



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 Office.

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 bulbs.

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.



Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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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/index.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 Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.

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.

Sept. 7

There will be a community medical exercise in Columbus, Mississippi, and the surrounding area. This will last from about 8-11 a.m.

Sept. 16

The Mississippi State University football team will face off 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 RQ-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.

February 28, 1998: The RQ-4 Global Hawk first flew. This new remotely piloted

aircraft, designed for high-altitude, long-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 24 hours.

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). In the first month, allied transports, including C-5s, C-17s, and C-130s, airlifted more

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 peace-keeping 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, Jr., USAF, served as the joint task force commander.

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 Organization forces.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
4 Most Columbus AFB offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday	5	6	7 Daedalian Dinner, 7 p.m. @ Proffitt's Porch	8 SUPT Class 17-14 Graduation	9/10	Sept. 18: Air Force 70th Birthday Sept. 19: POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 21: Enlisted Dorm Dinner Sept. 23: CAFB Triathlon Sept. 23: Oktoberfest Sept. 24: Gold Star Mother's Day
11 Patriot Day Class 18-13 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ PACCAR	12 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. 26: Wing Newcomers Sept. 29: SUPT Class 17-15 Graduation Sept. 29: Enlisted Promotions Oct. 3: SUPT Class 18-15 Pilot Partner Welcome Oct. 7: Retiree Appreciation day



To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

2-week summit takes aim at aircrew retention

Staff Sgt. William A. O'Brien

Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs

JOINT 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 Aug. 14-25, 2017.

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 to take shape.

“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 Sgt. William A. O'Brien

Lt. Col. Langdon Root, the Aircrew Crisis Task Force summit lead, conducts a briefing Aug. 15, 2017, during a two-week 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.”

The first week of the summit focused on pairing SMEs from those identified areas with the aviators to ensure all proposed solutions were balanced with political and monetary realities.

“We brought in about 20 subject matter experts who have great expertise and situational awareness in one or more of the working group areas. They were available to answer questions from the other 50 volunteers,” said Root. “The subject matter experts bring joint and coalition perspective to ensure we bring bold and coherent solutions to the chief of staff of the Air Force. If we do it well, it will expedite the timeline for the

chief of staff’s decision.”

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, D.C.

“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 separate.”

The aviation industry is growing. Airline industries are hiring 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 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 aircraft on the planet, be a part of the best team and the most tactically lethal force in the history of aviation, and we take care of each other like family. Although we will never be able to match the monetary compensation the airlines or civil sector can pay our highly skilled aviators, there are things we can change to ensure we offer a superior quality of service and quality of life.”



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

Airmen 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



Courtesy photo used with permission

In the Stairwell is scheduled to perform on America’s Got Talent at 7 p.m. CST Sept. 12, 2017, after advancing to the semifinals. Three members of the 14th Student Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, are a part of the group.

Got Talent put us through,” said Testerman, one of the group’s tenors and Davis, California, native.

Testerman said the cadets at the Academy have also been very supportive of the group. He said the Academy has put on viewing

parties and cadets have mentioned how “cool” it’s been to see themselves represented on the national stage.

As for In the Stairwell’s travel arrangements, per Department of Defense instructions all support for

entertainment filming comes at no cost to the government, therefore AGT handles all the costs associated with their travel and stay in Los Angeles. After the show, Douglas, Klopp and Testerman will resume their pilot training. They have al-

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 a most 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 Force to do.

“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 and go toward funding for In the Stairwell and other cadet clubs.

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 beginning.

“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 agreement.

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 Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority; and the Teacher for a Day program on Sept. 8.

The Air Force Community Partnership



U.S. Air Force photo by Richard Johnson

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 Dollar Count initiatives launched by the Air Force, offers opportunities for military installations and local communities to partner and achieve mutual value and benefit. It is

a framework through which installation and community leaders are developing creative ways to leverage their capabilities and resources to focus on achieving reduced costs by finding a shared value.

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus_afb_living, or visit our website at www.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 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.

14 FSS Labor Day Holiday Hours	
Airman & Family Readiness Center.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Arts & Crafts.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Base Library.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Bowling Center.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Cafe at Whispering Pines.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Child Development Center.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Civilian Personnel and Manpower.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Coffee House on 5th.....	Closed 4 Sept
Columbus Club.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Fitness Center.....	(Staffed) 1 - 4 Sept 1000 - 1800
Independence Pool.....	Open 1200 - 1900
Information, Ticket & Tours.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Military Personnel.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
NAF HRO.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept
Outdoor Recreation.....	Open 1 Sept 0900 - 1700, 2, 3, 5 Sept 0900 - 1300; Closed 4 Sept
Youth Center.....	Closed 1 - 4 Sept

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.

Play Paintball
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 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,

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.

Space A Lodging
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 more information.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

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

The keynote speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-14’s graduation Sept. 8 is Gen. James M. “Mike”



Holmes, the Commander, Air Combat Command, at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. As the commander, 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 and civilian personnel. When mobilized, the 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 space-power employment.

The command provides conventional and information warfare forces to all unified commands to ensure air, space and information superiority for warfighters and national 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 his current position, he served as the Deputy 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.

EDUCATION

1981 Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1986 F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nevada

1987 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell 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 Sciences degree, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB

1995 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia

2000 Air War College, by correspondence

2001 Master’s degree in national defense studies, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

2006 National Defense Studies Fellow, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York

2007 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB

2010 AFISO21 Executive Leadership Course, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2011 Coalition Force Maritime Component Commander Course, Naval War College, Bahrain

2013 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB

ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

3. November 1982 - April 1983, student, 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, USAF F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB

6. May 1986 - May 1989, F-15 Chief of Weapons and Tactics, 44th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan

7. May 1989 - June 1992, F-15 Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Assistant Chief of Wing Weapons and Tactics, Flight Commander and

Assistant Operations Officer, 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 9th Fighter Squadron, Holloman AFB

8. July 1992 - June 1993, student, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB

9. July 1993 - June 1994, student, School for Advanced Airpower Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB

10. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Operations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, Operations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany

11. October 1996 - December 1997, Assistant Operations Officer, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB

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

13. May 1999 - July 2000, Commander, 27th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB

14. July 2000 - July 2001, student, Naval War College, Newport

15. July 2001 - August 2002, Chief, Strategy, Concepts and Doctrine Division, Directorate of Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

16. August 2002 - July 2004, Commander, 14th Operations Group, Columbus AFB

17. August 2004 - September 2006, Commander, 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina

18. September 2006 - June 2007, Chief, Checkmate, Directorate of Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

19. July 2007 - December 2007, Director 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 Planning, Policy and Strategy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

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

22. April 2009 - July 2009, Special Assistant to the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, and Director, Air Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

23. July 2009 - August 2011, Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon,

Washington, D.C.

24. August 2011 - January 2012, Director, Strategic Planning, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

25. January 2012 – July 2013, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

26. August 2013 - July 2014 Vice Commander, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas

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, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. July 1994 - October 1996, Air Operations Officer and Crisis Action Planner, Operations Directorate, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, as a major

2. March 2008 - April 2009, Commander, 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 Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a brigadier general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

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

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

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 leaf clusters
Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Army Commendation Medal

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 weather flight they got to see firsthand how their products 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 completed without them.

We then talked with the pilots and asked them questions about what products they use and how specific criteria affects their aircraft. They said thunderstorms and icing are their biggest concerns. We also got requests on training on



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Members from the 26th Operational Weather Squadron, from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, were shown a 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.

how to navigate the 26th OWS webpage and if we could include what products we use to forecast MOA and AR tracks.

As with every mission, there are obstacles to overcome. With the pilots' safety in mind, the weather flight tends to be more cautious with our forecast, and this can frustrate



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

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.

the pilots.

With this job comes frustrations and expectations that we sometimes can't meet. Weather is not an exact science and sometimes it does the unexpected, but as forecasters we put everything we have in providing the most accurate weather forecasts.

Columbus AFB officers prepare for Air Force Marathon

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
14th Flying Training Wing
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 a marathon.

"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 values.



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 participants. 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 USAJobs, 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 mandatory 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 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. To register and for more information, please call 434-2839 or 2790.

STOMP

A Specialized Training of Military Parents webinar training opportunity will be from

Former POW shares history



U.S. Air Force by Richard Johnson

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, and A&FRC. For more information, please call 434-2790 to register.

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 434-2790.

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 marital 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 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 (662) 434-2720.

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

Sundays:
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

Sundays:
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 Library)

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

The power of positivity

Maj. Randi Ludington
14th Comptroller Squadron 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 lives and success.

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 reality."

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 this as resiliency.

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.

Third, Shawn showed us that "75 percent of job successes 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

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 response to those events. Be Positive, Be Happy, Be Successful!

(Editor's note: The video mentioned can be found at https://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_better_work)

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-1B Lancer

Mission

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 take-off, 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 first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in

June 1985. Initial operational capability was achieved on 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 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

Primary Function: Long-range, multi-role, heavy bomber
Contractor: Boeing, North America (formerly Rockwell International, North American Aircraft); Offensive avionics, Boeing Military Airplane; defensive avionics, EDO Corporation
Power plant: Four General Electric F101-GE-102 turbo-

fan engine with afterburner

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 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 477,000 pounds (216,634 kilograms)

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 Missiles; GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition

Crew: Four (aircraft commander, copilot, and two weapon systems officers)

Unit Cost: \$283.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: October 1986
Inventory: Active force, 66 (test, 2); ANG, 0; Reserve, 0

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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.

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 is a highly versatile, multi-mission weapon system.

Fuel is key to mission success, keeps pilot training going



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



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.”

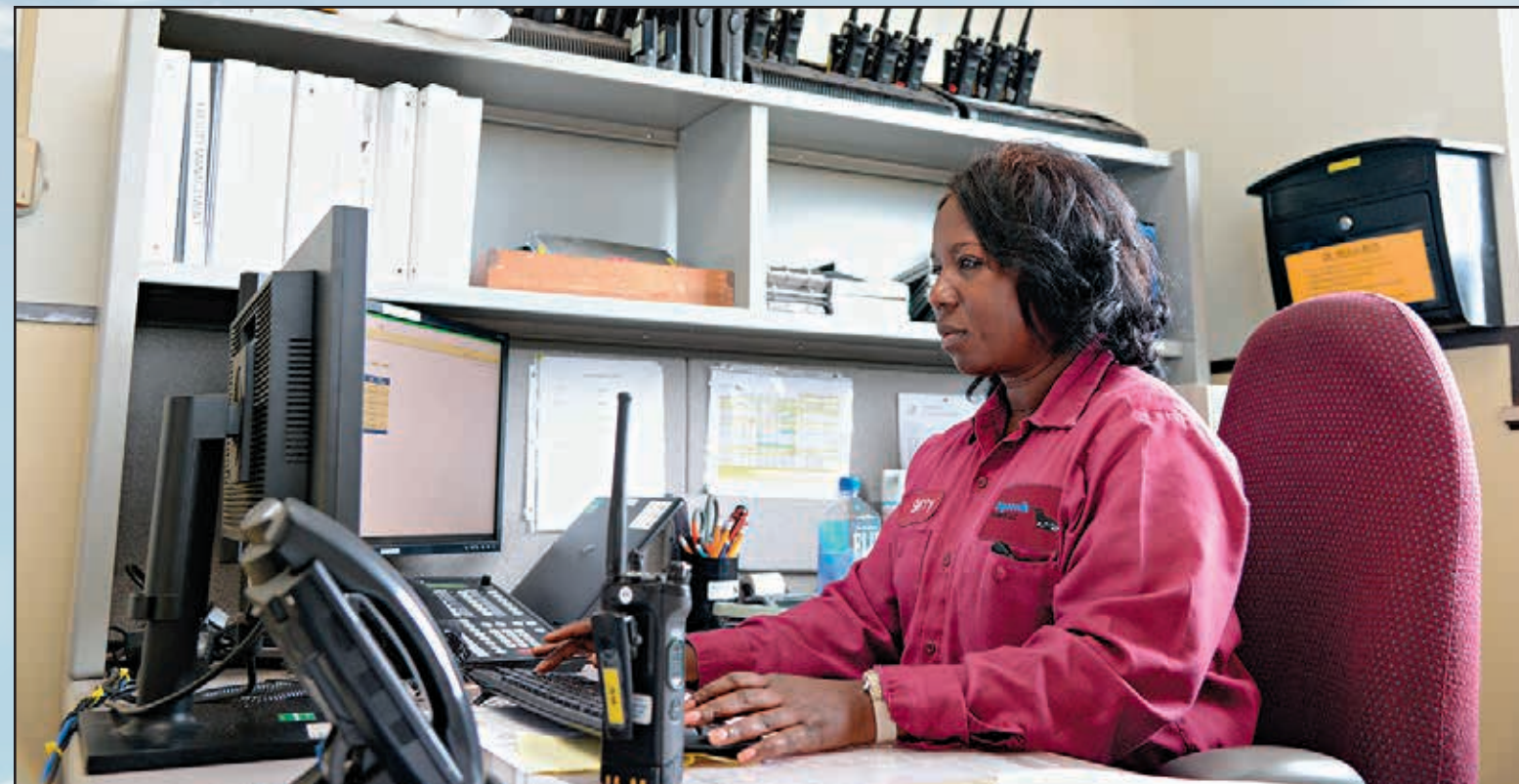
With the duty to continuously keep training aircraft ready to fly, the work tempo is extremely high; Sherry Voncee, 14th LRS fuels controller, helps keep all the movement of fuel under control.

“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.



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.



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.



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.