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Weather

Friday  
  
Sunny  
High 71°F Low 52°F

Saturday  
  
Partly Cloudy  
High 86°F Low 63°F

Sunday  
  
Thunderstorms  
High 81°F Low 66°F

Monday  
  
Partly Cloudy  
High 82°F Low 63°F

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

News Briefs

Memorial Day Retreat

The 14th Flying Training Wing is hosting a formal Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony at 4 p.m. May 25 at the Gene Smith Plaza. All are invited to attend.

Memorial Day Holiday and AETC Family Day

Most base organizations are closed May 26 – 29 in observance of Memorial Day holiday and the associated Air Education and Training Command family day.

Columbus Air Force Base Triathlon

The 14th Force Support Squadron is hosting a Spring Triathlon June 3. The first heat begins at 7 a.m. at Independence Pool.

Inside



Feature 8

The 14th MDSS Lab is highlighted in this week's feature.

C O L U M B U S   A F B   T R A I N I N G   T I M E L I N E																			
P H A S E   I I				P H A S E   I I I				I F F				W I N G   S O R T I E   B O A R D							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual				
37th (18-03)	1.51 days	1.02 days	June 7	48th (17-10)	-4.20 days	-0.22 days	June 9	49th (17-HBC)	-7.86 days	-3.05 days	May 25	T-6	2,394	2,336	20,642				
41st (18-04)	2.71 days	1.61 days	June 29	50th (17-10)	2.23 days	-1.17 days	June 9	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	748	610	5,355				
The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Thomas Owens, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, New York National Guard, Latham, New York.												T-38	837	812	7,120				
												IFF	356	339	3,028				



Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, held three commander's calls May 23, 2017, in the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney's main topics included achievements earned by the base's Airmen, recent improvements to base infrastructure, upcoming events and changes in squadron, group and wing leadership.

Gosney discusses upcoming events at all call

Senior Airman John Day  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, held three all calls May 23, 2017, in the Kaye Auditorium here.

Gosney first acknowledged and presented awards Airmen assigned to Columbus AFB have recently won. He emphasized

two Air Education Training Command awards in particular, both of which garnered the 14th Flying Training Wing a total of \$70,000 to use on increasing morale.

"These are some really great accomplishments," Gosney said. "The two AETC awards have resulted in some big dollars for this wing. That money should benefit all Airmen and fami-

See GOSNEY, Page 2





# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 15 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.*

## GOSNEY

(Continued from page 1)

lies on base. We have some great MWR events planned with this money.”

The wing commander discussed the results of the Unit Effectiveness Inspection. The base was marked as effective, the second highest ranking achievable. Gosney congratulated the base for pulling together to achieve this goal and for continuing to uphold standards.

He then talked at length about upcoming and recent improvements to the base. The BLAZE Commons, Fitness Center improvements and golf course running trails were chief among these additions.

The BLAZE Commons is now open and consolidates many of the 14th Force Support Squadron functions into one area while also offering a coffee shop. The Fitness Center updates are set to begin in June, and include a renovated entrance, additional space in the weight room and more rooms for aerobics. While the Whispering Pines Golf Course has closed, the trails and cafe have not and the course will be renovated with a running track surface in the future.

“We are constantly looking at ways to give back to our Airmen,” Gosney said. “Tell us what interests you and we will do our best to accommodate and implement those ideas.”

Gosney spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day Retreat, Fireworks on the Water, the

Air Force Birthday Ball and the 2018 air show, featuring the Thunderbirds.

He spoke briefly about the recent changes in leadership, both at the base level and at the 19th Air Force level before getting to his final topic, the value of Airmen’s time.

Gosney discussed some of the changes happening Air Force-wide to give back some of the lost time including the reduction of additional duties across the squadrons and changes to Professional Military Education for both enlisted and officer Airmen.

He encouraged Airmen to bring up things needing changes.

“Where work happens in a wing is not at the group level; it is at the squadron, flight and shop levels,” Gosney said. “It’s those experts out there getting the J-O-B done every day. If we’re doing things that don’t make sense or are too taxing because of our resources, let’s figure it out and work on getting back to doing the mission in the most efficient way possible.”

His final words were of thanks and pride in the Airmen of Columbus AFB for making our mission possible.

“I will end with a thanks for what you do,” Gosney said. “The mission here is impressive, but nothing in this wing gets done without everyone doing their part. Every three weeks, we validate our mission at SUPT Graduation. I am humbled and honored to serve with you and I look forward to another great year.”

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,  
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710  
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### Editorial Staff

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14th Flying Training Wing  
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**Senior Airman John Day**  
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**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
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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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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
29 Memorial Day Holiday	30 Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club	31 STAFFEEL Visit Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club  Master sergeant promotion party, 4 p.m. @ Club  Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ AFRC	1	2	3/4 3rd: Columbus AFB Triathlon, 7 a.m. @ Pool	June 15: Enlisted Dorm Dinner June 16: 49th FTS CoC June 16: Pilot for a Day June 16: Assignment Night June 20: Wing Newcomers Orientation June 24: Columbus AFB Color Run June 29: 14th FSS CoC June 30: Enlisted Promotions July 1: Fireworks on the Water July 3-4: AETC Family Day and holiday July 6: Col. Fisher Fini-flight July 7: Col. Fisher Retirement July 13: 14th SFS CoC July 14: 14th CONS CoC
5	6	7	8 14th CPTS Change of Command, 2:14 p.m. @ Club	9 SUPT Class 17-10 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	10/11 10th & 11th: Autocross	

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## NEWS AROUND TOWN

**May 26**  
Honeyboy and Boots will hold a concert for their new CD release at 7 p.m. May 26 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

**June 12 - 17**  
Camp Rising Sun is a local YMCA summer camp for children with cancer. To apply, complete the application at [http://camprisingsun-columbusms.org/crs/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CRSday\\_20122.pdf](http://camprisingsun-columbusms.org/crs/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CRSday_20122.pdf).

## 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](mailto:silverwings@us.af.mil) or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.*

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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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Upcoming EVENTS

CPR Classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6:30 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. June classes will be held on the 5th and 19th. Call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Baptist offers FREE mammograms, thanks to a grant from the Komen Foundation, to area women who are age 35 or above, have no insurance coverage for mammograms or live in Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Clay, Monroe or Chickasaw counties. Call 244-2979 to see if you qualify.

Behavioral Health Counselor Janae Turner will discuss how nature helps mental health at Baptist Golden Triangle's free community education luncheon Tuesday, June 6, noon-1p, rooms 4 & 5 PT, near the Gift Shop. Lunch provided. Seating is limited; call 662-244-1132 to register by June 2.

Baptist Cancer Center holds a support group for cancer survivors and their families the third Friday of every month from noon-1pm. The next meeting will be held May 19th, room 5PT, past the gift shop. For information call 244-2923 or 800-544-8767, ext. 2923.

Baptist Cancer Center offers free prostate PSA screenings for men over 40. Screenings will take place every other month at the Columbus location (June 30th, August 25th and October 27th). April PSA screenings will be held from 8-11:45a and from 1-2p. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.


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

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

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

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

For more information contact the numbers listed above or email [info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org](mailto:info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org).



BAPTIST

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# Roberts gives life lesson to newest graduates

**Senior Airman John Day**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Col. Gregory Roberts, Chief, Standardization and Evaluation Division, A2/3/10 Directorate for Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Texas, visited Columbus Air Force Base May 19, 2017, to speak at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-09.

Roberts began by thanking those in attendance for coming out to witness the graduation of 21 new pilots.

“Thank you to Col. (Douglas) Gosney and Col. (Stan) Lawrie for inviting me,” Roberts said. “I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak at this pilot graduation on the 22nd anniversary of my own graduation from UPT. You truly honor me.”

He spoke to the graduates about their year in pilot training, what it took to get there and what they would be doing in the near future.

“Just like Colonel Gosney was saying, each of you are one in 14,000 people to be-



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Col. Gregory Roberts, Chief, Standardization and Evaluation Division, A2/3/10 Directorate for Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, Texas, speaks at the graduation of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-09 May 19, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Roberts emphasized the phrase, Prioritize, Aviate, Navigate and Communicate as the keys to success in flying and in life.**

come pilots in the United States Air Force,” Roberts said. “None of you would be here if you did not have what it takes.”

Roberts then told a story about rescuing the crew and passengers of a downed MC-130H Combat Talon II. As his crew was pick-

ing up the evacuees, he realized with the added weight, the helicopter would not take off. The problem was cleverly solved by dumping a significant portion of fuel in order to take off, then being refueled by a tanker for the flight back home.

To overcome this adversity and make the mission a success, he used a phrase taught to him by his own instructor pilot many years prior.

“Prioritize, Aviate, Navigate and Communicate; doing those things saved my life that day in Afghanistan,” Roberts said. “That phrase is just as applicable in all things we do in life, not just in flying.”

Roberts emphasized the importance of others. He told the graduates to enjoy their day of recognition and then thank those who allowed them to graduate.

“We are all in this together,” Roberts said. “Family plays just as big of role as anyone else. Without them, you would not be graduating today.”

Roberts thanked the audience one last time before ending his speech.

“I offer again my final congratulations to Class 17-09,” Roberts said.

## Master sergeant selects

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates its master sergeant selects!

The selected technical sergeants are:

**Jordan Boothe**, 14th Operations Support Squadron

**Kevin Bupp**, 81st Fighter Squadron

**Brad Hardeggerjansevics**, 81st FS

**Steve Hickenbottom**, 81st FS

**Latoria Mathis-Hebert**, 14th Medical Group

**Emanuel McBride**, 81st FS

**Damon Snead**, 14th OSS

**Nathan Sullivan**, 14th Security Forces Squadron

**Thomas Warner**, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Jamerson Watts**, 14th OSS

**Dustin Weeks**, 14th SFS

## Professional Organization Corner

**5/6:**  
Monthly meeting, noon May 31 @ Club

**CGOC:**  
Monthly meeting, 11 a.m. June 2 @ Club

**AFSA:**  
Monthly meeting, 11 a.m. June 15 @ Club

# Track Select

2nd Lt. Logan Braadt	T-38
Capt. Kristen Broullire	T-1
1st Lt. David Carr	T-1
2nd Lt. Staci Colbacchini	T-1
2nd Lt. Jeffrey Colon	T-1
2nd Lt. Robert Dana	T-1
1st Lt. Liana Gaudreault	T-1
Capt. Raymond Gutierrez	T-1
2nd Lt. Stephen Keisler	T-38
2nd Lt. LeRoy Keller	T-38
2nd Lt. Hans Kollar	T-38
2nd Lt. Veronica Morthorpe	T-1
2nd Lt. Justin Norman	T-1
2nd Lt. Patricia Pasque	T-1
2nd Lt. Jordan Rogers	T-1
Capt. Derek Romanyk	Helo
2nd Lt. John Rowan	T-38
2nd Lt. Cassandra Stimpson	T-38
2nd Lt. Andrew Ter Haar	T-1
2nd Lt. Jonathan Vaughan	T-1
2nd Lt. Jacob Wulfson	T-38



### Dubisher Award

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# 18-02



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# Enlisted Airmen advance themselves with CCAF degrees

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Fifty-five Airmen graduated from the Community College of the Air Force during a ceremony here May 18, 2017.

Master Sgt. Carmina Beedle, 14th Operations Support Squadron Superintendent, was the master of ceremonies and thanked the friends and family for attending after the national anthem and the invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Tara Dixon.

Beedle read the history of the CCAF and told the audience how it has 300,000 Airmen enrolled in the program, the largest community college in the U.S.

Senior Master Sgt. Wade Steinback, 14th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Authority Superintendent, was the keynote speaker at the graduation and gave the graduates a few pieces of advice to take with them as they progress through the ranks.

Steinback first recognized how much effort the Airmen have put in.

"It is encouraging to see that you took the time out of your busy lives to better yourselves," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Dublin  
**Twenty-one Columbus enlisted Airmen graduate from the Community College of the Air Force May 18, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Each enlisted Airman has the opportunity to earn an associate's degree that coincides with their career field, such as someone in Security Forces getting a criminal justice degree.**

The first word of advice was short, but covered an important part of juggling work and school.

"You've got to make time to have time," Steinback said. "If you don't make time, you'll never have the time for it."

The second word of advice was to continue to further their education. Steinback said to not take breaks between classes or degrees. He said if they stop, they will fall into a rut of putting it off.

"Take this and enjoy it for the moment," Steinback said, "then come up with a plan for what you're going to do next."

The final word of advice was to appreciate what you have learned from the degree. He said the small skills like PowerPoint will serve them as they rank up. Not only did they learn from their technical school, Career Development Courses and on-the-job training, but their degrees taught them advanced math, science and English skills which will unknowingly help them later on.

After Steinback's speech, Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, said a few words to the graduates.

"This is a super important milestone in your career and today we get to recognize that second tenant of our mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight," Gosney said. "You have taken the advantage of a tremendous opportunity afforded to you by the Air Force to better yourself personally and professionally."

## Kimes welcomed at chief recognition ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**Senior Master Sgt. Gary Kimes stands with multiple chief master sergeants at the Chief Master Sergeant Recognition Ceremony May 20, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Chief Master Sergeant Jimmie McNeely, retired, (right) was passing through Columbus AFB when he heard about the Chief Recognition Ceremony and attended the ceremony. McNeely retired in 1968 after serving for 22 years and was among the first chiefs to enter the Air Force. The rank of Chief is granted to only one percent of the enlisted force of the Air Force.**

### Hunt Housing tip of the week



Residents, occupants and their guests are required to abide by all traffic regulations set forth on the installation and within the residential community. Speed limits within the community are limited to 15 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted and will be strictly enforced.


### 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.



# Dragon Lady makes historic appearance at Northern Edge

**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schultz**  
9th Reconnaissance Wing  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Looking across the flightline at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during previous Northern Edge exercises you would have seen a mass of gray and white aircraft, but this year the distinctly black U-2S Dragon Lady from Beale Air Force Base, California, made its presence known for the first time at Northern Edge, and showcased the unique capabilities it can bring to the joint fight.

Northern Edge, which took place from May 1-12, is Alaska's premier joint training exercise, hosting about 6,000 service members, 200 fixed wing aircraft and maritime forces represented by every branch of the military. The focus of the exercise is on interoperability and takes place throughout the state and surrounding waterways.

The two-week exercise was utilized by the 9th Reconnaissance Wing to test new experimental technology on the U-2S. This technology fully integrated the U-2S with fourth- and fifth-generation aircraft.

"It's a big stepping stone for us; it's the first year the U-2 has participated in Northern Edge. The fact that we have forward deployed to Alaska, we've taken over 130 personnel from the [9th RW] and deployed them out to JBER is an achievement," said Maj. Dustin, the 99th Reconnaissance Squadron's wing tactics office weapons school development branch chief.

The diverse team of Airmen and civilians that the 9th RW sent to Northern Edge 17



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schultz  
**A U-2S Dragon Lady takes off during exercise Northern Edge 17, May 8, 2017. The U-2S participated for the first time in Northern Edge, a joint training exercise focused on interoperability and hosted about 6,000 service members, 200 fixed-wing aircraft and provided the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard with critical training.**

worked closely to accomplish the mission at JB Elmendorf-Richardson.

"The comradery with everyone has been great, all of us working together to get the mission done, and it has gone really smoothly," said Staff Sgt. David Labarge, a 9th Physiological Support Squadron full pressure suit

technician supervisor. "It was very rewarding to be a part of the crew that launched the first jet from here in 30 years."

Operating the U-2 program away from home and in a temporary environment brought about unique challenges in contrast to being back at Beale AFB.

"There are several differences for PSPTS; we are working out of a smaller shop, we only have three Airmen deployed here," Labarge said. "We are also working hand in hand with maintenance closer than we normally do back at Beale."

Those in support of the U-2S spent a total of four weeks at JB Elmendorf-Richardson including two weeks of preparation and two weeks of active flying during the exercise and for the team the benefits of participating are clear.

"The benefits of coming to Northern Edge are twofold, it allows us to exercise our ability to forward deploy to other locations. Most importantly it allows the U-2 to demonstrate new advanced technology that is coming out, such as sensor and communication packages," Dustin said. "This environment will allow the U-2 to advance into the future."

The experience gained and technology tested at this large joint exercise is indispensable and will help carry the U-2S forward.

"We frequently fly exercises out of Beale, in the future we are looking to take the U-2 to other locations to participate in more exercises after this successful run at Northern Edge," said Maj. Brian, the Detachment 2, 53rd Test and Evaluation Group director of operations for U-2 and RQ-4 Global Hawk operational tests. "By merging test development, operational test and experimental technologies, we are looking at opportunities to advance the U-2 program in both the near term as well as the next 2-5 years. By doing all three of those things we are encompassing the entire spectrum of the future of the U-2."

# AF proposes 1,600 personnel increase to command support staffs

**Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson**  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force plans to increase commander support staff manning across the force by 1,600 by fiscal year 2022 increasing total authorizations to more than 6,300.

Currently, the personnel increase calls for 170 officers, 469 enlisted and 961 civilians with all civilian hires authorized for fiscal 2018.

The increase in CSS manning ties directly to the Air Force chief of staff's first focus area -- revitalizing squadrons. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein announced this focus area within the first month of his tenure, and appointed Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Davis, the director of Air Force manpower, organization and resources, as lead of this initiative.

"Squadrons are the core unit of the Air Force," Davis said. "We must ensure they have the support required to accomplish the mission and support their Airmen. This is one step of many we plan to take to help revitalize Air Force squadrons."

One of the first milestones of revitalizing squadrons was the reduction of additional duties for Airmen across the Air Force. A comprehensive review of duties under the direct control of the Air Force resulted in the elimination, reassignment, or reduction of 29 of 61 additional duties identified under Air Force Instruction 38-206, "Additional Duty Management."

While this lessened the workload for the majority of Airmen within the service, many of the duties were realigned under CSS. In August 2016 the Air Force committed to ensuring CSS requirements are funded and positions filled as quickly as possible within budget limits.

The new positions will be prioritized by need across the Air Force. Some of the more than 1,975 active-duty squadrons are already fully manned while others are minimally manned. The Air Force will work with major commands to assess areas of greatest need and prioritize manning.

Davis said the manning increase is key to re-establishing the CSS to full capability. "The CSS provides critical support to the squadron, but not all of these positions were fully funded in the past," Davis said. "We're fixing that and will also add new positions to increase the level of CSS support for many squadrons. Fully funding the increased CSS requirement is a key element in revitalizing Air Force squadrons."



**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.

**Pool Luau Party**  
Independence Pool will open this year with a Luau Party at 4 p.m. May 26. The buffet will serve smoked pork, chicken, pineapple rice and more. Prices for this day will be \$14 Club members and \$16 nonmembers. Call 4343-2489 for information.

**Funnel Cakes**  
Celebrate National Donut Day June 2 with funnel cakes at the Bowling Center for \$5 each while supplies last. For more information, call 434-3426.

**Base Triathlon**  
Columbus AFB will hold a Swim, Bike & Run Triathlon June 3. Check-in is 6 – 6:45 a.m. and the first heat starts at 7 a.m. This event is free to participate. Prices are as follows: \$15 for a T-shirt and medal, \$9 for a T-shirt, \$6 for a medal. All ages are welcome including children. Call the Fitness Center at 434-2772 for more information.

**Ladies Bowling League**  
The Bowling Center is offering a ladies bowling league starting at 10 a.m. June 8. The 8-week league will occur every Thursday. The first league meeting will be June 1. Call 434-3426 for more information.

**Penny-A-Pin Bowling**  
Enjoy penny per pin bowling at the Bowling Center June 12 - 16. Only pay for the pins you knock down. For example, if you play 3 games and score a 364, then you only pay \$3.64. Excludes shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

**Library Summer Reading Program**  
The Library Summer Reading Program begins June 15. Please see the Library for the schedule of activities.

**Dads Bowl Free**  
All fathers bowl free at the Bowling Center June 17 in honor of Father's Day. Call 434-3426 for more information.

**Daddy, Daughter Dance**  
There will be a Daddy, Daughter Dance 6 p.m. June 17 at the Columbus Event Center. Prices are \$30 per couple and \$12 for an additional daughter. Sign up by June 12. There will be games, music, food and a photo booth. Call 434-2489 for more information.

**Breakfast at the Club**  
The Columbus Club will host a free breakfast for club members from 6:30 a.m. – 9 a.m June 20. Breakfast includes classic breakfast choices and a waffle station.

**A Night of Elegance: Wine Tasting Poolside**  
Join the Columbus Club for a night of wine tasting, finger foods and live music 7 p.m. June 23. Prices are \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members. Call 434-2489 to sign-up.

**Color Run**  
The 5th Annual Columbus AFB 5K Color Run will take place at 8:30 a.m. June 24. Only \$10 per person. Register by June 19. Call 434-2504 for more information.



**Coffee House on 5th now open at the BLAZE Commons**  
The Blaze Commons Coffee House on 5th is open from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday – Friday and serves coffee items, smoothies, breakfast and lunch items. Drive-thru service available as well as call ahead. 434-CAFÉ (2233). The commons also houses the Library, an ITT and ODR kiosk, a computer lab, and FedEx drop-off point.

**Columbus AFB Cinema**  
Enjoy free movies on select dates through May and June. Pick up a movie guide with movie schedule, times and locations at any FSS facility or check it out on Facebook at ColumbusAFB Living.

**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 call 434-2479 for more information.

**The Overrun Open Friday Nights**  
The Overrun is open Fridays from 4:30 p.m. - midnight. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap, or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, call 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 3:30 p.m. for ages up to 4 years old. For more information, call 434-2934.

**Laser Bowling Special**  
The Bowling Center offers Laser 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, call 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.

**Wood Shop**  
The wood shop is now open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**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, call 434-2507.

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

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

**Skeet & Trap**  
Skeet and trap is available at Outdoor Recreation. Call 434-2507 for more information.

**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, call 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, call 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.

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

**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, call 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.

# What's in your disaster kit?

## Commissaries offer savings on emergency supplies

**Kevin L. Robinson**  
DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – These days, Mother Nature can quickly flip the switch from a calm, sunny day to 150 mph spiraling winds, torrential rain and raging flood waters. To prepare for nature's unexpected fury, the Defense Commissary Agency encourages its patrons to use their benefit for emergency supplies.

"Last year we saw firsthand how a major storm can destabilize communities when Hurricane Matthew flooded roads, cut power and shut down stores," said Tracie Russ, DeCA director of sales. "Each year, our industry partners help us offer tremendous savings on many of the items our patrons need to be ready for an emergency – natural or manmade."

DeCA's severe weather promotional package includes discounts on the following items: beef jerky and other assorted meat snacks, soup and chili mixes, canned goods, powdered milk, cereals, batteries, airtight bags, weather-ready flashlights, tape (all-weather, heavy-duty shipping and duct), first aid kits, lighters, matches, lanterns, candles, hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes. Specific items may vary from store to store.

The North Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30 and covers the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Tornado season is April to July. The latest forecasts for the 2017 hurricane season call for fewer storms than last year.

The Weather Channel reported the Colorado State University forecast (<https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2017-hurricane-season-forecast-atlantic-colorado-state>) of 11 named storms, four of which will be hurricanes with two of the hurricanes potentially being category 3 or higher. Accuweather's forecast (<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/2017-atlantic-hurricane-forecast-possible-el-nino-to-limit-development-of-storms/70001271>) is similar, predicting 10 named storms, five of which will be hurricanes with three being major hurricanes. The numbers may differ, but all meteorologists agree it only takes one storm to cause a disaster.

Last year, that disaster was Hurricane Matthew, Oct. 3-19, which spurred destructive winds and freshwater flooding from northeast Florida to coastal Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia. Of

the 48 deaths attributed to this storm, 26 were in North Carolina. Many people were stranded in place as several major highways were closed due to flooding.

Be it hurricane, tornado or a manmade event, emergency preparedness officials suggest having a disaster supply kit that includes the following items:

- Water – at least one gallon daily, per person (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Nonperishable foods – canned meats, fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nuts, raisins, cereal, crackers, cookies, energy bars, granola, peanut butter, and foods for infants and the elderly (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Paper goods – writing paper, paper plates, paper towels and toilet paper
- Cooking items – pots, pans, baking sheets, cooking utensils, charcoal, a grill and a manual can opener
- First-aid kit – including bandages, medicines and prescription medications
- Cleaning materials – bleach, sanitizing spray, and hand and laundry soap
- Specialty foods – diet and low-calorie foods and drinks
- Toiletries – personal hygiene items and moisture wipes
- Pet care items – food, water, muzzle, leash, carrier, medications, medical records, and identification and immunization tags
- Lighting accessories – flashlight, batteries, candles and matches
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Duct tape, scissors
- Multipurpose tool
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates and insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Maps of the area
- Blankets or sleeping bags

For more information about disaster preparedness, go to [https://www.commissaries.com/disaster\\_prep.cfm](https://www.commissaries.com/disaster_prep.cfm) for lists of resources.

# Club membership program changes have arrived

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The Air Force club membership program will change by disbanding the club credit card system and switching to an electronic membership program in June 2017.

The new program allows members to access the Air Force Club Member Portal, which lets them access club events in real-time.

When asked to present proof of membership, members can now use mobile devices through the MemberPlant App that is available on the App Store and Google Play.

"There is no physical card anymore," said Charleigh "Dow" Ford, Columbus Club Manager. "The vision is to use the PDF (that was sent to your phone). When someone asks to see your mem-

bership you can pull out your phone." However if a member doesn't want to use their mobile device, they can print proof of membership themselves or from their local club.

The change in membership is mainly due to complaints about the credit card system. Not all people despise the system, however most feel like it is another way to affect their credit score.

"People are less inclined to go with a credit card or credit based program," Ford said. "In the last year, all that I heard was 'I don't want another credit card.'"

Membership dues are still the same, however the new program now charges all members on the 15th of every month instead of each member being charged at a different date. Existing members will be contacted in June and given the option to keep or cancel their credit card.

# Life as an islander

**Airman Nathaniel Chargualaf**  
14th Security Force Squadron  
Installation Entry Controller

I was born and raised on the beautiful island of Guam and moved to North Carolina when I was 14.

I really enjoyed my life on Guam, especially going to the beach.

Since it is such a small island, you are never more than 10 minutes from the beach wherever you may be. While you're out there, you can enjoy snorkeling, rod and reel, net or spear fishing (my favorite) or just relax and have a barbeque. What I miss most about the island is the family lifestyle and how close everyone is to one another.

There are many eating establishments spread throughout the island, so there is no problem finding a place to enjoy the local cuisines and hospitality. Coming to the United States was a big culture shock in the aspect. I quickly learned that many people didn't know Guam existed, so it was a great opportunity for me to share my culture as well as learn others.



On the other hand, in my short time being in the military, I have ran into many people who have been stationed on Anderson Air Force Base or Naval Base Guam and they've told me of their great experiences while being stationed there.

That's why I am very excited about the upcoming Asian Pacific Islanders Month Event. It's another wonderful opportunity to share all types of Asian Pacific Islander cultures. It's a luau at the club on May 26, so spread the word and we hope to see you there!



# Defenders honor 2017 Police Week



Courtesy photo by Deanna Robinson  
**Military Working Dog Dito lunges at Staff Sgt. Matthew Price, 14th Security Forces Squadron Kennel Master, following a retirement ceremony May 17, 2017, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. At the conclusion of the ceremony, there was a small demo of the capabilities of MWDs.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**The 14th Security Forces Squadron salutes the flag during a retreat ceremony May 19, 2017, at the Gene Smith Plaza on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The retreat ceremony was one of the last events of the 2017 Police Week.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens  
**Staff Sgt. Anthony Parsons, 14th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Instructor, pays tribute to fallen Defenders at a ceremony May 18, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The presentation included a soldier's cross, a memorial used to represent fallen service members.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day  
**The 14th Security Forces Squadron salutes the flag during a retreat ceremony May 19, 2017, at the Gene Smith Plaza on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Police Week honors law enforcement officers across the nation.**

## Air Force Readiness Programs

*(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)*

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is from 8 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. May 30 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register call 434-2790.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop from 1 - 2 p.m. May 30 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.

### Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program from 5 - 7 p.m. May 31 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.

### Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class takes place from 10 - 11:30 a.m. June 6. 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.

### Resume and Cover Letter

The Resume and Cover letter workshop is from 9 – 10:30 a.m. June 7. The workshop helps with preparing and writing an effective civilian resume and cover letter. To sign up, call 434-2839/2790.

### Pre-separation Counseling

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

### Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

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

### Survivor-Benefit Plan

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

### Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (both single and married), their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments,



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

### Volunteer Opportunities

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

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

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

### Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact Delores 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 Staff Sgt. Julianna White at DSN 742-2715.

### Saint Leo University

SLU offers on-base classes in psychology, criminal justice, and business administration. Online and CD-ROM classes are also available. Call Saint Leo at 434-8844 (dial 99 on-base) or stop by room 120 in building 926 (old Personnel building).

### IDEA Program

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness is looking for submissions of individual, group, or team ideas about how the Air Force can accomplish something more efficiently. Cash rewards for ideas are possible. Visit <https://ipds.randolph.af.mil> or call 434-2388.

### MPS Training Dates

The Military Personnel Section in building 730 holds in-house training on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during night flying weeks. They will offer appointments only on these days to accommodate this necessary training. If you have any questions, call 434-2611.

### Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held at 1 p.m. every Wednesday, Airman & Family Readiness Center. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

## 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



# Acceptable Merge Ratio

**Lt. Col. Joseph Dietz**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Chief of Safety

Dwight Eisenhower once said, “What is important is seldom urgent and what is urgent is seldom important.”

The problem is too often, we focus on things that are or seem urgent, but are not important. As a result, we waste our time and effort dealing with tasks that don’t contribute to long-term mission success because they are urgent. As a result, we do not address things that are important and contribute to our long term-mission success, because they are not as urgent. This focus on urgent but not important tasks over important but not urgent tasks skews our view of mission success. This skewed mission success view then changes what we perceive as acceptable risks.

In the Combat Air Forces, the term Acceptable Merge Ratio is used to describe how many adversary aircraft a friendly formation is willing to meet in a visual engagement. The number changes based on the mission objectives, phase of the mission and capabilities of the forces involved.

In short, when defending or attacking a high value target, a flight lead may be more willing to “buy a merge” with more adversaries in order to achieve mission success. The problem of sorting out which adversaries to engage when, where and how is a complex matrix of decisions that could result in mission failure when done poorly.

As a result, flight leads determine the Acceptable Merge Ratio during planning. This one G and zero knots pre-decision helps make risk acceptance decisions during a complex aerial engagement more automatic. Because the complex scenarios have already been mentally rehearsed, the flight lead can prioritize the urgent and important risks over all others.

If we meld these two concepts together and frame our outcomes based on our organizations or even personal mission or goals, we can more readily determine what problems to tackle when and what risks are acceptable to take. If we can do this in a pre-decisional or “mission planning” mode the likely hood of correctly prioritizing tasks and risks in the heat of the moment becomes easier.

So whether you are thinking about hitting the lake on a Saturday or you just took over as the wing commander, divide tasks into these four areas:

1. **Important and Urgent:** These things are critical to mission success and must be addressed now.

2. **Important but not Urgent:** Critical to success. Long term strategy is critical here.

3. **Not Important but Urgent:** This is the trap! You will waste critical time and resources here. Move these off your agenda as quickly as possible.

4. **Not Important and Not Urgent:** Save it for a rainy day...or maybe never.

With risks, you can divide those into four categories too:

1. **Likely and Catastrophic:** The Worst Case Scenario! Risks that will cause harm and failure and are very likely to befall you. These must be mitigated aggressively.

2. **Likely but Harmless:** Everyday nuisances that cause no lasting damage but still may need to be addressed.

3. **Unlikely but Catastrophic:** Don’t spend a lot of time preparing for this scenario, but do keep it in the back of your mind. These are scenarios that cause a great deal of fear but are so unlikely that it is unrealistic to address them completely. Preparing for Likely and Catastrophic will generally cover these scenarios too.

4. **Unlikely and Harmless:** Don’t even waste your time here.

The 16 different combinations serve as a guide of where to spend resources. On one end of the spectrum are Important and Urgent tasks with Likely and Catastrophic risks. Spend time and resources here as quickly and aggressively as possible. These are immediate threats to your mission’s success. On the opposite end of the spectrum are Not Important, Not Urgent, Unlikely and Harmless things. These are areas you can take risks in. Programs or activities that fall into this area can be delayed or even discarded all together.

As Air Force organizations and individuals we are limited in our resources; time, money, people and things. By doing making some pre-decisions about what risks are worth mission success and which tasks need to be addressed urgently. We are able choose wisely where “buy a merge” with those resources.

Ready to travel back in time?

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE CHAPEL PRESENTS

Groups

ROME


Paul and the Underground Church

Vacation Bible School  
Ages 5-12  
Volunteers Needed:  
- Crew Leaders: 18 yrs and older  
- Assistant Crew Leaders: 12 yrs and older  
- Child Care is available for volunteers' infants/toddlers  
June 5th-8th 0900-1200

Volunteers Needed  
Information & Registration  
CALL: 434-2500

Bus Schedule

1. Magnolia 1	8:05
2. Magnolia 2	8:10
3. Magnolia 3	8:15
4. Magnolia 4	8:20
5. State 1	8:25
6. State 2	8:30
7. State 3	8:35
8. Capitol 1	8:40
9. Capitol 2	8:45
10. Youth Center	8:50



Be safe on the water,  
wear a life preserver

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: U-2S Dragon Lady

## Mission

The U-2S Dragon Lady provides high-altitude, all-weather surveillance and reconnaissance, day or night, in direct support of U.S. and allied forces. It delivers critical imagery and signals intelligence to decision makers throughout all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, low-intensity conflict, and large-scale hostilities.

## Features

The U-2S is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Long and narrow wings give the U-2 glider-like characteristics and allow it to quickly lift heavy sensor payloads to unmatched altitudes, keeping them there for extended periods of time. The U-2 is capable of gathering a variety of imagery, including multi-spectral electro-optic, infrared, and synthetic aperture radar products which can be stored or sent to ground exploitation centers. In addition, it also supports high-resolution, broad-area synoptic coverage provided by the optical bar camera producing traditional film products which are developed and analyzed after landing.

The U-2 also carries a signals intelligence payload. All intelligence products except for wet film can be transmitted in near real-time anywhere in the world via air-to-ground or air-to-satellite data links, rapidly providing critical information to combatant commanders. MASINT provides indications of recent activity in areas of interest and reveals efforts to conceal the placement or true nature of man-made objects.

Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts. The low-altitude handling characteristics of the aircraft and bicycle-type landing gear require precise control inputs during landing; forward visibility is also limited due to the extended aircraft nose and “taildragger” configura-

tion. A second U-2 pilot normally “chases” each landing in a high-performance vehicle, assisting the pilot by providing radio inputs for altitude and runway alignment. These characteristics combine to earn the U-2 a widely accepted title as the most difficult aircraft in the world to fly.

The U-2 is powered by a lightweight, fuel efficient General Electric F118-101 engine, which negates the need for air refueling on long duration missions. The U-2S Block 10 electrical system upgrade replaced legacy wiring with advanced fiber-optic technology and lowered the overall electronic noise signature to provide a quieter platform for the newest generation of sensors.

The aircraft has the following sensor packages: electro-optical infrared camera, optical bar camera, advanced synthetic aperture radar, signals intelligence, and network-centric communication.

A U-2 Reliability and Maintainability Program provided a complete redesign of the cockpit with digital color multi-function displays and up-front avionics controls to replace the 1960s-vintage round dial gauges which were no longer supportable.

## Background

Built in complete secrecy by Kelly Johnson and the Lockheed Skunk Works, the original U-2A first flew in August 1955. Early flights over the Soviet Union in the late 1950s provided the president and other U.S. decision makers with key intelligence on Soviet military capability. In October 1962, the U-2 photographed the buildup of Soviet offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba, touching off the Cuban Missile Crisis. In more recent times, the U-2 has provided intelligence during operations in Korea, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. When requested, the U-2 also provides peacetime reconnaissance in support of disaster relief from floods, earthquakes, and forest fires as well as search and rescue operations.

The U-2R, first flown in 1967, was 40 percent larger and

more capable than the original aircraft. A tactical reconnaissance version, the TR-1A, first flew in August 1981 and was structurally identical to the U-2R. The last U-2 and TR-1 aircraft were delivered in October 1989; in 1992 all TR-1s and U-2s were designated as U-2Rs. Since 1994, \$1.7 billion has been invested to modernize the U-2 airframe and sensors. These upgrades also included the transition to the GE F118-101 engine which resulted in the re-designation of all Air Force U-2 aircraft to the U-2S.

U-2s are home based at the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, California, but are rotated to operational detachments worldwide. U-2 pilots are trained at Beale using five two-seat aircraft designated as TU-2S before deploying for operational missions.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** high-altitude reconnaissance  
**Contractor:** Lockheed Martin Aeronautics  
**Power plant:** one General Electric F118-101 engine  
**Thrust:** 17,000 pounds  
**Wingspan:** 105 feet (32 meters)  
**Length:** 63 feet (19.2 meters)  
**Height:** 16 feet (4.8 meters)  
**Weight:** 16,000 pounds  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** 40,000 pounds (18,000 kilograms)  
**Fuel capacity:** 2,950 gallons  
**Payload:** 5,000 pounds  
**Speed:** 410 mph  
**Range:** more than 7,000 miles (6,090 nautical miles)  
**Ceiling:** above 70,000 feet (21,212+ meters)  
**Crew:** one (two in trainer models)  
**Unit cost:** classified  
**Initial operating capability:** 1956  
**Inventory:** active force, 33 (5 two-seat trainers and two ER-2s operated by NASA); Reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds

The U-2S Dragon Lady aircraft provides continuous day or night, high-altitude, all-weather, stand-off surveillance of an area in direct support of U.S. and allied ground and air forces. It provides critical intelligence to decision makers through all phases of conflict, including peacetime indications and warnings, crises, low-intensity conflict and large-scale hostilities.



U.S. Air Force photo

The U-2S Dragon Lady aircraft is a single-seat, single-engine, high-altitude/near space reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft providing signals, imagery, and electronic measurements and signature intelligence, or MASINT. Routinely flown at altitudes over 70,000 feet, the U-2 pilot must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts.



# Kortiz Clinic Laboratory keeps Airmen healthy

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

It is inevitable Airmen will sometimes get sick.

When they do, the 14th Medical Support Squadron's Laboratory Flight is responsible for identifying what illness is stopping Team BLAZE from Producing Pilots, Advancing Airmen and Feeding the Fight.

The mission of the Lab Flight is to ensure the 14th Flying Training Wing's Airmen are healthy and able to work by providing doctors with accurate tests including bloodwork and urinalysis.

"As most missions, ours is supporting the pilots from a readiness standpoint," said Tech. Sgt. Holly Lindsey, Laboratory Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. "We also help doctors determine if a flyer is fit to fly."

The lab uses a variety of technology to analyze samples, such as a chemical analyzer, which helps doctors see if there are heightened or lowered levels of chemicals in a test.



Although the lab has special equipment, they still use outside resources such as LabCorp to ensure cor-

rect and accurate results. They also use bigger bases' medical facilities.

"LabCorp is our local civilian lab," Lindsey said. "We have a courier who picks up samples daily which has multiple facilities."

Even with this equipment, lab technicians have to be highly trained and skilled at their craft.

"You have to be a good multitasker and attention to detail is huge," Lindsey said. "Sometimes we have to enter the results manually. For example a 10 and a 100 can be the difference between a normal result and a critical result."

The Laboratory Flight plays a key role in the health care for Team BLAZE Airmen. For example, they conducted 28,000 tests in 2016, an average of 76 test per day.

Even though needles might not be a person's best friend, the 14th MDSS Laboratory Flight will continue to keep Columbus Airmen, their families and all other BLAZE members healthy.



Second Lt. Patrick Finn, 14th Student Squadron Student Pilot, prepares to give a blood sample May 22, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The lab technicians do their best to keep patients calm and relaxed while taking blood samples.



Senior Airman Lisa Jackson, 14th Medical Support Squadron Laboratory Technician, draws blood from 2nd Lt. Patrick Finn, 14th Student Squadron Student Pilot, May 22, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Lab technicians must be good multitaskers and have great attention to detail to provide accurate results for their patients.



Senior Airman Lisa Jackson, 14th Medical Support Squadron Laboratory Technician, reads the results from a chemical analyzer May 22, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Although the lab has special equipment, they still use outside resources such as LabCorp, a local civilian lab, to ensure correct and accurate results.

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert