

Veterans Day parade and ceremony



Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, speaks to a crowd during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Reilly was the guest speaker for the ceremony, which also included a parade beforehand.



Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, delivers a Veterans Day message to a group of people Nov. 11, 2017, at the Airbus Helicopters, Inc. facility in Columbus, Mississippi. Several leaders from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, were involved in Veterans Day events and ceremonies throughout the community.



Evans Rhett sings the national anthem as members of West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard present the colors during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of Columbus AFB and the city of Columbus came together to organize a parade and ceremony to honor veterans.



Maggy Wesley, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 8 Commander, hands Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Columbus Vice Mayor Bill Gavin, former Army Spc. Roy Fuqua and Supervisor Harry Sanders a wreath during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of Columbus AFB and the city of Columbus came together to organize a parade and ceremony to honor veterans.



Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, march during a Veterans Day parade Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Airmen from many squadrons on base participated in the parade as well as the wreath laying ceremony that took place shortly afterward.

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Vol. 41, Issue 45

November 17, 2017

Weather

Friday Partly Cloudy High 74°F Low 45°F	Saturday Thunderstorms High 62°F Low 54°F
Sunday Rain High 57°F Low 40°F	Monday Partly Cloudy High 55°F Low 30°F
Forecast provided by the 14 th OSS Weather Flight	

News Briefs

Thanksgiving/AETC Family Day

Most base offices will be closed Nov. 23-24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday and an Air Education and Training family day.

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Columbus Club.

Enlisted All Call

An enlisted all call is at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Kaye Auditorium. Participation for this event is mandatory for all enlisted personnel.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Class 18-02 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



Cadet Mya Pigott, member of West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard, plays taps during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of the WLHS Air Force Junior ROTC also presented the colors during the ceremony.

Airmen, city of Columbus celebrate Veterans Day

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, participated with the city of Columbus in a Veterans Day parade and ceremony Nov. 11.

The Airmen marched with other veterans from around the area as well as other organizations and schools. Following the parade was a ceremony which included a wreath laying by Col.

Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander; former Army Spc. Roy Fuqua, World War II veteran; Columbus Vice Mayor Bill Gavin; and Supervisor Harry Sanders, Lowndes County District One President.

Members of the West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard also presented the colors and playing of taps during the ceremony. After a moment of silence a formal

See VETERANS DAY, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD							
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual				
37th (18-11)	2.32 days	2.20 days	Dec. 12	48th (18-02)	-0.89 days	2.09 days	Nov. 17	49th (18-BBC)	0.91 days	0.27 days	Nov. 17	T-6	1,457	1,319	4,773				
41st (18-12)	4.56 days	3.89 days	Jan. 17	50th (18-02)	0.14 days	-1.98 days	Nov. 17	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	481	350	1,151				
The graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-02's graduation on Nov. 17 is Brig. Gen. David Hicks, Director of Strategy, Concepts, and Assessments, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.												T-38	440	513	1,702				
												IFF	200	207	678				

Thanksgiving and AETC Family Day Holiday hours

Airman & Family Readiness Center Closed Nov. 23-24
Arts & Crafts Closed Nov. 22-24
Bowling Center Open Nov. 22 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,
Closed Nov. 23-25
Child Development Center Closed Nov. 23-24
Columbus Club Closed Nov. 21-24
Exchange Closed Nov. 23, Open Nov. 24 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fitness Center Closed Nov. 23
Medical Group Closed Nov. 23-24
Military Personnel and Finance Closed Nov. 23-24
Multimedia Closed Nov. 23-24
Outdoor Recreation Open Nov. 21-22 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,
Closed Nov. 23-26
Shoppette Closed Nov. 23
Visitor Center Closed Nov. 23-24
Youth Center Closed Nov. 23-24

In Observance of the Holiday Thanksgiving Day November 23, 2017	
Commissary Hours of Operation are:	
Sunday:	Noon-6 p.m.
Monday:	8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday:	10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Wednesday:	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thursday:	CLOSED
Friday:	CLOSED
Saturday:	9 a.m.-6 p.m.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 60 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
20	21	22	23	24	25/26	Dec. 5: Columbus AFB Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade Dec. 7: Holiday Brunch Dec. 12: Air Force Community Partnership Meeting Dec. 14: Hearts Apart Dec. 14: Daedalians Meeting Dec. 14: Happy Fund Shop and Wrap Dec. 15: SUPT Class 18-03 Graduation Dec. 19: Pilot Partner Welcome Dec. 22: Last Fly Day Dec. 22: Pratt House Open House
			Thanksgiving, most offices closed All AAFES facilities closed	AETC Family Day, most offices closed Exchange opens at 6 a.m.	25th: Exchange opens at 9 a.m.	
27	28	29	30	1	2/3	
Columbus Christmas tree lighting, 5:30-7 p.m. @ Riverwalk			Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club	Enlisted All Calls, 9 a.m. & 2 p.m. @ Kaye SUPT Class 18-03 Assignment Night, 5:30 p.m. Club	2nd: Caledonia Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.	

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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NEWS AROUND TOWN

Nov. 23

The Mississippi State Bulldogs will host the 2017 Egg Bowl against the Ole Miss Rebels at 6:30 at Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville, Mississippi.

Nov. 27

The annual Columbus Christmas tree lighting event will be from 5:30-7 p.m. near the riverwalk and pedestrian bridge in downtown Columbus, Mississippi. For more information, visit www.columbusmainstreet.com or call (662) 328-6305.

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November 18
Holiday Farmers' Market
9am to Noon

November 25
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10am to 2pm

November 27
City Christmas Tree Lighting
5:30 to 7pm

December 1
Wassail Fest
5 to 8pm

December 4
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VETERANS DAY

(Continued from page 1)

tion of T38 Talons from Columbus AFB flew overhead.

Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, spoke to the audience after the flyover, and shared a story of a friend who died during a firefight in Afghanistan years ago. He, like many other veterans had seen and dealt with the sacrifices many have made to keep America safe.

“What is it about service, what drives men and women to voluntarily endure hardship, to risk it all, to put themselves in harm’s way?” Reilly asked. “Spirit. The spirit of the American warfighter is to go forward, forward to those unknown places, to take the fight to those wishing to do us harm, or our way of life, to wage war in another land, to do things and see things that no one should ever have to do or see and to do it all so that those we cherish here at home, do not have to.”

Reilly also spoke about how that spirit was instilled in the men and women who fought more than 200 years ago during the birth of America, men and woman sacrificed their lives to be free. He referenced one iconic event in particular, the crossing of the Delaware.

“We stand here today free people only because of the strength and fortitude of those men on that Christmas night shivering on the banks of the Delaware staring across the darkness into the unknown,” Reilly said.



T-38 Talons from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, fly over the Lowndes County Courthouse during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of Columbus AFB and the city of Columbus came together to organize a parade and ceremony to honor veterans.

Continuing he honored the determination of the past generations of service members, reminding the audience of the many men and woman who helped bring America to what it is today. The amount of service members on the home front and overseas who allowed our families to stay safe for so many



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Col. Guy Majkowski, 14th Medical Group Commander, commands a flight of Airmen Nov. 11, 2017, before a Veterans Day parade at the Columbus Municipal Complex in Columbus, Mississippi. Following the parade was a ceremony which included a wreath laying ceremony, flyover and participation from Columbus Air Force Base and West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard.

generations. “No single military power in the history of the world has done greater good, shown greater courage ... or have upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the armed forces of the United States of America,” Reilly said.

WARNING SIGNS

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Columbus senior NCO recognized for excellence

Master Sgt. Angelique McCreary, 14th Comptroller Squadron, was recently recognized as the Air Education and Training Command Finance Senior NCO of the Year.

Thanksgiving recipes

Silver Wings will be including a couple pages of Thanksgiving recipes in the Nov. 22 issue.

If you have a favorite family recipe for main or side dishes, or desserts, email the recipe and directions to the Silver Wings box at silverwings@us.af.mil by Nov. 17, along with your name and unit.



Volunteers needed for tax season

Seeking volunteers for 2017 tax season, starting in February 2018. We expect to be open three mornings 8 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday, per week. Accounting experience is a plus, but is not a requirement. Childcare fees may be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Capt. Casey Keppler or Senior Airman Anna Miller at 742-7030 for more information or with any questions.

Congratulations to Team BLAZE members for IDE/SDE selections

Congratulations to the following individuals on their selection for Intermediate and Senior Developmental Education:

- IDE
- Maj. Lorna Blodgett, 14th Medical Operations Support Squadron
Maj. Brent Fleming, 41st Flying Training Squadron
Maj. Alan Goncalves, 14th Flying Training Wing
Maj. Mark Hancock, 14th FTW
Maj. Kelly Kareis (alternate), 41st FTS
- SDE
- Lt. Col. Ryan Hill, 81st Fighter Squadron
Lt. Col. Derek Oakley, 41st FTS
Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam (alternate), 48th FTS
- “IDE/SDE selection is highly competitive and we are proud of these warriors for making the cut and wish them the best of luck at school,” stated Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander.

Team BLAZE members receive AETC Awards

Congratulations to the following Team BLAZE members for being recognized at the Air Education Training Command level.

High Flyer Individual Awards

- T-6A Texan II Category
Maj. Mark Herold, 14th Student Squadron
- T-1A Jayhawk Category
Capt. Jeffrey Asper, 48th Flying Training Squadron
- T-38 Talon Category
Capt. Joseph Holloway, 50th FTS
- A-29 Super Tucano Category
Maj. Grant Thompson, 81st Fighter Squadron
- Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Category
Capt. Matthew Martenson, 49th Fighter Training Squadron

Organizational Awards-Top Squadrons

- T-1A Jayhawk Category
48th FTS, commanded by Lt. Col. Charles Gilliam

BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award

Name: Airman 1st Class Queneth Salazar
Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska

Unit: 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology
Duty Title: Aerospace and Operational Physiology technician

Salazar received the Blaze 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award for the month of October 2017 in recognition of his outstanding leadership.

Salazar demonstrated superb leadership by supervising six volunteers over the course of four days, 37 hours at the Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo, transporting two flight training devices and creating a display for 7,000 junior high students. Although Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training is taught almost exclusively by officers, he amassed 21 instructor hours teaching students survival and life support courses, a necessity before they fly in the jet. He also strived to become qualified in three additional hours of instruction, an example to his peers. When called



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Viviana Chalfonte

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Van Rees, BLAZE 5/6 Vice President, and Staff Sgt. Juliana White, BLAZE 5/6 President, present Airman 1st Class Queneth Salazar, 14th Medical Operations Squadron Aerospace and Operational Physiology technician, the October BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award Oct. 26, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

upon, he stepped up to work after-hours, helping three pilots get over airsickness. Over the course of eight sessions, he returned all three back to the flight line, saving their careers and averting re-training, valued at \$6 million. Additionally, while in a low-pres-

sure/low-oxygen chamber, he effectively responded to four medical issues from two pilots, ensuring they reached ground safely. His scope of impact was vital to the flight winning the 14th Medical Group Team Innovation Award.

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COLD FACTS:

- Each year in the United States, there are millions of cases of the common cold.
- Adults have an average of 2-3 colds per year, and children have even more.
- Common colds are the main reason children miss school and adults miss work.
- Colds can happen any time of the year, with winter and spring being the most common.

PREVENTION:

- There is no cure or no vaccine for a cold but,
- Proper hand washing and avoiding sick people are the two **most effective** ways to prevent catching colds.
- Drinking plenty of fluids and getting sufficient rest can also help.

Volunteer victim advocate training coming in January 2018

Columbus Air Force Base Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

If you are interested in becoming a trained and certified Air Force volunteer victim advocate, the next training is scheduled for Jan. 8-12 at building 926 in room 213; the classes will take place daily from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Those who are interested must register by Dec. 15. This is a 40-hour training course and those attending must be available to attend all 40 hours to earn their certification.

The Columbus Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program team would like to thank those that are interested in advance for supporting those affected by the crime of sexual assault and assisting their team.

If you know other active-duty members, Defense Department civilians, Reserve or Guard personnel in active statuses that want to serve as a Volunteer Victim Advocate please pass this information.

2.8. According to AFI 90-6001 these are the eligibility and requirements to serve as a Volunteer Victim Advocate (VVA).

2.8.1. Only Reg AF military personnel, AF Reserve or

ANG personnel in active status, and DoD civilian appropriated fund employees may serve as volunteer victim advocates (VVAs). Reserve Personnel assigned to the RMU may serve as VVAs if they have no patient-related duties. See Section 2.2.1. precluding some military members and civilians from serving as SARC; these individuals are also precluded from serving as VVAs.

2.8.1.1. The SARC and SAPR VA will determine if any VVA has or develops a conflict of interest and reassign accordingly (T-3). Civilian (appropriated fund) VVAs must be in the grade of GS-07 or higher (T-1). Military VVAs must be E-4 and above and at least 21 years of age for enlisted and a minimum of O-2 for officers; however officers in the grade of O-1 that were prior enlisted are eligible to become VVAs (T-1). VVAs that hold a current D-SAACP credentialing, prior to the date of this instruction, are grandfathered into the program and may remain as VVAs.

2.8.1.2. Civilian VVAs must have their supervisors document their volunteer status and duties, to include hours performing VA duties, in their personnel files consistent with current procedures managed by the Civilian Personnel Office

(T-1). Civilian VVAs are expected to maintain acceptable performance in their non-VVA job. A record of unacceptable performance by their primary supervisor results in the employee no longer participating as a VVA until their work is acceptable.

2.8.1.3. All VVAs must comply with initial and ongoing screening requirements.

***Note:** Volunteer Victim Advocates can serve in three capacities. They can serve as a responder, (added to hotline and work with victims) trainer, (assist with training and briefings) or both. All members are required to attend the 40-hour training, but responders will have to obtain additional certification after the training. If interested in participating in any of the capacities please feel free to sign up for the training.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact: Carla Neal Bush, SAPR Victim Advocate, at 662-434-1329 or 662-364-7473, or Dr. Marcia Stewart, SAPR Program Manager at 662-434-1228 or 662-242-2105.

***If** you would like to make a report of sexual assault or just have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the SAPR Hotline@ 662-364-0822

AFPC offers follow-on option to Airmen taking short tours

Kat Bailey and 2nd Lt. Stephen Warren

Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Airmen selected for a dependent-restricted short tour for their second or later assignments can voluntarily apply to participate in the Follow-On assignment program, providing them greater flexibility in the assignment process and greater stability for their families.

The Department of Defense designed the Follow-On assignment program to provide all service members, officers and enlisted, with family stability, as well as to decrease permanent change of station costs. The application is a voluntary agreement with the Airman not to use PCS allowances in exchange for advance assignment consideration of a state-side assignment, before they leave on a dependent-restricted short-tour assignment. The Air Force processes follow-on assignments to overseas locations as an exception to policy.

“The Air Force has a placement rate of 70.8 percent for follow-on assignments for the enlisted force in 2017,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Holton, superintendent of the Support Career Management branch at the Air Force's Personnel Center. “As long as Airmen are putting down realistic location choices based on authorizations that exist at the desired follow-on locations, we've been successful at giving them what they want.”

If an Airman chooses a follow-on, the family can stay at the current stateside location or elect to move to the location of their follow-on assignment, providing it, too, is stateside. The program provides stability to the family for work, residence and schooling, with the option to stay in place for another year or be in place at the new location a year or more early, prior to the end of the short tour.

“Instead of moving a family from say, Shaw [Air Force Base] to Mom's place in Boston for a year, and then to Tinker [AFB] and paying for two moves, the family can stay at Shaw [AFB] or go early to Tinker [AFB] while the Airman is away on the short tour,” said Bill Houston, AFPC Assignments Policy and Procedures branch.

However, moving the family to any other location other

“The advantage of applying for a follow-on and thus not waiting for a ‘normal’ assignment is that the Airman’s next assignment would be forecast 14-18 months before their reporting date for their follow-on rather than much later in their short tour, which could increase flexibility or stability for the family,” Houston said.

than the follow-on location at the expense of the Air Force invalidates the follow-on assignment. Airmen agree up-front not to use PCS allowances to relocate dependents and household goods temporarily to a place other than the follow-on location, or to store household goods at government expense.

Houston said if participating in the Follow-On program would cause a financial or personal hardship, Airmen are encouraged to use their PCS allowances and not apply for the Follow-On program.

“The advantage of applying for a follow-on and thus not waiting for a ‘normal’ assignment is that the Airman's next assignment would be forecast 14-18 months before their reporting date for their follow-on rather than much later in their short tour, which could increase flexibility or stability for the family,” Houston said.

Follow-on assignments are also available and highly encouraged for rated officers.

“As we face a fighter pilot absorption challenge, the Follow-On program encourages experienced pilots to volunteer for what has proven to be hard-to-fill short, remote tours,” said Maj. Craig Cude, Fighter Assignments chief at AFPC.

“We project increases in retention and reductions in the number of pilots who decline such tours and are then required to separate from the Air Force.”

According to the fighter assignment team, the follow-on assignment option is available for all fighter pilots, with the exception of new pilots on their way to their first operational assignment, or pilots wishing to compete for crossflow to the F-35. AFPC will consider follow-ons to formal training units on a case-by-case basis due to formal training availability and qualification requirements.

“For new pilots, the losing commander's input, based on the pilot's performance and potential, is vital in determining where an inexperienced pilot goes after their first year in an operational assignment,” Cude said.

During each Vulnerable to Move List cycle, the fighter assignment team will provide a realistic outlook of locations available to select following the remote assignment. Cude says eligible pilots should base their follow-on preferences from that list.

“There must be a balance between flexibility for the assignment matching process and our Airmen's family stability,” Cude said. “To help with pilot retention, we are adding more weight to the latter.”

In order to apply for follow-on consideration, Airmen need to submit their applications on the virtual Military Personnel Flight webpage within 15 days of receiving their assignment notification and more than 150 days prior to their departure date.

Cude encourages all Airmen to weigh the merits of the program in order to decide what works best for them and their families.

“We want to give Airmen a choice to take the follow-on, or not, but to at least understand their options and have a greater voice in their own assignment process,” he said.

Find additional information about follow-on assignments on myPers. Select “Any” from the dropdown menu and search “Follow-On.”

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



**Don't
drink
and
drive.**

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.



Wilson, Goldfein emphasize need for FY18 budget in State of the Air Force address

Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force must have a higher and more stable budget to provide security for the nation, said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein during the State of the Air Force address Nov. 9, 2017, at the Pentagon.

“The fiscal 2018 continuing resolution is actually delaying our efforts to increase the readiness of the force, and risk accumulates over time,” Wilson said. “We are stretching the force to the limit, and we need to start turning the corner on readiness.”

If the Air Force goes through sequestration again, people will walk. Congress needs to lift sequestration as it is currently structured, she added.

Wilson and Goldfein addressed several of the issues the Air Force faces, including the service’s response to the church shooting Nov. 5, 2017, in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

“The events of Sunday, and since, were heartbreaking not only for the Air Force, but all of America,” Wilson said. “The Air Force has launched a full-scale review of this case and all others like it...Our approach here is to act in accordance [with] our values, which includes integrity and excellence, and that’s the way we’re proceeding.”

Goldfein echoed the secretary’s sentiments.

“We offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of this awful, awful attack in Sutherland Springs,” Goldfein said. “This is a community with extensive ties to the Air Force, and we’re ensuring all of our resources are made available to the families of all the victims.”

Wilson also stressed the importance of restoring readiness, cost-effectively modernizing the force, driving innovation, developing exceptional leaders and strengthening America’s alliances.

The Air Force has moved forward in providing equipment and support for its allies, to include the delivery of the first F-35s to Norway and Israel before the



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank
Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein answer questions during the State of the Air Force address at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Nov. 9, 2017. During the event, Air Force senior leaders addressed current Air Force topics and fielded questions from the media.

Every dollar the Air Force spends is focused on readiness and making the service more lethal, Goldfein said.

end of the calendar year, Lebanon’s state-side A-29 attack aircraft training and Bahrain’s acceptance of \$2.7 billion in equipment.

“Those partnerships we are creating with our allies, [as well as our] training, equipment and information exchange ... make the United States stronger because we’re stronger when we’re together,” Wilson said.

Every dollar the Air Force spends is focused on readiness and making the service more lethal, Goldfein said. As the service with the most diverse portfolio, the Air Force is involved in every joint force mission.

Today, there are 34,000 Airmen work-

ing together with Naval nuclear forces to stand watch. In space, 12,000 Airmen launch, operate and control six constellations for the joint force around the globe. In the cyber domain, Airmen join their Soldier, Sailor and Marine counterparts to defend the nation and refine tactics, techniques and procedures to produce strategic effects in this new domain.

Each of these missions is a growth industry, and every mission is no fail. Though Airmen make carrying out these missions look easy, it’s anything but, Goldfein said. The Air Force’s high operations tempo is taking its toll.

“Surge has become the new normal,” Wilson said. “Less than one percent of Americans serve in uniform and protect the rest of us, and they’re carrying a heavy burden. We are burning out our people because we are too small for what the nation is asking of us.”

The service is making the mission happen, but on the backs of its Airmen, Goldfein added. “We are looking for ways to reduce the tension on the force.”

Wilson and Goldfein recognized the commitment Airmen and families are making in service to the nation and advocated for Congress to provide the resources needed to sustain global operations and win.

Federal Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 11

Kat Bailey

Air Force’s Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — This year’s Federal Benefits Open Season runs from Nov. 13 through Dec. 11, 2017, and includes the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and the Federal Flexible Spending Account program.

Open Season gives federal employees and retirees the opportunity to review the 2018 rates and benefits and enroll in or change their health care coverage within the open season dates on the new Government Retirement Benefits platform. Employees also have the opportunity to select supplemental dental and vision coverage as well as elect to participate in a tax-deferred Flexible Spending Account for health care and dependent care.

The Office of Personnel Management announced earlier this year that the overall average increase in total premiums for the 2018 FEHB program would rise by an average of four percent.

OPM encouraged all insurance carriers to evaluate their health plan options to find ways to improve affordability, reduce costs and improve the quality of care and the health of the enrolled population. Negotiations were geared to keep premium increases as low as possible while minimizing changes in out-of-pocket costs, such as for deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance.

OPM encourages all employees to review their coverage during Open Season to decide what coverage and premiums best suit their needs for the upcoming year.

Enrollment for FSAFEDS does not automatically continue from year to year. Employees need to reenroll every year to participate and can submit their enrollments directly through the FSAFEDS website.

Open Season is the only time to enroll, change enrollment or cancel coverage unless an employee has a qualifying life event. Open Season enrollments or changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, for FEDVIP and Jan. 7, 2018 for all other benefits, and will reflect on the pay period ending Jan. 20, 2018.

Detailed information regarding Open Season, including a plan comparison tool, can be found on the OPM website.

Established in 1960, the FEHB Program is the largest employer-sponsored health benefits program in the U.S., providing health care benefits for about 8.3 million employees, retirees and family members. Approximately 85 percent of all Federal employees participate in the program.

International spouses share their cultures during luncheon

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

WEST POINT, Miss. — The International Spouses Group met for a luncheon Nov. 9 at the Old Waverly Golf Course where they shared traditions of countries throughout the world.

“The goal of today’s event is to show appreciation for the international spouses associated with Columbus Air Force Base,” said Linda Gates, the event’s organizer and Columbus Air Force Base Wingman. “The spouses bring diversity, cultural richness, heritage and vitality to the community.”

The spouses wore a variety of outfits from their homeland’s attire as they do at most of their events. The International

Spouses Group has been around for 13 years and was founded by Patricia Wilson, an international spouse of a retired Airman.

“This group started when I first came here because I saw a need for it,” Wilson said. “My husband and I had returned from Ramstein [Air Base, Germany,] and there he was a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

They had an international group and I just kind of brought it with me.”

However, you don’t have to be an international spouse to be a part of the club. The club needs people to show, those who are new to the United States, the American culture.

“This is my second time to come the USA,” said Akane Isayama, spouse of the Japanese Country Liaison Officer at Columbus AFB. “They are so nice and they teach [me how and where to go, and what to do]. I’m so happy to join the [International Spouses Group].”

After everyone had a chance to socialize, Gates thanked everyone who attended and they began their lunch.

The cuisine consisted of multiple foods representing regions from around the world, such as shepherd’s pie from the United Kingdom, a Mediterranean salad from southern Europe, fried rice and ginger glazed chicken from Asia and apple crisp from the U.S.

After the attendees ate, everyone was given an opportunity to introduce themselves. Most people said their name, where they are originally from, how they got to Columbus AFB and their job either on base or in the local area.

Following the introductions, Isayama, Naomi Mukai and Makie Lopez provided Japanese cultural entertainment to the attendees.

After the entertainment was complete, Rebecca Leftwich, International Spouses Group liaison, thanked everyone for coming out and said she was eager for the next event.

“I think it’s really important to be proud of your heritage and celebrate it,” Leftwich said.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
The International Spouses Group met at the Old Waverly Golf Course Nov. 9, 2017, in West Point Mississippi. The spouses wore a variety of outfits from their homeland's attire as they do at most of their events.



Patricia Wilson, founder of the International Spouses Group, greets guests as they sign in for the International Spouses Group luncheon Nov. 9, 2017, at the Old Waverly Golf Course in West Point, Mississippi. Wilson created the group 13 years ago out of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, after she and her husband returned to the U.S. from Germany.



Linda Gates, International Spouses Group luncheon organizer, thanks everyone for attending the luncheon Nov. 9, 2017, at the Old Waverly Golf Course in West Point, Mississippi. The event featured a social hour, food, introductions and entertainment.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-4B

Mission
The E-4B serves as the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) and is a key component of the National Military Command System for the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). In case of national emergency or destruction of ground command and control centers, the aircraft provides a highly survivable command, control, and communications center to direct U.S. forces, execute emergency war orders, and coordinate actions by civil authorities. The conduct of E-4B operations encompasses all phases of the threat spectrum. Additionally, the E-4B provides outside the continental United States (OCONUS) travel support for the Secretary of Defense and his staff to ensure Title 10 command and control connectivity.

Features
The E-4B, a militarized version of the Boeing 747-200, is a four-engine, swept-wing, long-range, high-altitude airplane capable of refueling in flight. The main deck is divided into six functional areas: a command work area, conference room, briefing room, an operations team work area, and communications and rest areas. An E-4B crew may include seating for up to 112 people, including a joint-service operations team, Air Force flight crew, maintenance and security component, communications team, and selected augmentees.
The E-4B is protected against the effects of electromagnetic pulse and has an electrical system designed to support advanced electronics and a wide variety of communications equipment. An advanced satellite communications system provides worldwide communication for senior leaders through the airborne operations center. Other improvements include nuclear and thermal effects shielding, acoustic control, an improved

technical control facility and an upgraded air-conditioning system for cooling electrical components.
To provide direct support to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the JCS, at least one E-4B NAOC is always on 24-hour alert, 7-days a week, with a global watch team at one of many selected bases throughout the world.

Background
The E-4B evolved from the E-4A, which had been in service since late 1974. The first B model was delivered to the Air Force in January 1980, and by 1985 all aircraft were converted to B models. All E-4B are assigned to the 55th Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

General characteristics
Primary function: Airborne operations center
Builder: Boeing Aerospace Co.
Power plant: Four General Electric CF6-50E2 turbofan engines
Thrust: 52,500 pounds each engine
Length: 231 feet, 4 inches (70.5 meters)
Wingspan: 195 feet, 8 inches (59.7 meters)
Height: 63 feet, 5 inches (19.3 meters)
Maximum takeoff weight: 800,000 pounds (360,000 kilograms)
Endurance: 12 hours (unrefueled)
Ceiling: above 30,000 feet (9,091 meters)
Unit cost: \$223.2 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Crew: up to 112
Date deployed: January 1980
Inventory: active force, 4; Air National Guard, 0; Reserve, 0
(Current as of September 2015)



U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese
An E-4B aircraft sits on the tarmac at Travis Air Force Base, California, Sept. 11, 2017. The E-4B participated in a flyover at the California Capital Airshow.



An E-4B aircraft takes off from Travis Air Force Base, California, Sep. 11, 2017. The E-4B serves as the National Airborne Operations Center and is a key component of the National Military Command System for the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

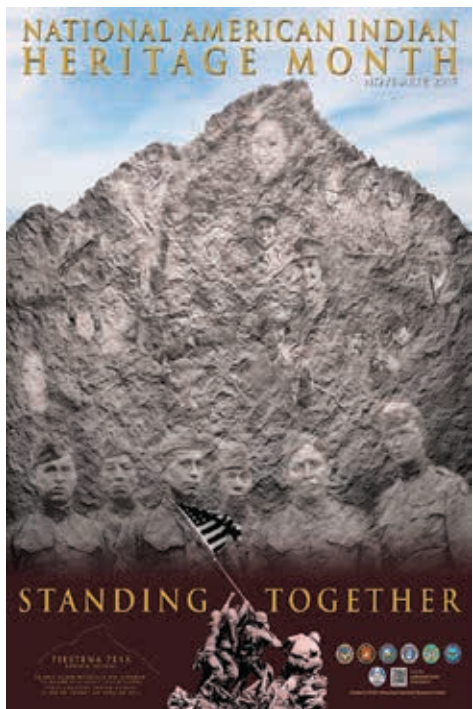
National American Indian Heritage Month

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute

November is National American Indian Heritage Month, honoring American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Society of American Indian Government Employees has selected “Standing Together” as the 2017 theme.
At the turn of the century, efforts began to implement a day of recognition for Native Americans’ contributions to America. Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian was one of the early champions of an American Indian Day. In the early 1900s, he persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day to honor the first Americans. In 1914, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode on horseback from state to state, seeking support for a day to honor American Indians.
On Dec. 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments to the White

House. Despite his efforts, there is no record of a national day being proclaimed. Also in 1915, the Congress of the American Indian Association approved a formal plan to celebrate American Indian Day. Reverend Sherman Coolidge, an Arapaho tribal member, asked the country to formally set aside a day of recognition.
In 1924, Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act, but took no action to establish a National American Indian Day.
In 1990, a joint resolution was approved designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.”
Since 1994, similar proclamations have been issued, under variants on the name to include “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.”
Currently, there are 567 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and

more than 100 state-recognized tribes across the United States. Each have their own distinctive history, beliefs, governance structure and culture. Sovereignty is the right of a nation or group of people to be self-governing and is the most fundamental concept that defines the relationship between the United States government and American Indian tribal governments. American Indians and Alaska Natives are U.S. citizens and citizens of their tribes. They are subject to federal laws, but they are not always subject to state laws.
The Department of Defense along with the rest of our nation, celebrate the first people to live on the land we all value. American Indians and Alaska Natives have bravely defended and shaped our country’s character and our cultural heritage.
American Indian and Alaskan Native patriots continue to build legacies of freedom and diversity.



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.)

Pre-separation Counseling
This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2790 for more information.

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 held daily at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Resume and Cover Letter
This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Dec. 6 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.

Marketing Yourself for A Second Career
This workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 6. and prepares you to market yourself. The workbook includes resume information, interviewing preparation, networking tips and negotiation strategies. Conducted by MOAA, call 434-2790 to register.

Heart Link for Spouses
This event is from 8 a.m.-noon Dec. 7 at the Columbus Club. The event is for spouses new to Columbus Air Force Base or the military lifestyle. It is a fun-filled spouse orientation program with info on protocol, finance, benefits, helping agencies, local conditions and prizes. It is a great way to meet others new to Columbus AFB. To register and for more information, please call 434-2790.

Smooth Move
This class is from 10-11:30 a.m. Dec. 7 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.

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 Mary Chambers, SBP Counselor, at (662) 434-2720.

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

Columbus AFB Commissary provides exceptional customer service



U.S. Air Force photo by Sonic Johnson
Derek Johnson, Defense Commissary Agency meat cutter, hands a pack of meat and provides a customer with information on the various types of cuts of meat at the Commissary on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 15, 2017. Forms and a drop box are located inside the Commissary for customers to fill out and make suggestions on items they would like to see added to the Commissary inventory.

and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

Personal Financial Resources
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, private and confidential. For more information, call the PFC at (662) 998-0411 or 434-2790, or email PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com; the PFC is also located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Volunteer Opportunities
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center. They have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman’s Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Ac-

tivities office and many others. For more information, please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program
The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support is delivered to wounded, ill and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: have a serious illness or injury, are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time or may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Employment Workshop
An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m., Airman & Family Readiness Center. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

Relocation Assistance
A Relocation Assistance workshop on programs, services and resources available through the Airman & Family Readiness Center is held every Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the A&FRC. Topics of discussion include preparing for a move, environment/cultural issues or needs, adaptation and community awareness. The POC is A&FRC, 434-2790.

Sponsorship Training
An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is now available. It can be found on the Military INSTALLATIONS homepage militaryinstallations.dod.mil, under “Are You A Sponsor?”

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

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

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.

Suggested Reading at the Base Library

Stop by the Base Library during normal business hours during the month of November and check out a book for your reading pleasure. Suggested reading will feature books related to Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Air Force Art Contest

It's time to show off your art skills! The 2017 Air Force Art Contest is open Nov. 1-30 to eligible adults and children ages 6-17. Amazon gift cards awarded to the top three winners in each category. For more information, contact the Arts and Crafts Center at 434-7836 or www.myairstorcelife.com/artcontest.

Free Children's Morning Matinee

The Base Library is featuring a new family friendly movie at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month. Bring your family and watch "Cars 3" Dec. 2. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Turkey Bowl 9 Pin No Tap Tournament

Bowl for a chance to win a free frozen turkey in a 9 Pin No Tap Tournament at 1 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Bowling Center Turkey Bowl. The cost is \$15 per person and includes three games and shoe rental. Top three winners will win a free frozen turkey. For more information or to register, contact 434-3426.

Breakfast with Santa

The Youth Center is offering breakfast with Santa from 8-10 a.m. on Dec. 2. The cost is \$5 for ages 5 and up; \$3 for ages 3-4; free for ages 2 and under; \$7 per person after Nov. 29. Bring your camera to capture great memories. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 434-2504.

Holiday Brunch Buffet

The Columbus Club is offering a Holiday Brunch Buffet from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 7. Menu includes: beef loin and Cajun pork carving station, mashed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, green beans, macaroni and cheese, corn, eggs, bacon, biscuits, sausage, gravy and bread pudding. The cost is \$10 for club members, \$12 for non-members, \$5 for ages 5-11 and free for ages 4 and under. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Grill on the Go



Lance Orsborn, Executive Chef at the Columbus Club, prepares burgers during Grill on the Go in the L3 parking lot Nov. 14, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The menu consisted of the ultimate cheeseburger and barbeque beer beans. Stop by and grab lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. during Tasty Tuesdays! Menus and locations include; whiskey brown sugar turkey burger with BBQ beer beans Nov. 28 at the 14th Operations Group between building 268 and building 230; bourbon barbeque pork kabobs with rosemary grilled red potatoes Dec. 5 at L3 parking lot across from building 640; grilled buffalo chicken wings with kettle chips Dec. 12 at the 14th OG; beer and honey grilled chicken wings with kettle chips Dec. 19 at L3 parking. Cost is \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Airman Free Movie Night

The Base Library is featuring a new movie at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome to enjoy "Wonder Woman" Dec. 7. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Holiday Craft Week at the Library

Stop by the Base Library during normal business hours Dec. 11-16 and decorate a holiday ornament and write a letter to Santa. For more information, contact 434-2934.

BLAZE Teen Book Club

Interested in reading and discussing popular books? Stop by the Base Library and pick up "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio during normal business hours. The BLAZE Teen Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 for discussion. For more information, contact 434-2934.

School Age Holiday Camp

The Youth Center is currently accepting registration for the School Age Holiday Camp from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 2-5. Please register by Dec. 13. The cost is based on annual family income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

istration for the School Age Holiday Camp from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 2-5. Please register by Dec. 13. The cost is based on annual family income. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Game Night at the Library

The Base Library is offering a free game night at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Free Mango Languages

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Play Paintball

Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book twenty-four hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per

person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

The Overrun Open Friday Nights

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

Library Hours of Operation

The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. 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.

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

The Fitness Center offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with 119 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

Information Tickets and Travel offers a shuttle service to the airport of your choice. For more information, contact 434-7861.

Columbus AFB, partners donate to hurricane victims

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

A large donation of miscellaneous food items and other products gathered during a recent BLAZE 5/6 donation drive were passed off to Liz Poeppelman, who volunteered to fly the supplies to Florida, Nov. 14.

Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief Executive Assistant and BLAZE 5/6 member, said organizations from around Columbus Air Force Base contributed items such as baby food, bottled water, paper towels, and more.

Poeppelman has been delivering donated goods with other private aircraft pilots for months, trying to provide relief to victims specifically in Florida and Texas.

"We set off almost every weekend," Poeppelman said. "It's really whenever we can, sometimes it can be a little slow to arrive but we want to help as much as we can."

The group of pilots volunteer out of Monroe County Airport, Mississippi, and have been using small private aircraft, despite the

"We set off almost every weekend," Poeppelman said. "It's really whenever we can, sometimes it can be a little slow to arrive but we want to help as much as we can."

large quantities of donated items they receive.

"Halfway through the food drive [at Columbus AFB] the local churches and donation centers had stopped driving down food and items," Felder said. "Thankfully we contacted Liz's husband and her [and] were able to get the food down to help the victims."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Staff Sgt. Whitney Felder, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief Executive Assistant, William O'Meara, Assistant Chief of Health and Safety for fire and emergency services, and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Van Rees, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, gather goods donated from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 14, 2017. The items were donated to Texas and Florida hurricane victims and had been raised by Columbus AFB.

VIEWPOINT

Making a difference

Col. Stan Lawrie
14th Operations Group Commander

*"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler..."*



"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost has always held a special place in my heart. My mother knew it verbatim and would often recite it to my siblings and me, if asked. Her rendition of the poem was always moving and without error. When she recounted the colorful images of the prose, there was always something deeper. There was a wistful mood that occupied the space of those within earshot, as if the poem itself was an allegory for her life. The sentimental lens from which the feelings in that poem were channeled by her, validated to me that life was a series of choices, and there was no right answer. Different paths lead to different choices and opportunities.

She encouraged us to challenge ourselves and to be ready for the adventure that lay ahead.

Like most military members I left my home at the tender age of 18 and joined the Air Force, not as a result of Frost's parable, but as a conscience decision to be a part of something bigger than myself. It was a decision many have made, but still the road less traveled when considering that less than one-half of 1 percent of Americans have served.

Last week, Richard "Sonic" Johnson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chief of Public Affairs, unintentionally added something to this lifelong metaphor of the journey I have been on. He was telling me of a quote he enjoyed, and his words seemed predictable before he finished

his statement. He could not attribute to whom the quote originated, so I will give him the credit until proven otherwise. He began, "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born, and the day you know why." My mind wanted to fill the blank with "the day you die," but this was so much more profound. From this simple thought, my life has changed. It has planted with me, the seeds of a philosophical debate I believe we should all have within ourselves.

What is your purpose? What impact have you had? Whose life have you changed? What other impact can you make? How will you prepare yourself, so that when you get your chance you are ready to make the difference? I wish I had the answer. I wish I could confidently give advice to those who sought my counsel. What I can fall back on is the limited experiences I have had and the examples of those I respect and admire. I believe a great place to start is by trying to make others a success. As my life and career enter the yellow wood, my efforts toward the success of others will be my path.

*"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."*

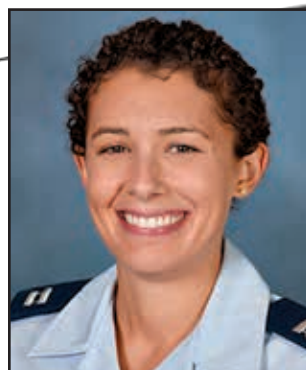
SUPT Class 18-02 earns silver wings



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon



Capt. Kristin Broullire
Peachtree City, Ga.
C-130H, Peterson AFB, Colo.



Capt. Raymond Gutierrez
Grand Prairie, Texas
C-130J, Yokota AB, Japan



1st Lt. David Carr
Niagara Falls, N.Y.
KC-135, Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y.

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-02 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Brig. Gen. David W. Hicks, the Director of Strategy, Concepts, and Assessments, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., is the graduation guest speaker.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

Second Lt. Hans Kollar, T-38C Talon, and 2nd Lt. Staci Colbacchini, T-1A Jayhawk, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. Cassandra Stimpson, T-38, and Colbacchini. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Kollar and Colbacchini were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 18-02.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 18-02's pilot partner is Gerald Scallions of Trinity Place Retirement Community.



1st Lt. Liana Gaudreault
Black Forest, Colo.
E-3 Sentry (AWACS), Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Logan Braadt
Des Moines, Idaho
E-3 Sentry (AWACS), Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Staci Colbacchini
Coral Springs, Fla.
C-5M, Dover AFB, Del.



2nd Lt. Jeff Colon
Memphis, Tenn.
KC-135, Pittsburgh IAP, Pa.



2nd Lt. Rob Dana
Pine Bush, N.Y.
C-17, Stewart ANGB, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Stephen Keisler
Carthage, Mo.
U-28A, Cannon AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. Justin Norman
Eagle Mountain, Utah
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Patricia Pasque
Clinton Township, Mich.
T-1A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Jordan Rogers
Atlanta
KC-135, McConnell, AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. John Rowan
Owings, Md.
MC-130J, Kirtland AFB, N.M.



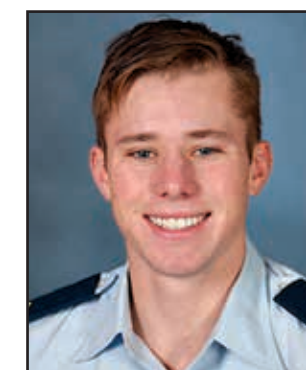
2nd Lt. Cassandra Stimpson
Ingleside, Ill.
AC-130W, Cannon AFB, N.M.



2nd Lt. Andrew Ter Haar
Sioux Center, Iowa
KC-135, Sioux City, Iowa



2nd Lt. Johnny Vaughan
Simi Valley, Calif.
C-130J, Channel Islands, Calif.



2nd Lt. Jacob Wulfson
Middlebury, Vt.
A-10C, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.