - December 2008, mobilized as Commander, 90th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Incirlik AB, Turkey)

9. July 2009 - July 2010, Student, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

10. July 2010 - January 2013, Deputy Commander, Joint Strategic Reserve Unit, Reserve Advisor to the Commander, Battle Watch Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

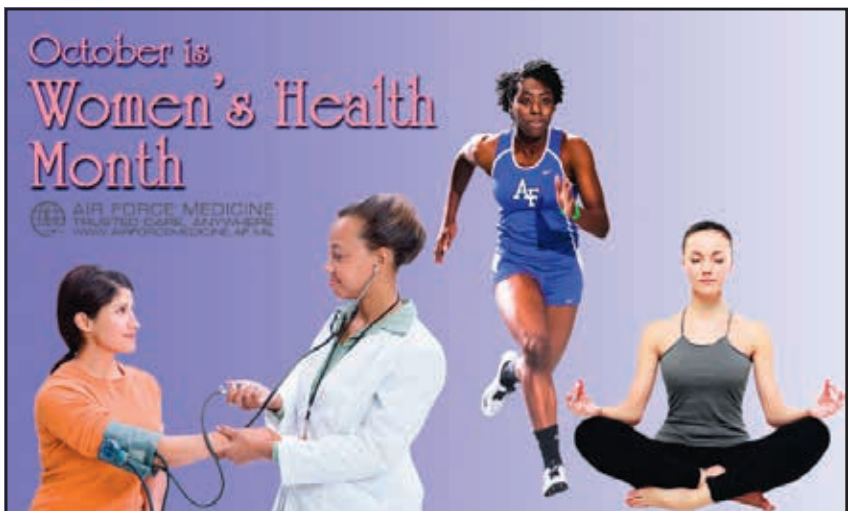
11. January 2013 - September 2014, Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Plans, Programs and Analyses, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa; Chairman, Strategic Airlift Capability Advisory Committee, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

12. October 2014 - July 2015, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

13. July 2015 - present, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. May 2007 - October 2007, Chief, Mobility Operations, Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid AB, Qatar, as a lieutenant colonel
2. July 2010 - January 2013, Deputy Commander, Joint Strategic Reserve Unit, Reserve Advisor to the Commander, Battle Watch Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., as a colonel



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.

Oct. 22

The Crawford Fall Festival red ribbon event starts at 3 p.m. behind Crawford Town Hall with speakers, informational booths, balloon release, games, and door prizes. The event is hosted by Rick "Don't Go" Mason and co-host Falisa Janaye. The festival features Terry Wright, Lamorris Williams, Rue Davis, Alex Bush, Big Sexxy and sounds by

Platinum 32. For more information, go online to visitcolumbusms.org.

Oct. 22

The Hitching Lot Farmers Market, located at Second Street and Second Avenue North, is open throughout the growing season: Mondays, 4 - 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 - 10 a.m.; and Saturdays, 7 - 10 a.m. Enjoy

the harvest of local farmers, food producers, artisans, crafters, and musicians. For more information, contact Main Street Columbus at 328-6305.

Oct. 24

The YMCA Ribbon Cutting Turnaround Celebration starts at 11:45 a.m. at the Downtown YMCA in Columbus. For more information, go online to visitcolumbusms.org.

the harvest of local farmers, food producers, artisans, crafters, and musicians. For more information, contact Main Street Columbus at 328-6305.

Oct. 31

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library is hosting a free Haunted Library event from 4 - 6 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, refreshments and a haunting Mother Goose story hour! For more information, go online to visitcolumbusms.org.

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. Ad-

vertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Transportation

For Sale: 1978 Triumph Spitfire with extra parts and hard top

for sale, \$3000. For more information, call Danny at 549-5188 or 434-7317.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Horses for sale, less than a year old, starting at \$275; will deliver. For more information, call Willie at 251-8269.

Bargain Line advertisement

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

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

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

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

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AFOSI: Play it safe with cyber security

Senior Airman Ty-Rico Lea
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — In this day and age, hackers and scammers are finding new ways to exploit unsuspecting victims using various illegal cyber techniques. Internet crimes like phishing, spamming, cyber terrorism, cyber bullying, online identity theft and cyber stalking have been constant concerns on the Defense Department’s agenda. Another dangerous cyber concern is sextortion, which generally refers to using sexual images (obtained either through enticement or malicious code) in order to extort money from unsuspecting military and civilian victims. “Sextortion, or cybersex extortion, refers to a cybercrime of using sexual images or videos in order to extort money from victims,” said Scott Mills, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 223 commander. “Sextortion cases are on the rise worldwide and there have been reports of DOD personnel being targeted. Internet sites such as Facebook and dating sites have been used to target individuals.” The Justice and State Departments identified online dating and romance scams as a significant concern to all U.S. citizens. The majority of victims are young men – or in the case of the military, junior enlisted service members – who are away

All DOD members should be vigilant in protecting their personal information and limit what information they divulge on social networking sites.

from home and maintain an active online footprint that includes publicly viewable profile information. According to a previously published Air Force Office of Special Investigations report on sextortion, it is not known how many DOD personnel have been victimized by this type of scam, though in November 2012, the security team for Facebook identified a major sextortion ring operating out of the Philippines. The ring, involving 21 employees of a Philippines-based web portal solutions company, reportedly targeted hundreds of U.S. Army and Navy members for a period of more than a year. The numbers have grown since it was first brought to the agency’s attention.

“While there are almost certainly more Air Force victims of sextortion,” Mills said. “AFOSI has documented approximately 40 victims of sextortion in the past three years, totaling approximately \$14,000 in losses.” DOD members could pose a target for online criminals because they may be perceived as more vulnerable to blackmail and extortion. “The DOD and the Air Force have online computer-based training that focus on cybersecurity and AFOSI created a cybersecurity sextortion pamphlet to address the dangers of sextortion, how to identify sextortion and how to report it,” said Linda Card, an Air Force Office of Special Investigations spokesperson. All DOD members should be vigilant in protecting their personal information and limit what information they divulge on social networking sites. If you or someone you know identifies suspicious activity or is being targeted, cease all communication with the individual and contact your command and your local AFOSI detachment. You may also call the AFOSI hotline at 1-877-246-1453. Additionally, victims of these scams can file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center, a joint task force established between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center, at www.IC3.gov.

TRADITION

(Continued from page 12)

rule. I wanted to fly, specifically in the military, which required a commission. “I always wanted to fly C-130s because I love how broad their mission is and because it’s a Lockheed aircraft. It goes back to my roots.” To help pay for college, Lockheed joined the Air National Guard in Oregon directly out of high school and became an air traffic controller. “There was an aspect of the military that was intriguing — the type of flying is different and unique, and you get to do things that people only dream of,” the captain said. “I was the first person in my family in the military since World War II.” After completing training and going on a deployment, he attended the University of North Dakota and majored in air traffic control. He graduated in 2006 and worked briefly for Lockheed as a flight service specialist. He then worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and after that was a contractor in Afghanistan.

While working in Afghanistan, Lockheed called the 302nd AW to see if the unit was hiring pilots. It wasn’t. However, the wing was hiring navigators. He joined the 731st

Airlift Squadron and was sent to Officer Training School to earn his commission. Lockheed then went to navigation school and earned his wings, after which he came back and served in the unit. While he enjoyed being a navigator, he still hadn’t reached his ultimate goal of becoming a pilot. Lockheed eventually met the pilot selection board and was chosen to attend undergraduate pilot training. He received his pilot wings in October 2013. “Before my great-grandfather and his brother started flying, they were known as mechanics,” Lockheed said. “They liked to build and invent and tinker with things. I share a lot of those traits. I always have a project on the side, something hands-on. And while flying is fun in general, it is also very hands-on, and there is a touch of perfectionism that comes with flying. It just all rolls together with how I operate.” In his six years in the ANG and eight years in the Reserve, Lockheed has served as an air traffic controller, a navigator and a pilot. He is about to begin a civilian job in commercial aviation and plans to continue flying with the 302nd as a citizen Airman. He also said he looks forward to one day qualifying and flying as part of the Air Force Reserve’s Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission.



Courtesy photo
Allan Lockheed (right) was one of America’s aviation pioneers. Allan and his brother, Malcolm, formed several companies together, including Lockheed Aircraft Company, now known as Lockheed Martin.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15 Eagle

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

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

The F-15’s superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing loading. Low wing-loading (the ratio of aircraft weight to its wing area) is a vital factor in maneuverability and, combined with the high thrust-to-weight ratio, enables the aircraft to turn tightly without losing airspeed. A variety of air-to-air weaponry can be carried by the F-15. An automated weapon system enables the pilot to perform aerial combat safely and effectively, using the head-up display and the avionics and weapons controls located on the engine throttles or control stick. When the pilot changes from one weapon system to another, visual guidance for the required weapon automatically appears on the head-up display. For low-altitude, high-speed penetration and precision at-

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

Background
The first F-15A flight was made in July 1972, and the first flight of the two-seat F-15B (formerly TF-15A) trainer was made in July 1973. The first Eagle (F-15B) was delivered in November 1974. In January 1976, the first Eagle destined for a combat squadron was delivered. The single-seat F-15C and two-seat F-15D models entered the Air Force inventory beginning in 1979. These new models have Production Eagle Package (PEP 2000) improvements, including 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of additional internal fuel, provision for carrying exterior conformal fuel tanks and increased maximum takeoff weight of up to 68,000 pounds (30,600 kilograms). F-15C, D and E models were deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm where they proved their superior combat capability. F-15C fighters accounted for 34 of the 37 Air Force air-to-air victories. F-15E’s were operated mainly at night, hunting SCUD missile launchers and artillery sites using the LANTIRN system. They have since been deployed for air expeditionary force deployments and operations Southern Watch (no-fly zone in Southern Iraq), Provide Comfort in Turkey, Allied Force in Bosnia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

General Characteristics
Primary function: Tactical fighter
Contractor: McDonnell Douglas Corp.
Power plant: Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100, 220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners
Thrust: (C/D models) 23,450 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 42.8 feet (13 meters)
Length: 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)
Height: 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)
Weight: 31,700 pounds
Maximum takeoff weight: (C/D models) 68,000 pounds (30,844 kilograms)
Fuel Capacity: 36,200 pounds (three external plus conformal fuel tanks)
Payload: depends on mission
Speed: 1,875 mph (Mach 2 class)
Ceiling: 65,000 feet (19,812 meters)
Range: 3,450 miles (3,000 nautical miles) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks
Crew: F-15A/C: one. F-15B/D/E: two
Armament: One internally mounted M-61A1 20mm 20-mm, six-barrel cannon with 940 rounds of ammunition; four AIM-9 Sidewinder and four AIM-120 AMRAAMs or eight AIM-120 AMRAAMs, carried externally.
Unit Cost: A/B models - \$27.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars);C/D models - \$29.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: September 1975
Inventory: Total force, 249



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Abby M. Young
ABOVE: A row of F-15 Eagles from Kadena Air Base, Japan, line up before a takeoff. The F-15 Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Laura Turner

Tricare changes

Express Scripts will add Walgreens and Kroger to the TRICARE retail specialty select pharmacy network starting Dec. 1. CVS and CVS pharmacies in Target stores will no longer be in the network.

- What you need to know:
- If a CVS pharmacy is currently filling your specialty prescription drugs, you must move them to a network pharmacy by Dec. 1. Otherwise, you will have to pay the full retail price for your drugs.
 - You can transfer your specialty drugs to Rite-Aid or Walmart at any time, since they're part of the specialty select network.

- Convenient ways to transfer prescriptions to a new pharmacy:
- Take your prescription drug bottles to the new pharmacy. The pharmacist there will contact your old pharmacy.
 - Call your new pharmacy and have them get your prescription drug information from your old pharmacy.
 - Ask your doctor to send your prescription drug information to your new pharmacy.
 - Check to see if your prescription drugs, including any specialty drugs, are eligible for TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery by calling 855-778-1417.





On December 1, the TRICARE® retail pharmacy network is changing

- Choose from a network of 58,000+ pharmacies, including Walgreens
- CVS and CVS pharmacies in Target stores will leave the network

We're here to help:

 855.778.1417

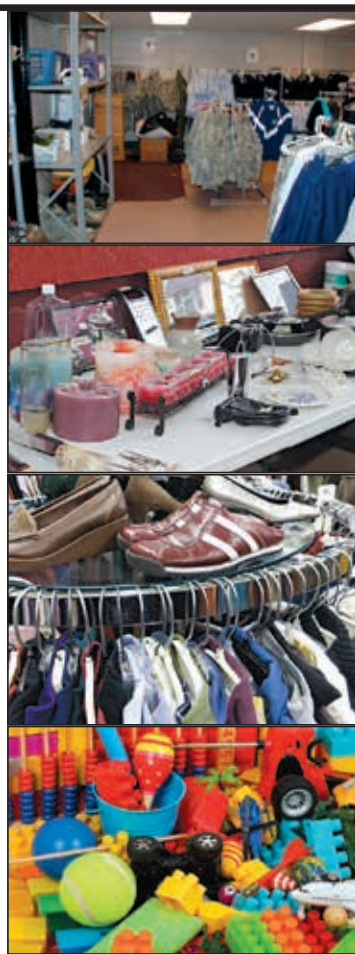
 express-scripts.com/TRICARE

Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic is open
Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - Noon

The Attic serves junior enlisted members (E-1 through E-5) with uniforms and basic household items at no cost. Donations of uniforms, household goods, family clothing, maternity, infant care items and furniture are welcomed. Officers are now able to get uniform items from the Airman's Attic. All ranks can partake every Saturday. Please coordinate furniture or other large donations with the staff during business hours.

The Attic is located in building 530,
across from the Thrift Shop.




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.



SILVER WINGS
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SILVER WINGS
Oct. 21, 2016

Pilot carries on four generations of tradition

Maj. Jolene Boffor-Ortione
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — (This feature is part of the "Through Airmen's Eyes" series. These stories focus on individual Airmen, highlighting their Air Force story.) Some people say flying is in their DNA. That couldn't be truer for Capt. John Lockheed, an Air Force Reserve pilot assigned to the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base. He's a fourth-generation pilot -- continuing a family tradition that encompasses more than a century of flight.

Lockheed's great-grandfather, Allan Lockheed, was one of America's aviation pioneers. Allan never graduated from high school and started as a mechanic by trade, but he had a vision for aviation that led to accomplishments that even he never imagined.

In 1910, just seven years after the Wright brothers' first flight in 1903, Allan was working as a mechanic for the owner of a Curtiss Pusher biplane. Two pilots had been hired to fly the aircraft, but neither one could get the aircraft off the ground. The owner was prepared to give up and sell it when Allan asked for a chance to fly the plane.

He spent the night before his first scheduled flight attempt redoing the rigging and tuning the engine. The next day, 21-year-old Allan climbed into the biplane in a field in Chicago and on his first try got stuck in the mud. On his second attempt, the aircraft



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jolene Boffor-Ortione
Capt. John Lockheed, of the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, is a fourth-generation pilot in his family.

took off, and Allan managed to land it. He kept at it and was eventually able to gracefully fly all around the field. Thus began his love for aviation. Allan and his brother, Malcolm, would eventually form several companies together,

including the Lockheed Aircraft Company. Allan sold his portion of what would eventually become the modern-day Lockheed Martin in 1929, but he kept informal ties with the Lockheed corporation until his death in 1969.

Allan passed on his love of flying to his son, John Allan Lockheed. John inherited his father's gift for engineering and graduated from the California Institute of Technology. He experienced his first flight at age 2 with his father in the F1, a twin-engine seaplane. John was an aeronautical engineer his entire life, but his dream was to retire and own his own aircraft. At one point during World War II, he worked for Vega Aircraft Company, which was a division of Lockheed.

John's son, John Jr., grew up flying with his father but chose a different path and wanted to be a musician. However, he couldn't stay away from the family business forever. After five years of touring with his band, he moved back to his hometown. John Jr. picked up all his licenses and ratings for commercial aircraft and became the third generation of his family to fly. He simultaneously worked on a physics degree in his spare time and eventually was hired by Lockheed Missiles and Space in Sunnyvale, California.

"I flew gliders, and the first time I got my license and took my dad for a ride was one of the proudest moments of my life," John Jr. said.

Lockheed grew up flying with his father, John Jr., and always wanted to be a pilot. Like his father and grandfather before him, he took a roundabout way of getting there.

"It's a family thing," he said. "I grew up in airplanes flying, and it was the unwritten See TRADITION, Page 12

AF issues implementation guidance for transgender Airmen

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials released transgender implementation guidance Oct. 7 addressing specific procedures for transitioning and requesting an official change in gender as well as associated guidance in areas ranging from medical and privacy issues to deployments, fitness standards, and dress and appearance.

The guidance, available here, follows the secretary of defense's announcement in June, which outlined policy allowing service members to transition gender while serving and outlined responsibilities for military services and commanders to develop and implement guidance, training and specific policies.

In addition, the Defense Department created and distributed a commanders' training handbook, medical protocol and guidance for changing a service member's gender in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS). The handbook can be found at defense.gov.

"Transgender Airmen serve alongside us with integrity, service and excellence," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "This is another step in allowing transgender Airmen to serve openly, receive medical care relating to gender transition and allow transgender individuals to join the Air Force. Our strengths as a military are the quality and character of our people and those things that make us unique are the same things that make us strong."

Over the course of the next year, the Air Force will deliver training targeted at various levels to include a module tailored for commanders, supervisors and medical professionals, and a general module designed for all Airmen. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will work with the military services to monitor and oversee these efforts.

No later than July 1, 2017, the services will allow transgender individuals to join the armed forces, assuming they meet accession standards. In addition, an otherwise qualified individual's gender identity will not be considered a bar

to admission to a military service academy, participation in ROTC or any other accession program if the individual meets the new criteria.

To support service members, medical professionals and commanders during the implementation period, the DOD has set up a coordination cell that will serve as a central point of contact for technical questions and concerns. The cell is made up of legal experts, policy experts and medical professionals familiar with questions regarding the policy.

The Air Force has also established a Service Central Coordination Cell as a primary resource to provide commanders with guidance for all inquiries related to service by transgender Airmen and to be the central point of contact for accommodation requests. Commander questions can be sent to usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.af-central-coordination-cell@mail.mil.

Airmen seeking further information or having additional questions or concerns are encouraged to utilize their chain of command.

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus_afb_living, 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.

Monthly Fitness Run
The Fitness Center will hold a Breast Cancer Awareness 5K walk/run at 7 a.m. Oct. 21. The run will start and end at the Fitness Center, commander's trophy points will be awarded. For more information call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

Family Fishing Tournament at Columbus Lake
A Family Fishing Tournament is from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Oct. 22 for \$5 per person. Call the Youth Center at 434-2934 for more information and to sign-up.

Family Glow-in-the-Dark Run and Movie
A Family Glow-in-the-Dark Run and Movie is from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 22. Come out with your family and get fit with a run followed by a family friendly movie. \$5 per person. Call the Youth Center at 434-2934 for more information and to sign-up.

Pearl River Resort Casino Trip
Outdoor Recreation is offering a monthly casino trip to Pearl River Resort. Upcoming dates are Oct. 22, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17. The cost is only \$25 per person; includes \$20 in play credit at casino and transportation. Outdoor Recreation bus departs Exchange/Shopette parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Any party of 10 or more may book transportation to casino anytime for \$25 per person. For more information, contact 434-2505.

The Walking Dead Season Premier at the Club
The Walking Dead Season Premier will be shown Oct. 23 doors open at 7 p.m. prize awarded for the best costume after premier. Call the Columbus Club at 434-2489 for more information.

1K Pound Club
The 1K Pound Club starts at 6 p.m. Oct. 24. Join the weight lifting 1K pound club for men (500 for women). For more information call 434-2772.

Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Library
Purchase your own pumpkin to decorate or pick up a free pumpkin at the Library Oct. 24-27 while quantities last. Judging will be held Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. Call the Library at 434-2934 for more information.

Oktoberfest Evening Buffet
The Oktoberfest Evening Buffet starts from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Event Center. \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members, \$5 for kids ages 5-11, and children 4 and under eat free. Enjoy an all you can eat German themed dinner. Call the Event center for more information at 434-2489.

Youth Basketball Registration
Youth Basketball Registration starts Oct. 31 - Nov. 28 at the Youth Center, \$35 for ages 3-4 and \$40 for ages 5-18. Receive a \$5 discount Oct. 31 - Nov. 4. Volunteer coaches needed. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Club Membership Drive
Club Membership Drive starts Nov. 1 - 22, join the Columbus Club and enter to win weekly prizes and grand prize, Jeep Wrangler. Rules and entry available at MyAirForceLife.com/GiveAway. For additional information call the Club at 434-2489.



Breakfast Club
The Breakfast Club starts 6:30 a.m. Nov. 7 with free breakfast at the Event Center for Club Members, Non-Member can eat free if you complete a Club Membership application. For more information call the Columbus Club at 434-2489.

Circle Time
Weekly Wednesday program at the Library starting Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. for ages 0-4, learn rhythm, kinesthetic, and body language thru songs, dance, and activities. For more information call 434-2934.

Thanksgiving Buffet at the Club
Thanksgiving Buffet at the Club is from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 10. \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members, \$5 for kids 5-11, f and under eat free. Enjoy delicious Thanksgiving entrees with all the trimmings and dessert. Call the Columbus Club at 434-2489 for more information.

Fight Frenzy
Fight Frenzy is Nov. 12 doors open at 7:30 p.m. free admission for Club Members and \$5 for Non-Members. Adult themed entertainment with food and drink specials. Pre-fight includes Woodley vs. Thompson and Jedrzejczyk vs. Kowalkiewicz, featured fight Alvarez vs. McGregor. For more information call 434-2489.

Legos at the Library
Legos at the Library is at 2 p.m. Nov. 13. Spark creativity with LEGOS. Please call 434-2934 for more information.

Turkey Bowl Nine-Pin No Tap Tournament
Turkey Bowl Nine-Pin No Tap Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Nov. 18 \$15 per person, includes three games and shoe rental. First and second place winners receive a frozen turkey. Call the Bowling Center for more information at 434-3426.

Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament
The Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament is Nov. 19 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start, nine-hole two-person scramble, cart not included. Lunch, prizes, and turkey raffle. For more information call the Gole Course at 434-7932.

Oktoberfest Bowling Center Special
Thursdays and Fridays in October from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy drink and food specials with free bowling if you wear orange. Call the Bowling Center at 434-3426 for more information.

IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON! Thursday NFL Football
Come out to the Club each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. There will be food specials and prize giveaway. The complete game schedule is available at the Columbus Club. Call 434-2489 for more information.

Halloween Pin Decorating
Pick up a bowling pin from the Bowling Center to decorate for Halloween. Prizes will be awarded. Please call the Bowling Center at 434-3426.

Discount Bowling on Monday
\$.25 bowling every Monday in Oct. from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. except on Oct. 10.

Fitness/Time Out Child Care
The Child Development Center is offering child care from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is only \$4 per hour. Sign up one week in advance at the CDC or contact 434-2479 for more information.

The Overrun Open Friday Nights
The Overrun is open Fridays 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.

Story Time and Circle Time at the Library
The Base Library is offering Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. for all ages. Circle Time is offered each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Cosmic Bowling Special
The Bowling Center is offering Cosmic Bowling for only \$12 per person every Friday and Saturday night from 5 p.m. – 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.

Free Wood at the Golf Course
Wood available at the Golf Course on Sundays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact the Golf Course Monday-Friday to arrange pick-up. Call 434-7932 for more information.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair
Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is only \$40 per hour plus parts; pickup and delivery available. Self-help bicycle repair is also 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.

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.)

Hearts Apart
The Hearts Apart Social program from 5- 7 p.m. Oct. 27 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. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop
This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 31 – Nov. 4. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance is 8 – 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Career Technical Training
This transition event is held 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 7 - 8 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 eight participates. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Smooth Move
The Smooth Move class starts 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 8. The class 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop
This workshop at 9 a.m Nov. 9 is on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using US-AJobs. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

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

Wing Newcomers Orientation
This brief is 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Nov. 15 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and



Members from Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 84-01 pause for a group photo next to a T-38 Talon Oct. 14 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle
The Military Life Cycle workshop from 1-2 p.m. Nov. 15 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. For more information or to register 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 stream-

lines 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 Dolores Sherman, Personal Financial Counselor, for an appointment at 426-2527, or 434-2790. She can help manage finances, resolve financial problems, and reach long-term goals such as getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement.

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

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

Catholic Community
Sundays:
3:45 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass w/Children's Church
Tuesdays:
11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
11:30-12:30 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 Honor Guardsmen prepare to perform a six-man flag fold for a repatriated Airman who had been missing in action for years, Jan. 8, at Union, Mississippi. Honor Guard performing at funerals is often the last a family will see of the military and often times leaves a lasting impression.



Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsmen finish the final folds of a flag of a six-man flag fold for a repatriated Airman who had been missing in action for years, Jan. 8, at Union, Mississippi. The Columbus AFB Honor Guard's primary mission is to perform military funerals which honor those who came before us, for without them, there would be no us.

Base Honor Guard: More than a bullet

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

Every Airman that comes to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, receives a brief from the First Term Airman Center about joining the Honor Guard.

First-term Airmen are shown the capabilities and ceremonies done in Honor Guard and are told it is a great bullet, volunteer opportunity and looks great in a Below-the-Zone package.

But what Airmen are not told, and cannot be conveyed in a briefing, is the feeling of handing a flag off to a deceased Airman's family member and the crying face of that Airman's next of kin, or honoring a retired chief master sergeant with more than 30 years of dedicated service, listening to all their amazing accomplishments over the course of their career.

The Columbus AFB Honor Guard's primary mission is to perform military funerals, but the job means much more. It presents the opportunity to lead and be a part of something bigger: honoring those who came before us, for without them, there would be no us.

"Being the program manager and a Guardsman for Honor Guard, it means being able to say thank you to the men and women that have served before us," said Tech. Sgt. Arnette Snow, 14th Flying Training Wing Base Honor Guard Program Manager. "They have paved the way for not only myself, but all other Airmen in our Air Force. It means so

"When you know and understand the Honor Guard creed, as all of our Guardsmen do, each letter represents what a being a Guardsman really embodies," Snow said. "You cannot choose just one letter to be your favorite or to really show. A true Guardsman show aspects of all the letters in the creed."

much to be the last vision of the Air Force to those family members of the deceased we perform funerals for."

Honor Guard renders many services including military funerals, parades, change-of-command ceremonies, banquets and more. They cover an extensive area of responsibility spanning 40,000 square miles over 72 counties and three states. This workload helps show the dedication of the Honor Guardsmen.

"I've always admired Honor Guard, but until I became the Program Manager, I never realized just how much it means to be a Guardsman," Snow said. "Now that I have been doing this for a year, it has definitely shown me an even greater respect for what they do."

Members of the Honor Guard stated they leave with a sense of satisfaction of doing something great for their country at the end of the day.

"Though I have not been a part of Honor Guard for long, it has already made a huge impact on me as an Airman and a person," said Airman 1st Class Rolando Chavez, Base Honor Guardsman. "Having the next of kin break into tears of gratitude after watching us fold a flag and play taps for their deceased loved one is truly humbling."

Guardsmen are expected to know and follow the Honor Guard creed at all times. It spells out HONOR, with each letter explaining a part of what



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Kaleb Snay

A Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guardsman presents the folded American flag to Joe Partridge, brother of the late Capt. Frederick Partridge, Aug. 10, 2015 at the Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Ceremony. Full honors were presented by the Base Honor Guard for Partridge to include a six-man flag folding, firing party, color team, and a bugle player who finished the ceremony with the playing of Taps.

makes an Airman a Guardsman.

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The Honor Guard program consists of three

rotating flights where each flight of approximately seven Guardsmen are removed from their primary duty for one month, every three months to participate in Honor Guard full-time for the duration of that month until their contract expires.

"I would recommend volunteering for Honor Guard to any young or old Airman, male or female who wants to give a final thank you to those who

have come before," Snow said. "I want Guardsmen to understand Honor Guard is not a privilege, it is as our creed says, an honor; it is an honor to look a widow in the eye and give their final respects to that person's loved one who has served."

Those wishing to become a member of Honor Guard may contact Tech. Sgts. Arnette Snow or Damon Snead at 434-2316.

