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Golden Triangle Regional Airport -

Lowndes County Volunteer Fire Dept. For more information, please contact Mark Smith, 328-1042, ext. 105

one else who wishes to attend must be a sponsor for the ev

Each corporate sponsorship (\$250 or more) includes an exclusive invitation for 2 people from that organization to attend the event with proceeds going towards the event and the continued endowment of the Salute to Lowndes' Finest Recovery and Relief Fund.

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Vol. 41, Issue 34

Weather

Sunday

**Partly Cloudy** 

**News Briefs** 

Last Call For AF Ball Tickets

**Enlisted Promotion Ceremony/** 

Staff Sergeant Release Party

**AETC Family Day** 

fices will be closed

Inside

**Blood Drive** 

# SILVERINGS

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

3 student pilots continue journey Saturday on 'America's Got Talent'

Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross

14th Flyina Trainina Wina Public Affairs

Three members of the 14th Student Squadron here are now in the semifinals of "America's Got Talent," a nationally televised talent competition.

When the competition started back in March, all 16 members of the a capella group, "In the Stairwell," were cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But since then, five members have graduated and are now commissioned second lieutenants.

Second Lts. Ryan Douglas, Colin Klopp and John Testerman, assigned to 14th STUS, said the journey has been a whirlwind of emotions, and their success has definitely exceeded their expectations.

"It seems surreal, because our entire time at the Academy, In the Stairwell has just been a club that we're a part of that we just go have fun after a hard day of school and activities," said Douglas, one of the group's baritones and Salem, Oregon, native. "And now all of a sudden it's taking this form where we're actually performing on national television ... we just seem so surprised that it has taken

The group has survived three rounds of competition so far, the auditions, judge cuts and the first round of the live shows. All three rounds have taken place in California, and In the Stairwell will appear in the live semifinals show at 7 p.m. CST on Sept. 12.

AGT has been the biggest stage the group has performed on, and they said this has definitely been a nerve-wracking

Klopp, one of the group's tenors and Columbia, Maryland, native, said making the jump from judge cuts to the live show was one of the more tense moments.

"It's kind of hard to comprehend, because you think you're just singing to the 3,000 people," Klopp said, "but then you think about all the times you've watched America's Got Talent and how everyone watches it around the

See **JOURNEY**, Page 3

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

29,810

From left, 2nd Lts. Colin Klopp, John Testerman and Ryan Douglas, assigned to 14th Student Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, are members of the U.S. Air Force Academy's a capella group, In the Stairwell. The group recently advanced to the semifinals of America's Got Talent and will perform again on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. CST.

### COLUMBUS

PHASE II PHASE III Overall Overall 3.68 days -1.82 days -0.39 days

High 84°F Low 68°F

Monday

Partly Cloudy

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

There is a Columbus Air Force Base Blood Drive from

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Chapel Annex. Walk-ins are wel

come and it is recommended to eat four hours prior to donation

and drink plenty of fluids. One unit of blood can save three

Last day to purchase Air Force Ball tickets is Aug. 31. To purchase tickets, go to http://buytickets.at/columbusafbbafbirthdayball/104296. Tickets are \$45 for all com-

missioned ranks, E-6 and up, and \$25 for E-5/GS-7 and below.

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions

There will be an Air Education and Training Command

The 14th Logistics Readiness Squad-

ron Fuels Management Flight highlight-

family day Sept. 1. The family day is in conjunction with the

Labor Day holiday, Sept. 4. Most Columbus Air Force Bases of-

Feature 8

ed in this week's feature.

Ceremony is at 3 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Columbus Club and wil

be immediately followed by the staff sergeant release party.

High 90°F Low 65°F

1.79 days 0.38 days

49th (17-LBC) -1.21 days -0.63 days

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

Wing Sortie Board Flown 2,977

7,709 1,102 1,126 10,455 The graduation speaker for SUPT Class 17-14 on Sept. 8 is Gen. James Holmes, Air Combat Command Commander.



### 14TH FLYING **TRAINING** WING **DEPLOYED**

As of press time, 58 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

### Columbus Family Housing: Residents now responsible for replacing light bulbs

Effective September 15, 2017, residents will be responsible for supplying their own light bulbs. Hunt will only provide fluorescent and appliance bulbs. Maintenance will only install regular bulbs that are located 10 feet or higher, but residents will need to provide the

## Commander's **Action Line** 434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the ommander 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. Mesage 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.

ng Range

Air Force 70th

POW/MIA Recog

Enlisted Dorm

CAFB Triathlon

Gold Star Mother's

Wing Newcomers

SUPT Class 17-15

Enlisted Promo-

UPT Class 18-15

etiree Appreciation

ner Welcome

Oktoberfest

**Events** 

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>	Lor
Most Columbus AFB offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday	5	6	Daedalian Dinner, 7 p.m. @ Proffitt's Porch	SUPT Class 17-14 Gradua- tion	9/10	Sept. 18: A Birthday  Sept. 19: I nition Day  Sept. 21: I Dinner  Sept. 23: ( Sept. 23: (
Patriot Day Class 18-13 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ PACCAR	Wingman Dinner, 6:30 p.m. @ J. Broussard's	13	14 SUPT Class 17-15 Assignment Night	15 Air Force Birthday Ball	16/17	Sept. 24: 0 Day Sept. 26: N Sept. 29: S Graduation Sept. 29: H tions Oct. 3: SU Pilot Partn Oct. 7: Reday

### **Silver Wings**

#### How to reach us

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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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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.

#### Sept. 1

The 22nd annual Black Prairie Blues Festival will be from 5-11:30 p.m. Sept. 1 at Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, visit www.wpnet.org/indes.php/attractions/howlin\_wolf/blues\_festival or call 662-295-8361.

#### Sept. 2

The Mississippi State University football team will face off

against Charleston Southern University at 3 p.m. Sept. 2 at Sept. 7 Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.

News Around Town

The 39th Annual Prairie Arts Festival will be from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 2 in downtown West Point, Mississippi. The festival will include fine arts, crafts, down-home southern cooking, four stages of live music, classic cars, kidsville and much more. More than 600 exhibits will be featured. For more information, visit info@westpointms.org.

There will be a community medical exercise in Columbus, Mississippi, and the surrounding area. This will last from

#### Sept. 16

The Mississippi State University football team will face of against Louisiana State University at 6 p.m. Sept. 16 at Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.

#### **70TH ANNIVERSARY**

(Continued from page 13)

six days until he was rescued by Marine Corps helicopters.

July 29, 1995: Air Combat Command activated the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron, the first unit of unmanned aerial vehicles, now called remotely piloted aircraft, reflecting the Air Force's increasing reliance on unmanned aircraft in combat-support roles.

January 9, 1996: After three-and-a-half years, Operation Provide Promise officially ended. During this international operation the longest sustained humanitarian airlift in history—the U.S. Air Force flew more than 4,500 sorties to deliver 62,802 metric tons of cargo to Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In February 1997, the Air Force Reserve officially became the Air Force Reserve Command, the Air Force's ninth major command

May 5, 1996: Col. Betty L. Mullis, USAF, assumed command of the 940th Air Refueling Wing, becoming the first woman to command a flying wing.

May 31, 1996: The Air Force awarded the largest military contracts ever for the production of 80 additional C-17 Globemaster III transports over the course of seven years at a cost of \$16.2 billion. The new aircraft would bring the C-17 fleet up to a total of 120, which would allow the retirement of most of the aging C-141 Starlifters

June 11, 1996: Air Combat Command acquired its first E-8 joint surveillance target attack radar system aircraft. The E-8 airplane, capable of providing detailed radar information about ground targets, had been tested during its development phase in Operations Desert Storm and Joint Endeavor.

September 3, 1996: The 11th Recon-

naissance Squadron began operating the aircraft, designed for high-altitude, long-RO-1B Predator, an remotely piloted aircraft designed for aerial surveillance and reconnaissance, over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

March 21, 1997: At Pensacola, Florida, Lt. Col. Marcelyn A. Atwood became the first woman to command a training squadron and the first USAF officer to command a Navy squadron. The squadron trained both Air Force and Navy pilots.



**Paul Metz** 

September 7, 1997: At Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, test pilot Paul Metz piloted the F-22 Raptor in its first flight. A new stealth fighter with the ability to cruise supersonically, the F–22 would replace the venerable F–15 for air-superiority missions.

range, long-endurance reconnaissance missions, took off from Edwards Air Force Base, California, on a 56-minute flight. The aircraft, with a wingspan of 116 feet, was built to fly at an altitude of up to 65,000 feet and photograph an area the size of Kentucky in

December 9, 1998: President William J. Clinton awarded an honorary fourth star to Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the first black USAF general and the leader of the "Tuskegee Airmen" in World War II.

December 16, 1998: Operation Desert Fox commenced with the launch of cruise missiles and air strikes by the United States and Great Britain against Iraqi targets after Iraq refused to allow United Nations weapons inspectors to continue their work. The four-day operation, which hit some 100 enemy sites, destroyed weapons-production facilities. The largest air campaign against Iraq since the Southwest Asia War of 1991, Desert Fox involved the first combat use of B–1B Lancer bombers.

March 27, 1999: For the first time, an F-117 stealth fighter was shot down in combat. Enemy ground fire brought down the Nighthawk over Yugoslavia. Capt. John A. Cherrey, an A-10 pilot, earned the Silver Star for locating the downed pilot, who was rescued by helicopter the same day.

April 4, 1999: A USAF C-17 Globemaster III airlifted relief supplies from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, to Tirana, Albania, for refugees from Kosovo at the start of Operation Sustain Hope (Shining Hope), a humanitarian-airlift counterpart of the ongoing Operation Allied Force (Noble Anvil). February 28, 1998: The RQ-4 Global In the first month, allied transports, includ-Hawk first flew. This new remotely piloted ing C-5s, C-17s, and C-130s, airlifted more ganization forces.

than 3,000 tons of food, medicine, tents, supplies, cots, blankets, sleeping bags, and other relief cargo to refugees who had fled to camps in Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro-Maj. Gen. William S. Hinton, Jr., USAF commanded the operation.

June 10, 1999: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization suspended air strikes against Yugoslavia after its president agreed in writing to the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo. their replacement with multinational peacekeeping forces, and the return of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians to that province. Noted military historian John Keegan claimed that Allied Force was the first war in history won by air power alone.

July 23, 1999: Col. Eileen M. Collins USAF, who had been the first woman pilot of a space shuttle in 1995, became the first woman commander of a space-shuttle mission on a flight of the Columbia.

October 6, 1999: The United States destroyed the first of 150 Minuteman III silos in eastern North Dakota, in accordance with the terms of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia.

March 2, 2000: After floods in Mozambique that left an estimated million people homeless, Operation ATLAS RESPONSE commenced. C-5s and C-17s flew 4,600 miles from a base in Germany to southern Africa, where C-130s and MH-53 and HH-60 helicopters distributed food, water, medicine, and tents. Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Wehrle. Ir., USAF, served as the joint task force com-

May 3, 2000: Gen. Joseph W. Ralston became the first USAF officer in 37 years to serve as supreme allied commander, Europe—head of all North Atlantic Treaty Or-



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14 SILVER WINGS Aug. 31, 2017 SILVER WINGS 9 Aug. 31, 2017 **3** Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

## 2-week summit takes aim at aircrew retention

Staff Sgt. William A. O'Brien

Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs

IOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — The Aircrew Crisis Task Force hosted a two-week aircrew retention summit here as part of a holistic approach to improve readiness and capacity by increasing retention of experienced aviators

The summit brought Air Force aviators together along with subject matter experts, or SMEs, to identify ways to encourage aircrew to continue active duty service when their initial service commitment expires.

"This is a chance for us to come together as a total force across multiple platforms and major commands to look at what we can do to change policies, procedures and laws to make it easier for folks to continue to wear the uniform," said Lt. Col. Langdon Root, the Aircrew Crisis Task Force summit lead.

This summit is one of seven lines of effort being taken by the Aircrew Crisis Task Force to address the overall aircrew shortage the Air Force is facing today. The task force was established in March 2017 and already has seen solutions begin

"Task force initiatives are moving quickly. We have the first increase to the aviation bonus since 1999," said Root. "The career enlisted aviators are getting the first increase in bonus pay since 1998 this fall. Additionally the chief of staff committed to putting 1,600 commander's support staff members back in the squadron starting in fiscal year 2018."

Air Force members who elect to depart the military after their service obligation are given the option to take an exit survey. The survey asks a series of questions primarily centered around why the member has chosen to separate. Attendees of the summit split into groups to look at the most common reasons aviators have indicated on the survey as to why they made that decision.

"We brought in representatives from every MAJCOM with aircrew equity plus the Guard, Reserves and Air Force Person-



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sat, William A. O'Brien

Lt. Col. Langdon Root, the Aircrew Crisis Task Force summit lead, conducts a briefing Aug. 15, 2017, during a twoweek aircrew retention summit at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, as part of a holistic approach to improve readiness and capacity by increasing retention of experienced aviators. The two-week aircrew retention summit is one of seven lines of effort being taken to address the overall aircrew shortage the Air Force is facing today. The task force was established in March 2017 and already has seen solutions begin to take shape.

nel Center," said Root. "During their time here, they will be broken up into working groups to look at nine areas the force has told us is a retention concern for them."

those identified areas with the aviators to ensure all proposed solutions were balanced with political and monetary realities.

great expertise and situational awareness in one or more of the tactically lethal force in the history of aviation, and we take working group areas. They were available to answer questions care of each other like family. Although we will never be able from the other 50 volunteers," said Root. "The subject mat- to match the monetary compensation the airlines or civil ter experts bring joint and coalition perspective to ensure we sector can pay our highly skilled aviators, there are things we bring bold and coherent solutions to the chief of staff of the can change to ensure we offer a superior quality of service and Air Force. If we do it well, it will expedite the timeline for the quality of life."

After the teams worked through the topics and proposed solutions, they briefed a panel of seven generals from Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command, Air Combat Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and Air Education and Training Command to get senior leader perspective before bringing these solutions to the Air Staff in Washington,

"As a major with nine years of service, my commitment is almost up and I'm at a crossroads where I will have to decide if I want to go to the airlines or continue my service for the military," said Maj. Kaelin Thistlewood, a 4th Special Operations Squadron pilot stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida. "But this was a very productive week. It went great. We had about 20 (captains) all the way up to (colonel) in here with their hands in the problems of the Air Force that cause aircrew to

The aviation industry is growing. Airline industries are hirng and technology advancements are expanding the job market for remotely piloted aircraft. However the Aircrew Crisis Task Force feels the Air Force still provides unique opportunities unmatched by outside agencies and summits like this one assist leadership in ensuring the Air Force stays a step ahead in terms of job satisfaction.

"Aviation is booming right now, and it is a really good time to be an Airman," said Root. "There are options. There are other opportunities that will provide a wonderful life for you The first week of the summit focused on pairing SMEs from and your family outside the military. However, what the Air Force has to offer and what we need to capitalize on is that there's no force like the Air Force. We get to fly the best air-"We brought in about 20 subject matter experts who have craft on the planet, be a part of the best team and the most

## Kentucky Air Guardsmen deploy for Hurricane Harvey rescue operations

Lt. Col. Dale Greer

123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Eighteen Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron departed Louisville, Kentucky Aug. 27, 2017, for Texas, where they will assist with rescue and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The Airmen are deploying to Robert Gray Army Air 12,000 residents. Field at Fort Hood, Texas.

who will comprise of two Personnel Recovery Teams. hurricane recovery operations, including inflatable mo- Harvey and the historic flooding in Texas."

Also deploying are four Airmen who will stand up and staff an Austere Special Tactics Operations Center.

The 123rd STS has extensive experience with hurricane rescue and recovery operations. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, members of the unit established and operated a helicopter landing zone on a highway overpass in New Orleans, helping evacuate nearly

"These Airmen are some of the most dedicated Among the deploying personnel are 14 Airmen and professional special operators in the entire United States Armed Forces," said Col. David Mounkes, the These Airmen have expertise in swift-water rescue, Kentucky ANG 123rd Airlift Wing commander. "Our confined-space operations and emergency medical care. thoughts and prayers are with them as they work to They will deploy with a variety of equipment suited to assist residents who have been stranded by Hurricane



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sat. Joshua Horton

irmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron prepare to deploy from the Kentucky ANG base in Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 27, 2017, for Texas, where they will assist with rescue and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The Airmen are specialists in swift-water and confined-space rescue.

#### **JOURNEY**

(Continued from page 1)

"[I'm] like, 'Wow this is being seen everywhere by everyone right now, I don't want to trip,' ... I already know the notes, we've sang this so many times. I'm trying to look good and not fall."

To help calm some of those nerves, the trio said the group has a particular song they sing to get them pumped and ready to go.

"It relaxes us," Douglas said, "it reminds ourselves that we're there to have fun, and it's not about us. It's about us collectively, not just the group, but everybody else that we're performing for and everyone we represent."

Representing a force of almost 660,000 active-duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian Airmen, Testerman said the group was ready for the challenge.

"The high pressure situations that the Academy puts us through definitely prepared us for the high pressure situations that America's

Got Talent put us through," said parties and cadets have mentioned entertainment filming comes at no Testerman, one of the group's ten- how "cool" it's been to see them- cost to the government, therefore selves represented on the national AGT handles all the costs associat-

Testerman said the cadets at stage. the Academy have also been very supportive of the group. He said arrangements, per Department of Klopp and Testerman will resume and go toward funding for In the the Academy has put on viewing Defense instructions all support for their pilot training. They have al- Stairwell and other cadet clubs.

Mississippi, are a part of the group.

ors and Davis, California, native.

ed with their travel and stay in Los As for In the Stairwell's travel Angeles. After the show, Douglas,

ready been assigned to classes and will start Initial Flight Training, a four-week course, at the Academy as early as mid-September. After IFT, the three will begin Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB.

During SUPT students fly almost 200 hours during a 54-week period, this is also in sync with 400 hours of flight-related in-class work Upon completion, students will earn their Air Force wings.

Douglas said he and the other four commissioned second lieutenants feel very fortunate to be going out on such a high note and begin what they initially joined the Air In the Stairwell is scheduled to perform on America's Got Talent at 7 p.m. CST Sept. 12, 2017, after ad-Force to do. vancing to the semifinals. Three members of the 14th Student Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base,

"I'm just happy we have this opportunity," Douglas said. "It's a good way to go out."

If In the Stairwell wins, a Las Vegas show will most likely be out of the picture, but the \$1 million prize will be disbursed as a donation

## CAFB holds fourth Air Force Community Partnership meeting

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

Columbus Air Force Base hosted its fourth Air Force Community Partnership meeting Aug. 28 at the Courtyard Marriott in Columbus, Mississippi.

Lt. Col. Timorah Beales, Partnership Broker from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, kicked off the meeting by giving an overview of the program and showing where the program has come since the

"The point of today's meeting is to develop a plan and work through the remaining obstacles to get your partnership agreements to a 'yes," Beales said.

Following her brief, two community partnership agreements were signed. The Chaplain Services Agreement was signed between the Columbus AFB Chaplain Corps and the Columbus/Lowndes County Community Clergy. This agreement allows for community chaplains to step in and help the base if there were ever a situation where it was needed. Dr. Stanley McCrary, CLCCC President, and John Almond, CLCCC member, signed

The second agreement was signed between Columbus AFB and the Lowndes County Extension Office and Master Gardeners. Lt. Col. David Jokinen, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander; Aimee Boltwood, Master Gardeners of Lowndes County; and Nichole Cancellare, representing the Lowndes County Extension Office, all signed the agreement. This agreement allows for the creation of a landscape garden on base with plans of a vegetable garden in the future.

For the remainder of the meeting, the groups broke out and discussed the 12 other agreements in the works. The groups spent time going over what has been achieved, figuring out what actions need to be taken next, and ultimately, how their agreement can reach the final stages.

In closing, each group presented their plans to the leadership committee. The groups are working on cleaning up the South Gate; raising awareness of recycling in Columbus; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics initiatives; a recreation league in conjunction with the Colum-Teacher for a Day program on Sept. 8.



Columbus Air Force Base hosted its fourth Air Force Community Partnership meeting Aug. 28, 2017, at the Courtyard Marriott in Columbus, Mississippi. During the meeting two community partnership agreements were signed and another 12 were discussed.

Program, one of the 13 Make Every Dol- a framework through which installation and lar Count initiatives launched by the Air community leaders are developing creative bus-Lowndes Recreation Authority; and the Force, offers opportunities for military in- ways to leverage their capabilities and restallations and local communities to partner sources to focus on achieving reduced costs The Air Force Community Partnership and achieve mutual value and benefit. It is by finding a shared value.

1990 - 2000 GENERATION

# Columbus ALS graduates Class 17-6

#### Master Sgt. Amanda Savannah

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base graduated 16 Airmen from Airman Leadership School Class 17-6 here

Four Airmen earned awards at the graduation following the fiveweek course.

The award winners are:

Levitow Award: Senior Airman Jason Rodriguez, 14th Communications Squadron

Distinguished Graduate Award & Commandant Award: Staff Sgt. Jason Stavros, 14th Operations Support Squadron

Academic Award: Senior Airman Carl Ledford, 14th OSS

Sharp Image Award: Senior Airman Raul Pena, 14th Medical Support Squadron

Chief Master Sgt. Brad Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, spoke at the graduation. A few days before the event, he gave the class a Scottish Claymore sword and asked them two things: that the sword be displayed in plain

dents spoke up when Reilly gave a short, perfunctory graduation speech and then began to sit down.

"Oh, did you guys want to hear about this sword? Okay, I might have a good story," Reilly said.

He explained how every civilization in history produced swords similar to his in order to accomplish their strategic goals. His sword is a Scottish Claymore sword of a style dating back to the 13th century. The Claymore was a two-handed sword that had a long reach and heavy weight, making it extremely difficult for opponents to get near the wielder.

"This is a cool sword, but it's not necessarily the sword that is important tonight, it's the process," Reilly said. "The process of creating something this strong and this powerful is challenging. But it was so important to get it right."

He explained that creating the sword took the work of many craftsmen to produce the quality required to survive battle. The first step was finding the right raw materials, which was done by miners and gatherers.

Then the ironmaster would sight during the graduation, and forge the steel by melting the iron, that if he forgot to mention the pouring it into a mold, hammering sword during his speech, someone it and cooling it, then repeating from the class reminded him of it. the process several times. This was called work-hardening, and ensured

U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owen

True to their word, several stu-



Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Airman Leadership School Class 17-6 stands with Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sqt. Brad Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, during the class's graduation Aug. 24, 2017, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

the sword could endure combat.

The next step was grinding, which was turning the sword from with a single Airman. a rudimentary form into a perfectly the first time, though sharpening was required throughout the blade's service to keep it battle ready.

sword and sword making represent- sword." ed to him.

of battle is American airpower," he said. "On the battlefield, our American airpower is awesome. It exudes dominance and power."

"Like the Claymore, the pow-sharpening. erful weight and reach of our airpower makes it very difficult for the enemy to close with our forces on duce. the ground," he said. "But it's not necessarily airpower that is so important to understand tonight, it's

is so important to get it right."

amount of skill and energy to pro- willing to remain sharp and releduce an Air Force, and it all starts vant throughout your career?

balanced fighting instrument. Then well-crafted Airman will endure eryone here tonight has the greatest the sword was hilted to give it a the most strenuous of conditions faith in your abilities. Never forget, firm grip, and then sharpened for and ensure victory on the battle- so much rests on your shoulders as field," he said. "Achieving that as vou assume responsibility for those supervisors is your responsibility, Airmen. Literally, the future of your due diligence, to the man you the enlisted force is in your hands. Reilly then explained what the will send to the pointy end of the Craft them well."

In closing, Reilly asked the class During the course, the Airmen what kind of Airmen they will pro- also participate in several public

stamp on your work, what will it run. They are also treated by the mean?" he said. "Are you are ready? Military Affairs Committee and the process. The process of making Are you made of the right mate- the local chapter of the Air Force such an Air Force. The process of rials? Are you balanced in your Association to a picnic at an offcreating something this strong and leadership and life? Are you firm base recreational facility to help this powerful is challenging. But it  $\,\,$  and trustworthy enough to wield  $\,\,$  introduce the Airmen to a part of the Air Force's greatest asset into the community they may have yet Reilly said it takes an incredible harm's way? Are you sharp, and to visit.

"The Air Force believes you are "Leaders know that only a ready," Reilly continued, "and ev-

ALS is a professional military He then likened the process of education course that develops "Today, the unquestionable king sword-making into building a great senior airmen into effective front-Airman: finding the right raw maline supervisors. Instructors travel terial, work-hardening, grinding to Columbus AFB from Maxwell for balance, giving it a firm grip AFB, Alabama, twice a year to hold for trustworthiness, and constant the course, saving the Air Force substantial travel dollars.

> events including a retreat cere-"When you put your craftsman mony, volleyball game and fun

**US Air Force: Breaking barriers since birth** The onset of Operation Desert Storm in movement enabled coalition forces to enhistory. The agreement committed the Unitthe 1990s remains one of the seminal events circle Iraq's Republican Guard in what Gen. in Air Force history. On Jan. 17, 1991, the Norman Schwarzkopf, combatant commandliberation of Kuwait from Iraqi military oc- er of US Central Command, described as the cupation opened with a massive barrage of "Hail Mary maneuver." Within 100 hours,

USAF special operations MH-53 helicopters initiated combat by leading an Army helicopter force that destroyed enemy radar sites. B–52G Stratofortress crews from the 2d Bomb Wing of Eighth Air Force, Strategic Air Command, flew from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, to launch 35 cruise missiles against targets in Iraq and returned home, completing the longest bombing mission in history. Constituting less than 2.5 percent of all coalition aircraft, the F–117A stealth fighter-bomber successfully attacked over 31 percent of Iraqi strategic targets the first day.

During Desert Storm, aircraft from a U.S.led coalition flew more than 1,200 combat sorties with all service components involved. Air Force Reserve A-10s operated close to the front lines along with special operations and rescue forces, and a Reservist scored the first-ever A-10 air-to-air kill.

January 21, 1991: Capt. Paul T. Johnson, USAF, in his A–10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, located a Navy fighter pilot who had ejected in Iraqi territory. The A-10 destroyed a threatening Iraqi truck to allow a USAF MH–531 Pave Low helicopter to rescue the pilot. Captain Johnson thus earned the Air Force Cross, and the Pave Low helicopter lief missions to assist uprooted Iraqi Kurds. crew earned the Mackay Trophy.

ing precision-guided munitions against Iraqi hardened aircraft shelters. These attacks were so successful that Iraqi fighters began flying to Iran to escape destruction.

February 6, 1991: Capt. Robert R. Swain, Jr., of the 706th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Air Force Reserve, scored the first-ever A–10 Thunderbolt II air-to-air kill by shooting down an Iraqi helicopter.

February 24, 1991: After more than a month of air strikes that severely weakened Iragi forces, the U.S.-led coalition launched a ground offensive from Saudi Arabia. C-130s had already airlifted elements of the Army XVIII Airborne Corps from eastern Saudi Arabia to Rafha, on the Saudi-Iraqi border. Flying more than 300 sorties a day in

air and cruise-missile strikes against targets in coalition ground forces, coupled with continued air attacks, totally overwhelmed the Iraqi ground troops. Between February 24 and 28, the Air Force flew 3,000 reconnaissance, close air support, and interdiction sorties.

> February 28, 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended at 0800 hours with a coalition-declared cease-fire. During the war, coalition forces released approximately 16,000 precision-guided munitions against Iraqi forces and dropped some 210,000 unguided bombs. In 42 days of around-the-clock operations, USAF aircraft flew 59 percent of the nearly 110,000 combat sorties. U.S. aerial strength of approximately 1,990 aircraft comprised 75 percent of the total coalition air power. Extensive use of satellite technology during Desert Storm persuaded some USAF leaders subsequently to refer to the operation as the "first space war."

December 21, 1991: The AC-130U Spectre gunship flew for the first time. The new-generation gunship combined increased firepower, reliability, and accuracy with the latest target-location technology.

In the wake of Desert Storm, Airmen continued to serve and were heavily involved in enforcing the no-fly zone over northern and southern Iraq as well as in humanitarian re-

In July 2, 1992, the humanitarian assis-On Jan. 22, 1991, The Air Force began ustance continued and expanded to Operation Provide Promise which delivered food, medical supplies, and relief cargo to Sarajevo and other communities in newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina, amidst a civil war following its independence from Serbia. Provide Promise became the longest sustained relief operation in U.S. Air Force history. By early January 1996, when the operation ended, it had delivered nearly 160,000 tons of relief supplies, some of them by airdrop and some by landing on airfields under hostile gunfire.

of training aircraft, the Air Force accepted the first production model T-1A Jayhawk.

January 3, 1993: President George H. W. Bush of the United States and President

ed States and Russia to the elimination of all intercontinental ballistic missiles carrying multiple, independently targetable reentry vehicles and the reduction of the number of nuclear weapons carried by bombers.



Maj. Susan Helms

January 13, 1993: Maj. (later Lt. Gen.) Susan Helms, USAF, a member of the space shuttle Endeavour crew, became the first U.S. military woman in space.

June 14, 1993: The Air Force acquired its first C-17A Globemaster III transport aircraft, which was delivered to the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina. Capable of delivering outsized cargo to a tactical environment, the Globemaster III increased the Air Force's ability to airlift to relatively small airfields, eliminating the need to shift cargo from larger to smaller transports.

June 17, 1993: Lt. Col. Patricia Fornes, USAF, assumed command of the 740th Missile Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, becoming the first woman commander of a combat missile squadron.

August 6, 1993: Dr. Sheila E. Widnall became the first woman secretary of the Air **January 17, 1992:** To modernize its fleet Force and the first woman to head any of the military services.

October 3-4, 1993: TSgt Timothy A. Wilkerson, a pararescueman, ran through enemy fire repeatedly to carry out five wounded Boris Yeltsin of Russia signed the second Army Rangers after an Army MH–60 Black 10-minute intervals, the C-130s delivered Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the most Hawk helicopter was shot down during a bat-13,843 troops and 9,396 tons of cargo. This far-reaching nuclear-arms reduction pact in the in Mogadishu, Somalia. For his heroism,

December 2-13, 1993: In one of the most challenging space missions ever, astronauts aboard the space shuttle Endeavour piloted by Col. Richard O. Covey, USAF performed a record five spacewalks to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

December 7, 1993: The Air Force Reserve acquired its first B-52 bombers, which went to the 917th Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

December 17, 1993: The first B-2 Spirit bomber, The Spirit of Missouri, arrived at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The B-2, essentially a flying wing, was the first "stealth" heavy bomber.

January 25, 1994: A Titan II booster launched the unmanned space probe Clementine I toward the Moon—part of the first U.S. lunar mission since Apollo 17 in 1972.

February 10, 1994: Lt. Jeannie Flynn completed training in an F-15E Eagle to become the first woman fighter pilot in the Air

May 6, 1994: 1st Lt. Leslie DeAnn Crosby became the first Air Force Reserve woman fighter pilot after she graduated from an F–16 Fighting Falcon training course in Tucson.

October 4, 1994: F-16 Fighting Falcons replaced the last F-4 Wild Weasel aircraft in the performance of suppression of enemy air defenses missions.

October 14–16, 1994: In their first strategic mission, two C-17 Globemaster IIIs transported military equipment and supplies from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, to

February 3, 1995: Lt. Col. Eileen M. Collins, USAF, became the first woman pilot of a space shuttle. On July 23, 1999, Collins became the first woman commander of a space-shuttle mission on a flight of the Co-

April 27, 1995: Air Force Space Command declared the Global Positioning System satellite constellation fully operational The system provides accurate geographical coordinates for personnel moving on the ground, sea, or air.

June 2–8, 1995: After a surface-to-air missile downed his F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter over Bosnia, Capt. Scott O'Grady. USAF, evaded capture by hostile forces for

See 70TH ANNIVERSARY, Page 15

#### dent, speaks at the Airman Leadership School Class 17-6 graduation Aug. 24, 2017, at the Columbus Club on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Reilly, the guest speaker, likened the process of sword-making into building a great Airman during his speech.

Chief Master Sgt. Brad Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superinten-

#### **End of Summer Pool Party**

Independence Pool is offering an End of Summer Pool Party at 5 p.m. Sept. 3. Includes food, fun, and jumpers. There will be a free movie, "Captain Underpants," starting at 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2507.

#### New Pool Hours

The base pool hours are from noon-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday until Sept. 3. Lap swim is available from 6-7:30 a.m. Monday- Friday until Sept. 22 and from 11 a.m.-noon Saturday and Sunday until Sept. 3. Enjoy the last day at the base pool on Labor Day, Sept. 4 from noon-7 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2505.

#### Free Movie at the Library

The Base Library is offering a free movie, "Boss Baby," at 5 p.m. Sept. 7. For more information, contact 434-2934.

#### **Brats and Brews**

Celebrate the 70th Birthday of the Air Force with the Columbus Club from 5:30-11 p.m. Sept. 9. The cost is \$5 club members and \$7 non-members; includes brat, brew and ticket for single brew refill for \$1. This is an adult-only event. For more information, contact 434-2489.

#### Ladies Bowling League

The Bowling Center is offering a ladies bowling league Sept. 11. For more information, contact 434-3426.

#### Youth Fall Soccer

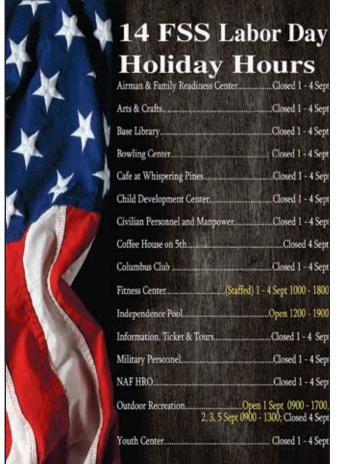
The Youth Center is offering Youth Fall Soccer for ages 3-18. All games played on base. Register no later than Sept. 15. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

#### Free Annual Day for Kids

The Youth Center is offering a free day for kids from 4-5:30 p.m. Sept. 22. Enjoy fun, food and prizes. For more information, contact 434-2504.

#### Free Triathlon

The Fitness Center is offering a free triathlon starting at 7 a.m. Sept. 23 at Independence Pool. Each adult participant will swim 300 meters, bike 22K, and run 5K. Individual team, and youth categories available. For ages 5 years and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.



#### Free Breakfast for Club Members

The Columbus Club is offering a free breakfast for club members from 6:30-9 a.m. Sept. 26. The cost is \$8 for non-members. The buffet will feature build your own breakfast taco. Speak with any Club staff member to find out how you can become connected with Club membership to enjoy the perks of free monthly breakfast and other great deals and discounts. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Book your next paintball event at Outdoor Recreation. The cost is \$10 per person for party of 10 or more; \$15 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000 paint balls. For **Space A Lodging** more information, contact 434-2505.

#### The Overrun Open Friday Nights

The Overrun is open from 4:30 p.m.-midnight Fridays. For more information, contact 434-2419.

#### Library Hours of Operation

The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, more information.

Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

#### 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, contact 434-2507.

#### **Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed**

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors, for more information, contact 434-7836.

#### Referees Needed

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

#### **Make Your Shopping Easier**

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

#### **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.

#### Instructors Needed

The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

#### Fitness on Request

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.

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

#### Ride in Style

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

## ACC Commander scheduled to speak at SUPT Class 17-14 graduation

The keynote speaker for Specialized Un- **EDUCATION** dergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-14's

Holmes, the Commander, Air Combat Command, at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. As the com-

mander, he is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining combat-ready forces for rapid deployment and employment

while ensuring strategic air defense forces are ready to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime defense. The command operates more than 1,300 aircraft, 34 wings, 19 bases, and more than 70 operating locations worldwide with 94,000 active-duty Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve contribute more than 700 aircraft and 49,000 people to ACC. As the Combat Air Forces lead agent, ACC develops strategy, doctrine, concepts, tactics, and procedures for air- and Course, University of Tennessee, Knoxville space-power employment.

and information warfare forces to all unified commands to ensure air, space and information superiority for warfighters and national Air University, Maxwell AFB decision-makers. The command can also be called upon to assist national agencies with intelligence, surveillance and crisis response capabilities.

Holmes entered the Air Force through Officer Training School in 1981 after receiving a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Tennessee. He has commanded the 27th Fighter Squadron, the 14th Operations Group, the 4th Fighter Wing and the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. He has served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on headquarters staffs of the United States Air Force, U.S. European Command and Pacific Air Forces. Prior to tv Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours, including more than 500 combat hours in the F-15A/B/C/D/E, and has also flown the T-38, T-37 and T-1A.

graduation Sept. 8 is Gen. James M. "Mike" trical engineering, University of Tennessee, Holloman AFB

Course, U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons Maxwell AFB School, Nellis AFB, Nevada

Air Force Base, Alabama

1993 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB

1993 Master of Arts degree in history, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

1994 Master of Airpower Arts and Sci-Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB

1995 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk,

2000 Air War College, by correspondence 2001 Master's degree in national defense studies, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode

2006 National Defense Studies Fellow, and civilian personnel. When mobilized, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York

2007 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB 2010 AFSO21 Executive Leadership

2011 Coalition Force Maritime Compo-The command provides conventional nent Commander Course, Naval War Col-mander, 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson

2013 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. September 1981 - August 1982, student, undergraduate pilot training, Columbus AFB,

2. September 1982 - November 1982, student, fighter lead-in training, Holloman AFB,

F-15 conversion training, Luke AFB, Arizona

4. May 1983 - December 1985, F-15 instructor pilot and Assistant Squadron and Wing Weapons Officer, 71st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB

5. January 1986 - May 1986, student, Base, Afghanistan his current position, he served as the Depu- USAF F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor 22. April 2009 - July 2009, Special Assis-Course, Nellis AFB

> Weapons and Tactics, 44th Tactical Fighter Force, Washington, D.C. Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan

Assistant Operations Officer, 7th Tactical Washington, D.C. 1981 Bachelor of Science degree in elec- Fighter Squadron and 9th Fighter Squadron,

1986 F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Command and Staff College, Air University, U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

1987 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell for Advanced Airpower Studies, Air Univerand Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air sity, Maxwell AFB

10. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Operations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, Opermander, Air Education and Training Comations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. Europemand, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, an Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany

11. October 1996 - December 1997, Assisences degree, School of Advanced Airpower tant Operations Officer, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB

12. January 1998 - May 1999, Operations Officer, 71st Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB

27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB 14. July 2000 - July 2001, student, Naval **SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS** 

War College, Newport 15. July 2001 - August 2002, Chief, Strat- ations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, egy, Concepts and Doctrine Division, Direc-Operations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. torate of Operational Plans and Joint Matters, European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, Germany, as a major

er, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB

17. August 2004 - September 2006, Com-AFB, North Carolina

Checkmate, Directorate of Operational Plans of the Seceretary of Defense, the Pentagon, and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general Force, Washington, D.C.

19. July 2007 - December 2007, Director FLIGHT INFORMATION of Strategic Plans, Programs and International Affairs, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

20. December 2007 - March 2008, Special Assistant to the Director of Operational Plan-Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, TIONS Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington,

21. March 2008 - April 2009, Commander, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Air

tant to the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, and 6. May 1986 - May 1989, F-15 Chief of Director, Air Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air

23. July 2009 - August 2011, Principal 7. May 1989 - June 1992, F-15 Chief of Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Weapons and Tactics, Assistant Chief of Wing 
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office leaf cluster Weapons and Tactics, Flight Commander and of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon,

24. August 2011 - January 2012, Director, Strategic Planning, Deputy Chief of Staff for 8. July 1992 - June 1993, student, Air Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters

SILVER WINGS Aug. 31, 2017

25. January 2012 – July 2013, Assistant 9. July 1993 - June 1994, student, School Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans Force, Washington, D.C.

26. August 2013 - July 2014 Vice Com-

27. August 2014 - Mar 2017 Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters

U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. 28. March 2017 - present, Commander,

13. May 1999 - July 2000, Commander, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB

### 1. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Oper-

2. March 2008 - April 2009, Commander, 16. August 2002 - July 2004, Command- 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and Senior Airfield Authority, Bagram AB, Afghanistan, as a brigadier general

3. July 2009 - August 2011, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the 18. September 2006 - June 2007, Chief, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office

Rating: Command pilot Flight hours: More than 4,000, Aircraft flown: F-15A/B/C/D/E, T/AT-38, T-37 and T-1A

### 3. November 1982 - April 1983, student, ning, Policy and Strategy, Deputy Chief of MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORA-

Distinguished Service Medal Defense Superior Service Medal Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster Bronze Star Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal Meritorious Service Medal with two oak

Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters Aerial Achievement Medal with three oak

Air Force Commendation Medal with oak

Army Commendation Medal

leaf clusters

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

6 SILVER WINGS Aug. 31, 2017

# Barksdale weather squadron visits Columbus

#### Senior Airman Briosha Harris-Boston

14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

Airmen from the 26th Operational Weather Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, visited Columbus AFB Aug. 24 to see life outside of the hub and view the mission of a wing weather flight.

Even though they were here for a short time, the 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight showed them all the ins and outs of working at a weather flight.

They took an airfield tour where they viewed our weather sensor and how we maintain it, and they also experienced the T1 simulators. I feel what they really took away was how we work with student pilots on a day-to-day basis.

At a weather hub you are providing weather information not knowing how it affects the mission or training, but at a and ours' influence the operations.

Upon arrival they received a brief from Lt. Col. James Winning, 14th OSS Commander, telling them how important weather is and how as forecasters the job cannot be how to navigate the 26th OWS webpage and if we could the pilots. completed without them.

We then talked with the pilots and asked them questions tracks. about what products they use and how specific criteria af-



Members from the 26th Operational Weather Sauadron. from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, were shown a weather flight they got to see firsthand how their products T-1A Jayhawk on the flightline at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, Aug. 24, 2017. Airmen from the 26th OWS visited Columbus AFB to see life outside of the hub and view the mission of a wing weather flight.

include what products we use to forecast MOA and AR

fects their aircraft. They said thunderstorms and icing are With the pilots' safety in mind, the weather flight tends to we put everything we have in providing the most accurate their biggest concerns. We also got requests on training on be more cautious with our forecast, and this can frustrate weather forecasts.



Members from the 26th Operational Weather Squadron, from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, learn about the T-1A Jayhawk flight simulator Aug. 25, 2017, on Columbus AFB, Mississippi. Airmen from the 26th OWS visited Columbus AFB to see life outside of the hub and view the mission of a wing weather flight.

With this job comes frustrations and expectations that we sometimes can't meet. Weather is not an exact science As with every mission, there are obstacles to overcome. and sometimes it does the unexpected, but as forecasters

## Columbus AFB officers prepare for Air Force Marathon

#### Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

14th Flyina Trainina Wina **Public Affairs** 

A team of officers from multiple squadrons in the 14th Operations Group are taking a step out of their comfort zone and will run the Air Force Marathon Sept. 16 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The team was put together by 1st Lt. Ricardo Torres, 41st Flying Training Squadron Executive Officer and T-6A Texan II Instructor Pilot, and they have been training for the last several months.

Training for the event is essential for the participants' safety and overall readiness.

"I'm very excited, this is some of the guys' first marathon," Torres said.

Running, the team explained, isn't something they all have an extreme passion for, but by completing the marathon they will have accomplished a large goal and that helps them stay motivated.

For Maj. Robert Young, 43rd Flying Training Squadron reserve Instructor Pilot, this will be his first attempt at completing

"We started off running eight miles, then 10 miles, then we ran 12 miles, and after I hit 16 miles and 18 miles I decided to go home and sign up," Young said. "I had set my goal and I am committed to completing it at this point."

The team is not able to run together very often, but the individuals hold themselves to their training as much as their work schedule allows.

"During the midweek runs are kind of solo or on your own," Young said. "We plan the weekend runs to where it works for everybody and Ricardo and I throw some coolers out there and we get after it."

Much of what these officers do throughout the day is instruct mostly new officers in how to act and how to fly. They could potentially be role models for hundreds of student pilots going through Columbus Air Force Base's courses. By furthering their physical and mental limits, the Columbus AFB marathon team members are certainly showing the men and women in their squadrons what it means to live by the core



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

Maj. Robert Young, 43rd Flying Training Squadron reserve Instructor Pilot, Capt. Ryan McCluskey, 41st FTS Instructor Pilot, and 1st Lt. Ricardo Torres, 41st FTS Executive Officer. train Aug. 4, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for the Air Force Marathon. The run was a little more than six miles and started at about 6 a.m. Training for the event is essential for the participants' safety and overall readiness.

### 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.)

#### **Career Technical Training**

The Career Technical Training event is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 18-19 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The workshop explores technical careers for post military personnel using Veterans Affairs' educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, a private company contracted by the VA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of eight participates. To register and for more information, call 434-2790.

#### Federal USAJobs Workshop

This Federal USAJobs Workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search, using US-Alobs, Call 434-2790 to register.

#### **Entrepreneurship Track Transition** Workshop

The Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop will be from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 21-22 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business, to register and for more information call 434-2790.

#### Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is from 2-5 p.m. Sept. 25-26 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Learn how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

#### **Wing Newcomers Orientation**

The Wing Newcomers Orientation will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Columbus Club. The orientation is manadatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2790.

### Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is from 1-2 p.m. Sept. 26, at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The workshop allows the Vetrans 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. To register and for more information, please call 434-2839 or 2790.

#### **STOMP**

ents webinar training opportunity will be from 434-2790 to register.

### Former POW shares history



Retired Lt. Col. Gene Smith and 2nd Lt. Marcello Peray-Genovese, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, visit the Veterans Monument at Old Waverly Golf Course in West Point, Mississippi, Aug 25, 2017. After lunch, Smith gave a tour of the monument that was dedicated July 4, 2010.

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. STOMP is a parent-directed program and exists to empower military parents, individuals with disabilities, professional and community members with knowledge, skills, information, resources and support for all types of disabilities. The training will include TRICARE and applied behavior analysis. For more information and to register by Sept. 25, please call 434 -2790.

#### Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social Program's monthly event will be from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 28. The event provides community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty personnel who are deployed, remote or on an extended temporary duty assignment. Food and activities will be provided. For more information, call 434-2790.

#### Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Oct. 4 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This workshop gives you preparation for writing effective civilian resumes and cover letters. To sign up call 434-2839/2790.

#### Smooth Move

This class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 12 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. This class provides relocating members/families with valuable information about moving. You learn what to expect from TMO, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, TRICARE, medical records,

#### Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and must 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., and takes about 60 minutes. For more information, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at

#### Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are take place 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. For more information, please contact A&FRC at 434-2839/434-2790.

#### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

The Military and Family Life Counselor Program counselors provide a 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 counselors are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can A Specialized Training of Military Parand A&FRC. For more information, please call usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

#### 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 your SBP counselor, Jamey Coleman at

#### Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor can help you and your family manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are no cost, and are private and confidential. For more information, contact PFC at (662) 998-0411, or 434-2790, or email PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com, or visit them in the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

### **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

3:45 p.m. - Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex) Start date TBA

4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)

4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)

5 p.m. – Mass Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd

Sundays of every month Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass

Wednesdays: 11:30-12:30 p.m. – Adoration

Sept. 10th Mass will be in Freedom Park at 5 p.m. followed by our annual parish picnic. Please join us all are welcome!

#### **Protestant Community**

9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library) 10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

Wednesdays:

4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Thursdays:

5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel

### **Ecumenical services**

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

VIEWPOINT SILVER WINGS Aug. 31, 2017 SILVER WINGS 10 SILVER WING Aug. 31, 2017 Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

# The power of positivity

14th Comptroller Sauadron Commander

We are faced with an overwhelming amount of negative information each day. Whether it is from news sources, social media, politics or from the people we encounter; this immersion in negativity can quickly skew our perception on reality and lead us to believe the world is mostly bad.

Thankfully there are numerous studies that prove otherwise. Let's talk about how the power of positivity affects our

Years ago I watched a TedTalks featuring Shawn Achor and he discussed "The happy secret to better work." In the 12-minute video, which I've watched at least a dozen times, this Harvard graduate educated the audience on three items:

- 1. How the lens with which our brain views the world, shapes our reality
- 2. How our long-term happiness is predicted
- 3. How our job successes are predicted
- First, Shawn stated "It's not reality that shapes us, but the lens with which our brain views the world that shapes our

Everyone has a story (the environment you were raised in. experiencing death, divorce, war, etc.). The experiences we have had and/or will have are what shape us into who we are and it's our ability to take those experiences, whether good or bad, and use them to our advantage. The Air Force refers to

Second, Shawn mentioned "90 percent of your long-term happiness is predicted not by the external world, but by the way your brain processes the world."

Many of us work toward getting the best house, car, clothes, etc., because we believe those things will bring us happiness. To some extent those tangibles significantly increase our quality of life but they have a very small effect on our overall happiness. So, if we change the formula for happiness, we can also change our perceived reality.

are predicted by your optimism levels, your social support and your ability to see stress as a challenge instead of a threat."

The Air Force is full of Type-A personalities. People who are self-driven, extremely motivated and always striving for the next level of success. The problem we face is the fact that work)

The Air Force is full of Type-A personalities. People who are self-driven, extremely motivated and always striving for the next level of success.

when we have a success we then change our goal and now there's a new standard for achieving success. We believe that if we are successful, then we will be happy but our brain never gets there because we keep changing what success looks like. How do you define success?

Finally, regardless of what you may be faced with in life, from your past, present or future ... remember that you cannot always control external events but you can control your Third, Shawn showed us that "75 percent of job successes" response to those events. Be Positive, Be Happy, Be Success-

> (Editor's note: The video mentioned can be found at https:// www.ted.com/talks/shawn achor the happy secret to better





### **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

# **BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-1B Lancer**

Carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory, the multi-mission B-1B Lancer is the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time.

#### **Features**

The B-1B's blended wing/body configuration, variable-geometry wings and turbofan afterburning engines, combine to provide long range, maneuverability and high speed while enhancing survivability. Forward wing settings are used for takeoff, landings, air refueling and in some high-altitude weapons employment scenarios. Aft wing sweep settings — the main combat configuration — are typically used during high subsonic and supersonic flight, enhancing the B-1B's maneuverability in the low- and high-altitude regimes. The B-1B's speed and superior handling characteristics allow it to seamlessly integrate in mixed force packages. These capabilities, when combined with its substantial payload, excellent radar targeting system, long loiter time and survivability, make the B-1B a key element of any joint/composite strike force.

#### Background

The first production B-1 flew in October 1984, and the tio first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in

June 1985. Initial operational capability was achieved on fan engine with afterburner Oct. 1, 1986. The final B-1B was delivered May 2, 1988.

The B-1B holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range, and time of climb in its class. The National Aeronautic Association recognized the B-1B for completing one of the 10 most memorable record flights for 1994. The most recent records were made official in 2004.

The B-1B was first used in combat in support of operations grams) against Iraq during Operation Desert Fox in December 1998. In 1999, six B-1s were used in Operation Allied Force, delivering more than 20 percent of the total ordnance while flying less than 2 percent of the combat sorties.

During the first six months of Operation Enduring Freedom, eight B-1s dropped nearly 40 percent of the total tonnage delivered by coalition air forces. This included nearly 3,900 JDAMs, or 67 percent of the total. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, the aircraft has flown less 1 percent of the combat missions while delivering 43 percent of the JDAMs used. The B-1 continues to be deployed today, flying missions daily in support of continuing operations.

#### **General Characteristics**

Contractor: Boeing, North America (formerly Rockwell International, North American Aircraft); Offensive avionics, Boeing Military Airplane; defensive avionics, EDO Corpora-

Power plant: Four General Electric F101-GE-102 turbo-

Thrust: 30,000-plus pounds with afterburner, per engine Wingspan: 137 feet (41.8 meters) extended forward, 79 feet (24.1 meters) swept aft

Length: 146 feet (44.5 meters)

Height: 34 feet (10.4 meters)

Weight: approximately 190,000 pounds (86,183 kilo-

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 477,000 pounds (216,634 ki-

Fuel Capacity: 265,274 pounds (120,326 kilograms)

**Payload:** 75,000 pounds (34,019 kilograms)

Speed: 900-plus mph (Mach 1.2 at sea level)

Range: Intercontinental

Ceiling: More than 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)

**Armament:** 84 500-pound Mk-82 or 24 2,000-pound Mk-84 general purpose bombs; up to 84 500-pound Mk-62 or 8 2,000-pound Mk-65 Quick Strike naval mines; 30 cluster munitions (CBU-87, -89, -97) or 30 Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispensers (CBU-103, -104, -105); up to 24 2,000-pound GBU-31 or 15 500-pound GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions; up to 24 AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Primary Function: Long-range, multi-role, heavy bomber Missiles; GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition

Crew: Four (aircraft commander, copilot, and two weapon

Unit Cost: \$283.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars) Initial operating capability: October 1986

**Inventory:** Active force, 66 (test, 2); ANG, 0; Reserve, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Richard Johnson

A B-1B Lancer aircraft sits on the flightline at Columbus Air Force Base. Mississippi May 25, 2016, as people observe it. The B-1B's synthetic aperture radar is capable of tracking, targeting and engaging moving vehicles as well as self-targeting and terrain-following modes.



A B-1B Lancer aircraft sits on the flightline at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, May 25, 2016, as people observe it. The B-1B is a highly versatile, multi-mission weapon

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

Jamario Robertson, 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, fuels a T-6A Texan II Aug. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Fuels is responsible for maintaining and operating fuels and cryogenic facilities and equipment.

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

There are many things that get pilots into the air, from the maintainers who fix the planes, to the personnel who keep their records, and to the medical group that clears them to fly — but without any fuel, no aircraft would be able to lift off the runway.

The 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight is responsible for delivering clean, dry fuel and liquid oxygen to 14th Flying Training Wing and transient aircraft.

"We do everything from receiving the fuel, to storing it and transferring fuel through pipelines to fill stands that we fill our 6,000-gallon R-11 refueling units with," said Joe Kelly, 14th LRS fuels terminal manager.

Before any of the fuel is received by any aircraft, the fuel is tested to make sure it is in regulation for the aircraft.

"The fuel is tested for solids and some additives, the fuel system icing inhibitor, and the antistatic agent," Kelly said. "It's also tested where it's filtered before it's issued to the aircraft, and that's to remove any leftover sediment or water that's in the fuel."

In 2015 the fuel shop had the most fuel transactions out of any Air team members' prints on the students' backs.

Force base, and continue to make around 300 transactions a day.

"We have a fleet of 17 trucks and at any point in time there could be six or seven trucks moving fuel," Kelly said. "We issue about 60,000 gallons a day with that fleet."

With the duty to continuously keep training aircraft ready to fly, the work tempo is extremely high; Sherry Voncee', 14th LRS fuels controller, helps keep all the movement of fuel under control.

"I am in control of all aspects of POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants flight), and I need to know who's going in and out of storage," Voncee' said. "I am basically keeping track and dispatching them to control the movement of the fuel."

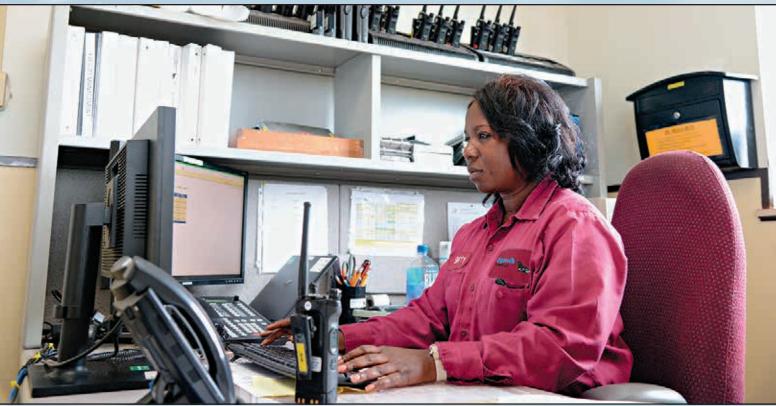
It's an extremely fast-paced job. With thousands of sorties a year, the R-11s must be dispatched and refueling aircraft within eight minutes of the Mission and Operation Control Center notifying the fuels flight.

"It's a busy job, it really is," Voncee' said.

As the student pilots lean on the 14th LRS Fuels Management Flight for support, their fingerprints will be among many other BLAZE team members' prints on the students' backs.



Joey Pounders, 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, fuels a T-38C Talon Aug. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Roughly 300 gallons of fuel is moved daily to resupply the aircraft.



LOGISTICS

READINESS

Sherry Voncee', 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels controller, listens to a request from the flightline to refuel an aircraft Aug. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. She is in charge of all movement of fuels across the base and manages over 10 vehicles almost constantly throughout the day.



Fuels distributors give fuel to two T-38C Talons Aug. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Columbus Air Force Base moved the most fuel out of any Air Force base in 2015 and continues to keep a high tempo to meet the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission needs.