

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

# SILVER WINGS

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

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

August 4, 2017

Vol. 41, Issue 30

## Weather

<b>Friday</b> Thunderstorms High 90°F Low 70°F	<b>Saturday</b> Thunderstorms High 90°F Low 71°F
<b>Sunday</b> Thunderstorms High 88°F Low 71°F	<b>Monday</b> Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 71°F

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

## News Briefs

### 14th Medical Group Change of Command

The 14th Medical Group Change of Command ceremony is scheduled for 2:14 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Columbus Club.

### ALS Retreat Ceremony

The Columbus Air Force Base Airman Leadership School will host a retreat ceremony at 4:50 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Gene Smith Plaza, in front of the Wing Headquarters building.

### BCC Luncheon

The Base Community Council Luncheon is at 11:30 a.m., Aug. 11 at the Columbus Club. If interested in attending, please contact the Public Affairs office at 434-7068 to RSVP by Aug. 4.

## Inside



### Feature 8

Back to School is highlighted in this week's feature.

# Know your heritage, live the mission: 100 years of 48th Squadron lineage

### Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam

48th Flying Training Squadron  
Commander

“History makes you smarter, heritage makes you prouder.”

– Gen. Robin Rand, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command

Along with the centennial commemoration of America's entry into World War I, 2017 also marks the 100th anniversary of the 48th Squadron.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany's violations of a pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States.

On April 4, 1917, the United States Senate voted in support of a measure to declare war on Germany. The House of Representatives concurred two days later. Four months after the declaration of war, the 48th was activated on Aug. 4, 1917, making it one of the oldest squadrons in the United States Air Force.

The 48th Aero Squadron was activated, mobilized and deployed to France with the American Expeditionary Forces to defeat the Central Powers 100 years ago in “The War to End All Wars.” In September 1917, the 48th Provisional Squadron attended basic training at Kelly Field, Texas, before joining the 1st Aero Construction Group in Garden City, New York. The group was designated for deployment with the AEF to France. The



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

The front of the 48th Flying Training Squadron's Heritage Room shows the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron patch on the left of the American flag and the WWII 48th Pursuit Squadron patch designed by Disney Studios on the right and the current 48th Flying Training Squadron emblem below it. Walt Disney's team of artists created the patch along with many others for various units as a way to contribute to service members during World War II.

following month, it embarked on the Cunard Liner “Pannonia,” suffering a stormy and unpleasant voyage across the Atlantic. The squadron arrived in Liverpool, England, on Oct. 29, 1917, and arrived at Rest Camp 2 in Le Havre, France, just two days later.

Throughout the war, the squadron constructed barracks and shops in central France. At the 3rd Air Instructional Center, Issoudun Aerodrome, it also erected hangars and did necessary construction work to make the school suitable for training pursuit — fighter — pilots. It began work building roads,

putting up hangars, and installing water and electrical systems on six airfields to support the training school. The Issoudun was essential to the development of the AEF's air forces, training the likes of Eddie Rickenbacker, Douglas Campbell, and Kenneth Marr of the 94th Aero Pursuit Squadron. At war's end, the Issoudun was the largest flying school in the world.

After the Armistice, the 48th Provisional Squadron was reassigned to the Third Army Air Service and moved to Trier Airdrome, Germany, as part of the Army of Occupation. The squadron pre-

See HERITAGE, Page 3

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual				
37th (18-07)	-3.81 days	2.54 days	Sept. 5	48th (17-13)	-3.65 days	-1.35 days	Aug. 18	49th (17-KBC)	-2.27 days	-3.12 days	Aug. 18	T-6	259	160	26,991				
41st (18-06)	4.89 days	1.58 days	Aug. 11	50th (17-13)	-1.73 days	1.45 days	Aug. 18	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	72	66	7,040				
The graduation speaker for SUPT Class 17-13 at 10 a.m. Aug. 18 is retired Col. Todd Phinney, former Chair of the Leadership and War Fighting Department at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.												T-38	108	120	9,449				
												IFF	42	35	3,941				

## RENT-A-SPACE

406 Wilkins Wise Rd.  
www.columbusrentaspace.com  
662-327-5656



A \$25.00 donation will be made to  
www.woundedwarrioroutdoors.com  
on behalf of any CAFB Personnel who  
rents a storage space.

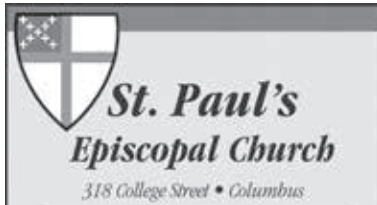
© The Dispatch



### BEAUTIFUL LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

62 CHAPMAN COVE - COLUMBUS  
Approximately 3600 SF, 4 large  
bedrooms/2.5 baths, living room,  
dining room, kitchen, den,  
game room, office, laundry room,  
front porch & deck.  
\$1500 per month/\$1500 Deposit  
Contact: Dr. Jackie Stennis  
662-574-1720

© The Dispatch



### 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



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.

## L3 Vertex Aerospace Career Fair

Saturday, August 12, 2017  
Time: 9am-1pm

East Mississippi Community College  
Golden Triangle Campus, 8731 S.  
Frontage Road, Mayhew, MS 39753

L3 Vertex Aerospace has long been an industry leader in delivering a full spectrum of Aviation Aftermarket Services with a strong legacy of extreme customer and mission focus. Vertex Aerospace is a global and premier provider of “best value” services in their respected markets and domains for fixed and rotary winged military and commercial aircraft.

A billion dollar business sector comprised of over 7,000 employees spread across 100+ worldwide operating locations. Headquartered in Madison, MS, the business area's mission is to provide 24/7 aircraft services to diverse Department of Defense and other Government agency customers CONUS and OCONUS.

L3 Vertex is currently recruiting experience people for its Columbus AFB location. During the Career Fair Hiring Managers will be present to interview. Please bring your resume and apply on line @ [www.L-3jobs.com](http://www.L-3jobs.com)

- Aircraft Servicers for T38, T1, and T6
- Aircraft Mechanics for T38, T1 and T6
- Aircraft Structures Mechanics
- Avionics Specialist
- Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI)
- Aircraft Mechanic- Pneudraulics
- Electrical Environmental Specialist
- Corrosion Control Specialist
- Tool and Parts Attendant
- Sr. Aircraft Maintenance Manager
- Aircraft Maintenance Foreman



Vertex Aerospace

Please visit us online for basic qualifications and to apply. Apply at [www.L-3jobs.com](http://www.L-3jobs.com)

L-3 Communications Corporation is proud to be an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. L-3 provides equal employment opportunity for all persons, in all facets of employment. L-3 maintains a drug-free workplace and performs pre-employment substance abuse testing and background checks.



13 MILLION ACRES...AND COUNTING

For more information, go to [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

1-800-45-DUCKS

A CFC participant -  
provided as a public service

Finding cures.  
Saving children.®  
800-822-6344 • [stjude.org](http://stjude.org)



St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital

A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.





# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 42 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

*Deployment numbers provided by the Installation Personnel Readiness Office.*

## Airman receives BLAZE 5/6 award



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lucas Tate

**Airman 1st Class Spencer Hurlburt, 14th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Systems technician, right, receives the BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight award from Staff Sgt. Viviana Chalfonte, 14th Medical Operations Squadron and BLAZE 5/6 Awards representative, left, July 27, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Hurlburt utilized electronic fundamental knowledge and innovation to accomplish component level repairs on five assets, saving \$24,000 in replacement cost and eliminating five system outages.**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
7 ALS Class 17-06 14th MDG CoC, 2:14 p.m. @ Club	8 Wing Newcomers Brief, 8 a.m. @ Club  SUPT Class 18-13 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ Steel Dynamics	9	10 ALS Retreat, 4:50 p.m. @ Smith Plaza	11 BCC Lunch, 11:30 a.m. @ Club  Senior NCO Induction, 5:30 p.m. @ Club	12/13 12th-13th: Autocross, 9 a.m. @ SAC ramp	Aug. 24: ALS Graduation Aug. 25: SUPT Class 17-14 Assignment Night Aug. 29: Wing Newcomers Sept. 1: AETC Family Day Sept. 4: Labor Day Sept. 8: SUPT Class 17-14 Graduation Sept. 11: Patriot Day Sept. 14: SUPT Class 17-15 Assignment Night Sept. 15: Air Force Birthday Ball Sept. 18: Air Force 70th Birthday Sept. 19: POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 21: Enlisted Dorm Dinner Sept. 23: CAFB Triathlon
14 ALS Class 17-06	15 Senator Thad Cochran visit, 8 a.m. @ Columbus Air Force Base	16	17	18 SUPT Class 17-13 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	19/20 19th: AAS-AFA Picnic	

## 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

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross**  
NCOIC, Command Information

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
Editor

**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.*

## BARGAIN LINE

### Bargain Line advertisement

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

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

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

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

Type of advertisement (circle one)    Home    Transportation    Miscellaneous    Yard sales    Pets

Print advertisement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:  
Are you happy with the Silver Wings?    Yes ☐    No ☐  
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper?    News ☐    Sports ☐    Photos ☐    Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@us.af.mil.

## News Around Town

### Aug. 19

The Possum Town Triathlon is scheduled for Aug. 19 at Columbus Lake in Columbus, Mississippi. The race starts at 7 a.m., and competition features a 600-yard swim, 17-mile bike ride and 3.3-mile run. For more information visit [http://visitcolumbusms.org/index.php/upcoming\\_events/info/1090#top](http://visitcolumbusms.org/index.php/upcoming_events/info/1090#top).

### The Golden Triangle Comic Con 2017

The Golden Triangle Comic Con 2017 is scheduled for Aug. 19 on the top floor of the Trotter Center at 123 Fifth St. North, Columbus, Mississippi. For more information, visit <http://gtcomiccon.com/>.

### Aug. 25

The Lions Hills Center and Golf Course is scheduled to host a Ladies Scramble Aug. 25. Call Lion Hills at (662) 328-4837 for more information.

### Sept. 2

The Mississippi State University football team will face off against Charleston Southern University at 3 p.m. Sept. 2 at Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.



**PAPA JOHN'S**  
BETTER INGREDIENTS.  
BETTER PIZZA.  
papajohns.com • 662-241-6800

**Online Code: PSCAFB**  
**25% Off Any Order**  
at regular menu price  
Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 8/31/17.

**Online Code: PS11**  
**\$11 One Large**  
up to 3 toppings  
Original or Thin Crust. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 8/31/17.

**Online Code: PS142MED**  
**\$14 Two Medium**  
2 toppings each  
Not valid with any other offer or discount. Coupon required. Additional charges may apply. Expires 8/31/17.



**ALL EYEGLASSES**  
**BUY ONE**  
**GET ONE**  
**50% OFF\***

**COLUMBUS**  
Inside the Main Entrance to the  
Exchange on the right  
**(662) 434-8707**

\*50% off 2nd pair must be of equal or lesser value as the first pair purchased. Purchase of two complete pairs (frame and lenses) of eyeglasses required. Second pair must be purchased with the first pair and at the same date and time for the same person. Cannot be combined with any other discount, coupon or insurance plan. No dispensing fee. All eyeglass purchases require a current, valid prescription. Valid at participating Vista Optical Centers only. This advertisement is neither paid for nor sponsored in whole or any part by any element of the United States government. Offer expires 09/30/2017. ©2017 National Vision, Inc.



# AF offers high year of tenure extensions to retain experienced Airmen

Kat Bailey

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force is offering high year of tenure extensions to active-duty Airmen in certain shortage Air Force specialty codes and grades effective Aug. 1, 2017.

High year of tenure, or HYT, refers to the maximum number of years enlisted Airmen in each grade may remain on active duty.

This voluntary extension opportunity focuses on retaining experienced Airmen in shortage specialties such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, maintenance, nuclear, cyber and special operations to help improve readiness.

“Squadron commanders may approve extensions for qualified Airmen, which reinforces the Air Force Chief of Staff’s efforts to revitalize squadrons,” said Col. Erik Bovasso, the Air Force Personnel Center Military Sustainment and Transitions Programs division chief. “This purposeful empowerment places the approval authority and responsibility at the right level, with commanders who know their mission and Airmen best.”

The HYT program allows eligible senior airmen, staff sergeants, technical sergeants and master sergeants in targeted AFSCs and grades to apply for a high year of tenure extension between 12 and 24 months in order for the Air Force to retain experience and enhance mission effectiveness and readiness.

*“Although retention is high in some career fields and (fiscal year 2016 and 2017) retention programs were successful, the Air Force needs to ensure experienced Airmen are available to complete the mission as well as train new Airmen,” Bovasso said. “HYT extensions will help improve mission capability in key areas where readiness is currently strained.”*

“Although retention is high in some career fields and (fiscal year 2016 and 2017) retention programs were successful, the Air Force needs to ensure experienced Airmen are available to complete the mission as well as train new Airmen,” Bovasso said. “HYT extensions will help improve mission capability in key areas where readiness is currently strained.”

Eligibility for HYT is limited to those AFSCs and grades posted on the matrix on myPers, and is based on the Airman’s control AFSC as listed in the Military Personnel Data System on July 21, 2017.

“The Air Force will notify Airmen via email of their eligibility to request an extension,” Bovasso said. “Airmen must have a HYT date of Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, to be eligible under this program.”

Airmen with a previous HYT extension approved for a period of less than 24 months may, if otherwise eligible, request an extension under the fiscal 2017/2018 program. However, the total number of months of HYT extension for their approved AFSC and grade cannot exceed 24 months.

“For example, an Airman approved for a Hardship HYT extension for a period of 12 months, who meets the eligibility criteria, may request an additional extension of up to 12 months under the FY 17/18 program,” Bovasso said.

The window for submitting an HYT extension request via the application on myPers is Aug. 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. Qualified Airmen should check with the career development element at their local force support squadron for details, as specific timelines depend on the Airman’s current HYT date.

Find additional information about eligibility criteria, application process and other specifics on myPers. Select “Active Duty Enlisted” from the dropdown menu and search “HYT.”

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.

## HERITAGE

(Continued from page 1)

pared this former German airfield for seven American aero squadrons to use in less than a week. After completing its mission, the squadron turned in all of their equipment at the 1st Air Depot at Colombey-les-Belles Aerodrome and moved to Channel Port where it boarded a troop ship and returned to the United States. The squadron was demobilized on Aug. 11, 1919, for the next eight years.

After reactivation in 1927, the 48th School Squadron conducted flight training at the 10th School Group, training personnel from 1927-1931 and 1933-1936. After becoming the 48th Pursuit Squadron in 1941, the unit was once again renamed, becoming the 48th Fighter Squadron which conducted air defense patrols along California coast before joining the fight in World War II. During the war, the 48th FS dominated many missions including bomber escort, fighter sweeps, advancing ground troop support and reconnaissance flights.

The current squadron insignia dates back to World War II and the late Walt Disney (1901-1966). Walt Disney Productions created approximately 1,200 designs during World War II for both American and Allied military units. The studio did all of this work free of charge as a donation to the war effort. The 48th Fighter Intercept Squadron (1952-1991) tried for years to have the Alley Cat logo integrated into their patch, but ultimately was unable to do so. However, in 1986 the battle was finally won and the 48th was granted permission by Disney to use the design for patch purposes. The Possumtown Alley Cat is the same one you see on the shoulders of men and women of the 48th Flying Training Squadron (1996-present) today.

The 48th legacy lives in each of us. Although we no longer



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

**In the period of peace that followed World War II, the aircraft and missions of the 48th changed many times. The 48th Fighter Squadron Association was formed in 1975 to keep the heritage of the 48th Pursuit and Fighter squadron alive and relevant to the current 48th members. This plaque, featuring the control wheel from a P-38 Lightning, recorded the presidents of the Association.**

construct airfields or patrol the skies for enemy aircraft, we honor the excellence of the 48th men and women of years past, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. Two such officers were Jack Ilfrey and Virgil Smith, members of pilot training class 41-01. Ilfrey was originally credited as the first P-38 Lightning ace of World War II until a change in the accounting rules after the war gave the title to Virgil Smith. We also remember Lt. Michael Brezas, a Hispanic-American fighter pilot who paved the way for future generations with 12 confirmed kills in battle — he likely garnered many more. This is the legacy of the 48th. It lives in Smith and Brezas. It



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


**In this artist’s heritage sketch, a Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training student pilot prepares to fly a T-1A Jayhawk, the 48th Flying Training Squadron’s current aircraft with a P-38 lightning reflected in a puddle on the ramp. This drawing represents the past, present and future of the 48th Squadron.**

lives in the men and women of the 48th FTS who “train the world’s best pilots” as the “premier flying training squadron developing the world’s best pilots and leaders.”

I have a front row seat to the 48th squadron’s legacy of training excellence. As we write our chapter on this centennial heritage celebration, I’m proud to know our continued competence, courage, commitment and capacity will ensure the best pilots serve the United States on silver wings for many years to come. I look forward to reading about all the 48th Squadron will accomplish over its next 100 years of excellence.

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

**\$2 OFF** *Adult Sunday Brunch*

Maximum 1 adult per coupon, must have original coupon, no copies. Not valid with any other offers or kids price. Expires 10/01/2017.

**Free Child's Meal**  
*With purchase of 2 Adult Entrees*

Friday night dinner only, dine in only, not valid with any other offers, must have original coupon. Expires 10/01/2017.

**WARNING SIGNS**

Type 1 diabetes may occur suddenly and includes:

- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Drowsiness or Lethargy
- Increased Appetite
- Sudden Weight Loss
- Sudden Vision Changes
- Sugar in the Urine
- Fruity Odor on the Breath
- Heavy or Labored Breathing
- Stupor or Unconsciousness

A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.

**JDRF** IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH TYPE 1 DIABETES **jdrf.org**

# Speer advises all to ‘stay humble, serve with honor, passion’

Airman 1st Class  
Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Retired Col. Michael Speer, former 315th Airlift Wing Vice Wing Commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-12 July 29 on Columbus Air Force Base.

After a brief introduction from Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Speer took the stage.

“What an honor and a privilege it is for me to be here today,” Speer said. “I’m thrilled to be here and I’m really thrilled that seven years after retirement the uniform still fits.”

Speer said he and his wife were pleased with the people and Airmen who make up the 14th FTW.

“You and your team do exactly



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

**Retired Col. Michael Speer, former 315th Airlift Wing Vice Wing Commander, gave advice to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-12 about what is to come in their next journey of being an Air Force pilot July 28, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Speer’s son, Capt. Michael Speer, earned his wings that day along with his wingmen.**

what the Air Force requires of you, you produce the finest military aviators in the world,” he said. “Every-

one on the base plays an outstanding part in that.”

Speer scattered jokes through-

out his speech but didn’t veer away from serious topics, and gave advice and knowledge based off his past experiences.

“What does a lieutenant or captain who’s leaving the training department need to know when they get to their first operational squadron? First of all it’s going to be intimidating,” Speer said.

He said there’s no need to be intimidated, being a pilot straight out of training is how it happens.

“Trust in your training and be confident — confident, not cocky, not arrogant, nobody needs that — be confident,” Speer said.

Then he told them they must climb the chain, they must earn the roles of being a chief pilot or squadron commander.

He said the squadron doesn’t want anything but the best work the new pilots can offer.

“You’re about to get the most glamorous job in the Air Force, but don’t ever take for granted the work that’s being done by the rest of the people in the Air Force,” Speer said. “There are a lot of people out there who work hard to support you, get to know them and don’t ever miss the opportunity to thank them.”

Among the graduates was Speer’s son, Capt. Michael Speer.

“I was so proud of Michael, I’m proud of all the kids, it’s been a tough year, and it was an honor to speak whether your son’s here or not,” he said.

Speer advised the pilots to stay humble, to serve with honor and to serve with passion.

“Let’s put some wings on the chests of these young men,” Speer said as he closed his speech to the newest graduates.



Airmen recognized for excellence at Enlisted Promotions, Quarterly Awards



Airman 1st Class Daniel Torres, 14th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment craftsman, Staff Sgt. Donald Porter, 14th Communications Squadron knowledge operator, and Senior Airman Andrew Langness, 14th Comptroller Squadron financial services flight technician, are recognized at the monthly Enlisted Promotion Ceremony July 31, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Enlisted Promotion Ceremony takes place during the last duty day of every month.

Team BLAZE recognized the second quarter of fiscal year 2017's quarterly award winners July 31, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. BLAZE members came out to cheer for their unit's nominees and competed for the Spirit Award. To earn the Spirit Award, units must see how loud they can be when cheering for their nominee. The most spirited unit keeps the trophy for the next quarter.

# T-6 pilots visit F-35 production facility

1st Lt. Michael Crampton  
37th Flying Training Squadron  
Instructor Pilot

Sixteen local T-6A Texan II instructor pilots visited the Lockheed Martin factory June 8 in Fort Worth, Texas, as part of the Instructor Enrichment Program.

Lockheed Martin members educated instructors by showing an in-depth look at fifth-generation aircraft development, production and capabilities.

The IEP allows instructors to enhance their knowledge and perspective of Air Force aircraft.

The IEP has proven to be a quality experience to give current instructor pilots a chance to expand their aviation knowledge. Instructors from the 37th and 41st Flying Training Squadrons teamed up with Lockheed Martin to put together an inclusive trip to develop a further understanding of the F-35 Lightning II, a fifth-generation aircraft.

As Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training instructor pilots, they are training and inspiring the future pilots of the Air Force and the trip provided insight on possible follow-on aircraft assignments for students. The knowledge the instructors gained will be passed on so SUPT students can make educated decisions upon graduation. The trip



Sixteen T-6A Texan II pilots from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, visit the Lockheed Martin factory in Fort Worth Texas, June 8, 2017.

was broken down into two parts: development and production, and capabilities.

During the development and production portion, Lockheed Martin set up a full tour of the F-35 factory line. It started with the beginning stages where the materials get prepared and strengthened to be used on the aircraft. Then the tour moved all the way down

the production line to show every phase each aircraft goes through. Final production was the last stop, where the engine is put into the F-35 and it is ready for first flight.

The capabilities briefings received from Lockheed Martin began with the "Roadmap to 5th Generation." This showed a prospective look of how much the Air Force has

grown and the potential fifth-generation aircraft have. The F-35 capabilities briefing broke down the specific ways that the F-35 can change the way we dominate air superiority. Finally, an F-35 simulator demonstration supplied a hands-on view of those superior F-35 capabilities.

Over the two days spent at Lockheed Martin, the 16 instructors on the trip had a one-of-a-kind experience. Each part of the visit played a key role in making the trip a success. Touring the factory showed them the hard work that men and women put in behind the scenes to put the pilots in the best aircraft possible. Each briefing received was full of information about the future of fifth-generation aircraft and the impact on the pilots of today's Air Force. The simulator demonstration allowed each instructor pilot the chance to jump in the seat for a chance to test out the F-35 firsthand.

Every instructor on the trip agreed that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There seemed to be a true understanding about the production of the F-35, as well as an understanding behind how a company like Lockheed Martin supports the Air Force's mission. This integrated experience between civilian and military professionals enhanced relationships on both sides and is recommended to be continued.

1947 - 1960 GENERATION

# U.S. Air Force: Breaking barriers since birth

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Since its inception, the Air Force has consistently broken barriers as an element of the finest joint warfighting team on the planet, and its Airmen have refined its mission through innovation and teamwork.

There were only 318,744 Airmen within the Air Force at that time, but their accomplishments within the first decade quickly let the world know they were a force to be reckoned with.

The first Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Carl Spaatz, set the standard for the service when he said, "We'd better be prepared to dominate the skies above the surface of the earth, or be prepared to be buried beneath it."

The Emergence of Air Superiority  
On Oct. 14, 1947, 24-year-old Capt. Chuck Yeager piloted the experimental rocket-propelled Bell Aircraft XS-1, through the sound barrier – one of the first steps toward the force's future in air superiority.

"That breakthrough established the importance of velocity and ensuring that airframes and humans could operate effectively at high speeds," said Air Force Senior Historian, Dr. John Q. Smith.

Within its first year, the Air Force faced a major test in capabilities after the Soviet Union instituted a blockade of rail and road lines between the American, British, and French occupation zones of western Germany and their occupation sectors in western Berlin. In response, the Allies launched the Berlin airlift, with air transport the only option for transporting much-needed supplies into West Berlin. Between June 26, 1948, and Sept. 30, 1949, American aircrews made more than 189,000 flights, totaling nearly 600,000 flying hours and exceeding 92 million miles. In June 1950, Communist North



Courtesy photo  
On Oct. 14, 1947, 24-year-old Capt. Chuck Yeager piloted the experimental rocket-propelled Bell Aircraft XS-1, through the sound barrier – one of the first steps toward the force's future in air superiority.

Korea invaded the Republic of Korea, and the United States joined other nations to help defend South Korea.

"The battle for air superiority was vital and also reflected the end of propeller-driven fighters and the supremacy of jet aircraft," Smith said.

After the Air Force lost its advantage to the North Korean, Chinese and Soviet MiG-15 pilots, it responded with the F-86 Sabre, which flew neck-to-neck with the MiG-15, but had a better gun platform.

"Even though peace talks began in July, 1951, they stalled for two years, largely due to issues about the release of prisoners of war," Smith said. "With a stalemate on the ground and a deadlock in negotiations, U.S. air power ultimately motivated the Communists to reach an agreement. The armistice ending the fighting was signed on July 27, 1953."

## Nuclear Deterrence

During the early decades of Air Force history, there was a

near-constant awareness of the challenges posed by the nuclear age. The sheer destructiveness of nuclear weapons resulted in an uneasy "peace" based on a doctrine of mutually assured destruction.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson assigned responsibility for developing intercontinental ballistic missiles to the Air Force on Nov. 26, 1956. The service responded by activating its first ICBM wing within a year. The first Atlas ICBM launched less than a month later, and its warhead landed within its target area after a 500-mile flight.

Then, on Sept. 9, 1959, Strategic Air Command fired an Atlas ICBM from Vandenberg Air Force Base, which traveled 4,300 miles. Gen. Thomas S. Power, SAC commander, declared the Atlas operational, establishing the ground component of the nuclear triad.

## Breaking Social Barriers

The Air Force may have changed the way the world viewed the U.S. military, and it also led the charge in acceptance of diversity within the Armed Forces. The branch of service was the first to plan for racial integration, even before President Truman's Executive Order No. 9981 directed the desegregation of the U.S. military.

"The new service also saw important steps in the breaking of the gender barrier," Smith said. "The Women's Armed Service Integration Act, passed by Congress on June 12, 1948, provided for the establishment of Women in the Air Force, giving women permanent status in the regular and reserve forces of the Air Force."

Whether in the sky or within its ranks, the first decade in Air Force history established a heritage of innovation, teamwork and breaking barriers.

# AF opens retraining to second term, career Airmen

Kat Bailey  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force has announced the Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program for fiscal year 2018 and will update the number of slots available on the retraining advisory on or about Aug. 2, 2017.

Designed to balance and sustain the enlisted force as the Air Force continues to grow, the program allows Airmen on their second or later enlistments in healthier Air Force specialties to retrain into specialties with lower inventories to meet current and future mission needs.

"The enlisted retraining advisory on myPers is updated in real time and assists

Airmen with identifying career fields with retraining-in quotas in their grade, or projected grade, if selected, that they might find interesting," said Master Sgt. Kris Reece, the Air Force Personnel Center Enlisted Skills Management Branch superintendent. "We advise potential applicants to check the retraining advisory and notes closely to avoid delays in the application process, particularly regarding eligibility."

To apply for NCORP, Airmen must be on their second or subsequent enlistment, be a staff sergeant or staff sergeant-select through master sergeant and have a minimum five-skill level in their control AFSC or a three-skill level for those AFSCs where a five-level does not exist. Additionally, staff sergeants must have fewer than 12 years, and technical and master sergeants no more than 16 years

of active service as of Sept. 30, 2017.

The Air Force Work Interest Navigator, available on the Retraining page on myPers, is a tool Airmen may use to identify potential career fields of interest by answering a series of questions about functional communities, job context and work activities.

"The AF-WIN tool creates a customized job-interest report from your responses and compares your interests to all entry-level AFSCs," Reece said. "You'll still want to visit the enlisted retraining advisory because AF-WIN doesn't tell you if a career field is available or if you meet the eligibility qualifications."

AFPC will host two active duty Enlisted Retraining webcasts for second term and career Airmen Aug. 2, 2017, at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Airmen

should use their e-mail Common Access Card certificate to authenticate and log in 10 minutes early to establish a good connection.

Retraining information is available and continuously updated on myPers. Click "Retraining" from the active-duty enlisted landing page. The online training advisory is listed under the "Tools" section. In addition, a live chat feature is available for Airmen on the First Term Airmen Retraining page. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow about 30 to 60 seconds for a representative to come online.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.



### 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.

### End of Summer Bash

An End of Summer Bash is from noon-5 p.m. Aug. 4 at Freedom Park. There will be free snacks, beverages, games, music and more. This has been approved as an alternate duty location and uniform of the day is civilian attire.

### Free Movie at the Pool

Smurfs: The Lost Village is scheduled to play at Independence Pool starting at 8:30 p.m. Aug 5. Doors open at 8 p.m.

### Free Club Member Breakfast

There will be a free club member breakfast from 6:30-9:30 a.m. Aug. 8. The breakfast will feature an omelet station.

### Citrus Chicken Tacos on the Flightline

Chicken tacos will be available from 11 a.m.-1 pm. Aug. 9 at the picnic area by the 14th Operations Group building. Tacos are free for club members and \$7 for nonmembers, cash only. Tacos will be available while supplies last. This is also a time for club members to learn how to “get connected” and control their membership. Not a member? Join and connect today. For more information call 434-2489.

### Club Connect: Dirty Dodgeball and Costume Contest

The Columbus Club will host a Dirty Dodgeball Tournament and a Costume Contest at 7 p.m. Aug. 25. For Club members the tournament and food is free, nonmembers costs \$7 for food. There will be \$140 in prize giveaways.

### Youth Center Walk/Run

A free youth fitness walk/run will start at 8 a.m. Aug. 26. The walk/run is for all ages, and participants must sign-up at the Youth Center by Aug. 18.

### Bowl with a Pro

Learn advanced bowling techniques with professionals at 11 a.m. Aug. 26 at the Bowling Center. For more information call 434-3426.

### Kids Bowl Free

Children are able to bowl free every Monday and Tuesday from noon-5 p.m. in August.

### The Overrun Lunch Menu gets an Upgrade

The Overrun's lunch menu is improved. The Overrun is located in the Columbus Club and is open from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

### The Café at Whispering Pines is Open

The café is now open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a new lunch menu.

### 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 is available as well as call-ahead service. Call 434-CAFÉ (2233). The Commons also houses the Library; an Information, Tickets and Tours, and Outdoor Recreation kiosk; a computer lab; and a FedEx drop-off point.

### Story Time and Circle Time

The Base Library offers Story Time at 11 a.m. every Friday for children 4 years old and younger. For more information, call 434-2934.



### 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 \$2 for members and \$3 for nonmembers. Summer passes are available based on family size. Call 434-2505 for more information.

### The Overrun Open Friday Nights

The Overrun is open from 4:30-11 p.m. Fridays. Bar menu includes chicken wing basket, chicken tender basket, club wrap or buffalo chicken wrap. For more information, call 434-2419.

### Laser Bowling Special

The Bowling Center offers laser bowling for \$12 per person 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.

### Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Lawn mower repair is now available at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$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 nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$45 per case of 2,000 paint balls. For more information, call 434-2505.

### Need Money for College?

Enter to win scholarship money from Air Force Clubs. Visit MyAirForceLife.com/clubs for more information.

### 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, call 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 call 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 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-round. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

### Instructional Classes at Youth Center

The Youth Center is offering programs for piano or 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

The Columbus Air Force Base 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.

### Make Your Shopping Easier

The 14th Force Support Squadron offers gift cards in increments of \$5 to fit any budget. They can be used at most FSS 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.

# AF couple takes journey to U.S. citizenship

## Staff Sgt. Chris Gross

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The Air Force affords its Airmen a plethora of opportunities and benefits; many advance their education and obtain degrees, skills are learned and can often be applied in future careers — but for some, their service can grant them U.S. citizenship.

This is the case for a dual military couple at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, who was born and spent the early part of their life in Ecuador. Both are now Airmen and U.S. citizens.

Staff Sgt. Luis Chiriboga, a 14th Civil Engineer Squadron engineering technician, and his wife, Airman 1st Class Estefania Briceno Ron, a personnel and administration technician assigned to the 14th Medical Support Squadron, were both born in Ecuador and later moved to the U.S.

## Chiriboga's journey

Chiriboga's road to citizenship began much earlier than his wife's. A native of Quito, Ecuador — the nation's capital — Chiriboga arrived in Long Island, New York, with his parents and three brothers in 2003 when he was 15.

“A major part of why we moved is because [my] parents thought we were gonna have a better future here than [in Ecuador],” Chiriboga said. He added that Ecuador was a very hard place for people to find jobs even with an advanced education and degree.

Moving to New York came with its challenges for Chiriboga and his family. His family had to overcome a language barrier and adjust to American culture, as well as find jobs to support themselves. His mom found a job cleaning houses with his aunt, who was already living in New York. His dad, who was a surgeon in Ecuador, found jobs sporadically and eventually started practicing natural medicine.

Chiriboga said he was surprised how young people were when they began working here. He said it seemed normal for someone to have a job at age 16, where in Ecuador, a 16 year old would be focused on school.

However, to help pay for bills and rent, Chiriboga and his three brothers all found jobs at a restaurant almost within a year after arriving.

“I was helping my mom and dad pay for the house; we were all trying to pitch in and pay for everything,” he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Gross

**Staff Sgt. Luis Chiriboga, a 14th Civil Engineer Squadron engineering technician, and his wife, Airman 1st Class Estefania Briceno Ron, a personnel and administration technician assigned to the 14th Medical Support Squadron, stand at the entrance of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Chiriboga and Briceno Ron are both natives of Ecuador and received their U.S. citizenship after joining the Air Force.**

After graduating high school, Chiriboga earned his bachelor's degree in digital electronics from Suffolk Community College, New York. He said constantly going to work and school was eventually too much for him, and he didn't have enough time to focus on himself.

“I didn't want to go to school anymore ... by that time I was kind of working full time and going to school full time, trying to help my parents,” he said.

So, when he started looking for different avenues to take he said he knew he was destined to join the Air Force.

“I always wanted to join the Air Force since I was a kid,” he said as he recalled the countless times he passed a big mural of the Ecuadorian air force as he rode the bus on his way to school in Ecuador. From a young age he was inspired.

Enlisting in 2008, Chiriboga went on to receive his U.S. citizenship while stationed at Scott AFB, Illinois. In fall 2009, Chiriboga ventured to St. Louis by himself, where he and many others took the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America.

“I was pretty excited,” he said.

However, having to renounce his Ecuadorian citizenship was “kind of hard,” he said. “There was a part when they told me ‘you have to give it up,’ and I was like ‘uh, I don't know if I want to do this.’”

Although he struggled briefly, Chiriboga said he feels this opportunity is great for those serving this country.

## Marriage

While home on leave in 2010, Chiriboga attended a Christmas party with his parents. Briceno Ron and her family were also there.

Although both were originally from Ecuador, they had not known each other previously.

The two began dating and Chiriboga said their common life objectives and her goal-oriented drive is what attracted him to her.

They married in March 2011. Briceno Ron joined Chiriboga at Scott AFB and the two would move to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, before moving to Columbus AFB several months ago.

## Briceno Ron's journey

Before becoming accustomed with military life, Briceno Ron and her family moved to Long Island from Guayaquil, Ecuador, when she was 12.

Growing up, Briceno Ron said her family lived in Ecuador during a time when they changed from Ecuadorian currency to the U.S. dollar. Young at the time, Briceno Ron said, “When you are a kid you don't notice stuff, but my mom said it was pretty rough.”

She said her mom did a good job of never portraying the family was in trouble.

After arriving in New York, Briceno Ron also said the language barrier and American culture proved to be obstacles, just like during her husband's transition.

After attending a primarily Hispanic middle school, she said the transition to high school was more difficult because not many people spoke Spanish.

“It was really hard to communicate with people ... I was kind of like thrown in there to learn,” she said.

The big-city landscape was also an adjustment. Briceno Ron said the part of Ecuador in which she grew up was nothing close to a big city and Long Island was a 360-degree change for her.

“It was a different culture, I was used to little tiny Ecuador,” she said.

After high school, Briceno Ron earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. But school proved to be costly and she said it was time to look at another approach to help further her education, because she wants to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology.

That's where the Air Force came in.

“I wanted to join for school, education; I wanted a way to pay for my doctorate,” she said.

Her husband, who at the time had eight years of service, was able to prepare Briceno Ron and ensure she was ready for the voyage ahead of her.

“He did a pretty good job of telling me ‘here's what to do,’” she said.

Briceno Ron started basic military training in July 2016 and less than six months later she was in Memphis, Tennessee, accompanied by her husband, giving her Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America.

She said giving her oath was a time filled with “mixed emotions, because I am the first one in my family to be a U.S. citizen. It [felt] good.”

Briceno Ron said her decision to join the Air force more than a year ago has opened many doors.

“I'm definitely grateful and I'm definitely thankful for the opportunities that has brought up for me,” she said, “like my citizenship and by being able to do more than just being a resident.”

One thing she can now do is set her sights on her doctorate and go for her goal of being in the Air Force as a commissioned officer, something she said she couldn't do before obtaining her citizenship.



# Protect your family, home during mosquito season

**Tim Turner**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Water Quality Manager

Mosquito season is here and it's time to take precaution and protect your family and home from mosquito-borne illnesses. Mosquitoes can transmit a number of different diseases, some infections have minor consequences, and others, cause serious illness and in rare cases death. The Mississippi Department of Health officials recently released a report confirming three cases of West Nile virus in the state for 2017, it can be found by visiting this link [http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,3951,93.html](http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,3951,93.html).

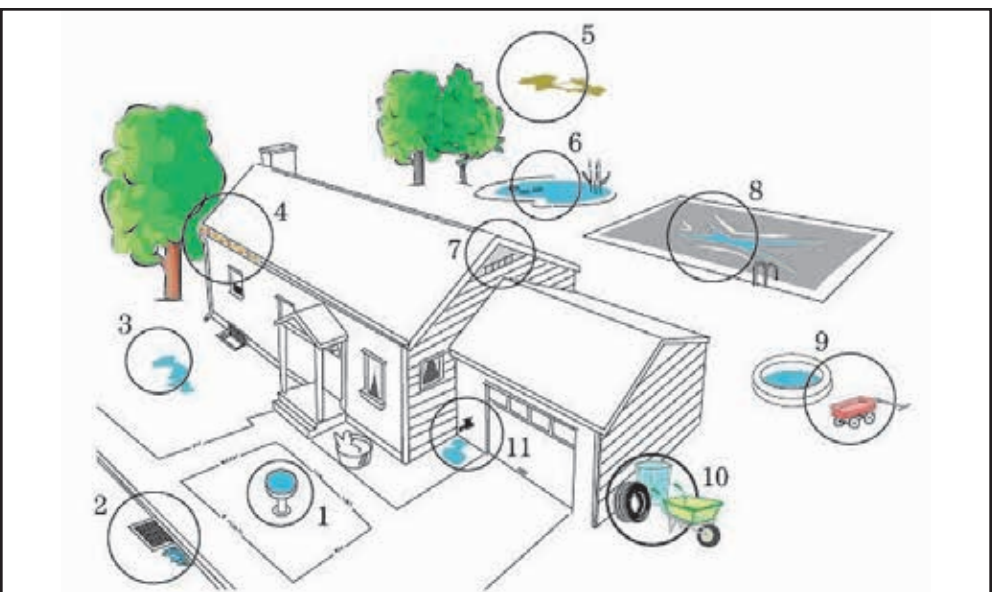
Many mosquito problems are likely to come from standing water sources that you can help eliminate. All mosquitoes require water to breed. By eliminating these water sources, you can help reduce the number of mosquito breeding grounds. Protecting yourself and your home from mosquitoes by following a few simple steps can help protect against mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus and Zika virus.


- Dispose of old tires or store tires inside and out of the weather. Tires are prime breeding grounds. (10)
- Drill holes in the bottom of decorative outdoor art and containers to prevent standing water. (1)
- Ensure flower pots are draining. The holes do plug up occasionally.
- Clean roof gutters of debris in late spring

and late fall. (4)


- Clean, drain and flush pet water bowls regularly.
- Check and remove water from children's toys that are left outdoors. (9)
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets and hoses so they don't create puddles. (11)
- Remove grass clippings and debris from storm drains to allow water to flow off site and avoid pooling. (2)
- Mow tall grass and weeds as mosquitoes like to shelter in those areas. (5)
- Remove water collected on tarps and patio covers, reposition the tarps so they drain naturally. (8)
- Even the smallest of containers, like neighborhood trash and litter that can collect water can be breeding grounds for hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (10)
- Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535.
- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that mosquitoes are more attracted to dark clothing and can bite through tight-fitting clothing.
- When practical, wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods, or when mosquitoes are most active, in the morning and evening.

Bug zappers kill more useful bugs than mosquitoes. That is why they are not allowed to be called "mosquito traps."





THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



JUL 31 2017


To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

For more than 70 years, our fellow Americans have asked you to be the sentinels of air and space for the nation, delivering unmatched capabilities every day. The demand for what you, as American Airmen, bring to the fight will only increase. We will continue to lead and support the Joint Force in defending our homeland, owning the high ground, and projecting power with our allies. As the most dominant air force in the world, we will continue to face serious and ever-changing threats. In order to ensure our Air Force remains lethal and ready when the nation calls, we have established the following Air Force priorities:


- **Restore readiness ...** to win any fight, any time.
- **Cost-effectively modernize ...** to increase the lethality of the force.
- **Drive innovation ...** to secure our future.
- **Develop exceptional leaders ...** to lead the world's most powerful teams.
- **Strengthen our alliances ...** because we are stronger together.

Everything we do as a team should advance or augment these priorities. Each and every one of our Total Force Airmen has a role to play in making us successful in this endeavor. We will prevail through the power of our Airmen.


You and your families represent our nation's absolute best. We are humbled to lead this great Air Force and honored to serve with you every day.



Heather Wilson  
Secretary of the Air Force



David L. Goldfein  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff



Kaleb O. Wright  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force


## 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.



## 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

The orientation is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 8 and is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is at the Columbus Club. For more information or to register, call 434-2790.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is from 1-2 p.m. Aug. 8 and allows Veterans Affairs 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

This event is from 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 10 at the Columbus Club. It's for spouses new to Columbus AFB or the military lifestyle. 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, call 434-2790.

### Smooth Move

The Smooth Move class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Aug. 15. The class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from the Travel Management Office, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, TRICARE, medical records, and the Airman and Family Readiness Center. To register, call 434-2790.

### Bundles of Joy

A Bundle of Joy workshop is scheduled from 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 17 for active-duty families assigned to Columbus Air Force Base who are expecting or have a child up to four months of age. It's an Air Force Aid Society program with presentations about TRICARE, child care, breastfeeding, car seat safety, labor and delivery. 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 takes place 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

## Club members enjoy music, dinner



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

**A musician plays live music during a free club member dinner Aug. 1, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Columbus Club hosted the dinner to give time for club members to learn how to "get connected" to their club information, and control their membership.**

active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. 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, 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](mailto:tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil).

### Personal Financial Readiness

Make the most of your money. Contact 662-998-0411, 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](http://www.drmo.dla.mil). Cost of shipping will apply. Please call Inspection at 434-7231 to review DRMO property or Stock Control at 434-7197 with questions or concerns you may have. Parking and assistance is available in the back of building 158.

## 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



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-8C Joint STARS

## Mission

The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, is an airborne battle management, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform. Its primary mission is to provide theater ground and air commanders with ground surveillance to support attack operations and targeting that contributes to the delay, disruption and destruction of enemy forces.

## Features

The E-8C is a modified Boeing 707-300 series commercial airframe extensively remanufactured and modified with the radar, communications, operations and control subsystems required to perform its operational mission. The most prominent external feature is the 27-foot long, canoe-shaped radome under the forward fuselage that houses the 24-foot long, side-looking phased array antenna.

The radar and computer subsystems on the E-8C can gather and display detailed battlefield information on ground forces. The information is relayed in near-real time to the Army and Marine Corps common ground stations and to other ground command, control, communications, computers and intelligence, or C4I, nodes.

The antenna can be tilted to either side of the aircraft where it can develop a 120-degree field of view covering nearly 19,305 square miles and is capable of detecting targets at more than 250 kilometers. The radar also has some limited capability to detect helicopters, rotating antennas and low, slow-moving fixed wing aircraft.

As a battle management and command and control asset, the E-8C can support the full spectrum of roles and missions from peacekeeping operations to major theater war.

## Background

Joint STARS evolved from Army and Air Force programs to develop, detect, locate and attack enemy armor at ranges beyond the forward area of troops. The first two developmental aircraft deployed in 1991 to Operation Desert Storm and also supported Operation Joint Endeavor in December 1995.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Cuomo

**The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) is a joint Air Force - Army program. The JSTARS uses a multi-mode side looking radar to detect, track, and classify moving ground vehicles in all conditions deep behind enemy lines. The aircraft is the only airborne platform in operation that can maintain real-time surveillance over a corps-sized area of the battlefield.**

Team JSTARS men and women have contributed tremendously to overseas contingency operations, flying more than 85,000 combat hours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn Odyssey Dawn, and Unified Protector. Their operational resume includes support of six Combatant Commands including U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Europe Command.

Team JSTARS was the first organization in the U.S Air Force to activate under the Air Force's Total Force Initiative as a "blended" wing. America's first "Total Force" wing, the former 93rd Air Control Wing, an active-duty Air Combat Command unit, and the 116th Bomb Wing, a Georgia Air National Guard unit, were deactivated Oct.1, 2002. The 116th Air Control Wing was activated blending Guard and active-duty Airmen into a single unit. In October 2011, the Active Associate construct was formed by the newly activated 461st Air Control Wing as a member of Team JSTARS.

Team JSTARS through the 116th ACW is the only unit that operates the E-8C and the Joint STARS mission.

## General Characteristics

**Primary function:** airborne battle management



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. John Lasky

**An E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System from the 93rd Air Control Wing flies a refueling mission over the skies of Georgia. The E-8C is an airborne battle management and command and control platform that conducts ground surveillance to develop an understanding of the enemy situation and to support attack operations and targeting that contributes to the delay, disruption and destruction of enemy forces.**

**Contractor:** Northrop Grumman Corp.

**Power plant:** four Pratt and Whitney TF33-102C

**Thrust:** 19,200 pounds each engine

**Wingspan:** 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters) Length: 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters) Height: 42 feet, 6 inches (13 meters)

**Weight:** 171,000 pounds (77,564 kilograms)

**Maximum takeoff weight:** 336,000 pounds (152,409 kilograms)

**Fuel capacity:** 155,000 (70,306 kilograms)

**Payload:** electronic equipment and crew

**Speed:** 449 - 587 mph (optimum orbit speed) or Mach 0.52 - 0.65 (390 - 510 knots)

**Range:** nine hours

**Ceiling:** 42,000 feet (12,802 meters)

**Crew:** (flight crew), four; (mission crew) normally 15 Air Force and three Army specialists (crew size varies according to mission)

**Unit Cost:** \$244.4 million

**Initial operating capability:** December 1997

**Inventory:** total force, 16

## Airman on the Street:

# What is your favorite thing about Columbus Air Force Base?



**Rank/Name:**  
Tech. Sgt.  
Miguel Stewart  
**Unit/Duty Title:**  
14th Security Forces Squadron Flight Chief  
**Hometown:**  
Oklahoma City  
**Answer:**  
The family friendly atmosphere.



**Rank/Name:**  
Airman 1st Class  
Melissa Royce  
**Unit/Duty Title:**  
14th Communications Squadron knowledge operations apprentice  
**Hometown:**  
Phoenix  
**Answer:**  
The many different outdoor activities.



**Rank/Name:**  
Airman 1st Class  
Wesley Altman  
**Unit/Duty Title:**  
14th Communications Squadron client systems technician  
**Hometown:**  
Farmersville, Texas  
**Answer:**  
The rain is nice when working out and the base stable is unique.



**Rank/Name:**  
1st Lt. Ricardo Torres  
**Unit/Duty Title:**  
41st Flying Training Squadron Executive Officer  
**Hometown:**  
Plant City, Florida  
**Answer:**  
It's a family oriented base, and close to towns and cities worth visiting.

# Columbus AFB enjoys C-17 display



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

**Cadet Dennis Blaschke, a Civil Air Patrol member from South Carolina, takes a photo of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft visiting here from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, July 28, 2017.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

**A C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, rests as a static display here July 28, 2017.**



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

**Airman Nathaniel Chargualaf, 14th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller, looks at a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, July 27, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The static display was made available to members of Columbus AFB.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

**RIGHT: Civil Air Patrol cadets pose in front of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, July 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The CAP cadets spent a week working through a simulated pilot training program and saw what it takes to become an Air Force pilot.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

**LEFT: Pilots stand in front of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, July 27, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Crewmembers from the aircraft were available to answer questions and show guests around the static display.**

## VIEWPOINT

# Compulsory School Attendance: Home-school

## 14th Flying Traning Wing School Liason Office

The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Office would like to remind parents of the Mississippi law governing school attendance particularly as it pertains to families who home-school.

Under the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law, parents and guardians are required to enroll their children in a public, private or home-school. This law applies to

children who have reached the age of 6 and have not exceeded the age of 17 by Sept. 1.

Children who have are or will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 and have enrolled in a full-day public kindergarten will also be under the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

Any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law may be punished in a court of law.

Parents who are teaching their children at home, home-

school, are required to complete a certificate of enrollment card each school year. This card can be completed at the Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Office, located in Building 730, Suite 215.

Mississippi law requires this card to be completed prior to **Sept. 15, 2017.**

Please contact the School Liaison Officer at (662) 434-2792 or via email at: slo2@columbus.af.mil for an appointment to complete your registration.



## 9

## 187 Day Employee Calendar Draft A

[illegible]

Any questions, please contact the School Liaison Officer, at 434-2792 or via email at: slo2@us.af.mil

- Parents who choose to wait with their children (in their vehicles) MUST park opposite of the school bus stop, in order to allow for a direct, unimpeded route to the stop.

Board Approved: 2/13/2017

Board Approved: 2/13/2017

		M	T	W	Th	F	
<b>AUG</b>			1	2	3	4	
T	22	7	8	9	10	11	
S	19	14	15	16	17	18	
		21	22	23	24	25	
		28	29	30	31		
<b>SEP</b>						1	
T	20	4	5	6	7	8	
S	20	11	12	13	14	15	
		18	19	20	21	22	
		25	26	27	28	29	
<b>OCT</b>							
T	20	2	3	4	5	6	
S	19	9	10	11	12	13	
		16	17	18	19	20	
		23	24	25	26	27	
		30	31				
<b>NOV</b>							
T	17			1	2	3	
S	17	6	7	8	9	10	
		13	14	15	16	17	
		20	21	22	23	24	
		27	28	29	30		
<b>DEC</b>							
T	16					1	
S	16	4	5	6	7	8	
		11	12	13	14	15	
		18	19	20	21	22	
		25	26	27	28	29	
<b>JAN</b>							
T	17	1	2	3	4	5	
S	16	8	9	10	11	12	
		15	16	17	18	19	
		22	23	24	25	26	
		29	30	31			
<b>FEB</b>							
T	19			1	2		
S	19	5	6	7	8	9	
		12	13	14	15	16	
		19	20	21	22	23	
		26	27	28			
<b>MAR</b>							
T	16				1	2	
S	16	5	6	7	8	9	
		12	13	14	15	16	
		19	20	21	22	23	
		26	27	28	29	30	
<b>APR</b>							
T	21	2	3	4	5	6	
S	21	9	10	11	12	13	
		16	17	18	19	20	
		23	24	25	26	27	
		30					
<b>MAY</b>							
T	19		1	2	3	4	
S	18	7	8	9	10	11	
		14	15	16	17	18	
		21	22	23	24	25	
		28	29	30	31		

Teacher Work Day (student holidays)

School Holiday

Aug 2 - Teachers' 1st Day

Aug 7 - Students' 1st Day

Sep 4 - Labor Day Holiday

Sep 07 - Progress Reports

Oct 10 - End of 1st Nine Weeks / Semester (4d)

Oct 11 - Parent Conference Day

Oct 12 & 13 - Fall Break

Oct 19 - Report Cards

Nov 16 - Progress Reports

Nov 20-24 - Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec 22 - End of Semester / Course (4d) 60% Day

Dec 25 - Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Jan 08 - Teacher PD / Student Holiday

Jan 09 - Students return

Jan 11 - Grade Reports

Jan 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Feb 08 - Progress Reports

Feb 19 - President's Day

Mar 12-16 - Spring Break

Mar 25 - End of 3rd Nine Weeks / Semester (4d)

Mar 26 - Grade Reports

Mar 30 - Good Friday

Apr 19 - Progress Reports

May 24 - Students Last Day 60%

May 25 - Teacher Work Day

May 26 - Graduation All Schools (Tentative)

May 28 - Memorial Day

**Grading Periods**

August 07 – October 10 (46)

October 16 – December 22 (45)

January 09 – March 21 (45)

March 22 – May 24 (45)

Each Wednesday students are dismissed at 2:00pm

NOTE: Holidays may be used as make-up days for inclement weather.

STUDENT DAYS: 1st Semester: 91  
2nd Semester: 90  
**181**

TEACHER DAYS:

1st Semester: 95  
2nd Semester: 92  
**187**

**"Challenge all students to attain their greatest potential."**