

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 22

June 9, 2017

Weather

| | |
|--|--|
| Friday Sunny High 80°F Low 60°F | Saturday Sunny High 83°F Low 62°F |
| Sunday Partly Cloudy High 87°F Low 66°F | Monday Cloudy High 89°F Low 70°F |

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Enlisted Dorm Dinner

A Dorm Dinner for enlisted Airmen living in the dorms is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. June 15 at the Montgomery Village.

49th Fighter Training Squadron Change of Command

The 49th Fighter Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony at 8:49 a.m. June 16 at the Fire Station.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. June 20 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

Inside



Feature 8

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



The hero shots of retired Maj. Ernest Curtis “Curt” Hughes, retired Lt. Col. Curtis “Custis” Hughes and 2nd Lt. Curtis Hunter Hughes, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-10 graduate, are displayed proudly by the Hughes family. Hunter’s graduation June 9, 2017, makes him the third in a family of fighter pilots.

Third generation pilot graduates at CAFB

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

When one SUPT Class 17-10 graduate pins on his Air Force wings, June 9, 2017, he will become the third generation of Air Force fighter pilots.

Second Lt. Curtis Hunter Hughes is following in the foot-

steps of his father, and his grandfather before him.

Hunter grew up in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Colorado State University in 2013.

“I grew up in an Air Force environment,” Hunter said. “It

See HUGHES, 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 (18-05) | 0.07 days | 0.17 days | July 17 | 48th (17-11) | -2.38 days | -1.43 days | June 30 | 49th (17-IBC) | -8.50 days | -6.32 days | June 22 | T-6 | 695 | 396 | 21,499 |
| 41st (18-04) | 1.74 days | 0.77 days | June 29 | 50th (17-11) | 0.29 days | -4.11 days | June 30 | * Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling. | | | | T-1 | 215 | 175 | 5,673 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | T-38 | 235 | 195 | 7,466 |
| The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. Thomas Owens, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, New York National Guard, Latham, New York. | | | | | | | | | | | | IFF | 105 | 55 | 3,155 |

MARVIN'S
June 10, 2017 7:00 - 11:00 AM

SAVE 40%
3/\$6.00

.5 cu. ft.
Assorted
Landscape Rock
(774422) (242776)
(242891)

SAVE 25%
\$2.85 Each
3" x 5" x 8' Pressure Treated
Landscape Timbers
(4598) Was \$3.97

SAVE 10%
\$1.29 Each
5/8" x 6" x 6'
Pressure Treated
Dog Eared
Fence Boards
(16667) Was \$1.49

SATURDAY MORNING SPECIALS
Starting at: 7:00 am

Web Exclusive Coupon!
Sign up for our weekly web exclusive coupon at www.marvins.com

Price **\$18.99**
Mail-In Rebate **-\$5.00**
Instant Savings **-\$3.00**

\$10.99

1.33-Gal. Pump'N Go™2
Weed & Grass Killer
Rainproof in 10 minutes.
Visible results in 3 hours.
(282343) Limit 2 bottles.

Price **\$11.99**
Mail-In Rebate **-\$3.00**
Instant Savings **-\$3.00**

\$5.99

12-Oz. Orthene®
Fire Ant Killer RTU
Kills the queen and destroys the mound. (160499) Limit 2 bottles.

valspar
MEDALLION
PAINT & PRIMER
COLORFIDITY

\$10 Off Gallon Only
On Valspar Medallion
Interior & Exterior Paint & Primer
100% acrylic. Washable, stain resistant
and cleans up easily with soap & water.

HAD AN ACCIDENT?

**NO WORRIES!
TAKE IT TO**

BOB'S
PAINT & AUTO BODY
83 E. Plymouth Rd. • Columbus • 662-327-1221

Call Us For Quality Work And Friendly Service!

LION X HILLS
EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2331 Military Rd. • Columbus, MS • 328-4837

Friday Night Dinner
Open to the Public • 6-9 pm
Entrées

Served with your choice of House or Caesar Salad,
Vegetable du Jour, and choice of sides

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| RIBEYE \$32 | CREOLE CATFISH \$24 |
| YELLOWFIN TUNA \$26 | CHICKEN CORDON BLEU \$22 |
| CHICKEN OR SHRIMP PESTO PASTA \$22 | |

HUGHES

(Continued from page 1)

was like a big family of friends, many who I still know today. I felt like it was destiny to do the same thing my father and grandfather did.”

From a young age, Hunter was exposed to the Air Force and the fighter community through his father and earned his private pilot’s license when he was 17.

“I didn’t know where I wanted to go, but I knew I wanted to fly fighters,” Hunter said. “I wanted to be a part of the fraternity that is the fighter squadron family.”

After much searching, he finally found a unit to call home. Hunter joined the 190th Fighter Squadron of the Idaho Air National Guard in Boise, Idaho, in 2015, earning his Air Force commission at Officer Training School in 2016.

Hunter will also be the second generation to graduate from pilot training at Columbus

“Both of these men are my heroes,” Hunter said. “They truly embody the spirit of the Air Force-integrity, service and excellence. I’m lucky to have them and without them, I would not be here.”

Hunter’s father, retired Lt. Col. Curtis “Custis” Hughes, attended Benjamin Franklin Sr. High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1984.

Custis joined the 122nd Fighter Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard and was commissioned at the Academy of Military Science in 2005, graduating from UPT at Columbus in Class 86-07.

He flew the F-15A with the Louisiana ANG from 1987 - 1990 then attended F-16 RTU at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, before moving to Phoenix, Arizona, where he flew the F-16C

with the 302nd Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserves 1990 - 1992.

Later he joined the 120th Fighter Squadron, Colorado ANG “Redeyes” from 1992 - 2006, commanding the squadron from 2002 - 2004, including combat deployments in OIF I and OIF II.

Hunter’s grandfather, retired Maj. Ernest Curtis “Curt” Hughes, enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1959 and then attended the University of Oklahoma. Curt was commissioned through OTS in 1964 and went on to pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, Class 66D.

Curt was first assigned as a T-37 Instructor at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, 3553rd Pilot Training Squadron, 1966 - 1968 and as a T-37 Standards and Evaluations Check Pilot and Instructor Pilot at Moody AFB from 1968-1969.

He flew fighters in the Air National Guard, first with the 187th Fighter Wing Alabama ANG, flying the RF-84 and RF-4C, 1970 - 1972 and later with the 159th Fighter Group Louisiana ANG, flying the F-100D, 1972 - 1980.

Curt retired as a Delta Air Lines B-767 Captain in 1999.

At graduation, Hunter’s wings will be the ones originally earned by his grandfather, given to his father and now passed to him.

Hunter will attend the A-10 Replacement Training Unit with the 47th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, in the fall of 2017 before returning to his unit in Boise in 2018.

“People ask, ‘Can anyone be a pilot?’ and the answer is yes,” Hunter said. “It’s not just the smartest people who can become pilots, it’s the people who want to be pilots more than anyone else.”

(Editor’s note: This article was written with contributions by Hunter’s father, retired Lt. Col. Curtis “Custis” Hughes.)

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat/Sun | Long Range Events |
|-----|---|-----|---|---|--|--|
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17/18 | June 29: 14th FSS CoC June 30: SUPT Class 17-11 Graduation 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 July 14: Assignment Night July 18: Wing Newcomers Orientation |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24/25 | |
| | Wing Newcomers Orientation, 8 a.m. @ Club | | IFF Graduation, 4:49 p.m. @ 49th FTS Enlisted Dorm Dinner, 5:30 p.m. @ Montgomery Village International Spouses Group Farewell, 6 p.m. @ Housing Office | 49th FTS CoC, 8:49 a.m. @ Fire Station Pilot for a Day Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ Club | | |
| | | | Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ AFRC | | 4th: Columbus AFB Color Run, 8:30 a.m. @ Little BLAZERS Park | |

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 John Day
Editor

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Photo Journalist

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.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@us.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Used Sears Kenmore full size gas-range for sale. It is almond in color, self-cleaning and in excellent condition. Asking price is \$125. Call 356-4511 for more information

Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil

JDRF is committed to accelerating life-changing breakthroughs to

CURE :: PREVENT :: TREAT

type 1 diabetes and its complications



A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.



jdrf.org

The Dispatch is looking for an

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE.

The ideal candidate is a motivated self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills, a strong work ethic and the ability to relate to a wide range of people. Sales experience preferred, but not required. Full-time position includes insurance benefits, competitive pay, paid personal leave and opportunity for advancement. Come join our creative, award-winning staff.

Hand deliver resume to Beth Proffitt at

516 Main Street, Columbus or email to bproffitt@cdispach.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
 facebook

**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.

Finding cures. Saving children.
800-822-6344 • stjude.org
A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.

**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**



To advertise in Silver Wings,
call The Commercial Dispatch
Advertising Department at 328-2424.

40th HS rescues two missing hikers

Staff Sgt. Delia Marchick
341st Missile Wing Public Affairs

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. — The 40th Helicopter Squadron saved two girls and their dog from the Sluice Boxes State Park about 30 miles southeast of Great Falls May 30, 2017.

The two girls were reported missing after they failed to return from their hike in the evening of May 29 and the 40th HS received the call to assist with the search and rescue in the early morning of May 30.

“Maj. Matthew Sims, Capt. Kyle Lenz, Staff Sgt. Bryan Mill, and Staff Sgt. Mattew Tidball got the call around midnight and launched shortly after 1 a.m. this morning for their first flight,” said Capt. Matt Thompson, the 40th HS aircraft commander.

The crew flew two flights in eight hours but were unable to locate the girls.

They were relieved by a second crew consisting of Capts. Matt Thompson and James Harris, both pilots; Tech. Sgts. Daniel Marchick and Andrew Blankenship, both special mission aviators; and Maj. Melonie Parmley, a flight surgeon.

“Our deputy commander said the first crew could fly two sorties throughout the night but after that the day crew would pick it up,” said Thompson. “I think the thought process there is that if the SAR keeps going through the day then we would want them to be ready to fly tonight.”

However, the alert crew would not need to continue the SAR that night.

With daylight on their side the second crew was able to spot the two girls within minutes of officially beginning their search.

“We did two initial passes just to orient ourselves to the area, we then turned back on the third pass to actually start searching and it took us maybe five minutes to find them,” said Harris.

According to Thompson they were about two minutes into the third pass when Harris spotted them right away.

Once the girls were located, the aircrew communicated and coordinated with the ground search parties to walk to the girls since they thought it would be faster than waiting for the helicopter to reach the gas amount required for a hover and hoist.

“The ground search party couldn’t get across the river so that’s when everybody knew that we had to make the decision to do something,” said Blankenship.

The team worked to set up the hoist, then



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Delia Marchick
Capt. James Harris, left, a 40th Helicopter Squadron co-pilot; Capt. Matt Thompson, a 40th HS pilot; Maj. Melonie Parmley, a 341st Medical Group flight surgeon; and Tech. Sgts. Andrew Blankenship and Daniel Marchick, 40th HS special mission aviators, walk away from a helicopter May 30, 2017, at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. The crew saved two girls and their dog after the girls got lost while hiking in Sluice Boxes State Park May 29.

“The ground search party couldn’t get across the river so that’s when everybody knew that we had to make the decision to do something,” said Blankenship.

lowered the flight doctor down to a clearing where the two girls were waiting and waited for the doctor to do an assessment of the girls.

When they heard back from the flight doctor they hoisted the two girls up and noticed the girls brought their dog, who was safe inside one of the SAR jackets the girls were wearing.

PROGRAM

(Continued from page 13)

pilots, along with combat systems operators from various flying communities, are eligible for five-year contracts at varying amounts, tiered by critical needs.

The Air Force’s strategy to mitigate the pilot shortage consists of non-monetary and monetary initiatives in three main areas: production of pilots, reducing demand/need for pilots in non-flying positions, and increasing pilot retention. Some of the non-monetary initiatives include reducing the demand signal for non-flying assignments, headquarters staff positions and developmental opportunities; creating flexible options for developmental assignments that will reduce involuntary separations and provide flexibility for Airmen and families; reductions in additional duties; addition of contracted administrative support in operational units and more hands-on consultation with base leadership when choosing who will fill various assignments.

The Air Force is also looking at additional monetary incentives for aviation, especially those targeted at mid-career aviators. The fiscal 2017 NDAA provided authorization to increase Aviation Incentive Pay, commonly known as monthly flight pay, which the service plans to increase this summer.

“One of my favorite quotes comes from Gen. Hap Arnold during the worst days of the daylight bombing campaign in Europe,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. “He said ‘the problem with airpower is we make it look too easy.’”

“While history doesn’t always repeat...it often rhymes,” he said. “Defending the homeland, owning the high ground and projecting power with our allies abroad takes skilled and professional pilots who make the incredibly hard look easy. I appreciate the support from Congress to offer our pilot force increased compensation for them and their families who serve beside them.”

For complete eligibility requirements and application instructions, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter “aviation bonus program” in the search window.

Columbus AFB sexual assault reports decreased in 2016

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Sexual assault report numbers at Columbus Air Force Base are reported to have decreased in fiscal 2016.

According to the 14th Flying Training Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager, reports decreased by about 25 percent from fiscal 2015 to 2016.

The 14th FTW is committed to reducing sexual assault, said Dr. Marcia Stewart, 14th Flying Training Wing SAPR Program Manager.

“Protecting our people protects our mission,” Stewart said. “Teamwork makes the dream work. I can’t make sexual assault prevention work by myself, it takes the entire BLAZE Team.”

Air Force reports of sexual assault increased slightly in fiscal 2016, according to the service’s annual report on sexual assault released May 1. The Air Force received 1,355 reports of sexual assault in fiscal 2016, compared to 1,312 in 2015.

Prevention of sexual assault is the responsibility of every Airman, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

“It’s about trust,” Goldfein said. “The crime of sexual assault shatters trust and has a direct and negative impact on our capabilities as a warfighting force. In my opinion, there is no such thing as a bystander in this fight. We are all in. From the newest Airman to the most senior leader, every one of us has a responsibility to step forward and help stop sexual assault before it happens.”

(Editor’s note: The Air Force News article, “Air Force releases annual sexual assault report,” contributed to this story.)

14th CPTS command changes hands



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin
Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, hands the 14th Comptroller Squadron guidon to Maj. Randi Ludington at the 14th CPTS Change of Command ceremony June 8, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Ludington was previously assigned as the Executive Officer to the Director, United States Air Forces in Europe-United Kingdom, RAF Mildenhall, England.

PFAD exposes ill children to Air Force

2nd Lt Savannah Stephens

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Columbus Air Force Base Pilot for a Day program was established in 2001 for the purpose of inviting seriously ill children and their families to the base for a day of fun and relaxation.

Due to their illnesses, many children spend large amounts of time thinking about doctors, hospitals, needles and other unpleasant aspects of their daily lives.

This program helps children and their families momentarily take their minds off of the daily stresses associated with the child’s illness by partnering them with a buddy pilot for a day full of red carpet treatment and Air Force excitement.

A typical day begins with a welcome ceremony hosted by the squadron commander, introduction of the child’s buddy pilot, the presentation of the flight suit for the child to wear and a short briefing on the mission of Columbus AFB. Next, the child and family are escorted around various parts of base to see



everything that CAFB has to offer. Each child has their name printed on a jet – making that aircraft officially theirs for the day.

Finally, after a day of simulator sessions, fire department tours and more, the group meets back in the hosting squadron’s heritage room for complimentary lunch. During lunch, the child receives a base memento commemorating their tenure as a “Pilot for a Day.” Host pilots then escort the families back to the main gate for goodbyes.

The 41st Flying Training Squadron hosts Blake Stone for the next Pilot for a Day on June 16, 2017.

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.



Major win at Columbus AFB triathlon

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base held a free, base-wide triathlon June 3, 2017. Starting around 7 a.m. competitors took off to complete the 300-yard swim, 22-kilometer biking route and 5-kilometer run.

Maj. Alan Goncalves, 50th Flying Training Squadron Assistant Director of Operations, came in overall 1st place with a time of 1:03:05. Following up in second place was Lt. Col. Jeffrey Yost, 50th FTS, and in 3rd place overall came 2nd Lt. Holden McDaniel, a 14th Student Squadron Student Pilot. Participants completed the 300-yard swim

in the Independence pool. Individuals swam edge to edge moving left one lane after each turn. From the pool participants walked to the bike racks to change into their gear. They then started the 22-kilometer bike ride from the club parking lot, down the flightline, and back to the parking lot. From the bike racks the runners ran a designated 5-kilometer route to the finish line and celebrated with water and food the Red Cross provided. "Going down the runway, the center runway, that was the coolest part to me," said 2nd Lt. Forrest Schaffer, 14th STUS Student Pilot. The runway may have been a highlight for

some, but for a few competitors the highlight was their first triathlon and one of their first community events at Columbus AFB. "This is my first Air Force base; I'm here with my husband and it's just awesome," said Ann Doll, spouse of 2nd Lt. Ryan Doll, 14th STUS Student Pilot. "Not only the military, but the triathlon community is just very energetic all the time and I had a lot of fun." The triathlon was free, and only open to those who have access to the base. "We are looking into opening up future triathlons to the community to see how many people are interested in competing (from) off base," said Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Five triathlon competitors pose for a photo June 3, 2017, in front of the start/finish line on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Every individual who participated in the full event had the chance to bike down the center runway, an unusual opportunity for most spouses and base staff.



Athletes swim in a base triathlon June 3, 2017, in the Independence pool on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The pool was divided into sections so the participants didn't swim into others and to keep the distance swam as equal as possible.

Hurricane Hunters take part in Navy operational demonstration

Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — While their typical mission is gathering weather data for the National Hurricane Center, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" spent May 30 to June 1, 2017, providing weather information for the Navy's first Gulf of Mexico oceanography unmanned systems operational demonstration.

The Navy partnered with the Hurricane Hunters, and other agencies and academia such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Southern Mississippi, to demonstrate unmanned capabilities and explore joint opportunities in support of national defense.

"Partnering with the Air Force for the demonstration was really the perfect marriage because we both work continually to understand the constantly changing atmosphere," said Navy Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command commander and Oceanographer of the Navy, who flew with the Hurricane Hunters May 31 to learn more about their mission. "It is the mission of Task Force Ocean to ensure that the U.S. Navy maintains a competitive advantage in our ability to exploit the ocean environment...and our close partnership with the Air Force ensures we do just that."

Gallaudet, who led the demonstration, directs and oversees more than 2,500 military and civilian personnel who collect, process and exploit environmental information to assist Fleet and Joint Commanders in all war-



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
The Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" depart Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, May 31, 2017, to take part in the Navy's Gulf of Mexico Oceanography Unmanned Systems Operational Demonstration. The squadron collected weather data for the Navy May 30 to June 2, 2017, as part of the event.

fare areas to make better decisions faster than the adversary.

"The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron was thrilled to be asked to participate in this naval demonstration," said Lt. Col. Kaitlyn Woods, the 53rd WRS chief meteorologist. "This joint training opportunity has reinforced that the data we provide ensures the Navy has a better picture of how environmental factors can impact the Navy

fleet and their operations."

In preparation for the event, the Hurricane Hunters dropped two profiling floats and three surface drifter buoys April 12, providing the devices time to drift into the operational demonstration area. These unmanned systems measured ocean conductivity, temperature and depth. During the demonstration, the Hurricane Hunters flew a 1.5 hour mission each day of the demonstration, releasing

up to six dropsondes at precoordinated points along the operational demonstration track. The dropsondes, along with the Stepped Frequency Microwave Radiometer on the wing of the aircraft, provided temperature, pressure, humidity and atmospheric wind data during the event. This weather information was relayed to the Naval Oceanographic Office, who input the data into ocean and atmospheric models for operational use.

All operations and observations collected by various agencies during the event were input into a common operational picture presented to community leaders at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center-Battlefield Airmen Center June 1. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant also announced the creation of the Governor's Ocean Task Force during a ceremonial executive order signing.

"What we will do is not only look at the military application, but the commercial applications to help build the economy and add more jobs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Bryant.

For the Hurricane Hunters, participating in this first-of-a-kind event was an opportunity to exhibit their mission.

"The demonstration showcased our joint capability," said Maj. Brad Roundtree, a 53rd WRS pilot. "We not only have the ability to collect data for National Hurricane Center forecasts, but can also enhance the capability of other units by providing weather information for operational use."

(Kaley Turfitt, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

Air Force announces significant changes to Aviation Bonus Program

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — As part of its retention efforts, the Air Force released details on the fiscal year 2017 Aviation Bonus Program (AvB) June 5, 2017. This year's program implements an increase in maximum bonus amounts authorized in the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act in addition to more flexibility in contract lengths.

The program, combined with additional non-monetary initiatives, is part of a holistic approach to improve readiness and capacity by increasing retention of experienced aviators.

"We hope this new approach will make it easier for more Airmen to stay in the service," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "The country needs them."

This year Congress authorized the Air Force to increase

"We hope this new approach will make it easier for more Airmen to stay in the service," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "The country needs them."

the annual AvB cap from \$25,000 per year to \$35,000 per year and has mandated that bonus amounts be based on a business case analysis to determine greatest need and appropriate monetary amounts.

"Actual bonus levels were determined by considering current and projected manning, current and projected retention levels, replacement training costs, and replacement training time," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the Air Force manpower, personnel and services deputy chief of staff, "These are the same factors used to determine bonus needs across the Air Force, such as selective re-enlistment bonuses and critical skills retention bonuses."

Additionally, the fiscal 2017 AvB contract options included one-year, two-year, and five-year options for all eligible 11X aviators, with the amounts tiered by the most critical needs. Bomber, special ops, and mobility pilots have a nine-year contract option while fighter pilots have nine-year and 24 years of aviation service (13-year maximum) options. RPA

See PROGRAM, Page 14

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.

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.

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.

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 at 6 p.m. June 17 at the Columbus Club. 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.

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.

Breakfast at the Club

The Columbus Club will host a free breakfast for club members from 6:30 - 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 at 7 p.m. June 23. Prices are \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members. Call 434-2489 to sign-up.

BLAZE Commons Coffee House on 5th

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. Call 434-CAFÉ (2233). The commons also houses the Library, an ITT and ODR kiosk, a computer lab, and FedEx drop-off point.

Library Hours

The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - noon and Sunday and Holidays: Closed.

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 Columbus AFB Living.

Base Pool Hours

Independence Pool is open daily from noon - 7 p.m. The daily rate is \$3 for non Club members and \$2 for members. Summer passes are available based on family size. Call 434-2505 for more information.

5th Annual Columbus AFB 5K
Wet n Wild
Color Run
at CAFB Lil Blazer Park
Open to the Public
June 24
8:30 a.m.
\$10 per person
FREE
to Military ID Holders
Register by June 19
This is a one of a kind experience that is less about speed and more about enjoying a color crazy day with your friends and family!
Information sheets may be picked up at the CAFB Youth Center or Fitness Center!
• Check-in at 7:30 a.m.
• Ages 2-adults, all fitness levels
• You may walk or run
• White shirt dress code at the official start line
• Non-Military ID holder register at active.com by June 19
• Military ID holders register free at the Fitness Center or Youth Center by June 19
For More Information
434-2504

Water Aerobics Instructors Needed

Independence Pool is looking for Water Aerobics Instructors for the 2017 pool season. Lifeguards are also needed. Call 434-2505 for more information.

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.

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.

BLAZE 5/6 recognizes leadership



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra

Senior Airman Garrett Jacobs, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment Apprentice, received the Blaze 5/6 Leadership Highlight award from Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder, Blaze 5/6 Council President June 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This award recognized Jacobs' outstanding leadership capabilities.

THE CGOC & SOUTHERN PROHIBITION BREWING PRESENT
CRAFT BEER GARDEN
BEER BRATS WINGS VEGGIES
SAT, 10 JUNE
6:00 PM-9:00 PM
WHISPERING PINES
\$30 | 5 FEATURED CRAFT BEERS & BUFFET | DOOR PRIZES
CONTACT LT JOHN MORROW FOR TICKETS | 662-434-1252
ALL RANKS WELCOME | CDC CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
BE A WINGMAN | 434-RIDE

Veterans can visit VetVerify.org for Exchange online shopping authentication

Chris Ward

Army & Air Force Exchange Service
Public Affairs

DALLAS – As the Department of Defense's military exchange services prepare to welcome potentially 13 million honorably discharged Veterans back to their military families this coming Veteran's Day, VetVerify.org has launched to confirm eligibility to receive a lifelong military exchange online shopping.

Veterans may now log onto VetVerify.org, which will use information from DoD's Defense Manpower Data Center's records and inform them of their ability to access this new benefit.

If a Veteran's record has character of service data and that data meets the criteria for the online benefit, the Veteran will be verified to shop. Then, beginning on Nov. 11, the Veteran can log onto to the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps

and Navy Exchange websites at shopmyexchange.com, shopecx.com, mymcx.com and mynavyexchange.com for tax-free shopping. If a Veteran's information is incomplete, VetVerify.org will provide guidance on next steps.

Extending online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged Veterans will directly improve family and support programs for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members as well as their families. Increased sales and earnings as a result of Veterans online shopping benefit have the potential to generate tens of millions of dollars in additional dividends to Quality-of-Life programs. These funds decrease taxpayers' burden to support services and programs on military installations around the world.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Coast Guard Exchange Marine Corps Exchange and Navy Exchange currently provide more than \$300 million in support for military Quality-of-Life programs annually.

Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight



Date: 22 May 2017
Category: Airman
Nominee Name/Grade: Tate, Brianna M./E-3
Unit: 14 FSS/FSPM

Information:

- Home Town:** Monroe, Michigan
- Time in the Air Force:** 2 Years, 1 Month
- Time at Columbus AFB:** 10 Months
- Career Short Term Goals:** Improve fitness scores to achieve a 90+% PT score.
- Career Long Term Goals:** Earn CCAF; become a Recruiter.
- Nominated by:** SSgt Evan Compton
- Nomination reason:** Outstanding Performance





U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra

Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, is presented with the 24th annual Tree City USA Award and Growth Award June 5, 2017. Columbus AFB is one of only 45 cities in the state qualifying for this award.

CAFB Receives Tree City award

Frank Lockhart

14th Civil Engineer Squadron

The 24th annual Tree City USA Award and Growth Award was presented to Columbus Air Force Base June 5, 2017.

This is the 24th year that Columbus AFB has received the title of Tree City.

Tree City USA is awarded to those sites that fulfill four requirements. These include an established tree board or forestry department, a tree ordinance, an urban forest management program supported by a minimum budget of \$2 per capita and an observance and proclamation of Arbor Day.

Columbus Air Force Base is one of only 45 cities in the state qualifying for the recognition. Columbus AFB was recognized state-wide for its outstanding work in urban forestry by the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Mississippi Urban Forest Council. Trees play a vital role in maintaining the environmental quality throughout the state.

There are many benefits provided by trees that



we take for granted. These include economic enhancements, social and environmental benefits and aesthetic value. Trees process storm water, aid against erosion and reduce the severity of flooding. They also provide shade during southern summers, help reduce energy costs for homes and businesses as well as improve property values and overall quality of life.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Mississippi Forestry Commission and National Arbor Day Foundation and administered in the state by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.

SAPR Tug-of-War Tournament

“Show Your Strength”

Main Event: Create a team with no more or less than 6-10 people per team

When: June 15 @ 4 p.m.

Sign-up: NLT June 10 (Get with your Squadron Representative)

Where: Tennis Court



Columbus AFB Sexual-Assault Prevention and Response Team:

SAPR Program Manager: Dr. Marcia Stewart

Alternate SARC: 1st Lt Aimee St Cyr

SAPR VA: Ms. Carla Neal-Bush

VVA: SSgt Holly Sivard, SSgt Casey Washington, SSgt Roger White, and SSgt Braxton Crismore



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. June 20 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. June 20 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.

Heart Link for Spouses

Heart Link is from 8 a.m. – noon June 22. It is for spouses new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. The event is held at Columbus Club. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program from 5 - 7 p.m. June 22 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.

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

Congressional staff visits Columbus



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander; James Mazol, Military Legislative Assistant; Col. James Fisher, 14th FTW Vice Commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th FTW Command Chief, pose for a photo May 31, 2017, at the Gene Smith Plaza on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Mazol visited the base to attend a wing mission brief and to hear some of the concerns of the wing.

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.

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. 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.

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).

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

Security Forces – Under the beret

Senior Airman Thomas Bojorcas
14th Security Forces Squadron Patrolman

When you enter Columbus Air Force Base, the first thing you see is a Security Forces member (colloquially known as Defenders) checking your ID and making sure that no unwanted personnel enter the installation.

These Defenders are named due to the flash we proudly display on our berets while on duty.

The flash bears the Latin motto, “Defensor Fortis” or “Defenders of the Force.” To put it simply, we defend all United States Air Force personnel at home and abroad.

Along with that, our mission covers a wide range of security operations. Whether it’s guarding nuclear inter-continental ballistic missiles in sub-zero degree temperatures or driving a boat in the waters off Florida, our job is much more than just checking the IDs of

people coming into the base.

To those curious about our job and what we do, just ask us. As law enforcement officials, people tend to see us around as a sign that something is wrong. Sometimes we just patrol areas making sure everything is okay.

If you see us out and about, don’t hesitate to say hello! Also, if there is anything out of the ordinary, there’s no harm in calling us, just make sure you give us a decent description of the reason of your call.

At Columbus Air Force Base, the wing’s mission is to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight. Ensuring base security allows all three of those aspects of the mission to succeed and without our Security Forces members working diligently throughout the night and day, we wouldn’t have pilots to produce, Airmen to advance through their careers or the capability to feed the fight on our enemies.

The Airman’s Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation’s call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage.
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman.
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation’s sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman.
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind.
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

MyMC2 app

Welcome to the My Military Communities information page. MyMC2 is the mobile application that centralizes all of your installation’s community events, organizations and services right in your pocket.



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for “MyMC2”, or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



iPhone
QR code

Android
QR code

If you have any questions or need support please visit www.facebook.com/mymc2support.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-22 Raptor

Mission

The F-22 Raptor’s combination of stealth, super cruise, maneuverability and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in war-fighting capabilities. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force.

The F-22, a critical component of the Global Strike Task Force, is designed to project air dominance, rapidly and at great distances and defeat threats attempting to deny access to our nation’s Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Features

A combination of sensor capability, integrated avionics, situational awareness, and weapons provides first-kill opportunity against threats. The F-22 possesses a sophisticated sensor suite allowing the pilot to track, identify, shoot and kill air-to-air threats before being detected. Significant advances in cockpit design and sensor fusion improve the pilot’s situational awareness. In the air-to-air configuration the Raptor carries six AIM-120 AMRAAMs and two AIM-9 Sidewinders.

The F-22 has a significant capability to attack surface targets. In the air-to-ground configuration the aircraft can carry two 1,000-pound GBU-32 Joint Direct Attack Munitions internally and will use on-board avionics for navigation and weapons delivery support. In the future, air-to-ground capability will be enhanced with the addition of upgraded radar and up to eight small diameter bombs. The Raptor will also carry two AIM-120s and two AIM-9s in the air-to-ground configuration.

The F-22 will have better reliability and maintainability than any fighter aircraft in history. Increased F-22 reliability and maintainability pays off in less manpower required to fix the aircraft and the ability to operate more efficiently.

Background

The Advanced Tactical Fighter entered the Demonstration and Validation phase in 1986. The prototype aircraft (YF-22 and YF-23) both completed their first flights in late 1990. Ultimately the YF-22 was selected as best of the two and the engineering and manufacturing development effort began in 1991 with development contracts to Lockheed/Boeing (airframe) and Pratt & Whitney (engines). EMD included extensive subsystem and system testing as well as flight testing with nine aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base, California. The first EMD flight was in 1997 and at the completion of its flight test life this aircraft was used for live-fire testing.

The program received approval to enter low rate initial production in 2001. Initial operational and test evaluation by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center was successfully completed in 2004. Based on maturity of design and other factors the program received approval for full rate production in 2005. Air Education and Training Command, Air Combat Command and Pacific Air Forces are the primary Air Force organizations flying the F-22. The aircraft designation was the F/A-22 for a short time before being renamed F-22A in December 2005.

General characteristics

Primary function: air dominance, multi-role fighter

Contractor: Lockheed-Martin, Boeing
Power plant: two Pratt & Whitney F119-PW-100 turbofan engines with afterburners and two-dimensional thrust vectoring nozzles.

Thrust: 35,000-pound class (each engine)
Wingspan: 44 feet, 6 inches (13.6 meters)
Length: 62 feet, 1 inch (18.9 meters)
Height: 16 feet, 8 inches (5.1 meters)
Weight: 43,340 pounds (19,700 kilograms)
Maximum takeoff weight: 83,500 pounds (38,000 kilograms)

Fuel capacity: internal: 18,000 pounds (8,200 kilograms); with 2 external wing fuel tanks: 26,000 pounds (11,900 kilograms)

Payload: same as armament air-to-air or air-to-ground loadouts; with or without two external wing fuel tanks.

Speed: mach two class with supercruise capability
Range: more than 1,850 miles ferry range with two external wing fuel tanks (1,600 nautical miles)

Ceiling: above 50,000 feet (15 kilometers)

Armament: one M61A2 20-millimeter cannon with 480 rounds, internal side weapon bays carriage of two AIM-9 infrared (heat seeking) air-to-air missiles and internal main weapon bays carriage of six AIM-120 radar-guided air-to-air missiles (air-to-air loadout) or two 1,000-pound GBU-32 JDAMs and two AIM-120 radar-guided air-to-air missiles (air-to-ground loadout)

Crew: one
Unit cost: \$143 million
Initial operating capability: December 2005
Inventory: total force, 183



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

An F-22 Raptor aircraft sits on the SAC ramp of the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flightline April 20, 2016. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Ingersoll

F-22A Raptor Demonstration Team aircraft maintainers prepare to launch out Maj. Paul “Max” Moga, the first F-22A Raptor demonstration team pilot, July 13, 2007. The F-22, a critical component of the Global Strike Task Force, is designed to project air dominance, rapidly and at great distances and defeat threats attempting to deny access to our nation’s Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

SUPT Class 17-10 earns silver wings



1st Lt. Joshua Cuany
Apex, N.C.
KC-135, MacDill AFB, Fla.



1st Lt. Colton Huntsman
Cypress, Texas
F-22, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



1st Lt. Nolan Mallory
San Diego, Calif.
F-16, Tuscon ANGB, Ariz.

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-10 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Brig. Gen. Thomas Owens, Assistant Adjutant General – Air, New York National Guard, Latham, New York, 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.

First Lt. Colton Huntsman, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Tyler Hicks, 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. Jacob Bouck, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Brett Hanenberger, 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.

First Lt. Colton Huntsman, T-38, 2nd Lt. Tyler Hicks, T-1, and 2nd Lt. John Duncan, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 17-10.

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. Stu-

dents also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

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

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

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

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

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 17-10 pilot partners are Cadence Bank and Cadence Mortgage.



2nd Lt. Jacob Bouck
Germantown, Tenn.
A-10, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Taylor Brown
Snellville, Ga.
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. John Duncan
Collierville, Tenn.
C-17, Jackson, Miss.



2nd Lt. Johnathon Ford
Ocean Springs, Miss.
HC-130J, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Tyler Hicks
Fremont, Mich.
C-17, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii



2nd Lt. Curtis Hughes
Denver, Colo.
A-10, Gowan Field, Idaho



2nd Lt. John Hundley
Louisville, Ky.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



2nd Lt. Kyle Kessler
St. Mary's, Md.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



2nd Lt. Thomas Owens
Syracuse, N.Y.
MQ-9, Syracuse, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Alex Retamozo
White Plains, N.Y.
KC-10, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.



2nd Lt. Robert Shine
Meridian, Miss.
F-15C, Kingsley Field, Ore.



2nd Lt. Michael Spencer
Ewa Beach, Hawaii
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. John Truelson
Dallas, Texas
B-1, Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Franco Zattara
Cordoba, Argentina
TBD



1st Lt. Andrew Miller-Bissell
Littleton, Colo.
C-17, JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.



1st Lt. Michael Smith
Little Rock, Ark.
B-52, Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. Clark Bardman
Boyetown, Pa.
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Corey Gerrish
Falcon, Colo.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Stephen Golden
Beckley, W.Va.
C-130, McLaughlin ANGB, W.Va.



2nd Lt. Brett Hanenberger
Hoyleton, Ill.
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Tyler Hanson
Richmond, Maine
KC-135, Bangor, Maine