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## Weather

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Friday</b><br>Thunderstorms<br>High 85°F Low 72°F | <b>Saturday</b><br>Thunderstorms<br>High 84°F Low 72°F |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>Thunderstorms<br>High 89°F Low 72°F | <b>Monday</b><br>Thunderstorms<br>High 90°F Low 73°F   |

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


## News Briefs

**Fireworks on the Water at the Lock and Dam**  
Fireworks on the Water is a free community event with live music, children's activities, multiple food vendors and a fireworks show. Festivities will start at 5 p.m. July 1.

**Holiday/AETC Family Day**  
Most base organizations are closed July 3 - 4 in observance of the 4th of July holiday and the associated Air Education and Training Command family day.

**14th CV Fini-Flight/Retirement**  
Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, will complete his fini-flight at 3 p.m. July 6 at base operations. His retirement ceremony begins at 2:14 p.m. July 7 at the Columbus Club.

## Inside



### Feature 8

SUPT Class 17-11 graduates at 10 a.m. today at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens  
Lt. Col. Timorah Beales, Partnership Broker from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, speaks to Columbus Air Force Base and community leadership at the Mississippi University for Women June 22, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. She met with the Air Force Community Partnership leadership committee about prioritizing the communities' needs based on the ideas presented from the AFCP focus groups.

# CAFB hosts third Air Force Community Partnership meeting

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

Columbus Air Force Base hosted its third Air Force Community Partnership meeting June 22, 2017, at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. Over 50 base and community members attended the meeting to continue developing their ideas from the last meeting. Lt. Col. Timorah Beales, Partnership Broker from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force; John Broughton, Lead Air Force Community Partnership Facilitator; and Lt. Col. Nathan Miller, 14th Flying Training Wing Community

Partnership Director and 14th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander, hosted the meeting. The meeting focused on creating concrete plans for partnership ideas within the community. The three-hour workshop was spent broken up into four focus groups: Play, Learn, Live and Work. Each group developed ideas to present at the end of the meeting, which were then prioritized by the leadership team. The Play focus group presented ideas on how to tie in the Columbus Lowndes Recreational Authority baseball teams

See PARTNERSHIP, 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)                   | 1.97 days    | 5.31 days        | July 21      | 48th (17-11) | 0.30 days    | -0.98 days       | June 30    | 49th (17-JBC) | -14.73 days  | -5.02 days       | July 21    | T-6               | 2,844    | 2,501 | 23,607 |
| 41st (18-06)                   | -2.60 days   | 0.69 days        | Aug. 11      | 50th (17-11) | -0.55 days   | -4.89 days       | June 30    |               |              |                  |            | T-1               | 860      | 703   | 6,201  |
|                                |              |                  |              |              |              |                  |            |               |              |                  |            | T-38              | 970      | 933   | 8,206  |
|                                |              |                  |              |              |              |                  |            |               |              |                  |            | IFF               | 411      | 359   | 3,459  |

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

The graduation speaker is Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander.



**PARTNERSHIP**  
(Continued from page 1)

with Columbus AFB youth center teams and community garden ideas. The Learn group presented ideas for professional development opportunities between base and community members, as well as ideas for skills development, Green Dot training in the community, and more.

“We are instructor pilots at the base, but we are not professionally trained educators,” said Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam, 48th Flying Training Squadron Commander. “Our instructors could highly benefit from professional education training.”

The Live group presented multiple ideas, including the commissary food donation program which was signed into action during the meeting.

The Columbus Air Force Base Commissary, the United Way of Lowndes County, and the 14th Flying Training Wing’s 14th Mission Support Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the Columbus AFB Commissary to donate unsold items to the United Way of Lowndes County for use in local food pantries.

“The food bank program is an outstanding success as we are contributing to the local communities by helping feed the hungry,” said Randy Eller, chief of Defense Commissary Agency’s environmental and planning division. “The agency is diverting millions of pounds of waste from the landfills.”

Last, the Work group presented ideas on how to expand our base recycling facilities into the community and expanding facilities to meet future housing needs of our Airmen.

After the presentations, the leadership team broke off and prioritized the ideas based on what impacts the community the most and what the timeline looks like to achieve these partnerships.

The Air Force Community Partnership Program, one of the 13 Make Every Dollar Count initiatives launched by the Air Force,



Courtesy photo

**Unsold items from the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Commissary are loaded onto a truck to be delivered to the United Way of Lowndes County June 26, 2017. The Columbus Air Force Base Commissary, the United Way of Lowndes County and the 14th Mission Support Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the Air Force Community Partnership meeting in Columbus, Mississippi, June 22, 2017, allowing the Columbus AFB Commissary to donate unsold items to the United Way of Lowndes County for use in local food pantries.**

offers opportunities for military installations and local communities to partner and achieve mutual value and benefit. It is a framework through which installation and community leaders are developing creative ways to leverage their capabilities and resources to focus on achieving reduced costs by finding a shared value.

| Mon                              | Tue | Wed | Thur   | Fri  | Sat/Sun  | Long Range Events   |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|--|--|--|---|
| 3<br>AETC Family Day and Holiday | 4   | 5   | 6<br>Col. Fisher Retirement, 3 p.m @ Base Operations | 7<br>Col. Fisher Retirement, 2:14 p.m @ Club<br><br>Col. Fisher Retirement Dinner, 5:30 p.m. @ Columbus Club | 8/9<br>8th: Color Run, 8:30 a.m. @ CAFB Little Blazer Park | July 18: Wing Newcomers Orientation<br><br>July 21: Air Force Birthday Ball Drawdown<br><br>July 28: SUPT Class 17-12 Graduation<br><br>July 31: Enlisted Promotions<br><br>July 31: Quarterly Awards |
| 10                               | 11  | 12  | 13<br>14th SFS CoC, 10:14 @ Club                     | 14<br>14th CONS CoC, 9:14 @ Club<br><br>SUPT Class 17-12 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. @ CLubl                 | 15/16  | Aug. 4: End of Summer Bash<br><br>Aug. 4: SUPT Class 17 -13 Assignment Night<br><br>Aug. 7: 14th MDG CoC<br><br>Aug. 8: Wing Newcomers Brief<br><br>Aug. 11: SNCO Induction                           |

## Silver Wings

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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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Evening Worship - 6pm

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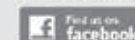


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## Upcoming EVENTS

**CPR Classes** are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6:30 p.m., in the Patient Tower. Pre-registration is required. July classes will be held on the 3rd and 17th. 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.

**United Blood Service blood drive** will be held Friday, July 21, 11a-5:15p, Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center at Baptist Golden Triangle. All donors are encouraged to give the gift of life. For more information go to bloodhero.com.

**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 July 21, room 5PT, past the gift shop. A physical therapist will discuss exercising and a speech therapist will talk about swallowing. 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 (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.



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## Thunderbird aircraft mishap at air show

WASHINGTON — The United States Air Force Thunderbirds were conducting a single-ship familiarization flight on June 23, 2017. Upon landing there was a mishap at the Dayton International Airport with an F-16D Fighting Falcon at approximately 12:20 p.m.

The plane sustained damage and the pilot and his passenger, a tactical aircraft maintainer, were taken to a local hospital where they received care.

The F-16D involved in the mishap has been cleared from the scene and the interim safety board is on-going.

“Our first priority is taking care of our Thunderbird teammates and ensuring future safety,” said Lt. Col. Jason Heard, the Thunderbirds commander/leader.

The Thunderbirds did not fly in the Dayton Air Show.

## NEWS AROUND TOWN

### July 7

The Columbus Police Department is hosting the 2017 Black and White Ball at 7 p.m. July 7 in the Trotter Convention Center. All proceeds benefit National Night Out on Crime and the City Wide toy drive. There will be live music and food provided by Hucks. The dress attire is semi-formal. Contact Officer Rhonda Sanders at (662) 251-7355.

### July 8-9

There will be a Summer Sizzler Disc Golf Tournament July 8 - 9 at Lake Lowndes State Park and Propst Disc Golf course. Contact Jason Willingham at (662) 242-1915.

### July 15-16

The Lions Hills Center and Golf Course is hosting a guest golf tournament July 15 - 16. Contact Lion Hills at (662) 328-4837 for more information.

### June 13 – July 28

Lion Hills Center and Golf Course will host Junior Golf Camps throughout the summer. Remaining classes are July 11 - 14; July 18 - 21; and July 25 - 28. Contact Lion Hills at (662) 328-4837 for more information.

## 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.*

### Miscellaneous

**For Sale:** Multiple items for sale including three new deer hunting caps, \$10 each; three Kentucky Wildcat hats, \$10 each; one 9-inch fixed blade knife with gut hook, \$9; one used kerosene oil lamp with oil included, \$15; one straight back wooden chair with wicker seat and pads for seat and back, \$12. Call 244-5861 for more information.

### Transportation

**For Sale:** White 2005 Cadillac CTS, rear wheel drive, 3.6 L, V6, \$8,400. Call 244-5861 for more information.

Visit us online! [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)

## Independence Day Holiday hours

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Airman & Family Readiness Center ..... | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Arts & Crafts .....                    | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Back Gate .....                        | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Bowling Center .....                   | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Child Development Center .....         | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Columbus Club .....                    | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Commissary .....                       | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Exchange .....                         | Open July 4, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.   |
| Fitness Center .....                   | (Staffed) 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. July 3 – 4   |
| Medical Group .....                    | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Military Personnel and Finance .....   | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Multimedia .....                       | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Outdoor Recreation .....               | Closed July 4; Open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. July 1, 2, 5; Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. July 3 |
| Shoppette .....                        | Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. July 4  |
| Visitor's Center .....                 | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Youth Center .....                     | Closed July 3 - 4   |
| Coffee House on 5th .....              | Closed July 4   |

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 18 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## Security Forces: Did you know?

Children under the age of 7 cannot be left unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle at any time, and children between the ages of 7-12 cannot be left unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle longer than 10 minutes? This violation could result in a suspension of driving privileges or even UCMJ action.

Reference located within AFMAN 31-116 AF Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision/CAFB Traffic Code attachment A2.28.

Please direct any questions and concerns to the Security Forces Operations section.



## 14 FSS CoC



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, passes the 14th Force Support Squadron Guidon to Maj. Douglas Hickey, the new 14th FSS Commander, June 29, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The passing of the guidon has been a military tradition dating back to ancient times. The troops of the old commander would assemble and salute him one last time, then the new commander would receive the guidon, symbolizing he is taking charge of the troops, and the troops would then welcome the new commander.**

## Harmless yellow-green dye to be placed in sewer

### 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

On July 12, 2017, the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight will place a safe, environmentally-friendly, fluorescent green-yellow dye into the sanitary sewer system on base.

The dye test will identify any cross-connections or infiltration of the sanitary sewer discharge into the storm water sewer system. The dye will temporarily give the discharged wastewater a yellow-green color.

The activity is known as a “dye tracer test.” Using tracer dye is a common practice used to identify any mixing of the sanitary sewer and storm water sewer system discharges that may be impacting the waters of the state. The test will provide information needed to ensure Columbus Air Force Base is complying with all Federal, State, and local

water quality regulations and ordinances.

The test will involve the release of dye into the sanitary sewer floor drains of hangars located on the flightline for several hours while visual observations are made at a number of locations on Columbus AFB. The dye may be visible in the streams on base and off base for a short duration, but will dilute quickly as it moves downstream, eventually becoming invisible. The dye is harmless to humans, aquatic life and vegetation.

The City of Columbus, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife will be notified prior to conducting the tracer dye test.

For more information please contact Tim Turner, 14th CES Water Quality Program Manager, by phone at (662) 434-2248 or email at [timothy.turner.24@us.af.mil](mailto:timothy.turner.24@us.af.mil).



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U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens  
**First Lt. Fiona Akoth, 14th Student Squadron Student Pilot, is dressed in her traditional Kenyan attire June 26, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Akoth is originally from a small city on the edge of Lake Victoria in Africa.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**First Lt. Fiona Akoth, 14th Student Squadron Student Pilot, holds a ceramic Kenyan decoration June 16, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Akoth has always wanted to be a pilot and is excited to be in the Air Force.**

# First Faces: 1st Lt. Fiona Akoth

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

Moving to a new place is hard on everyone. You have become accustomed to your old home and the people who surrounded you; now you have to start over.

For 1st Lt. Fiona Akoth, moving from Kisumu, Kenya, a small fishing city on the edge of Lake Victoria in Africa, to the U.S. was one of the most challenging things in her life.

Akoth spent her younger years in Africa with her grandparents while her mother attended college in the U.S. She moved to the U.S. at 13 years old, and attended middle school in Texas.

"I was well engrained in the roots back in Kenya," Akoth said. "I had to leave a familiar country with a familiar group of friends when I was just becoming a teenager looking for a solid foundation, and that was challenging."

Akoth made it through high school and began looking at colleges.

"I knew there was no way my parents could afford college so I had to apply for a lot of scholarships," Akoth said.

She browsed through many colleges in the U.S., including the U.S. Naval Academy, but the Air Force Academy was the one she chose.

Akoth said she joined to give back to a

country that has allowed her to prosper and also for the challenge. Even though at first her family was wary about her joining, they soon realized how much the Air Force has done for Akoth.

Close to her home in Kenya there was an airport where her and her friends would sit and watch the planes fly every day. It was this moment when she realized that she wanted to be a pilot.

Akoth graduated from the Air Force Academy and is now in the 14th Student Squadron, training to be an Air Force pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

"It has been my destiny to become a pilot," Akoth said. "My grandfather always told me to never give up on my dream and now here I am."

Prior to her training, Akoth was chosen to be part of the Language Enabled Airman Program because she is fluent in Swahili. LEAP allows Airmen who can speak another language fluently to translate and help build community relations with local populations near military installations.

"It was a unique experience," Akoth said. "I got to go back to Africa and help the Air Force communicate with my people."

Akoth said she strives to be a role model for all the young women in her hometown and anyone who has a dream. She has put in the extra work and dedication and now she is living her dream.

# Below the Zone Airmen recognized



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Airman 1st Class Jessica Stone, 14th Force Support Squadron Career Development Apprentice, is recognized with senior airman stripes below the zone by Airman 1st Class Brianna Tate, 14th FSS Force Management Specialist, and Senior Airman Andrew Galloza, 14th FSS Career Development Specialist, June 23, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. BTZ is the competitive promotion program offered to enlisted personnel in the grade of Airman First Class, earning them a promotion six months earlier than normal.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra  
**Airman 1st Class Glen Simmons, 14th Operations Support Squadron Air Traffic Control Journeyman, is recognized with senior airman stripes below the zone by Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, and Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, June 23, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This early promotion opportunity is restricted to elite Airmen who stand out from their peers and perform duties at a level above their current rank.**

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# REAL AIRMEN

(Continued from page 13)

## The crash

"The enemy dictates that we fly in a helicopter because it's not safe to drive," Burkel said. With their planned overnight stay they figured they'd take a little time to shop and have dinner with U.S. embassy friends at the dining facility before their meeting.

But as the two-ship of helicopters approached, things went awry when the pilot lost sight of the lead helicopter after each had to divert from their original landing zone, which about 40 Afghans used as a soccer field that day.

Within seconds, the helicopter pilot found his rotor entangled with a surveillance and reconnaissance balloon tether -- which though only about half-an-inch thick -- managed to grow taut and render the aircraft unable to fly.

Within a few seconds, things went from bad to worse aboard the aircraft.

"We hit the ground at over 4,000 feet per minute," Burkel told reporters, showing them an image of the mangled wreckage soaked in almost 800 pounds of fuel upon impact. "This is what Greg ran out to. This is what I was inside of."

Meanwhile Gangnuss had a voluntary role as a senior environmental adviser to the Afghan Ministry of Defense. From his small office, the hum of rotors was typically no cause for alarm. But that day, he recounted, the noise seemed a little too close for comfort.

In an instant, his worst fears were realized, as he scrambled outside to witness hell on Earth — a dizzying haze of dust and debris that encompassed the crushed aircraft.

"Many folks there said to me, 'Why'd you do it?'" Gangnuss recalled. "They had basically vacated the area; they really thought the helicopter was going to blow up with the amount of fuel [that had spilled]. I just knew when I saw it there were people hurt, they needed immediate help ... and I was there."

Of the nine people aboard the helicopter, the pilot, door gunner, a French contractor, and Burkel's teammates, Maj. Phyllis Pelky and

Master Sgt. Gregory Kuhse, perished. On the ground, a Turkish colonel sustained injuries.

During the harrowing rescue of more than 90 minutes, Gangnuss and two other rescuers risked their lives to crawl in the cramped, suffocating space to retrieve Burkel, a Lithuanian soldier and two others from the wreckage. Covered in fuel, fire extinguisher chemicals, blood and dirt, Gangnuss and those who helped made desperate efforts to pull the survivors out from over the bodies of the deceased.

## The aftermath

Burkel was air lifted to Kabul for further medical evacuation aboard a C-17 to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. As news of the crash trickled out, and Burkel regained consciousness en route, the colonel said she leveraged the power of social media to respectfully let friends and family members know her status.

"How do you tell your family you're okay when there's people's families we haven't told yet that their family members have been killed," she lamented.

From Landstuhl, where she'd remain for the next several months, Burkel posted a photo of her and the former Bagram Air Base vice wing commander. Her caption was a clever play on words based on her rank and circumstances: "One tough bird."

Since then, Burkel said she's continued to use social media to keep her legions of supporters aware of life updates.

## Road to recovery

Months later, NATO and coalition officials erected a monument at the crash site honoring those who lost their lives as Burkel fought to regain her strength, sense of normalcy and return to flying status.

But she faced a damaged C2 second vertebrae, a crushed C5 disc



**Greg Gangnuss**

and a spinal cord incursion, which doctors described as a near complete internal decapitation.

"I have friends whose husbands looked at this picture and went, 'She's probably not going to survive, and if she does, she's probably [going to] be in a wheelchair,'" Burkel said.

But her friends surprised those less optimistic, with miraculous news that instead, Burkel was already upright, out and about, "running around all the Christmas markets and doing stuff."

For three months she wore a halo for stabilization and endured large screws in her head and neck to facilitate healing of her spinal injuries which she said definitely took some adjustment. "To this point, I'd never even had an IV or surgery in my life."

Friends and family arrived to Landstuhl and took shifts to help her with mundane tasks such as washing her hair. But soon, Burkel returned to her fitness regimen, even completing four-minute planks during her recovery. "I didn't let some freakin' halo get in my way of getting some workouts in," she said.

In July 2016, she moved to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, where just over one year since the incident she became fully qualified to fly again. While most in her situation would've opted to retire or at least get on a medical profile, Burkel said she instead carries the cloth ranks and career field badges of her fallen colleagues in her pocket, and wears similar pins on the inside of her flight cap.

"It's about respecting, honoring and celebrating them every day," Burkel said in gratitude for their sacrifices and the unwavering support of her friends and family. "Support is such a powerful thing; you have no idea during the day that something you say or do for somebody can empower them to reach into that resiliency and courage."

As their stories to the magazine reporters concluded, Burkel and Gangnuss stood up and faced each other.

"I'm going to break protocol here, I've never hugged a colonel before," Gangnuss said as they embraced.



# F-35 makes historic appearance at Paris Air Show

**Tech. Sgt. Ryan Crane**  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe and  
Air Forces Africa Public Affairs

LE BOURGET, France — The U.S. made history when two F-35A Lightning IIs arrived at the Paris Air Show to fly the aircraft's first public aerial demonstrations June 19 – 25, 2017. Pulling off a historic event such as this takes months of careful planning and preparation. This team had only 36 days to make it happen.

## Building the team

Needless to say, this was not an easy road for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe air boss, Col. Justin Hickman. He set out to build a team that he could empower to solve problems and accomplish this daunting task.

“You have two Air Combat Command (F-35A) jets being maintained by 39 ACC Airmen, flown here from the U.S. by two Air Education and Training Command pilots and we are using a Lockheed Martin demonstration pilot to perform in the show,” said Hickman.

And he still had to plan the logistics for getting the other eight aircraft here. Aside from the F-35s, the Air Force brought two F-16 Fighting Falcons, a C-130J Super Hercules, a CV-22 Osprey and a KC-135R Stratotanker. The Army brought an AH-64 Apache and a CH-47 Chinook. The Navy flew in a P-8 Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft.

“This is truly a team effort,” said Hickman. “There are a lot of people who do not work for me at all, but without their help we could never do this. And they did it because they get it. They understand the importance of this event.”

Unlike a normal unit structure, this air show brings people from all different commands and expects them to function as one cohesive team.

“I was fortunate enough to have a motivated team,” said Hickman. “When you have two master sergeants like Randy James and Roy Chavez, things like security and logistics get taken care of.”

Through dozens of telephone conferences, three separate trips to Paris and hundreds of emails, the 130-person team came together to put on a show that wowed more than 350,000 people over the week-long event.

## Labor of love

Just over a month after the U.S. announced the F-35 would



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Crane

**A U.S. F-35A Lightning II from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, performs for a crowd of nearly 100,000 people at Le Bourget Airport, France, during the Paris Air Show, June 23, 2017. The Paris Air Show offers the U.S. a unique opportunity to showcase their leadership in aerospace technology to an international audience. By participating, the U.S. hopes to promote standardization and interoperability of equipment with their NATO allies and international partners. This year marks the 52nd Paris Air Show and the event features more than 100 aircraft from around the world.**

attend the show, the gates to Le Bourget Airport opened up and the crowds came flooding in.

With more than 100 aircraft on display and 2,300 different exhibitors at the show, the Defense Department aircraft corral was just a drop in the bucket of what the show offered. Despite that fact, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen drew some of the largest crowds as people clamored to get a peek at the U.S. technology on display.

The importance of this milestone was not lost on the colonel.

“I am an aviation history kinda geek,” he said. “Right out there,” he gestured, “in front of our aircraft, is a plaque commemorating where Charles Lindbergh landed. It’s written in French, and it says, Charles Lindbergh, after crossing the Atlantic for the first time, landed here May 21, 1927. And right here at the Paris Air Show, 90 years later, we have F-35s, F-16s, helicopters, tactical airlift and maritime surveillance aircraft, right where Lindbergh landed. This is historic.”

Hickman admitted the past few months have been stress-

ful, but he knows it was all worth it.

“When we’re veterans sitting in the old folks home, we’re not going to sit around and talk about all the paperwork and long hours required to make this happen, we are going to talk about Le Bourget and being a part of the world’s largest air show,” he said.

## Lightning brings the show to a standstill

In the late afternoon, the F-35 boomed down the runway, stopping the crowd in their tracks as they scanned the sky for the source of the sound.

For the next six minutes, Le Bourget was still and all eyes were on the fifth generation fighter cutting through the skies over Paris.

Once the display concluded, the crowd erupted with thunderous applause. Mission accomplished.

What the audience didn’t see were the 39 maintainers it took to bring those jets to Paris, and put them up in the sky nearly every day for two weeks and a team of security forces to protect it.

Fielding a new aircraft can be challenging under perfect conditions, and the conditions in Paris were anything but perfect.

“We had to do some things that made us uncomfortable,” said Hickman.

The team had to strike the perfect balance between making the jet viewable by the air show attendees and safeguarding the multi-million dollar asset. The solution came in the form of the iron clad relationship the U.S. has with France.

“We asked for some help from the French to protect our aircraft while we moved it back and forth from the corral to the demo,” explained Hickman. “They gave us a hangar which provided security overnight. And when we move it, they gave us a mobile rope team who helped us maintain a safe buffer between the F-35 and the crowd.”

The French also provided armed security that augmented the unarmed U.S. personnel assigned to protect the aircraft.

“It was truly a combined effort as we worked with our French allies to display the F-35,” said Hickman.

The week-long event wrapped up the evening of June 25. As the announcers informed everyone to make their way to the exits, crowds still gathered around the U.S. corral to get one last look at the American airpower on display at the Paris Air Show.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: KC-135 Stratotanker

## Mission

The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. This unique asset enhances the Air Force’s capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach. It also provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. The KC-135 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aero-medical evacuations.

## Background

The Boeing Company’s model 367-80 was the basic design for the commercial 707 passenger plane as well as the KC-135A Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its future 732-plane fleet. The first aircraft flew in August 1956 and the initial production Stratotanker was delivered to Castle Air Force Base, California, in June 1957. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965.

Under another modification program, a re-engined tanker with the TF-33-PW-102 engine was designated the KC-135E. In 2009, the last KC-135E retired from the inventory.

Through the years, the KC-135 has been altered to do other jobs ranging from flying command post missions to reconnaissance. RC-135s are used for special reconnaissance and Air Force Materiel Command’s NKC-135As are flown in test programs. Air Combat Command operates the OC-135 as

an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.

## Features

Four turbofans, mounted under 35-degree swept wings, power the KC-135 to takeoffs at gross weights of up to 322,500 pounds. A cargo deck above the refueling system can hold a mixed load of passengers and cargo. Depending on fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo.

Nearly all internal fuel can be pumped through the flying boom, the KC-135’s primary fuel transfer method. One crewmember, known as the boom operator, is stationed in the rear of the plane and controls the boom during in-flight air refueling.

A special shuttlecock-shaped drogue attached to and trailing behind the flying boom may be used to refuel aircraft fitted with probes. Some aircraft have been configured with the multipoint refueling system, which consists of special pods mounted on the wingtips. These KC-135s are capable of refueling two receiver aircraft at the same time.

## General characteristics

**Primary Function:** Aerial refueling and airlift

**Prime Contractor:** The Boeing Company

**Power Plant:** CFM International CFM-56 turbofan engines



U.S. Air Force photo

**A KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft flies over Mt. Rainier, Washington, during a mission. The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Clifford

**A KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft sits on the flightline at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. This unique asset enhances the Air Force’s capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach.**

# Real Airmen, real stories of courage, heroism inspire at Magazine Day

## Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle

Secretary of the Air Force Public  
Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON — Col. Laurel Burkel has no recollection of her first meeting with Air Force civil engineer Greg Gangnuss.

But some 20 months after a British Puma Mk 2 helicopter crash at the NATO base in Kabul, Afghanistan claimed the lives of five

coalition members, injured five others and nearly decapitated her, Burkel finally met, in person, the man who helped save her life.

The two shared their story for reporters from major print and online publications at the Pentagon for Magazine Day June 21, 2017.

“I had talked to [Greg] on the phone, we exchanged emails, but I’d never met him before,” she said. The events surrounding the

crash, both from memory and as told to her by rescuers, she described as “amazing, powerful and tough.”

An advisor to the Afghan air force and deployed to the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Burkel deployed as part of Resolute Support Mission.

She recounted that after a few months living and working on the forward operating base in the capital city, she had just finished

a major project on the fateful day, Oct. 11, 2015, having revamped the Afghan air force’s manning documents to bolster their force structure.

She and three of her teammates would take a short, routine flight from Kabul International Airport to NATO headquarters to meet with the defense minister the next day.

See **REAL AIRMEN**, Page 13



# To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424



# Serving with pride

Staff Sgt. Chip Pons

Air Education and Training Command  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — I am an American Airman. I am a warrior. I have answered my nation's call.

I am a wingman, a photojournalist and a husband. I am gay.

Once, those words would never and could never have escaped my lips. I hid who I am from the world for so long and was forced to feel shame for being "different." But different is my normal, and after all of these years, I've learned that that is okay.

The decision to embrace who I am became a pivotal moment in my life, and equally important, in my Air Force career. Despite outward success as a high school and college athlete and projected promise as an Airman, I had long sentenced myself to a life hidden in the shadows, afraid to open myself to the possibility of true happiness.

But then I met the man who would become my husband - my forever wingman.

Alexx was everything that I couldn't be: strong, confident and secure in who he is. He is the epitome of airmanship and, to this day, I look to him as an example of servant leadership, undeniable loyalty and compassionate care to those he serves beside. When I met this fellow Airman, everything for me just fell into place. I no longer felt uncomfortable in my own skin, rather I felt free to be the man and Airman that I always envisioned.

My marriage is a product of the Air Force; whether or not fate exists, my husband and I would never have crossed paths if we hadn't decided to raise our right hands and enlist. Serving alongside one another has made us stronger, both individually and as a couple. It has taught us how to balance our priorities and ultimately, has redefined our concept of wingmanship.

Coming out as a gay man tested the relationships of those closest to me, yet members of my Air Force family continued their support and encouragement as if nothing had changed. The words "I'm gay" were insignificant to those around me, despite the gravity of their meaning to me. By openly accepting who I am, I felt empowered to live my life to the fullest for the first time.

A friend and colleague of mine once said, and I couldn't agree more with her words, "Who I love is so essential to why I serve and so irrelevant to how I serve. There are a lot of great reasons to join the military, but ultimately, we join for the people we love and the country we love."

I share this quote as a reminder that we, as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, have loved ones we have vowed to protect

*A friend and colleague of mine once said, and I couldn't agree more with her words, "Who I love is so essential to why I serve and so irrelevant to how I serve. There are a lot of great reasons to join the military, but ultimately, we join for the people we love and the country we love."*

just like our fellow Airmen. We have fears and insecurities, hopes and dreams just like they do. We are a community that thrives upon inclusivity and openness. And while I am a gay man, I am proud to say that I identify first and foremost as an Airman.

June's LGBT Pride month celebrations are relatively new to us as an Air Force, but the importance of its message should resonate with every Airman.

To me, pride goes far beyond sexual orientation or identification – it speaks to the resilience and inclusiveness of our force. It is about self-acceptance and living your life as authentically as you can, because as Airmen, we are charged with embodying excellence in all we do. We are charged with living a life of integrity first. In order to do that, we must be open to being our truest selves and brave enough to share our once-perceived vulnerabilities with the world. Most importantly, we are charged with courageously putting the service of others before ourselves.

Like all Airmen, I have faced my share of obstacles, both personally and professionally. I have met those along the way who were less than supportive of the military opening up to the LGBT community; however, with the addition of new diversity and inclusion policies, the Air Force is now more accepting than it ever has been for my husband and me. While it could have been easy for us to live with fear and insecurities, being part of something bigger than ourselves is such a monumental realization. It is an honor to put on the same uniform worn by the strongest and bravest individuals in our country, and I do so every day with appreciation for their sacrifice and commitment to excellence, integrity and service.

As a member of a married, dual-military, gay couple, I can speak for both my husband and myself when I say I am proud to serve my country alongside the great men and women of the Air Force who have allowed and emboldened us to do so in the only way we know how – with pride.

## Last week's puzzle answers

Here are the answers to last week's 14<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron's ways to improve air quality

Y G R E N E E V R E S N O G  
E L R A N S T W S D G Y G Z  
M O N N T M G E D N M K Q B  
I O D K N S N O I J B Y J L  
S P Q B W I Y L L M K G T B  
S R T D G A D G Z S R Z R R  
I A J N L I L M R E A J J T  
O C E T E K Y K E E K G Y J  
N R G D Y V K N T B N W G V  
S T J L W L L M N Y J E N T  
B W M B N N L O B T N B T X  
B P D Y R P L R S B D M G X

car pool, conserve energy, emissions, energy star, engines, gas logs, green, idling, solvent, walk

## 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.

## Air Force Readiness Programs

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

### Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class takes place 10 - 11:30 a.m. July 13. The class provides re-locating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Legal, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC. Please call 434-2790 to register.

### Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is held 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. July 17 - 21. The Transition Assistance Program Workshop has seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance is 8 - 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. For more information or to register call 434-2839.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. July 18 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. July 18 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.

### Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop at 10:30 a.m. July 26 is on writing resumes, completing applications, and job searching using USAJobs. 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

## DeCA, CAFB, United Way sign MOU



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

**Bobby Danzie, Columbus Air Force Base Commissary Director; Dr. Stan McCrary, United Way of Lowndes County Executive Board President; and Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, sign a Memorandum of Agreement June 22, 2017, at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. This memorandum allows the CAFB Commissary to donate unsold items to the United Way of Lowndes County for use in local food pantries. This event highlights the Air Force's efforts to find ways, large or small, to partner with community organizations and local governments to share resources to tackle challenges together.**

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 426-2527, or 434-2790 for an appointment. Get help managing finances, resolving financial problems and reaching 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



**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.

**Independence Run**  
There will be an Independence Run at 7 a.m. July 14 starting at the fitness center.

**Breakfast at the Club**  
The Columbus Club will host a free breakfast for club members from 6:30 – 9 a.m. July 18. Breakfast includes classic breakfast choices and a waffle station.

**Library Summer Reading Program**  
The Library Summer Reading Program has begun. Please see the Library for the schedule of activities.

**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 from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Thursdays; and from 8 a.m. – noon Saturdays. The library is closed Sundays and holidays.

**Base Pool Hours**  
Independence Pool is open from noon – 7 p.m. daily. 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.

**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 from 4:30 p.m. - midnight Fridays. 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 at 11 a.m. every Friday 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 per-



son from 5 – 8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night. 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 Whispering Pines**  
Wood is available at Whispering Pines from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sundays. Contact Whispering Pines Monday-Friday to arrange pick-up. Call 434-7932 for more information.

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

**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.

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

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

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



| VENDORS   |                             |  |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Free Spirit Church<br>Catfish Plates and Turkey Legs  | Fantastic<br>Funnel Cakes   | Southern Elite<br>Catering<br>Pork, Turkey Legs, & Polish Sausages |
| Black Bayou<br>New Orleans classic cuisine with a Texas twist   | Miller's<br>Homemade Scoops | Two Sisters<br>Concessions<br>Nachos, Snow Cones & Ice Cream       |
| Danny's<br>Porkskins  | Lost Pizza                  | Chick-Fil-A<br>Chicken Sandwiches & Sweet Tea                      |
| T&G Catering<br>BBQ Ribs, Rib Tips, Polish Sausage, Hot Dogs, Brisket, Hamburgers, Pulled Pork & Fish | Mugshots Grill              | Snowie Cool Treats<br>Shaved Ice                                   |

| Fireworks on the Water, 5 p.m. July 1  |
|--|
| FAQ  |
| <b>Where do we park?</b><br>Parking will be available on-site with volunteer parking guides to assist. Access to the park will be closed after 8:45 p.m. or the park is full, whichever happens first. Be aware that once the fireworks show begins both lanes of Wilkins Wise Rd. will be outbound only to help traffic flow.                           |
| <b>Will the west bank be open?</b><br>We will not be providing any entertainment or support for the West Bank, however, it will not be closed until we reach the parking maximum. The boat ramp will be open. After reaching capacity, Lowndes County Sherriff will close the access road to the west bank.  |
| <b>What will we do if the weather is bad?</b><br>While we can't control the weather, we will make a final weather decision around 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 1. If bad weather is expected or forecasted, we will provide weather updates at noon.   |
| <b>Will there be any accommodations for the elderly and disabled?</b><br>Yes, but it is limited! We have handicapped parking available, but event seating is limited. We will have volunteers, safety crews, and a few golf carts available to assist with the mobility impaired. Please feel free to bring your motorized scooters and service animals. |
| <b>What vendors will there be?</b><br>We will have BBQ, catfish, sno cones, ice cream, funnel cakes, pork skins, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, and more. Stay tuned to the FOTW 2017 Facebook page for vendor updates!   |





T-1A Jayhawk

# SUPT Class 17-11 earns silver wings



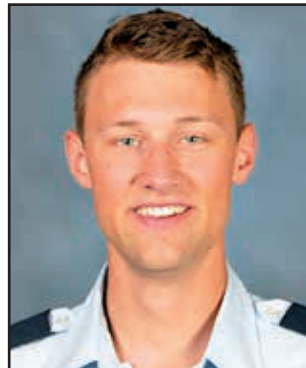
T-38C Talon



**1st Lt. Aleks Akiyama**  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
KC-135, Scott AFB, Ill.



**1st Lt. Dillon Beschel**  
Spokane, Wash.  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



**1st Lt. Austin Bryant**  
Campobello, S.C.  
MC-130H, Kadena AB, Japan

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-11 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Col. James Fisher, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, 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.

Second Lt. Cory Clark, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Dreslinski, 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. Daniel Fuller, T-38, and 1st Lt. Nathaniel Dreslinski, 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.

Second Lt. Cory Clark, T-38, 1st Lt. Nathaniel Dreslinski, T-1, and 2nd Lt. Dylan Radka, T-1, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 17-11.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 17-11 pilot partners are Coldwell Banker West Realty and Ashley Home Furniture Store.



**1st Lt. Gared Chapman**  
Oviedo, Fla.  
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**1st Lt. Lindsay Crawford**  
Fort Wayne, Ind.  
C-17, JB Charleston, N.C.



**1st Lt. Scott Cronin**  
Newport News, Va.  
KC-135, MacDill AFB, Fla.



**1st Lt. James Dimmick**  
Boynton Beach, Fla.  
C-17, Dover AFB, Del.



**1st Lt. Nate Dreslinski**  
Clinton, Mich.  
C-17, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii



**1st Lt. Taylor Drolshagen**  
Muskego, Wis.  
EC-130H, Davis-Monahan AFB, Ariz.



**1st Lt. Warren Saunders**  
Westwood, N.J.  
E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Omar Akram**  
Great Falls, Va.  
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**2nd Lt. King Kristian Argoso**  
Gumaca, Quezon, Philippines  
KAIT-50PH, TBD



**2nd Lt. Anzor Bakez**  
Amman, Jordan  
F-16, TBD



**2nd Lt. Jonathan Becraft**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
C-17, Memphis ANGB, Tenn.



**2nd Lt. Cory Clark**  
Sanford, Maine  
F-22, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Daniel Fuller**  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



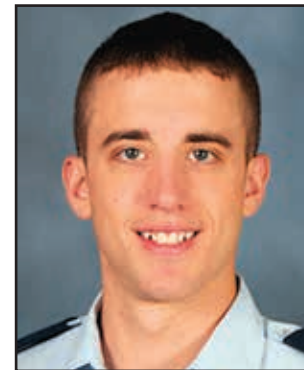
**2nd Lt. Joseph Hamilton**  
Beavercreek, Ohio  
C-130H, Maxwell AFB, Ala.



**2nd Lt. Taylor Hiester**  
Robesonia, Pa.  
F-16, Holloman AFB, N.M.



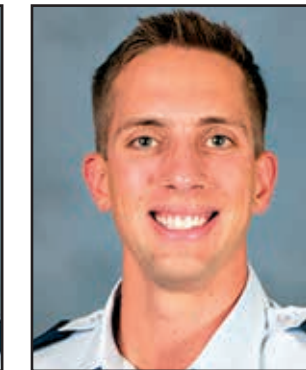
**2nd Lt. Julian Kinonen**  
Ridgefield, Wash.  
T-6, Columbus AFB, Miss.



**2nd Lt. Tyler Kludt**  
Viborg, S.D.  
KC-135, Sioux City Regional Airport, Iowa



**2nd Lt. Ross Kohler**  
Woodstock, Ill.  
F-15C, Kingsley Field ANGB, Ore.



**2nd Lt. Dylan Radka**  
Reading, Pa.  
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Justin Splain**  
York, Neb.  
F-16, Tuscon ANGB, AZ



**2nd Lt. Brandon Vasey**  
Cherry Hill, N.J.  
C-17, JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.