



Your doll  
collection  
freaks your  
friends out



FRIENDLY CITY  
Mini-Warehouses

662-327-4236 | friendlycitymini.com

TWO COLUMBUS LOCATIONS  
308 Shoney Drive | 903 Alabama Street

- Security Cameras
- New Units
- Alabama Street Location Fenced and Gated



Return Service:  
The Commercial  
Dispatch  
P.O. Box 511  
Columbus, MS  
39703

# SILVER WINGS

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

STANDARD MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 39705  
PERMIT NO. 98  
RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Vol. 41, Issue 2

January 20, 2017

## Weather

<b>Friday</b> PM Rain High 74°F Low 58°F	<b>Saturday</b> Thunderstorms High 70°F Low 57°F
<b>Sunday</b> Thunderstorms High 62°F Low 47°F	<b>Monday</b> Sunny High 59°F Low 42°F

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

## News Briefs

### Unit Effectiveness Inspection

The 14th Flying Training Wing Unit Effectiveness Inspection takes place Jan. 23-30. Remember customs and courtesies, such as saluting senior-officer-designated vehicles driving through the base.

### Enlisted Promotions/Fourth Quarterly Awards

The next Columbus Air Force Base enlisted promotions ceremony is 3 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Columbus Club. Immediately after, the fourth quarterly awards ceremony will begin.

### Annual Awards Banquet

The Annual Awards Banquet social begins at 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Columbus Club. The dinner and ceremony begin at 6:30 p.m.

## Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 17-04 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens

Columbus community members, including Col. Doug Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Col. James Fisher, 14th FTW Vice Commander, pack bag lunches during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Day of Giving event Jan. 16, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members from Columbus Air Force Base, the City of Columbus, the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors, Mississippi University for Women, Sodexo Food Services, and the United Way of Lowndes County all participated in the event to show their support.

## Columbus community gathers for Day of Giving

**2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Members from all over the Columbus community came together Jan. 16 to host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and Day of Giving at the Trotter Convention Center.

The event began at 8 a.m. and featured keynote speaker Judge Carlton Reeves of the Southern District of Mississippi. Members from Columbus Air Force Base, the City of Columbus, the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bu-

See DAY OF GIVING, Page 2

## 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 (17-14)	-0.83 days	1.41 days	Mar. 8	48th (17-05)	1.87 days	1.74 days	Jan. 27	49th (17-DBC)	-3.07 days	-3.15 days	Feb. 1	T-6	1,283	1,188	8,796
41st (17-13)	3.13 days	2.61 days	Feb. 9	50th (17-05)	-0.35 days	-6.24 days	Jan. 27					T-1	430	334	2,235
												T-38	466	478	2,870
												IFF	185	197	1,269

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

The graduation speaker is Col. Franz Plescha, U.S. Air Force retired.





# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 37 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.*

**DAY OF GIVING**  
(Continued from page 1)

reau, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors, Mississippi University for Women, Sodexo Food Services, and the United Way of Lowndes County all participated in the event to show their support. The event started with a breakfast for attendees.

Following the breakfast, volunteers were invited to the lower level of the convention center for a service activity in hopes of filling over 1,000 lunch sacks. Community members of all ages, including Team BLAZE members, packed lunches for Loaves and Fishes, a community soup kitchen that serves nearly 20,000 people annually. Col. Doug Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Beth Gosney, Col. Jay Fisher, 14th FTW Vice Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th FTW Command Chief, all participated in the event.

First Lt. Karen Rubin-Santos, an Instructor Pilot from the 37th Flying Training Squadron, was invited to sing the National Anthem at the beginning of the morning's events and was heavily applauded by everyone in attendance.

"The MLK Breakfast was a success," said Robert Smith, City of Columbus Mayor. "We appreciate the partnership and participation Columbus AFB provides to the city. We had

*"The MLK Breakfast was a success," said Robert Smith, City of Columbus Mayor. "We appreciate the partnership and participation Columbus AFB provides to the city. We had over 500 people to attend and eat breakfast. A very diverse crowd. Judge Carlton Reeves did a great job as the guest speaker and Colonel Gosney said to me he was amazed at the turnout."*

over 500 people to attend and eat breakfast. A very diverse crowd. Judge Carlton Reeves did a great job as the guest speaker and Colonel Gosney said to me he was amazed at the turnout."

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
23	24	25	26	27	28/29	Feb. 7: Wing Newcomers Orientation Feb. 9: Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 10: SUPT Class 17-05 Graduation Feb. 13-15: Military Archbishop base visit Feb. 14: St. Valentine's Day lunch Feb. 28: Enlisted Promotions Mar. 7: Wing Newcomers Orientation Mar. 10: SUPT Class 17-06 Graduation Mar. 13-17: Local School Spring Break Mar. 24: Happy Irby Golf Tournament Mar. 27 - May 5: AFAF Mar. 28: Wing Newcomers Mar. 30 - Apr. 8: Spring Pilgrimage Apr. 7: SUPT Class 17-07 Graduation
		UEI	Club Member Appreciation Breakfast, 6:30 a.m. @ Club	17-05 Assignment night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club		
30	31	1	2	3	4/5	
UEI	Enlisted Promotions/ Fourth Quarterly Award Ceremony, 2 p.m. @ Club 18-05 Pilot Partner Welcome, 5 p.m. @ Jackie 'O House			Pilot for a Day visit	5th: Columbus Club Super Bowl Party, @ Club	

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@us.af.mil

### Editorial Staff

Col. Douglas Gosney  
14th Flying Training Wing Commander

Mr. Sonic Johnson  
Chief of Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens  
Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah  
Quality Assurance

Senior Airman Kaleb Snay  
Editor

Senior Airman 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.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.  
The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.  
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.  
Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.  
The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.  
Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.



### New Salem Baptist Church welcomes you!

**7086 Wolf Road**  
3 miles south of Caledonia, MS  
**(662) 356-4940**  
www.newsalembaptistcaledonia.com  
Pastor: Bro. Mel Howton

**SUNDAY**  
Worship Service - 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:15 am  
**SUNDAY EVENING**  
Youth Drama & AWANA - 4pm  
Discipleship Training - 5pm  
Evening Worship - 6pm


**WEDNESDAY**  
Kid's Drama - 6 pm  
Adult/Youth Bible Study, RAs, GAs & Mission Friends - 6:30 pm  
Nursery available for all services.



### FALCON LAIR Apartments

Ask About Our Move In Specials! Military Discounts Available

625 31st Ave. N.  
Columbus, MS  
(662) 329-2544  
www.falconlairapts.com



### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

318 College Street • Columbus

**Holy Communion at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday**  
(childcare provided)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Anne Harris  
328-6673 • www.stpaulscolumbus.com





## FENDER BENDER?

We Can Help!

Call us for quality work and friendly service!

# BOB'S

PAINT & AUTO BODY

83 E. Plymouth Rd. • Columbus • 662-327-1221  
24 Hour Wrecker Service 662-328-4822



## Extra Newsprint

is a great, inexpensive solution for...

- Firestarter
- Packing Materials
- Shipping Materials
- Art Projects
- Window Cleaning

Visit **THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH**


Office at **516 Main Street Columbus, MS**



## Fox & Run COLUMBUS

Washer And Dryer In Unit  
1 And 2 Bedrooms Available  
15% Military Discount  
Move In Specials  
Fitness Center On Site

632 31st Avenue North • 662-386-4446



## Go behind the scenes and see what it takes to put out a daily newspaper!

Call 662-328-2424 today to schedule a tour for your group or organization.



# Deployed brother, sister reunite after 10 years apart

**Master Sgt. Benjamin Wilson**  
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — U.S. service members ordinarily have to say goodbye to family as they head out for deployments, but one deployment brought a brother and sister together after 10 years of separation.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mary Jane Palumbo and her brother, Army Staff Sgt. Quincy Mora, were able to meet outside a military air terminal in Southwest Asia for a couple of hours as he forward deployed closer to the fight.

Both brother and sister are currently deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Palumbo, a 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager, last saw her brother when he was on his way home from his first tour in Iraq. She was vacationing in Hawaii when he stopped for a layover en route to their hometown of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Palumbo and Mora, an AH-64 Apache mechanic deployed from Fort Lewis, Washington, were born and raised in the Federated States of Micronesia along with their nine other brothers and sisters.

The family was big, but they were close, according to Palumbo. They all lived in one house with her grandmother growing up, and although there were separate rooms for the adults, the children would spread out in the living room with



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Benjamin Wilson

**Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mary Jane Palumbo, a 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager, and her brother, Army Staff Sgt. Quincy Mora, an AH-64 Apache mechanic, embrace one another as they meet for the first time in 10 years Jan. 7, 2017. The siblings are both deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.**

sheets and blankets at night.

“For most Americans when you’re 18, you’re an adult, you move out,” she said. “For us it doesn’t matter. We can still live together even if you are married with kids; we still are really close.”

Growing up in such a close family added to the difficulty of leaving for basic training, but Palumbo said she wanted to test herself and see if she could succeed in the military.

That is why she joined the Army directly after high school. Although it was hard to leave her family, she said it was an exciting new experience. It wasn’t until she decided to start a family of her own that she knew she had to make a change.

“I had my oldest son and I didn’t really want to move around that much with the baby so that is why I got out [of the active duty military],” Palumbo said. “Then I moved to Vermont and that’s when I joined the Vermont Air National Guard.”

The ANG gave Palumbo the stability she felt she needed to raise a family and the kind of support structure she had growing up in Pohnpei.

“The Guard, they take care of you and your family,” she said.

Even though she decided to plant new roots in Vermont, Palumbo said keeping in touch with her extended family is important to her.

That is why she called up her brother last summer to make plans to meet for Christmas. Unfortunately, he was tasked to deploy.

It was not until November 2015, when Palumbo herself was tasked for deployment that she realized this set of unlikely circumstances was destined to reunite brother and sister after 10 years apart.

## NEWS AROUND TOWN

### Jan. 29

A homecoming tribute concert honoring the legacy of gospel music featuring Dorothy McClung Lewis, Nationally Renowned Gospel Recording Artist, Singer, Songwriter. Guest performances by The Friendly Brothers in Christ, Canaan MB Choir, The Voices of Zion and The Golden Gates. Event starts 3 p.m. at the Trotter Convention Center. Advanced admission is \$15 or \$20 at the door. Tickets available at [dorothymcclunglewis.com](http://dorothymcclunglewis.com) and [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

### Feb. 3

Cary Hudson in Concert begins 7:30 p.m. at Omnova Theatre in Rosenzweig Arts Center, 501 Main Street in Columbus, Mississippi. This Mississippi-born singer/songwriter’s colorful music career in alt country, folk and Southern rock has earned him a reputation for delivering “roots music at its best.” Tickets are \$10 advance or \$12 at the door. Visit [columbus-arts.org/events](http://columbus-arts.org/events) or call 328-2787 for more information.

### Feb. 11

“Simply Streisand,” The Music of Barbra Streisand performed by tribute artist Carla DelVillaggio, starts 8 p.m. in Whitfield Hall on The Mississippi University for Women campus. For additional information or to reserve a free ticket, please call the Office of Development and Alumni at 329-7148.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

# Track Select

Capt. Michael Speer	T-1
1st Lt. Joseph Brown	UH-1
2nd Lt. Samuel Ayers	T-1
2nd Lt. Alec Benoit	T-1
2nd Lt. Michael Bernstein	T-38
2nd Lt. Matthew Brau	T-38
2nd Lt. Austin Carter	T-38
2nd Lt. William Clark	T-1
2nd Lt. William Durkee	T-38
2nd Lt. Morgan Evans	T-1
2nd Lt. JayP Fullam	T-38
2nd Lt. Shohei Hashimoto	T-1
2nd Lt. Casey Henderson	Helo
2nd Lt. Austin Hornbrook	T-38
2nd Lt. Joshua Hunt	T-1
2nd Lt. Koki Inayoshi	T-1
2nd Lt. Samuel Magennis-Molke	Helo
2nd Lt. Christopher McCoy	T-1
2nd Lt. Alexander Piratzky	T-1
2nd Lt. Tyler Schleif	T-1
2nd Lt. Grant Schwartz	T-38
2nd Lt. Mitchell Williams	T-1
2nd Lt. John Wood	T-1



### Leverette Award

2nd Lt. Austin Carter

### Top Guns

**Contact:** 2nd Lt. Grant Schwartz

**Instrument:** 2nd Lt. Joshua Hunt

**Formation:** 2nd Lt. Matthew Brau

# 17-12

## 14th MDOS flight achieves AETC award

Congratulations to the 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight for achieving the Air Education and Training Command 2017 Air Force Association Aerospace Award in the Theodore Von Karman category.

We wish them luck as they continue to compete at the Air Force level.



## 2017 Tax Center volunteers needed

The Columbus Air Force Base legal office is currently seeking tax center volunteers for the upcoming tax season. No prior tax experience is necessary, as all required training will be provided to qualify volunteers for tax preparation. The tax center will open Feb. 6, 2017, and trained volunteers will prepare tax returns through April 7, 2017. If you are interested in this opportunity to be involved in our Tax Center please contact the legal office at 434-7030.

## AETC 75th anniversary live on Facebook

The Air Education and Training Command is celebrating their 75th anniversary on Facebook Live after 2:35 p.m. Jan. 23. The event will feature Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, AETC commander, former AETC commanders, and more during a portion of AETC’s 75th Anniversary Extravaganza at Hangar 41 Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. There will also be performances by the John Jay High School Silver Eagles JROTC Drill Team, National High School Drill Teams champions in 2015 and 2016.



## January Is Winter Safety Month





# Columbus AFB Fitness Center home to bodybuilding Airmen

Senior Airman John Day  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Being fit to fight is not only a requirement for Airmen, but is also an important part of maintaining a healthy body.

Some Airmen at Columbus Air Force Base like to take their fitness to the next level.

A select few of Team BLAZE recently competed at various bodybuilding competitions in different categories. Among the competitors were Senior Airman Zachary Sellers, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Aviation Resource Manager; Airman 1st Class Jacobi Kelly, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Firefighter; and Ronnie Shumpert, Aircraft Maintenance.

They all competed in different categories and brackets of competitions across the United States, each placing in the upper-middle of the pack.

For some of them, this marks their first foray into body competitions.

"I just recently competed in my first show, but for me, lifting is much more than competing in shows," Kelly said. "It's an everyday challenge, something you have to constantly work at. Your vision and your goals will be different than others and it gives you something to look forward to."

Others are veterans, having done this for many years.

"I've been lifting for about eight years now," Sellers said. "I played a lot of sports when I was young and I started lifting for football in high school and haven't stopped since."

The Air Force physical training program encourages total fitness, rather than just training for the specific portions of the test.

"When I joined the Air Force, lifting definitely helped with the PT test," Sellers said. "During competition season, I would work on cardio in the mornings and lift in the afternoon. Things like diet and meal portioning are part of competitive lifting and helps maintain all aspects of my fitness."

Besides its physical health benefits, working out has the benefit of increased focus, a better state of mind and a higher degree of readiness.

"Lifting makes me a better person both in the body and mind," Sellers said. "Not only do I feel bigger in body size and strength, it also helps quiet my mind. It's a great stress reliever."

After years of working out, Sellers said his goals changed from not only helping himself, but into also giving back and helping others reach their goals.

"First and foremost I do this for my health," Sellers said. "Now, after competing, it has turned more into asking myself, 'How can I help others?' People ask about my diet plan and

*"Lifting makes me a better person both in the body and mind," Sellers said. "Not only do I feel bigger in body size and strength, it also helps quiet my mind. It's a great stress reliever."*



**TOP: Senior Airman Zachary Sellers, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Aviation Resource Manager, curls the weight bar during his workout routine Jan. 18, 2017, at the Fitness Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Besides its physical health benefits, working out has the benefit of increased focus, a better state of mind and a higher degree of readiness.**

**RIGHT: Senior Airman Zachary Sellers, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Aviation Resource Manager, coaches Airman 1st Class Jacobi Kelly, 14th Civil Engineering Firefighter, Jan. 18, 2017, at the Fitness Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Sellers gives back to others in the gym by helping out with diet plans, lifting routine and scheduling to help others reach their goals.**

workout routine and I can show them what I do and have them try to implement it in their lives. It's really empowering."

Columbus AFB's Fitness Center provides for Airmen in all levels of training, from beginners to those who are further along in their fitness goals.

"I don't see the need to train anywhere else really," Sellers said. "This is my home gym. There are a lot of people here I enjoy working out with and seeing on a day-to-day basis. The gym here has everything I need to succeed and is very conveniently located."

To better provide for its Airmen, the fitness center is slated for a \$922,000 expansion project, starting in fiscal 2017.

"It's all about the mindset; lifting lets me shut out everything else that I'm dealing with and focus on me," Kelly said. "Having a solid group of people to train with makes me proud to call Columbus my home gym."



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman John Day

# Step up: Don't be afraid to be a Arnold, Mitchell, or Doolittle

Lt. Gen. Steven L. Kwast  
Air University Commander  
and President

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The U.S. Air Force is sitting at a nexus in which the world is becoming increasingly dangerous and complex, and our nation is asking us to do things that keep us busier now than ever before, yet we have fewer people now than at any point in our history—just over a third of what we had in the 1950s!

To meet these challenges, American military leaders and members must become more willing to question the status quo, speak out, and accept that smart risk taking is inseparable from effective leadership in such a dynamic environment. Air University (AU) strives in every way—with its faculty and staff, education programs, labs, and infrastructure—to produce the innovative and outspoken Airmen needed to meet the security challenges of today and the future.

Innovation and calculated risk-taking are the Air Force's birthright. We can trace our lineage directly back to the Wright brothers when they brought together inspiration, education, innovation, and perspiration to build a flying machine that "blasted the world asunder," changing the course of human history forever. Air University's headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, is situated on the very ground where these two brothers opened America's first civilian flying school. Today, AU continues to emulate their inventive spirit, while also taking cues from several exemplar Airmen whose innovativeness, risk-taking and outspokenness in their times were crucial to meeting our nation's emerging challenges.

One such Airman is General of the Air Force Henry "Hap" Arnold, who brought courage, vision and the importance of networking to create a mighty Air Force from the humble collection of Wright flyers that he had flown in 1911, with the Wrights as his instructors. He immediately became an instructor for other military flyers at the Signal Corps' aviation school, underscoring the important role that teaching has always had in an Airman's development. Soon, he ascended to positions in which he cooperated with civilian industry and research institutions to build the forces and infrastructure that would later dominate the skies over Europe and the Pacific during World War II.

Arnold had a talent for understanding and articulating the crucial systemic connections between numerous organizations and fields, providing visionary statements – as revealed in numerous historic written documents preserved here at Maxwell AFB – that are as relevant today as when he first penned them. Above all, however, he had the ability to find and promote talent, mentoring and placing the best future leaders in the key developmental positions they needed to grow into the vanguard of a force that would fly, fight, and win against America's adversaries.

In 1918, Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell orchestrated the first-ever, large-scale coalition air operation in support of the St Mihiel Offensive. It validated much of his thinking on airpower employment. In the 1920s, Mitchell was an outspoken



**General Henry H. Arnold, General of the Air Force. Pioneer airman who was taught to fly by the Wright Brothers, and commander of Army Air Forces in victory over Germany and Japan in World War II; born Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1886, died Sonoma, California, Jan. 15, 1950.**



**General William "Billy" Mitchell is regarded as the "Father of the United States Air Force," because he was instrumental in bringing to the forefront the need for air superiority. Mitchell also believed that bombers should take the place of battleships and there should be a separate command for the Air Service.**



**General James H. Doolittle is a Medal of Honor recipient, pioneering holder of speed records, leader of first aerial attack on the Japanese mainland, famed World War II air commander and earned virtually all of the prestigious aviation trophies of the interwar period.**

advocate for the offensive capabilities of airpower in war. He developed concepts for aerial attacks against ships that eventually spurred the U.S. Navy to develop its carrier-aviation capabilities that would prove decisive in the Pacific theater during World War II. While often controversial, Mitchell was courageous in capturing, sharing and even testing his cutting-edge concepts for air operations. He put himself and his reputation on the line time and again to push the critical innovations he envisioned in detail before others could even imagine the potential of airpower. One of his most revolutionary innovations – one that is clearly evident today – is our independent Air Force.

During World War II, Army Air Forces Lt. Col. James "Jimmy" Doolittle developed the ideas and plan for America's first offensive strike against the Japanese homeland, launched just four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, in April 1942. A daredevil pilot in his youth, Doolittle matured as a test pilot and innovator through personal courage, perseverance, a tremendous level of curiosity and dedication to education, culminating with his earning a doctorate in aeronautical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1923. Doolittle matched courage with calculation, achieving many significant advances in aviation techniques and technology during the interwar years.

When an imaginative submariner, Navy Capt. Francis Low, asked Arnold if long-range bombers could possibly be flown from U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, the chief of the Army Air Forces knew exactly who to call. It wasn't a crazy idea.

On the contrary, it was brilliant – and it was exactly the kind of military option that President Franklin Roosevelt desperately needed in the wake of Pearl Harbor and numerous subsequent U.S. reverses in the Pacific. Still, Arnold knew that only one Airman had the intellectual agility to figure out how this might be effected and the energy and perseverance to bring the idea to reality, and that was Doolittle.

The daring Doolittle Raid caught the Japanese completely by surprise and gave the Allies their first taste of victory. It also caused the Japanese people to begin questioning their own military leaders' assurance of invincibility. This was because prior to Doolittle's success, everyone who knew anything about airpower simply concluded it could not be done!

So, what can we learn from these giants of Air Force history? First, they recognized that what had worked in the past was no longer sufficient to meet current needs. They also understood that things would only get worse unless they took positive action immediately.

They cultivated technical expertise and professional instinct to gain a deep understanding of the potential of airpower, and then harnessed their personal and professional networks to build support for and test their ideas. If the officials they needed to approve their ideas were not open-minded enough to give serious consideration to their innovations, they found other ways to overcome the inevitable bureaucratic barriers to progress. These pioneers understood that an acceptance of personal risk – whether it be physical, profes-



# Maintainer-turned-fighter pilot puts new skills to the test

**Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa**  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — *(This feature is part of the “Through Airmen’s Eyes” series. These stories focus on individual Airmen, highlighting their Air Force story.)*

When Capt. David was a child, his father would take him out to the flightline at Canon Air Force Base, New Mexico, and sit him in the cockpit of an F-111 Aardvark.

Looking up at his dad, David would say, “One day, I’m going to be a pilot.”

Fast forward a couple of decades later, “I guess I kept my word,” he said, standing in the 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where he serves as an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter pilot.

The road has been a long one for David, who first enlisted in the Air Force in 2004. Following in his father’s footsteps, he became an F-16 avionics specialist.

“It’s always been my dream to be a pilot, it’s all I’ve ever wanted to do,” David said. “I just took a different route than most people do.”

That route included going to school while

working as a maintainer, through a deployment to Balad Airfield, Iraq, and temporary duties where he was often gone for three weeks out of every month.

“I have the best wife in the world,” he said. “She was stubborn for me when I didn’t want to do it, she was always there pushing me, telling me that I could, telling me it’s going to be worth it. ‘All the hard work, the sweat, the tears, one day it will all pay off and you’re going to be where you want to be.’”

David achieved his goal when he was accepted for Officer Training School and was subsequently selected for pilot training and the F-16 slot. He now flies the same airframe he was once a maintainer for.

“There’s always a giant support system behind anyone who gets to this point,” David said.

He gives the credit to his wife, children, and supervisors throughout his Air Force career, along with a little timing, luck and a lot of hard work.

After years of training, David was sent to his first operational assignment as a pilot, where he headed back out to the flightline as a pilot rather than a maintainer.

“Having that maintenance and operations background provides that extra piece to



**Capt. David, a 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, performs a preflight inspection on an F-16 Fighting Falcon before a night mission Jan. 13, 2017, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. David is at Bagram Airfield on his first deployment as a fighter pilot.**

make the cogs fit a little bit better,” he said. “They’re not really all that different, to be honest. We all want the same thing, we all want to do the same thing, we’re all fighting in the same direction.”

The skills David learned as a maintainer give him increased credibility as a pilot.

“The guy’s knowledge of the airplane, is beyond some of our more seasoned pilots because he’s had his hands in some places we don’t even know exist inside an F-16,” said Maj. Joseph, the 79th EFS director of operations.

This deployment to Bagram Airfield will also be David’s first as a pilot.

“I always wanted to be the tip-of-the-spear kind of guy, the last link in the chain before taking care of bad guys,” he said. “The most rewarding part has been coming out here and being effective.”

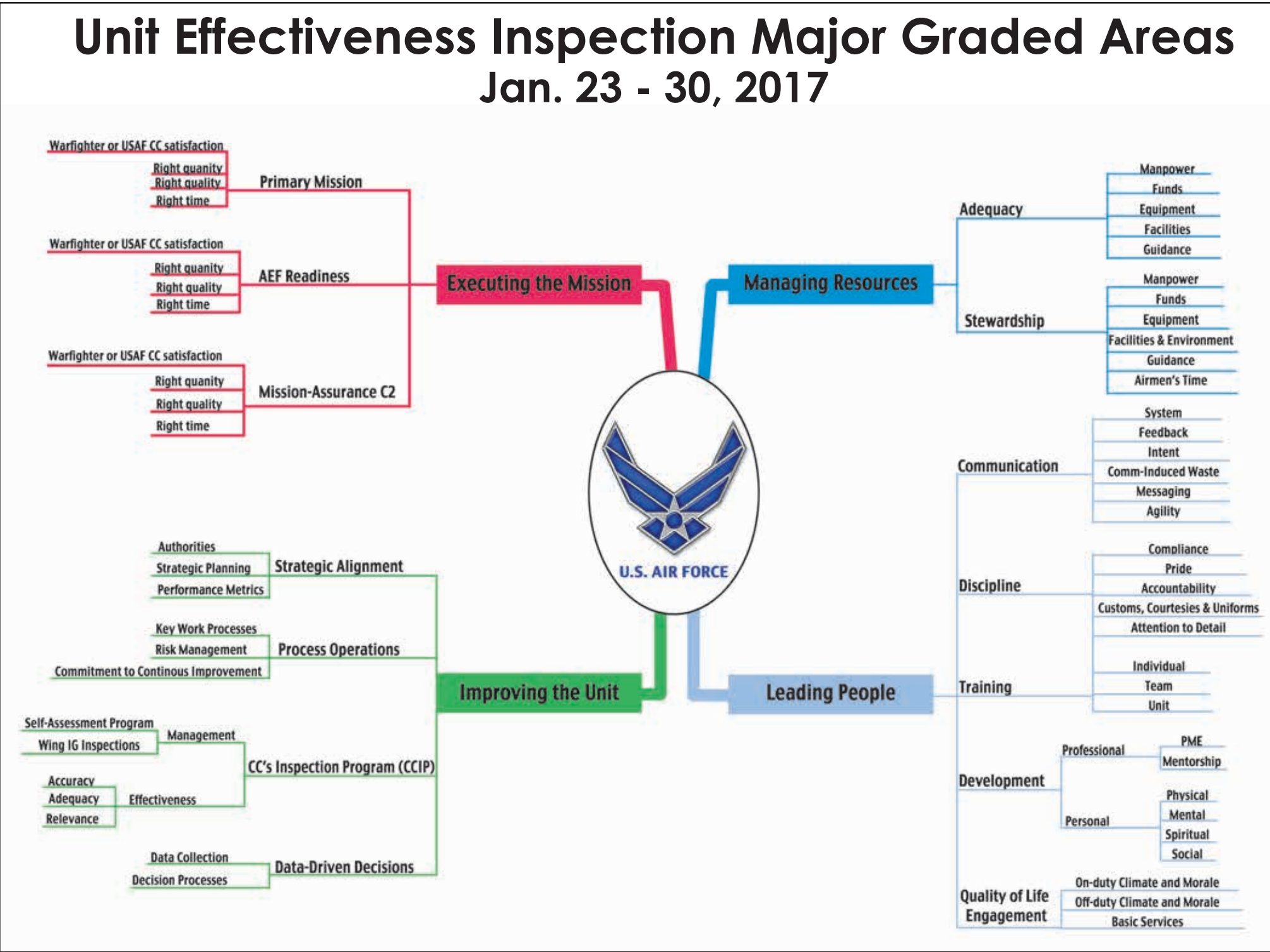
When he’s not deployed, David follows in his father’s footsteps again, bringing his children to the flightline at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

“Seeing that pure joy and pride in their faces when I have them come out to the jet and I taxi up and hop out. There is no better feeling in the world, then seeing my kids’ faces light up,” he said.

Every generation of David’s family has served in the military since the Civil War. He is now the first member of his family to commission.

“I’ll probably be in the Air Force until they tell me to stop coming to work, whether I’m flying jets or not. It’s where I want to be,” David said.

*(Editor’s note: Last names were removed due to safety and security reasons.)*



**Capt. David, a 79th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, taxis an F-16 Fighting Falcon before a night mission Jan. 13, 2017, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. To become a pilot, David went to school while working as a maintainer, through a deployment to Balad Airfield, Iraq, and temporary duties where he was often gone for three weeks out of every month.**



## When you see this sign, stop. Help keep our children safe.



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-35A

## Mission

The F-35A aircraft is the U.S. Air Force's latest fifth-generation fighter. It will replace the U.S. Air Force's aging fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt II's, which have been the primary fighter aircraft for more than 20 years, and bring with it an enhanced capability to survive in the advanced threat environment in which it was designed to operate. With its aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35A will provide next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations.

## Features

The conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A gives the U.S. Air Force and allies the power to dominate the skies – anytime, anywhere. The F-35A is an agile, versatile, high-performance, 9g capable multirole fighter that combines stealth, sensor fusion, and unprecedented situational awareness.

The F-35A's advanced sensor package is designed to gather, fuse and distribute more information than any fighter in history, giving operators a decisive advantage over all adver-

saries. Its processing power, open architecture, sophisticated sensors, information fusion and flexible communication links make the F-35 an indispensable tool in future homeland defense, Joint and Coalition irregular warfare and major combat operations.

The F-35's electronic sensors include the Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (DAS). This system provides pilots with situational awareness in a sphere around the aircraft for enhanced missile warning, aircraft warning, and day/night pilot vision. Additionally, the aircraft is equipped with the Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS). The internally mounted EOTS provides extended range detection and precision targeting against ground targets, plus long range detection of air-to-air threats.

The F-35's helmet mounted display system is the most advanced system of its kind. All the intelligence and targeting information an F-35 pilot needs to complete the mission is displayed on the helmet's visor.

The F-35's engine produces 43,000 pounds of thrust and consists of a 3-stage fan, a 6-stage compressor, an annular combustor, a single stage high-pressure turbine, and a 2 stage low-pressure turbine.

The F-35 is designed to provide the pilot with unsurpassed

situational awareness, positive target identification and precision strike in all weather conditions. Mission systems integration and outstanding over-the-nose visibility features are designed to dramatically enhance pilot performance.

## Background

The F-35 is designed to replace aging fighter inventories including U.S. Air Force F-16s and A-10s, U.S. Navy F/A-18s, U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18s, and U.K. Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers. With stealth and a host of next-generation technologies, the F-35 will be far and away the world's most advanced multi-role fighter. There exists an aging fleet of tactical aircraft worldwide. The F-35 is intended to solve that problem.

On October 26, 2001, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge Jr. announced the decision to proceed with the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. This approval advanced the program to the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) phase. The Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche announced the selection of Lockheed Martin teamed with Northrop Grumman and BAE to develop and then produce the JSF aircraft.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darlene Seftmann  
The F-35 Lightning II aircraft makes its first appearance March 10, 2014, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The F-35A aircraft is the U.S. Air Force's latest fifth-generation fighter.



U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.  
The Royal Netherlands air force F-35A Lightning II lifts off for its first flight Dec. 18, 2013, from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. With its aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35A will provide next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations.

## 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.)

### Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Jan. 24. The class provides re-locating 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.

### Marketing Yourself for A Second Career

This workshop is from 8 - 10:30 a.m., Jan. 26. Register for this workshop to learn how to market yourself for a second career and is conducted by MOAA. Workbook includes resume information, interviewing preparation, networking tips and negotiation strategies. For more information call 434-2790.

### Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan. 30 - Feb. 3. 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.

### 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

## Hoeltje receives Blaze 5/6 Leadership Highlight award



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
Staff Sgt. Shayna Wasden, Blaze 5/6 Council President, hands Senior Airman Jacob Hoeltje, 14th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Systems Technician, a Blaze 5/6 Leadership Highlight award Jan. 18, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Hoeltje was recognized for the award recipient for the month of December 2016, in recognition of his outstanding leadership.

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 marital issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

### Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact 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.

### DRMO

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

### Zero Overpricing Program

Interested in saving the Air Force money and making a little yourself? As part of the Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness Program there are award incentives for price challenges that result in tangible savings. In accordance with AFI 38-401, responsible personnel will receive a monetary award. Personnel are encouraged to participate on any overpricing issues daily. Please call Customer Support at 434-7178 for any advice or guidance.

## 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  
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month  
**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

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



**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.

**Battle of the Bulge**

The Fitness Center is running the Battle of the Bulge from Jan. 9 – March 3. Contact Health and Promotion for more information and to sign-up 434-1688.

**Youth Spring Soccer**

Sign-up for youth spring soccer at the Youth Center from Jan. 9 – Feb. 10. Call 434-2504 for more information.

**Kids Movie & Bowling**

Enjoy unlimited bowling, shoe rental, and a slice of pizza and a drink for \$5 and watch Ice Age Collision Course at 5 p.m. Jan. 20. For more information call 434-3426.

**Give Parents a Break**

Give Parents a Break is from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Youth Center. Call 434-2504 for more information.

**\$.25 Cent Bowling**

The Bowling Center is offering 25-cent bowling on Mondays in January. Upcoming dates are Jan. 23 and 30 from noon – 5 p.m., shoe rental not included. For more information call 434-3426.

**Trivia Night**

The Columbus Club will host a Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Jan. 27. It is a free event with trivia, food, fun, prizes and drink specials. Must be 18 or older to participate. For more information call 434-2489

**Fitness/Time Out Child Care**

The Child Development Center offers child care from 8:30 – 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**

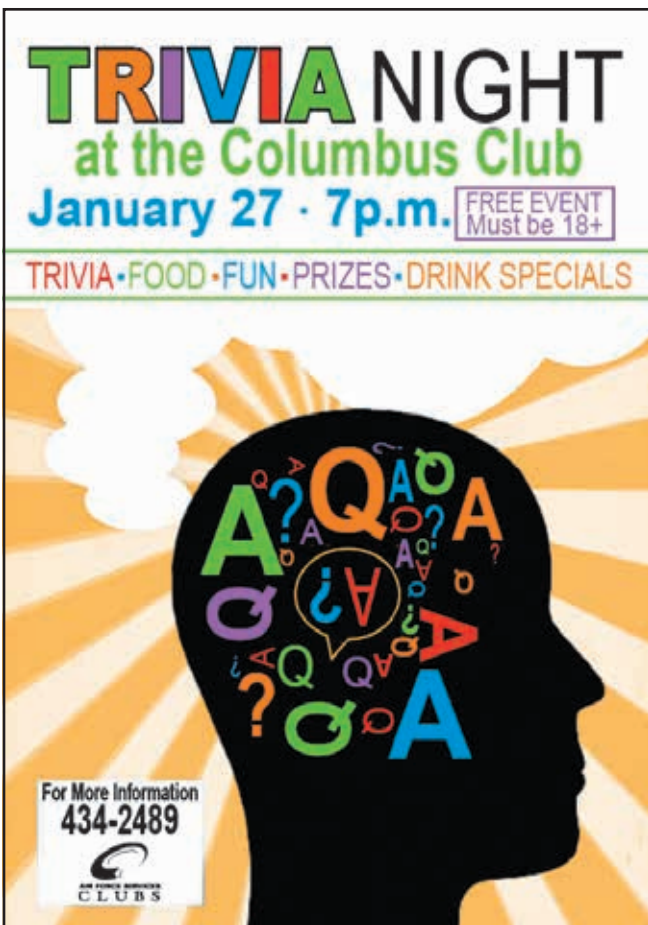
The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, contact 434-2419.

**Story Time and Circle Time**

The Base Library offers Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. for all ages. Circle Time is offered each Wednesday at 3 p.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Cosmic Bowling Special**

The Bowling Center offers Cosmic Bowling for only \$12



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

**Free Wood at the Golf Course**

Wood is 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.

**Play Paintball**

Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$15 per person for a party of 10 or more; \$20 per

person for party of 9 or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

**Make Your Shopping Easier**

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

**Take & Bake Pizzas at the Bowling Center**

Grab-and-go ready pizzas for you to take home and bake yourself are available at the bowling center. Save \$2 per pizza. Large and medium pizzas only.

**Interested in Sponsoring with Columbus AFB?**

Want your business to reach the 18,000 active duty military, family members, civilian employees and retirees living and working at Columbus AFB? If you are interested in event sponsorship or donations, please contact our sponsorship coordinator at 434-2337.

**Free Fitness Classes**

Free classes are available at the fitness center. Classes range from P90X, Hot Fusion, Jiu Jitsu and Floor Core & More. For more information on class schedules, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

**RV Storage Lot**

Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

**Instructional Classes at Youth Center**

Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

**Fitness on Request**

CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

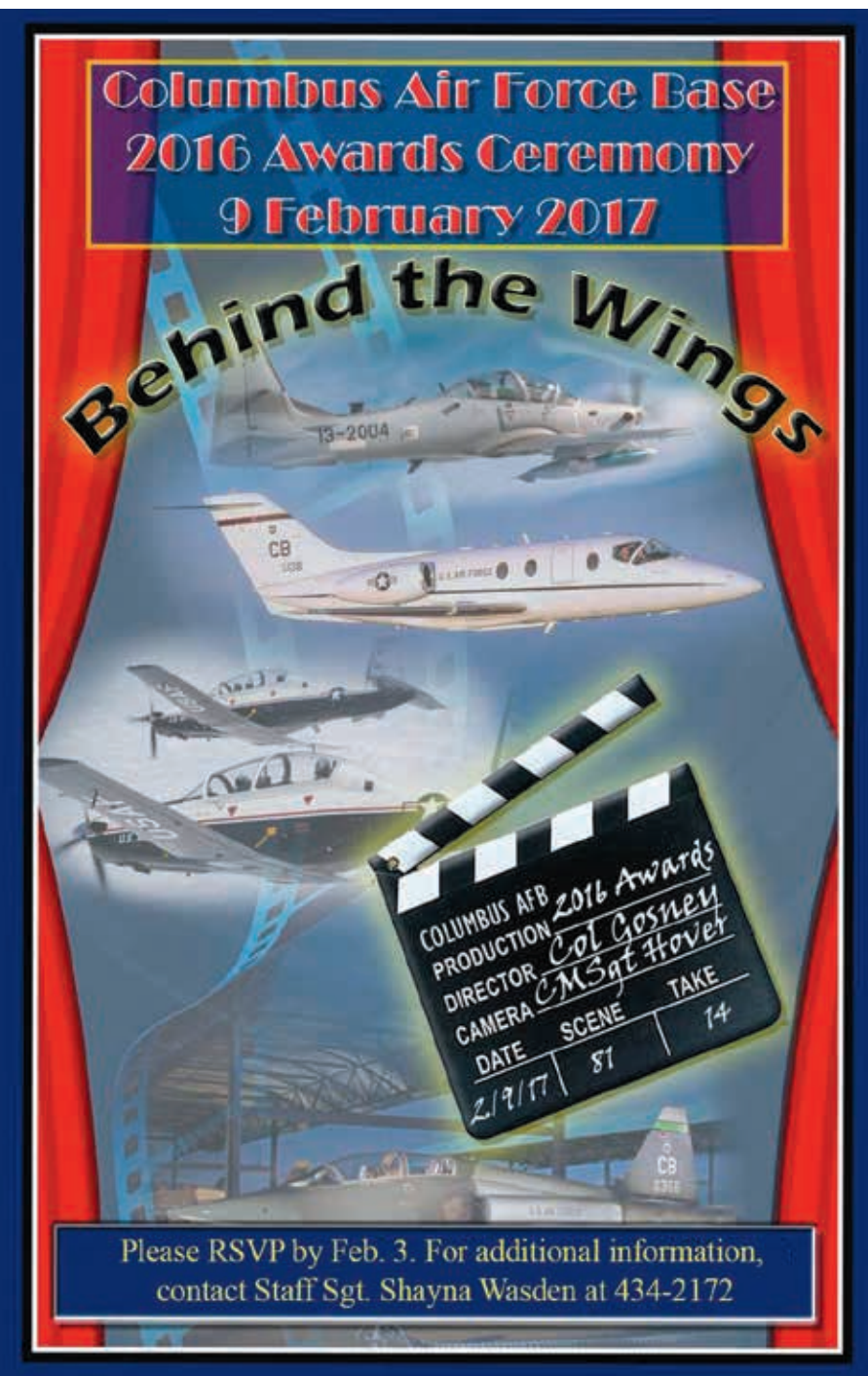
**Space A Lodging**

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

**Ride in Style**

If you don't want to leave your car at the airport over a vacation, we can help you out. Outdoor Recreation offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Call 434-2505 for more information.

**Hunt Housing tip of the week**



# Unit Effectiveness Inspection — We are ready

**Col. Douglas Gosney**  
14th Flying Training Wing Commander

Team BLAZE, as you are all aware, our Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone event begins next week from Jan. 23-30.

I am grateful for the opportunity to host our Major Command Inspector General during this week so they can see what I see each and every day.

The 14th Flying Training Wing has an outstanding team of Airmen, consisting of active duty, guard, reserve, civil service, non-appropriated fund employees, international partners, contractors, community partners, and families, doing amazing things in order to accomplish our primary mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and Feed the Fight. This team of Airmen also ensures we continue to maintain our wing vision that Columbus Air Force Base remains the premier pilot training wing and community developing the world's best Airmen.

As a reminder to those who are new to the Air Force Inspection System way of doing business, as well as to those of us who grew up under a very different system, we no longer “spin-up” for an inspection. Under the old system, wings would often prepare for several months in order to look good for a week-long inspection. That inspection system would certainly provide an assessment for how a wing was able to accomplish the mission for that one-week period, but what about the rest of the two-year cycle?

Once the polish wore off from preparing for an inspection, were those wings still ready to execute the mission? In many cases, I believe the answer was yes, in other cases, perhaps not. The new system is much improved and no longer requires, or allows, for a wing to “spin-up” for an inspection.

Under the new program, the Commander “owns” the Inspection Program, this is known as CCIP and we continually report to our MAJCOM IG on our Major Graded Areas and our



assessment of how the wing executes the mission, manages resources, improves the unit, and leads people. In other words, the MAJCOM IG has been inspecting us virtually for two years and they are simply here next week to validate and verify what we have been reporting. In addition, they are looking for undetected non-compliance.

I don't expect us to be perfect, just to strive for perfection in all we do. However, we know we will not always be 100 percent compliant in all areas at all times for a variety of valid reasons. I'm good with that, as long as we identify we are not in compliance, report it properly through the CCIP processes, and come up with a plan to get well or take risk as appropriate. In other words, I am not afraid to identify, operate, report in the “red,” I just don't want us to get comfortable and “live in the red.”

I am confident in our inspection program and the level of ownership and buy-in we have at all levels across the wing. We are blessed with passionate Airmen who work incredibly hard to execute our mission while simultaneously taking care of our Airmen and their families. We have engaged leaders who take appropriate risk as they try to strike the perfect balance between mission and people, between sometimes conflicting higher headquarters guidance, and often a lack of resources.

I am proud of Team BLAZE and look forward to watching you demonstrate to our MAJCOM IG not only how we execute our primary mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and Feed the Fight, but also demonstrate how we honor and embrace the BLAZE motto: Build Leaders, Advance Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do!

The UEI is our Super Bowl. Many coaches would be nervous as they approach their most important game of the year, but I am not worried. No team gets ready for the Super Bowl by “prepping” at the last minute, we have not either. They prepare all year long, off-season, pre-season, regular season, and post-season, and we have too. Game ready equals Super Bowl ready. Mission ready equals inspection ready.

I know we are ready. We continuously strive to improve ourselves as we execute the mission and take care of our Airmen and their families and I can't wait for Team BLAZE to prove it.





T-1A Jayhawk

# SUPT Class 17-04 earns silver wings



T-38C Talon



**Capt. Mohammed Faraj**  
Baghdad, Iraq  
F-16, Iraq



**Capt. Mohammed Hamzah**  
Baghdad, Iraq  
F-16, Iraq



**Capt. Molly Sexton**  
West Chester, Ohio  
C-146A, Duke Field, Fla.

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-04 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Col. Franz Plescha, U.S. Air Force retired, 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. Wesley Dean, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Matthew Fithian, 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. Taylor Williams, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Luke Berve, 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. Wesley Dean, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Matthew Fithian, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 17-04.

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 air-drop 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 17-04 pilot partners are Malco Theatres - Columbus Cinema and WCBI-TV.



**2nd Lt. Luke Berve**  
Prescott, Ariz.  
C-130H, Peterson AFB, Colo.



**2nd Lt. David Brown**  
Baker County, Fla.  
C-5M, Travis AFB, Calif.



**2nd Lt. Ray Chhith**  
Fort Worth, Texas  
E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Garrett Iapicco**  
Merritt Island, Fla.  
C-130J, Dyess AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Nolan Kirkwood**  
Seattle, Wash.  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



**2nd Lt. Thomas Leone**  
Rochester, N.Y.  
F-16, Tucson AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Aaron Macy**  
Wallingford, Pa.  
C-130J, Yokota AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Paul Makuszewski**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
T-6A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**2nd Lt. Harley Martin**  
Beaufort, S.C.  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



**2nd Lt. Patrick Pelletier**  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
E-8C, Robins AFB, Ga.



**2nd Lt. Steven Reyes**  
Charlotte, N.C.  
T-1A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**2nd Lt. Philip Savitsky**  
Asbury Park, N.J.  
C-130J, Dyess AFB, Texas



**2nd Lt. Tyler Starkman**  
Flemington, N.J.  
CV-22, Cannon AFB, N.M.



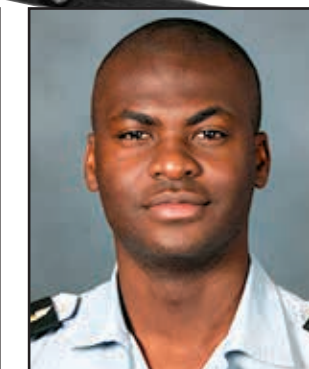
**2nd Lt. Taylor Williams**  
North Platte, Neb.  
A-10C, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**Capt. Mohamed Saleck Taya**  
Mauritania  
A-29, Mauritania



**1st Lt. Pedan Dmytro**  
Kyiv, Ukraine  
An-26, Ukraine



**1st Lt. Rolfried Braham Mombey Ntchango**  
Libreville, Gabon  
C-130H, Gabon



**2nd Lt. Wesley Dean**  
Niceville, Fla.  
F-22A, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Fithian**  
Bel Air, Md.  
C-17A, Shepherd Field ANG, W.Va.



**2nd Lt. Tyler Guss**  
Hiawasse, Ga.  
E-8C, Robins AFB, Ga.