

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 59 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.

Volunteers needed for tax season

The 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office is seeking volunteers for the 2017 tax season, starting in February 2018. We expect to be open three mornings from 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.


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.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
4 Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader visit City of Columbus Christmas Parade, 7 p.m. @ downtown Columbus	5 Columbus AFB Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade, 5:14 p.m. @ Base Operations to Chapel Annex	6	7 Holiday Brunch, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. @ Club	8 Airman Cookie Drive, 6:30 a.m. @ Youth Center	9/10	Dec. 19: Pilot Partner Welcome Dec. 22: Last Fly Day Dec. 22: Pratt House Open House Dec. 25: Christmas Day Dec. 26: AETC Family Day Dec. 28: Enlisted Promotions
11	12 Wing Newcomers, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. @ Club Air Force Community Partnership Meeting, 1:30-3:30 p.m. @ Club	13	14 Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ AFRC Daedalians Meeting Happy Fund Shop and Wrap, 7-9 a.m. @ Club	15 SUPT Class 18-03 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	16/17	Jan. 1: New Year's Day Jan. 5: SUPT Class 18-04 Assignment Night Jan. 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 16: Wing Newcomers

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.



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



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



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Pilot killed in T-38 crash identified

47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The members involved in the T-38 Talon crash from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, on Nov. 20, 2017, have been identified.

The deceased, Capt. Paul J. Barbour, 32, was the air crew flight equipment flight commander with the 47th Operations Support Squadron and an instructor pilot with the 87th Flying Training Squadron. He was from Van Nuys, California, and is survived by his spouse, mother, father and sister.

Injured was Capt. Joshua Hammervold, an instructor pilot for the 87th FTS. He was transported to Val Verde Regional Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries. He was released on Tuesday and is in good condition.

“Tragic events like this are difficult for everyone – family, friends, co-workers, supervisors and our entire Air Force,” said Col. Charlie Velino, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. “Every day, our pilots take a risk as they step into the cockpit, and every day they operate with the utmost skill, professionalism and dedication to train the next generation of flying Airmen and to ensure the safety of this great nation.”

The crash occurred at around 4 p.m. approximately 14 miles northwest of the base near Spur 454 and U.S. 90 in Del Rio, Texas.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. “Rest assured, we are doing everything we can to support the investigation and prevent future incidents,” said Velino.

News Around Town

Dec. 4

The annual Columbus Christmas Parade is at 7 p.m. in downtown Columbus, Mississippi. The theme is Santa's Workshop. This year several local bands return for the parade as well as a few new attractions. The parade will also feature Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Dec. 1-11

From now until Dec. 11 the Columbus Police Department Benefit Fund Committee is sponsoring a city-wide toy drive to benefit children in Columbus, Mississippi. Participants are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Columbus Police Department, Cadence Bank or BankFirst. Monetary contributions are also being accepted. For more information, contact Keith Livingston at (205) 399-2540 or Donna Hankee at (662) 889-3702.

CHRISTMAS IN COLUMBUS DOWNTOWN

December 1
Wassail Fest
5 to 8pm

December 4
Christmas Parade
7pm



Contact Columbus Main Street for any additional information.
www.columbusmainstreet.com OR 662-328-6305



Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website, with exception of Air Force publications, through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.

Take command: Improvements in preventive care coverage with TRICARE Select

TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — On Jan. 1, 2018, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. As a result, beneficiaries will notice improved coverage for preventive services with TRICARE Select. Preventive care helps you take command of your health and manage potential issues before you experience symptoms. This type of health care allows you to address health problems before they become life threatening. Examples of TRICARE-covered preventive services include cancer screenings and vaccines, in addition to well-woman and well-child exams.

If you currently use TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, you do not pay anything for certain preventive services. But for all other preventive services, beneficiaries pay between 15–25 percent of the cost after their yearly deductible is met, depending on the plan and beneficiary category. “With TRICARE Select, beneficiaries won’t pay anything out-of-pocket for covered preventive services if they are provided by a network provider,” said Valerie Palmer, a health care policy analyst for TRICARE. “However, if they use a non-network provider, fewer preventive services are paid by TRICARE. This is why it is important to see a network provider for your preventive care.”

The additional, no-cost preventive ser-

vices beneficiaries can receive under TRICARE Prime that TRICARE Select will cover beginning in 2018 include:

- **One Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HP&DP) examination:** This is covered annually for beneficiaries age 6 and older. In 2018, this exam will no longer require the inclusion of a covered cancer screening or immunization if you see a network provider.

- **Lung cancer screening (low-dose computed tomography):** This is covered annually for persons ages 55-80 with a 30 pack-per-year history of smoking who are currently smoking or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once the individual has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem significantly limiting life expectancy or ability or willingness to undergo curative lung surgery.

- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA):** This is a one-time screening using ultrasonography for men ages 65-75 who have ever smoked.

A new preventive service added this year for both TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select is aimed at adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 kg/m2 or higher and children or adolescents with a BMI value greater than the 95th percentile. Intensive, multi-component behavioral interventions to promote sustained weight loss (12 to 26

Take

COMMAND

☆☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE Experience

Did You Know?

TRICARE SELECT WILL BE AVAILABLE JAN 1.

TRICARE Select brings together the features of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra in a single plan. TRICARE Select enrollees may obtain care from any TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or authorization.

Find out more at www.tricare.mil/changes.

#takecommand

sessions per year) are covered when rendered by a TRICARE-authorized provider. Types of behavioral management interventions include diet and physical activity guidance, strategies to promote and maintain lifestyle changes and more. This addition is a covered benefit regardless of whether the beneficia-

ry uses a network or non-network provider, though costs are typically lower with a network provider.

Are you ready for the changes to coming TRICARE on Jan. 1, 2018? Learn more about upcoming changes and sign up for email alerts.

Commanders will receive notice of their selects from their senior rater's agent starting Nov. 30, with the intention that selects be notified no earlier than one day before the public release.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers from a CAC-enabled computer. Eligible individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.

22.04 percent.

The chief master sergeant promotion list will be available on the Air Force Portal and myPers Dec. 7, 2017, at 8 a.m. CST. Airmen will also be able to access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel Flight via the Air Force's Personnel Center secure applications page.

Those selected for chief will be promoted beginning Jan. 1, 2018, according to their promotion sequence number.

AF selects 472 in 2017 E-9 promotion cycle; list to post Dec. 7

Kat Bailey

Air Force's Personnel Center
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force Chief Evaluation Board has selected 472 senior master sergeants for promotion to chief master sergeant out of 2,142 eligible for a selection rate of



To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

CAP

(Continued from page 1)

emergency services and guiding the next generation of young aviators.

“We’re necessary and we’re becoming more necessary,” said CAP Capt. Jason Linscott, Mississippi Wing’s Golden Triangle Composite Squadron Commander.

Linscott, a former Navy E-6 Mercury pilot and currently a 14th Student Squadron T-6A Texan II simulator instructor here, said his CAP squadron does even more than providing SAR and emergency services; they also play a big role in supporting Columbus Air Force Base flying missions.

He said from January to September, his squadron – which operates the Cessna 172s and 182s -- flies low-level flight surveys, because every low-level route has to be assessed at least every two years. During these assessments, his pilots look for cell phone towers and other infrastructure that might have been constructed and unknown to pilots at Columbus AFB.

Linscott said CAP can also provide critical assistance during national disasters, most recently being the hurricanes that impacted Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. They can help by providing airborne photography to agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, who will use the imagery to evaluate areas that are not accessible by road.

From those images, he said they can analyze the damage and begin to create plans to help the recovery process. Although no pilots from the GTC Squadron were able to assist in operations, Linscott said the Mississippi Wing did have several pilots go to each of the affected areas and assist.

For the youth that are interested in serving in this type of dedicated volunteer capacity, the CAP has an internal aerospace education program.

“It’s a great opportunity to bring up the next generation,” said CAP Lt. Col. Andrew Yingst, GTC Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets. “You see these kids come in with no skills and no self-assurance when they’re 12 and after participating in our leadership program for several years they turn into young adults that are comfortable standing up and speaking in front of people and they have self-discipline from the drill training that we do.”

For Yingst, a former Air Force C-130 Hercules pilot and currently a 14th STUS T-6 simulator instructor, said he joined CAP in 1983 and was a member for several years before attending the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. However, when his son showed interest



Civil Air Patrol photo by Maj. Zach Rowland

Civil Air Patrol aircraft sit at the Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Columbus, Mississippi, July 9, 2016. CAP can provide critical assistance during national disasters, most recently being the hurricanes that impacted Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. They can help by providing airborne photography to agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, who will use the imagery to evaluate areas that are not accessible by road.

in the program he then rejoined as a senior staff member about six years ago.

The GTC Squadron has about 20 senior staff members and almost 15 cadets. The senior members help run the cadet program and they also stay current on pilot requirements in order to conduct CAP missions.

For those interested in joining CAP as a cadet or senior member, they should go to http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/how_to_join/.

Linscott said he suggests those interested attend at least three meetings to see if CAP is a good fit for their volunteer goals. If they decide to join, cadets will fill out an application online and pay a fee, currently \$30. Senior members, or adult volunteers, have to fill out a printed application and get fingerprints taken for a background check, and mail in a fee, currently \$65.

Linscott also said some parents of cadets can also choose to join as a Patron member. This allows a parent the ability to participate on a very limited basis along with their cadets, like being a chaperone at events. The parents would submit the same application, fingerprint card, and pay a fee, currently \$30.



Photo courtesy of Civil Air Patrol

Since, Dec. 1, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol has evolved from protecting America against invading German U-boats to now being a main component of search and rescue missions, providing emergency services and guiding the next generation of young aviators. The Mississippi Wing’s Golden Triangle Composite Squadron does even more than providing SAR and emergency services; they also play a big role in supporting Columbus Air Force Base flying missions.



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

Seventy-six years ago, the Civil Air Patrol found its way into existence, playing a crucial role in helping protect the United States homeland during World War II; today as the Air Force’s official auxiliary force, they continue that role along with several others. The Mississippi Wing’s Golden Triangle Composite Squadron supports Mississippi and Columbus Air Force Base using Cessna 172s and 182s.

Columbus AFB Christmas tree lighting, parade takes place Dec. 5

Columbus Air Force Base will welcome Santa at 5:14 p.m. Dec. 5 at Base Operation and he will lead a walking parade at 5:30 p.m. to the base Christmas tree, in front of the Chapel.

The tree lighting will be at 5:45 p.m. and Santa with then be available to take pictures with children at 6 p.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.

During this time, the base is also collecting books to donate to West Lowndes Elementary School. Book types

should be suitable for children Kindergarten thorough sixth grade with an emphasis on grades fourth-sixth. Types of books being sought for those in K-fourth include Bernstein Bears, Clifford, Mother Goose or fairy tales. For children in fourth-sixth, books sought include Junie B Jones, books about sports (fiction and non-fiction) and Newberry Winners.

People will also be able to donate canned and nonperish-

able food items which will be delivered to local food banks. Books and food can be donated before Dec. 5 by dropping them off into boxes at one of these locations: 14th Medical Group, 14th MSG, 14th Operations Group, Base Exchange/ Commissary, Fitness Center or the Chapel Annex.

Following the parade, free cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee will be available at the Kaye and the Caledonia Fifth Grade Choir will also perform music.

Hunt Companies leadership visits Columbus AFB

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

Leadership from Hunt Companies visited Columbus Air Force Base Nov. 28 to assess their local Hunt branch and establish a working relationship with base leadership.

“[The first reason for our trip] was to check up on our folks and make sure they have what they need to serve all of you,” said Karen Plesh, Hunt Companies Vice President of Operations.

The Hunt leadership flew in from different parts of the U.S., including Hawaii and Chicago. They started off by driving through base housing and observing the various housing styles.

“It’s nice to get out at least once a year and put a name with the face so that if you are talking to folks on the phone or if they call and have an issue, they know who they are talking to,” said Greg Raap, Hunt Companies Vice President.

After their driving tour, Plesh, Raap, and John Ehle, Hunt Companies President, met with Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, and other members of Team BLAZE to discuss possible areas of improvement in the housing areas.

“It’s nice to get out at least once a year and put a name with the face so that if you are talking to folks on the phone or if they call and have an issue, they know who they are talking to,” said Greg Raap, Hunt Companies Vice President.

Hunt owns about half of the Air Force’s contracted housing. Plesh said their top priority is supporting their people so they can support the Airmen living in housing.

Raap said he was pleased with the areas and housing operations on Columbus. He said he was happy to see that Capitol Village is full of young, single enlisted and commissioned Airmen who recently moved out of the dorms, because that means the space is being utilized and not abandoned.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Greg Raap, Hunt Companies Vice President, and John Ehle, Hunt Companies President, talk with Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, Nov. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Ehle and Raap were here to receive feedback, check on the local Hunt Companies branch and establish a working relationship with Columbus AFB leadership.

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. 20. 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 SARCs; 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**

Air Force announces continuation pay rates

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders recently announced the Air Force’s continuation pay rates which are part of the new Blended Retirement System.

Continuation pay is a way to encourage Airmen covered by BRS to remain in the Air Force since it will be possible to leave with some retirement benefit prior to 20 years of service.

The system is a blend of a 20-year retirement and contribution plan that allows service members to contribute to a Thrift Savings Plan account that is transferable after separation from the military.

“Continuation pay is a one-time direct cash payout, like a retention bonus,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of

staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. “Members will receive continuation pay at 12 years of service in return for a commitment of four years of service.”


For active duty Airmen the payment rate is 2.5, times monthly basic pay. For the Reserve component Airmen to include, Guardsmen and Reserve, the payment rate is 0.5 times monthly basic pay, as if on active duty. For Reserve component Airmen on active Guard and Reserve orders, the payment rate is 2.5 times monthly basic pay. The rates and parameters for paying CP will remain in effect until changed.

“Modernizing the current retirement system into the BRS will ensure that the vast majority of uniformed service members receive a portable government retirement benefit,” said Daniel Sitterly, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for

Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “It will help make the uniformed services more attractive to new generations of American citizens by providing a retirement annuity with options on how to shape their retirement benefit.”

The BRS was enacted into law in the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and will go into effect Jan. 1, 2018. All currently serving members are grandfathered into the current military retirement system. However, those with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, or Air Force Reserve component members with fewer than 4,320 retirement points may choose to “opt in” to the BRS during the designated opt-in period from Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2018.

For more information about the BRS please visit MyPers.



Just the Facts
Continuation Pay

RESERVE COMPONENT

What is Continuation Pay (CP)?

?

- A mid-career financial incentive paid to Airmen who are enrolled in the Blended Retirement System (BRS).
- It is in addition to any career-field-specific incentives or retention bonuses.
- You must elect to receive it before starting your 12th year of service.

For more information: (CAC required)
https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/32564

How Much CP Will I Get?

Monthly Basic Pay*

x

0.5¹ or 2.5²

=

Gross CP

-


Tax Withholding*

=

Net CP³

*Amount over 12 years; ¹RC: Airmen serving on man-day orders or Voluntary Limited Period of Duty (VLPAD) receive the RC amount; ²AC or AGR: Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Airmen receive the Active Component (AC) amount for CP; ³CP is eligible for Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE); ⁴What you take home

What Must I Do to Receive CP?



- You must elect to receive CP before you start your 12th year of service (according to your Pay Entry Base Date).
- You must commit to serve an additional 48 months (concurrent with other service commitments). If you do not complete the obligation, you must repay all or part of your CP.*


How Will My CP Be Paid?

You can choose to receive a one-time payment or spread your payments to potentially save on taxes.

One Installment
Paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service

Two Equal Installments
First installment is paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service and the next installment is paid the following year

Four Equal Installments
First installment is paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service and the remainder in three equal annual installments

**Which installment plan is right for YOU?**
How much will you potentially pay in taxes on your CP? Remember, CP is subject to tax withholding!

When Do I Need to Make My CP Election?

CP Eligibility Notification
180 days before you begin your 12th year of service.

You MUST elect to receive CP BEFORE your 12th year of service begins.

12th Year of Service Begins
Complete ADSC forms within 30 days of starting your 12th year.


CP Received
First pay period AFTER your 12th year of service begins.


*Title 37 USC, Sec. 373 and DoD Financial Management Regulations, Vol. 7A, Chap. 2.


What Should I Do with My CP?


Your Airman and Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) Can Help You Plan!


The choice is yours and should be based on your current financial situation. Get a financial check up as part of the decision-making process. You can do one or more of the following:


**Pay Down Debt!**
Do you have credit card debt, student loan debt, or other kinds of debt? Are you paying more in interest than you can expect from savings or investments? Pay as many debts as you can, starting with those that cost you the most in interest.
TIP Add extra money to payments you make for a quicker payoff.

**Save It!**
Do you have an emergency or reserve fund in a savings or money market account? Set one up ... or top yours up.
TIP Check the annual percentage rate (APR) and terms of agreement before placing money into any account.



**Invest It!**
Are you looking toward a more prosperous future? Consider putting your CP to work in your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account, in an IRA or in a 529 college savings plan.
TIP Be aware of annual contribution limits on retirement accounts. Review your spending plan and talk to an investment professional before investing.

**Spend It!**
Will your CP fund a vacation, a vehicle, a big project, or the down payment on a house?
TIP Before you spend your CP review your spending plan to ensure your savings goals are on track and your debt-to-income ratio is reasonable.

**Gift It!**
You can choose to gift or donate some or all of your CP. Depending on where you donate it, you may be eligible for a tax deduction.
TIP Review your spending plan to ensure your finances are in good order before you donate your CP.

**Stop by your A&FRC and talk to a Personal Financial Manager (PFM) about your financial situation.**

Air Force Personal Financial Readiness
Airman and Family Readiness Policy Branch



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.

Chef Lance’s Grill on the Go

Stop by and grab lunch from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. during Tasty Tuesdays! Menus and locations include; 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 14th Operations Group between buildings 268 and 230; 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.

Breakfast with Santa

The Youth Center is offering Breakfast with Santa from 8-10 a.m. 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.

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.

Family Night at the Bowling Center

Food! Fun! Bowling! Join all the fun every Thursday in December from 4:30-8 p.m. at the Bowling Center. Specials include: \$1 games, \$1 shoe rentals and \$1 food menu items. For more information, contact 434-3426.

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.

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.

Free Breakfast for Club Members

Start your morning at the Overrun. The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. Dec. 12 for Club members; \$8 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

breakfast with santa



DECEMBER 2ND
8-10 a.m.
at the
YOUTH CENTER
Sign up today!



\$5 for Adults
\$5 for Ages 5 & Above
\$3 for Ages 3-4
Free for Ages 2 & Under
\$7 per person after November 29th

Sponsored by



For more information contact the Youth Center at 434-2504

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.

Holiday 9 Pin No Tap Tournament

Bowl and Win! The Bowling Center is offering a Holiday 9 Pin No Tap Tournament at 1 p.m. Dec. 16. The cost is \$15 per person and includes three games and shoe rental. Prizes awarded to top three winners. For more information or to register, contact 434-3426.

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.

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.

Airfield management, civil engineer team identify hole on T-1 ramp

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Hundreds of aircraft take off and land on Columbus Air Force Base weekly, which makes the foundation on which these aircraft park and taxi very important.

In late October, Gary Wright, 14th Flying Training Wing Airfield Manager, was walking along the T-1A Jayhawks parking/taxiway here and found a hole that looked suspicious.

“I saw it and thought it could turn into a problem so we stuck a rod in it and it just kept going,” Wright said.

The void under a T-1 parking site was found and the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, 14th Operations Support Squadron and those who were directly affected were notified immediately.

“Coincidentally we had the [Airfield and Pavement Evaluation] Team, scheduled to perform a routine check on the airfield and runways,” Wright said. “So we are using their

knowledge and equipment to help us pinpoint the issue and possibly help resolve it.”

The hole was determined to be roughly 50 feet in diameter and almost 4 feet deep, and was a result of water flowing underneath the concrete for many years, eroding the dirt below.

“Gary showed us there’s an issue our first day here,” said Capt. John Kulikowski, Air Force Civil Engineer Center APE Team Branch Chief, from Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. “We made a few holes around the original space and saw a large void when we stuck our heads in.”

They helped determine the issue at hand, determining it was most likely a piping issue.

Kulikowski said when larger voids appear, like in this case, a broken pipe is often one of the main causes behind it.

“(Rain water) goes right into the joints underneath the pavement structure, that’s what makes it weaker and degrades the soil layers beneath,” he said.

He continued to say that when there’s a cracked pipe, the



Members of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, 14th Operations Support Squadron and Air Force Civil Engineer Center Airfield and Pavement Evaluation Team survey a hole on the airfield at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Oct. 11, 2017. Gary Wright, 14th Flying Training Wing Airfield Manager, was walking along the T-1A Jayhawks parking/taxiway and identified a hole that looked suspicious. The APE Team was able to survey and begin repairing the issue immediately.

water will eventually push out the finer materials and begin creating a void.

Kulikowski and his team identified the issue while simultaneously completing their original mission, taking samples from the airfield and judging the integrity and lifespan the concrete has.

“We work long days and lots of hours,” Kulikowski said. “Weekends are actually our bread and butter days because operations are usually slower. It’s a fantastic job and as far as a job goes, it is the perfect mix of being in the field and being in the office.”

Because of the combined work of Wright, the APE Team and the 14th CES, the hole has been evaluated and is seeing the maintenance necessary to continue the T-1 training mission.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Capt. John Kulikowski, Air Force Civil Engineer Center APE Team Branch Chief, from Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, inspects a hole on the airfield at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Oct. 11, 2017. A void under the T-1A Jayhawk parking ramp was determined to be roughly 50 feet in diameter and almost 4 feet deep, and was a result of water flowing underneath the concrete for many years, eroding the dirt below.



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



RSUs: A critical role in air traffic control, pilot production

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

On most days, aircraft on Columbus Air Force Base fly from dusk 'til dawn, making the airspace full of moving pieces that Airmen on the ground must direct and communicate with to ensure pilots are landing, taking off and navigating the skies safely.

Aircrew circle in a large pattern in the sky to effectively learn maneuvers, conduct procedures and perform multiple touch-and-go landings, and each pilot requires a set of eyes to ensure the safety and accuracy of maneuvers.

The tower air traffic controllers cannot handle the pilot training mission's demands alone, so they have help from specially trained instructor pilots who work from Runway Supervisory Units, located next to each of the three runways.

The RSUs are manned by four pilots – two trained controllers, and two students, who serve as a recorder and spotter.

"The air traffic controllers can only control up to four aircraft at once in the pat-

terns," said Capt. Roland Neal, 37th Flying Training Squadron T-6A Texan II RSU controller and instructor pilot. "But with the RSUs, it allows us to control up to 12 aircraft in (each) pattern, maximizing the amount of students we can have training at once in that pattern."

Not only does it allow students to train more in the sky, but also allows students to learn from the ground as well, as the RSU recorder and spotter are trained by the controllers.

"The recorder is the first position you learn," said 2nd Lt. Maggie Collins, 41st Flying Training Squadron student pilot. "Your responsibility is to keep accountability for the aircraft in the pattern at all times and record any incidents that may occur under control of the RSU. The other job is the spotter, whose job is to make sure the aircraft are configured the way they reported they were going to be configured over comms."

This kind of experience creates a wider understanding of their job as pilots, making them even more competent the next time



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross
A T-6A Texan II takes off from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Sept. 7, 2017, and passes by a Runway Supervisory Unit. Having controllers in the RSUs helps maximize how many student pilots can be in the air at one time.

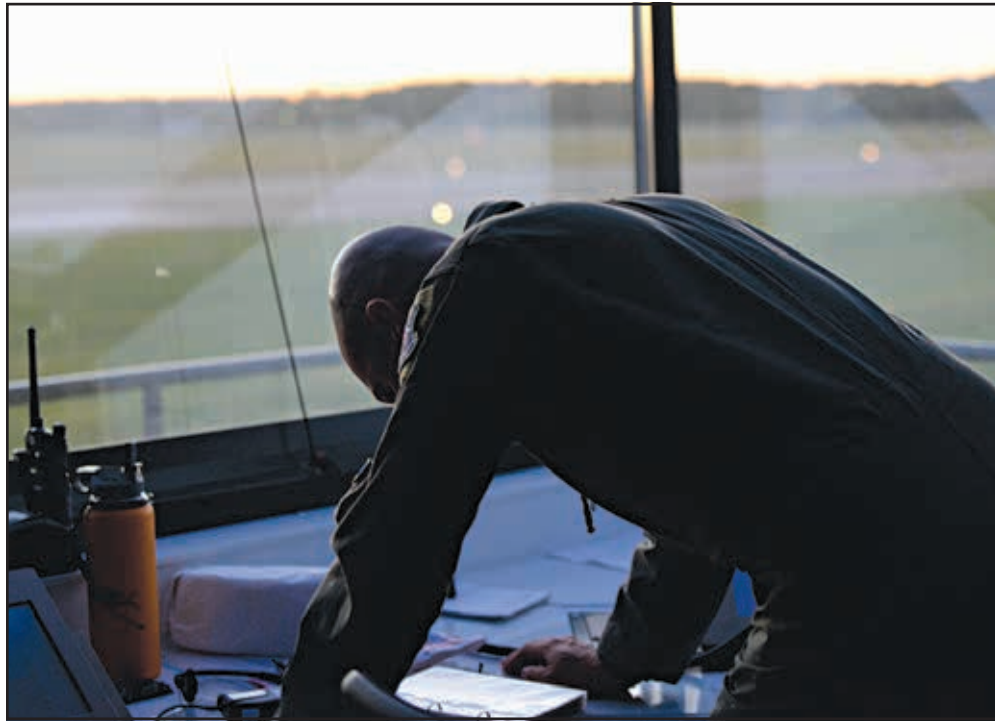
they take to the skies.

"It helped me understand what was going on in the pattern, where certain points in the pattern are, and why or why not the in-

structors accepted certain requests at certain times," Collins said. "Overall it will help me when I fly the pattern because I'll know what they are looking for and what I need to do."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Capt. Bradley Harris, 37th Flying Training Squadron Assistant Chief of Training, and 2nd Lt. John Fick, 37th FTS student pilot, sit in a Runway Supervisory Unit while helping control aircrew Oct. 26, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Aircrew circle in a large pattern in the sky to effectively learn maneuvers, conduct procedures and perform multiple touch-and-go landings, and each pilot requires a set of eyes to ensure the safety and accuracy of maneuvers.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Capt. Ricardo Torres, 41st Flying Training Squadron Assistant Chief of Training, reviews a checklist before shutting down a Runway Supervisory Unit Oct. 26, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Tower air traffic controllers cannot handle the pilot training mission's demands alone, so they have help from specially trained instructor pilots who work from RSUs, located next to each of the three runways.

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 A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Youth Basketball

The last day to register children for basketball is Dec. 1. The season runs from January-March and children from ages 3-18 are able to participate. To sign up, go to the Youth Center, the cost is \$40 for ages 5 and older and \$35 for ages 3-4. Volunteer coaches are also needed for the season.

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

Airman's Attic supports enlisted force, CGOs



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

Tara Puga and Stacey Waibel, Airman's Attic volunteers, sort and hang clothes Nov. 28, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Airman's Attic is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon, and is open to ranks E-1 through E-6 and O-1 through O-3 and retirees on Saturday. The Airman's Attic is ran solely by volunteers. For those interested in volunteering, contact Tech. Sgt. Robert Duffner or Staff Sgt. Reginald Jackson. Volunteers sort and organize donations and maintain the attic in a clean and presentable manner.

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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Jan. 8-12 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. Dec. 12 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The workshop allows the VA contractors to explain to service members; whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and for more information, please call 434-2839/2790.

Hearts Apart

The Hearts Apart Social program is from 5-7 p.m. Dec.14. The gathering is a monthly event to provide community bonding, fun and appreciation for the families of active-duty per-

sonnel who are deployed, remote, or on an extended TDY. Food and activities are provided. Call 434-2790 to register.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 8-12 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshop has seminars on: transition, military occupational code crosswalk, financial planning, health benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Department of Labor (TAP portion). Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance eight to 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register, call 434-2631.

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 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.

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.

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

Getting to know the Key Spouse Program

The Key Spouse Program is a squadron/unit commander program and as such, can be tailored to meet the needs of their individual squadrons. In general, Key Spouses are a focal point for information and support to families in their squadrons. Key Spouses provide someone to listen when people need to talk, and can also point families in the right direction for existing formalized support services. They are also directly linked to the Airman and Family Readiness Center, which provides an excellent source for information and support. Key Spouses are important resources for military families because they are peers, they “have been there, done that!”

Chorissa Deline
14th Civil Engineer Squadron Key Spouse

Being a Key Spouse means being somebody’s friend when they didn’t realize they needed one. A Key Spouse is appointed by a commander as a part of a program that is designed to train spouses to be able to assist a spouse or family in the military lifestyle. The number one goal for us is to ensure the safety and well-being of their squadron as well as to enhance mission readiness and resiliency and establish a sense of community. From happy life events, to the unavoidable deployments, to something as simple as squadron events. It’s easy to forget that life in the military isn’t going to be like civilian life.

A Key Spouse is meant to be there whenever they are needed. Deployments are the ones that are emphasized the most. We are there for the family unit’s before, during, and after a deployment. Once we are certain that the entire family is aware of the deployment we will reach out to them. I will inform them of the different issues that may arise and how to prepare for those before they happen. During a deployment we will periodically check in on the spouses. Ensure there is nothing that they need or if there is something that they don’t know how to navigate we will assist to help them through it. Almost as if we are a “stand in spouse.” We are there when they need an ear to bend. A hand to guide them. And when we don’t know the answer to something, we are able to access our own chain of command.

Typically we go to our first sergeant when something occurs that we don’t know how to navigate. If it is required we can go all the way up to our commander and get his/her involvement. After the loved one has returned we will check in to make sure that the reintegration of the family is going smoothly and there isn’t anything that we can assist with.

We are also there for the families during everyday life. There are so many events and programs out there for almost everything that goes on in a typical military family life. We help to get information out for what is going on in each family’s life. We also get information from our commanders or the other base commanders out to the spouses to try and help everyone remain on the same page. All while we maintain privacy. Before we can talk to anybody about an issue at hand, we will request the permission from the spouse that has reached out to us. If the key spouse isn’t trusted the program would ultimately fail.



Interested unit spouses or retiree volunteer(s) that would like to be a Key Spouse should contact their spouse’s unit commander or first sergeant.

Columbus Air Force Base squadrons are always looking for energetic spouses who would like to volunteer and be a part of the Key Spouse Team. No experience is required, just a positive attitude and a compassion and commitment to help others.

The related commentaries offer some firsthand experiences of what a Key Spouse does and also some tips and advice a military spouse might be able to use to help them in their profession. To learn more about your unit’s Key Spouse Program, please contact the AFRC for details.

Christmas Blair Kitko
41st Flying Training Squadron Key Spouse

One of the biggest things we, as Air Force spouses, face is regular moving. These moves can be anywhere from just down the road to half-way around the world.

For spouses with careers, this comes with the added challenge of trying to find a new job and possibly moving a certification from one state to another. In the 15 years I have been privileged to be an Air Force spouse, I have moved from Oklahoma to Nebraska to Florida and Mississippi. We just received orders to go back to Nebraska, so I am on the journey to get my teaching license moved from Mississippi to Nebraska.

When we moved here, the state of Mississippi just asked for a copy of my Florida teaching certification and that was enough, but after calling the Department of Education in Nebraska, it looks like this transfer will take a little more elbow grease to accomplish.

Every state is different and they all require different things in order to legally teach, practice nursing, etc. This is the key to being successful: Know what the state you are moving to requires, walking through each step of the process, and be patient but persistent. Sometimes we will hit the jackpot and sometimes the end result will mean a little bit more because we had to work just a little bit harder for it.

This is all fine and well, but where do you start? Let me give you three places to start that I believe will go a long way to easing your next career journey. The AFRC at your gaining base would be a wonderful place to contact right before the movers show up.

Once I got here and was job hunting, the School Liaison Office, proved to be a great help in steering me in the right direction. Military OneSource is also a fantastic place to go for help in this area. They helped me create a resume that any employer would notice. Finally, simply call your governing body, such as the state Department of Education, and ask the questions you have. They are the subject matter experts after all and have often handled these issues before. Start with these steps and I am certain any spouse could be well on their way to finding that a permanent change of station can be simpler and easier than they originally thought.

With each other’s help, we can accomplish anything, even getting our dream job, only to move three years later ... again.

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15C Eagle

Mission

The F-15C Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air supremacy over the battlefield.

Features

The Eagle’s air superiority is achieved through a mixture of unprecedented maneuverability and acceleration, range, weapons and avionics. It can penetrate enemy defense and outperform and outfight any current enemy aircraft. The F-15 has electronic systems and weaponry to detect, acquire, track and attack enemy aircraft while operating in friendly or enemy-controlled airspace. The weapons and flight control systems are designed so one person can safely and effectively perform air-to-air combat.

The F-15’s superior maneuverability and acceleration are achieved through high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low wing loading. Low wing-loading (the ratio of aircraft weight to its wing area) is a vital factor in maneuverability and, combined with the high thrust-to-weight ratio, enables the aircraft to turn tightly without losing airspeed.

A variety of air-to-air weaponry can be carried by the F-15. An automated weapon system enables the pilot to perform aerial combat safely and effectively, using the head-up display and the avionics and weapons controls located on the engine throttles or control stick. When the pilot changes from one weapon system to another, visual guidance for the required weapon automatically appears on the head-up display.

For low-altitude, high-speed penetration and precision at-

tack on tactical targets at night or in adverse weather, the F-15E carries a high-resolution APG-70 radar and low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night pods

Background

The first F-15A flight was made in July 1972, and the first flight of the two-seat F-15B (formerly TF-15A) trainer was made in July 1973. The first Eagle (F-15B) was delivered in November 1974. In January 1976, the first Eagle destined for a combat squadron was delivered.

The single-seat F-15C and two-seat F-15D models entered the Air Force inventory beginning in 1979. These new models have Production Eagle Package (PEP 2000) improvements, including 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of additional internal fuel, provision for carrying exterior conformal fuel tanks and increased maximum takeoff weight of up to 68,000 pounds (30,600 kilograms).

F-15C, D and E models were deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm where they proved their superior combat capability. F-15C fighters accounted for 34 of the 37 Air Force air-to-air victories. F-15E’s were operated mainly at night, hunting SCUD missile launchers and artillery sites using the LANTIRN system.

They have since been deployed for air expeditionary force deployments and operations Southern Watch (no-fly zone in Southern Iraq), Provide Comfort in Turkey, Allied Force in Bosnia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel
An Oregon Air National Guard F-15C Eagle, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, takes off for a morning sortie at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, as part of the Weapons Instructor Course, June 2, 2017. The F-15’s air superiority is achieved through a mixture of unprecedented maneuverability and acceleration, range, weapons and avionics.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Emerson Nuñez
An F-15C Eagle, from the 493rd Fighter Squadron, prepares to land on the flight line at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, Nov. 6, 2017. The 493rd FS currently has F-15C Eagles active in Lithuania, supporting NATO’s Baltic Air Policing mission.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Tactical fighter
Contractor: McDonnell Douglas Corp.
Power plant: Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100, 220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners
Thrust: (C/D models) 23,450 pounds each engine
Wingspan: 42.8 feet (13 meters)
Length: 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)
Height: 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)
Weight: 31,700 pounds
Maximum takeoff weight: (C/D models) 68,000 pounds (30,844 kilograms)
Fuel Capacity: 36,200 pounds (three external plus conformal fuel tanks)
Payload: depends on mission
Speed: 1,875 mph (Mach 2 class)
Ceiling: 65,000 feet (19,812 meters)
Range: 3,450 miles (3,000 nautical miles) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks
Crew: F-15A/C: one. F-15B/D/E: two
Armament: One internally mounted M-61A1 20mm 20-mm, six-barrel cannon with 940 rounds of ammunition; four AIM-9 Sidewinder and four AIM-120 AMRAAMs or eight AIM-120 AMRAAMs, carried externally.
Unit Cost: A/B models - \$27.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars);C/D models - \$29.9 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
Initial operating capability: September 1975
Inventory: Total force, 249

Be prepared this winter

14th Flying Training Wing Safety Office

Winter road conditions

Driving in winter weather can be challenging, even for the most experienced drivers. Why? Because there are so many unknowns when you hit the road at this time of year.

Even if you're assigned to a location that doesn't have winter weather conditions – Hawaii for example – you may find yourself heading somewhere that does. Knowing all you can about your destination or route conditions could save your life.

Since the roads vary greatly, drive according to the conditions and be aware of changing weather. Winter roads can be very slippery. You must be able to control your vehicle, slow down or stop safely at all times.

Here are some tips to help you drive safely as the weather turns cold:

Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter:

- Check your brakes and tires.
- Check your battery and ignition system.
- Check your antifreeze and thermostat.
- Check your windshield wipers and de-icing washer fluid.
- Check your headlights, tail and brake lights, blinkers and emergency flashers.
- Check your exhaust system, heater and defroster.
- Check your oil.
- Properly lubricate door locks that may be prone to freezing.
- Clear the snow and ice from your vehicle's roof, hood and trunk and especially from the windows, mirrors and lights.

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Leave a few minutes early.
- Start out slowly in the lowest gear recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.
- Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road.
- Don't pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary. Treat these as you would emergency response vehicles.
- Keep an emergency winter-driving kit in your car.
- Drive smart!



Seasonal fire hazards

It only takes a moment! That's the length of time for a major house fire to start due to a Christmas tree igniting. This is the most common fire hazard during the holiday season.

The National Fire Protection Agency estimates that Christmas trees, both natural and artificial, were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 200 reported home structure fires per year during 2011-2015. These fires caused an estimated average of 6 civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$14.8 million in direct property damage per year. These estimates are based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Protection Association's annual fire department experience survey.

Back to work and tired

The holidays are over, you're back from leave and it's the first five-day work week after all the celebrations. How much rest did you really get during the holiday season? If you're like the average person – not enough. What happens to your on-the-job performance when you're tired? The consequences of being tired are the same regardless of why. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, those who work long hours or shift work encounter these risks:



Workers

- Sleep deprivation
- Lack of adequate time to recover from work
- Decline in mental function and physical ability, including emotional fatigue and a decline in the function of the body's immune system
- Higher rates of depression, occupational injury, and poor perceived health
- Higher prevalence of insomnia among shift workers with low social support
- Increased risk of illness and injury
- Strain on personal relationships, such as marriage and family life
- Increased risk of long-term health effects, such as heart disease, gastrointestinal disorders, mood disturbances, and cancer

Employers

- Reduced productivity
- Increase in errors
- Absenteeism and presenteeism (present at work but not fully functioning because of health problems or personal issues)
- Increased health care and worker compensation costs
- Workforce attrition due to disability, death, or moving to jobs with less demanding schedules

Community

- Potential increase in errors by workers leading to:
- Medical errors
- Vehicle crashes
- Industrial disasters

Research indicates that the effect of long work hours and shift work may be more complex than a simple direct relationship between a certain high number of work hours or shift schedule and risks. The effects appear to be influenced by a variety of factors including characteristics of the worker and the job, worker control, pay, non-work responsibilities, and other characteristics of the work schedule.

Dangers of short daylight hours

As the winter season approaches, the days don't seem to be getting any longer. Most of us are still encountering the cold, dark days and the dangers are still there. What are some of the dangers and how can you mitigate those risks?

Keeping to an outdoor exercise routine at this time of year presents challenges such as wearing the proper clothing, being seen during darkness and black ice in your path. You want to make sure you're taking every precaution to prevent a weather-related accident.

According to eHow.



com, the shorter daylight hours, result in an otherwise well-lit evening run becoming dark and hazardous. Drivers are less likely to expect runners to be out in the colder weather. Winter running apparel should include plenty of light reflective surfaces for safety. Wear bright colors and include light-reflective accessories in your apparel. Apply light-reflective tape in an array of neon colors to jackets and pants to make your outfit more readily visible. While this refers specifically to runners, it also applies to all other outdoor activities. Even when you don't expect to be out after dark, you want to be prepared should your plans take an unexpected turn.



New Year's Eve firework safety:

The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 10–14 as for the general population.

Did you know the tip of a sparkler burns at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns and melt glass? You can protect yourself and others while using fireworks by following some simple rules:

- Leave fireworks to the professionals, the safest way to enjoy them is to not use consumer fireworks.
- The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals.
- After the firework display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, they may still be active.

(This information was provided by the National Fire Protection Association.)