

16


SILVER WINGS

Dec. 8, 2017


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Vol. 41, Issue 48

## Weather


Friday



Sunny

High 46°F Low 27°F


Saturday



Partly Cloudy

High 48°F Low 24°F


Sunday



Partly Cloudy

High 54°F Low 33°F

Monday



Cloudy

High 60°F Low 40°F

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

## News Briefs

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

### Air Force Community Partnership Charter Event

An Air Force Community Partnership Charter event will be at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Columbus Club.

### SUPT Class 18-03 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03 graduates at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at Kaye Auditorium.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The Aircrew Flight Equipment unit is highlighted in this week's feature.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II

Senior Class

Squadron Overall

Track Select

37th (18-11)

1.31 days

0.30 days

Dec. 12

41st (18-12)

5.85 days

2.97 days

Jan. 17

PHASE III

Senior Class

Squadron Overall

Graduation

48th (18-03)

-0.68 days

3.05 days

Dec. 15

50th (18-03)

0.69 days

-1.12 days

Dec. 15

IFF

Senior Class

Squadron Overall

Graduation

49th (18-CBC)

0.11 days

0.80 days

Dec. 21

WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft

Required

Flown

Annual

T-6

552

449

6,448

T-1

194

135

1,563

T-38

171

172

2,378

IFF

76

66

928

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

The 14th Medical Operations Squadron is the highlighted squadron for the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03 graduation at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 in the Kaye Auditorium. Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, 3rd Air Force Commander, is the guest speaker.

SILVER WINGS

“Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

December 8, 2017

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U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
Santa Claus and three of his elves exit a T-1A Jayhawk, piloted by Capt. Christian Litscher, 14th Operations Group Commander's Action Group, and Michael Lewis, 48th Flying Training Squadron Chief Programmer, Dec. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Santa then hopped on a fire truck from the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron and led the way to the Chapel Annex where members of Team BLAZE lit the base's Christmas tree.

# Santa flies in on T-1, Columbus AFB lights Christmas tree

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
Santa Claus traded in his sleigh and reindeer for a T-1A Jayhawk Dec. 6 to visit Columbus Air Force Base. Piloted by Capt. Christian Litscher, 14th Operations Group  
Commander's Action Group, and Michael Lewis, 48th Flying Training Squadron Chief Programmer, the team arrived at Base Operations and was greeted by families from the base.  
Santa then hopped on a fire truck from the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron  
See CHRISTMAS, Page 3



# AETC award winners announced

Congratulations to Team BLAZE's Air Education Training Command award winners for 2017. Wish them luck as they go forward and compete at the Air Force level.

**14th Medical Group:**  
Best Ambulatory Clinic Patient Safety Program

**Company Grade Nurse of the Year:** Capt. Jennifer N. Arce  
**Aerospace and Operational Physiology Airman of the Year:** Airman 1st Class Gabrielle Achuff  
**14th Operations Support Squadron:**  
**Aircrew Flight Equipment Airman of the Year:** Airman 1st Class Ross Shealy

# Columbus AFB wraps up CFC 2017

**Maj. Stephen O. Osakue, Jr.**  
14th Medical Support Squadron

The 14th Flying Training Wing 2017 Combined Federal Campaign came to a close Dec. 1.

The wing campaign stepped up to the plate and executed the CFC mission of promoting and supporting humanity through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

In doing so, all federal employees at Columbus Air Force Base were given the opportunity to participate as CFC keyworkers accomplished 100 percent face-to-face

contact and raised awareness for over 20,000 charities.

Although technical issues persisted and prevented accurate tracking of Columbus AFB monetary generosity and volunteer efforts, rest assured that we definitely "Showed Some Love."



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
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  Happy Fund Shop and Wrap, 7-9 a.m.@ Club	15 SUPT Class 18-03 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	16/17	Dec. 25: Christmas Day Dec. 26: AETC Family Day Dec. 28: Enlisted Promotions 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 Jan. 18: Bulk Shredding Company visit Jan. 18: Daedalian's Meeting Jan. 19: SUPT Class 18-04 Graduation Jan. 25: Hearts Apart
18	19 Pilot Partner Welcome	20	21	22 Last Fly Day	23/24	

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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### Editorial Staff

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NCOIC, Command Information

**Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert**  
Editor

**Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb**  
Photo Journalist

**Mrs. Tina Perry**  
Layout Designer

### Submission Deadline

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

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*Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.*

*The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.*

*Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.*

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# SecAF, CSAF direct review of all Air Force programs

**Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson**

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leaders have directed a Zero-Based Review of all Air Force programs, budget accounts and associated manpower authorizations in preparation for assembling the Fiscal Year 2020 Program Objective Memorandum and Future Years Defense Plan.

The review will examine whether the right services are being provided the right way across the Air Force.

"We must optimally posture the United States Air Force to align with the new National Defense Strategy and Support Secretary [of Defense Jim] Mattis' expressed lines of effort for the Department of Defense," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein in a memo sent to the service Dec. 4, 2017.

The purpose of the 2020 review is to maximize the

application of the Air Force's limited resources in order to increase the lethality of the force.

"While the Air Force has updated its vision on strategy over the years, we have not conducted a zero-based program and budget review in over two decades," the leaders said.

The memorandum also addressed the last 25 years of continuous Air Force combat operations, declining annual defense budgets and expectations for a more peaceful global environment.

Wilson and Goldfein stressed that everything done during the review will be "on the table," and that senior leaders will be expected to question the relevance of not only every requirement and program, but also how taxpayer dollars are spent.

The Zero-Based Review will begin January 2018; results and recommendations are scheduled to be reported by March 15, 2018. Detailed guidance on the conduct of the review is forthcoming.

## OPTIONS

(Continued from page 14)

your base financial counselor. The calculator provides a comparison between the current retirement system and the BRS. Doing your homework and preparing your questions ahead of time will help you get the most from your financial counseling appointment. I would like to see all eligible Airmen trained as soon as

possible to give everyone time to really think about their options and be fully prepared before making this life-impacting decision.

There are pros and cons to every major decision we make, and this holds true for both retirement plans. I can't tell you what to do. I can't tell you what's best for your family. All I can tell you is that you need to arm yourself with knowl-

edge. Check out the training, talk to people who can provide you with objective advice, talk to those who will be most impacted by your decision and execute your plan knowing you made the best decision for you and your family.

For more information about the BRS, visit the BRS website at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>.

## NEWS AROUND TOWN

### Dec. 8-11

Continuing 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 Hanke at (662) 889-3702.

## 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.



# Could flying faster save the Air Force fuel?

Corrie Poland  
Air Force Operational Energy

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — On a Sunday morning just outside of Anchorage, Alaska, a group of Hawaii Air National Guard fighter pilots gathered around a desk at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to hear the day's operational briefing after three weeks of training at Red Flag Alaska.

As they sipped coffee and listened to the delivery control officer, they learned the mission was not difficult, but it was certainly unique.

In support of the Air Force Operational Energy Program, six F-22 Raptors flew from Alaska to JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, accompanied by two aerial refueling KC-10 Extenders Aug. 13, 2017, to determine if flying at an increased speed could optimize operational energy consumption.

"It's important to preserve our resources," said Capt. Dan Thompson, F-22 pilot and the flight lead. "Good training is an absolute necessity for our combat capability, so preserving resources and hours on the airplane gives us the ability to invest those [hours] in training opportunities and time back home."

The concept of increased speed, although seemingly counter-intuitive, was first explored by the 618th Air Operations Center in 2014. They discovered that flying at a higher speed could save total fuel consump-



Two F-22 Raptors prepare to take off during an Air Force Operational Energy mission at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Aug. 13, 2017. The aircraft were part of a demonstration to assess if flying at an increased speed consumes less fuel while saving precious flight hours.

tion and flight hours. But it still needed to be proven in action.

To demonstrate the concept, one cell of F-22s and an accompanying tanker for refueling, flew at a higher velocity, while the

other cell flew the standard profile and acted as a control group. Throughout the five hour flight, researchers collected multiple data points in order to compare results from both cells.

The faster cell was able to cut about 10 percent off the total flight time and six percent of the fuel required for this type of aircraft re-deployment.

"Last year about 1,250 Air Force fighter aircraft were deployed/redeployed in this manner," said Roberto Guerrero, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for operational energy. "Smart execution like this not only saves us operational costs, but more importantly, preserves time on the aircraft for higher value sorties like combat and training".

As the largest consumer of fuel across the U.S. federal government, spending nearly \$5 billion annually, the Air Force aims to increase operational energy efficiency while continuing to ensure mission success. The next step is to apply this method across other fighter platforms.

"When it comes to operational energy, it's important to be as efficient as possible, allowing us to maximize the number of fighters we move and saving both the government and the taxpayer money while doing it," said Lt. Col. Russell Johnson, delivery control officer from the Air Operation Squadron at Air Combat Command headquarters.

The mission of Air Force Operational Energy is to break barriers by connecting Airmen with technology, data, and innovative thinking to develop and champion energy-informed solutions across the Air Force. For more information and news visit: [www.safie.hq.af.mil/OpEnergy](http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/OpEnergy).

U.S. Air Force photo by Corrie Poland

## Chief Wright to Airmen: Know your retirement options

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright

WASHINGTON — If I had to pick just one thing I'm most passionate about as the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, without a doubt it would be taking care of our Airmen and their families professionally, physically, spiritually and financially. I'm a firm believer that these four things go hand in hand. In order to be the best, most resilient Airman possible, you have to balance your professional, physical, spiritual and financial wellness. This is why I'm always looking to arm our Airmen with knowledge to help them grow and make the best decisions possible in their lives.

Part of arming our Airmen with knowledge means providing them the tools necessary to understand and smartly plan their long-range financial goals. But this planning isn't just for Airmen with families; it's vital for all Airmen.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the Department of Defense will transition to the Blended Retirement System. If you haven't heard about BRS, you need to get up to speed now and learn

all you can. I need each of you to take an active interest in your financial planning by using every resource we've made available to learn about the BRS.

The BRS gives Airmen an opportunity to save their money in a portable Thrift Savings Plan while receiving matching government funds at the same time. This is the most basic layman's description of the program, which is why I need you to arm yourselves with all of the research and information available. To help you, our Air Force leaders have put together a team of experts ready to provide extensive training. Certified personal financial counselors are available at your Airman and Family Readiness Center. These experts cannot decide for you, but they can help you evaluate which retirement plan is best for you. Every Airman's situation is different, financial goals are unique to each Airman and there is no "one size fits all" decision.

Airmen who enter the Air Force on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are automatically covered by the BRS. Active component Airmen serving now and those who enter the Air Force on or before Dec. 31, 2017, will be grandfathered under the current

retirement system. Airmen with fewer than 12 years of active service on Dec. 31, 2017, or Reserve Component Airmen with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, have the choice to opt into the BRS. Reserve Component members' "retirement points" and retirement eligibility for the defined benefit are the same under the BRS as under the current retirement systems. The opt-in window for BRS will run from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Make your decision knowing only you can determine which system is best for you, and understand that if you opt into BRS, it is irrevocable. You only have one chance to make this choice, so it's imperative you and those involved in making financial decisions for your family fully understand the pros and cons of both retirement systems.

I encourage each of you to take all of the training available on ADLS and utilize the BRS comparison calculator on the Military Compensation website (<http://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/>) before making an appointment with

See OPTIONS, Page 15

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight



A Storyteller event will take place 2-4 p.m. Jan. 11, 2018, in the Happy Irby room in the Columbus Club. Every Airman has a story... what's yours? If interested, contact Daisy Jones-Brown at 434-1244, William Sherman at 434-1617 or Senior Master Sgt. Jamee Clark at 434-7531.

## Columbus Exchange will adjust hours in 2018

Beginning Jan. 2, the Columbus Air Force Base Exchange branch store will adjust their hours to be consistent with historical patron usage patterns while streamlining costs to continue providing a strong stream of revenue to the Columbus AFB community.

From Monday to Saturday, the store will be open from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. The hours on Sunday will remain the same, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The hours of the Express store will not change.

Visit us online!  
[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, speaks at the base Christmas tree lighting Dec. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Following the tree lighting, numerous activities took place, the first being a cookie competition judged by Denham in which the 14th Wing Staff Agencies team won.

## CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 1)

neer Squadron and led the way to the Chapel Annex where members of Team BLAZE were ready to see the base Christmas tree lit up.

Once everyone gathered around the tree, Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, gave some remarks.

"Tonight we kick off our holiday celebrations," Denham said. "What we do for each other, how we invest in our community on and off base, demonstrates our selflessness and service before self."

Per tradition, the family of a deployed member lit the tree. Following the tree lighting, numerous activities took place, the first being a cookie competition judged by Denham in which the 14th Wing Staff Agencies team won.

Children also had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa in the Kaye Auditorium. Cookies and drinks were also provided by various base organizations, and the Caledonia 5th grade Choir performed Christmas carols during the event.

"I've done so many of these things in my span of service



Lt. Col. Steven Richardson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain, serves cookies to members of Team BLAZE at the base Christmas tree lighting Dec. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Cookies and drinks were provided by various base organizations, and the Caledonia 5th grade Choir performed Christmas carols during the event.

*"Tonight we kick off our holiday celebrations," Denham said. "What we do for each other, how we invest in our community on and off base, demonstrates our selflessness and service before self."*

and it keeps getting better over time," said Capt. Tara Dixon, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain and one of the many organizers of this event. "There is something about the holidays that makes people happy."

Dixon said this was a base wide event and many organizations helped put it together including the 14th Operations Group, 14th Communications Squadron, 14th Security Forces Squadron, the 14th CES, base spouses and many other volunteers.

## 14th FSS Airman selected for chief master sergeant

Congratulations to Senior Master Sgt. Latash Luzum, 14th Force Support Squadron Superintendent, on her selection for promotion to chief master sergeant.

Luzum was one of 472 senior master sergeants selected for the top enlisted grade out of 2,142 eligible for a selection rate of 22.04 percent.

The full list of selectees is available on the Air Force Portal.



# Clark to deliver speech at SUPT Class 18-03's graduation

Lt. Gen. Richard M. Clark, 3rd Air Force Commander from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03's graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base.

Third Air Force plans, deploys, sustains and redeploys Air Force forces that directly support the combatant commanders during contingency and wartime operations. Clark oversees a headquarters staff and Airmen located at nine wings in Europe and one air expeditionary wing.

Clark graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1986. His commands include the 34th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, and 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, Texas. He has also served as the Vice Commander, 8th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, and Commandant of Cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Commander, 8th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Barksdale AFB, and Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

Clark is a command pilot with 4,200 flight hours, primarily in the B-1B Lancer bomber.

## EDUCATION

- 1986 Bachelor of Science, Management, U.S. Air Force Academy
- 1991 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 1994 Master of Arts, Human Resource Development, Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1996 Distinguished Graduate, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Ellsworth AFB
- 1998 Distinguished Graduate, Master of Strategic Studies, Naval Command and Staff College, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island
- 1999 Master of Airpower Studies, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB
- 2005 Distinguished Graduate, Master of National Security Studies, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.



## ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. May 1986 - February 1987 Junior Varsity Football Coach and Candidate Counselor, U.S. Air Force Academy
- 2. February 1987 - February 1988, Student, undergraduate pilot training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
- 3. February 1988 - November 1991, EC-135 Pilot, 2nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Offutt AFB
- 4. November 1991 - November 1994, B-1 Pilot, 28th Bomb Squadron, McConnell AFB, Kansas
- 5. November 1994 - July 1997, B-1 Instructor Pilot, B-1 Flight Training Unit, 28th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas
- 6. July 1997 - June 1998, Student, Naval Command and Staff College, Naval War College
- 7. June 1998 - June 1999, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB
- 8. June 1999 - August 2000, Action Officer, Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 9. August 2000 - August 2001, Fellow, President's Commission on White House Fellowships, Washington, D.C.
- 10. August 2001 - May 2002, Assistant Director of Operations, 77th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB
- 11. May 2002 - May 2004, Commander, 34th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB
- 12. May 2004 - June 2005, Student, National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair
- 13. June 2005 - January 2006, Vice Commander, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB
- 14. January 2006 - March 2008, Commander, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB
- 15. April 2008 - April 2009, Director, Joint Interagency Task Force - Iraq, Multi-National Force - Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq
- 16. May 2009 - July 2010, Vice Commander, 8th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Barksdale AFB
- 17. July 2010 - August 2012, Commandant of Cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy
- 18. August 2012 - August 2014, Senior U.S. Defense Official; Chief, Office of Military Cooperation; and Defense Attaché, Cairo, U.S. Central Command, Cairo, Egypt
- 19. August 2014 - April 2015, Vice Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB
- 20. April 2015 - October 2016, Commander, Eighth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Barksdale AFB, and Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB

U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB

21. October 2016 - present, Commander, 3rd Air Force, Ramstein AB

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. April 2008 - April 2009, Director, Joint Interagency Task Force - Iraq, Multi-National Force - Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq as a colonel.
- 2. August 2012 - August 2014, Senior U.S. Defense Official; Chief, Office of Military Cooperation; and Defense Attaché, Cairo, U.S. Central Command, Cairo, Egypt, as a brigadier general.
- 3. April 2015 - October 2016, Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, as a major general.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot  
Flight hours: 4,200  
Aircraft flown: B-1, EC-135, KC-135, T-1, T-38, T-6 and C-21

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Medal  
Defense Superior Service Medal  
Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Aerial Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Combat Action Medal  
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	May 28, 1986
First Lieutenant	May 28, 1988
Captain	May 28, 1990
Major	Sept. 1, 1997
Lieutenant Colonel	May 1, 2000
Colonel	Aug. 1, 2004
Brigadier General	Nov. 18, 2009
Major General	June 4, 2013
Lieutenant General	Oct. 21, 2016
<i>(Current as of August 2017)</i>	

## 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.

## Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Dec. 12 and Jan.16 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 and Jan. 16 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 personnel 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). Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend atten-

## Enlisted Airmen recognized for promotions



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

**Thirteen of Team BLAZE's enlisted force were promoted to their next rank Nov. 30, 2017, in the Columbus Club at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The promotees will have increased responsibilities in their shops and will be expected to lead their Airmen by setting them up for success.**

dance eight to 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register, call 434-2631.

## Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is 2-5 p.m. Jan. 16-17. This workshop will teach you how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and more information, please call 434-2790.

## Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop will be at 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 17. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

## Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop will be held at 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 18-19. The entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register and more information call 434-2790.

## 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.

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

## Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support 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.

## 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

## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 58 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

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



## Volunteers needed for tax season

The 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office is 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.



### 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](http://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; 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.

### 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 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.

### 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 Gift Wrapping

The Base Library will offer gift wrapping at no charge for ages 18 years old and under. Drop off your gifts from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 15 and pick them up from 8 a.m.-noon Dec. 16. Wrapping paper will be provided; please bring own box. 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.

### 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.

# Hover speaks at enlisted all call

## Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Enlisted members of Team BLAZE attended one of two all calls with Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, Dec. 1 at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base.

During his all call Hover discussed future events, expectations of Airmen and welcomed feedback about items of interest such as the Wing Commander Shadow Program, promotion ceremonies, wing mentorship programs and more.

The all call started with a message from the 14th Medical Group's Mental Health Clinic, reminding Airmen that the clinic has a variety of programs and resources to keep them mentally fit and resilient.

After that, Hover asked the Airmen's opinion about the shadow program.

“For those that have not experienced this program, we don't want to make it a [distinguished visitor] visit,” Hover said. “Security forces did a heck of a job by putting heavy gear on [Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying

Training Wing Commander,] and made him stand at the gate for two hours. [Gosney] was a lot more appreciative of what they do after that.”

The command chief also talked about the Air Force priorities, the Blended Retirement System, Air Education and Training Command's Continuum of Learning initiative, and continuation pay.

Hover said the opinions of the Airmen will be discussed further with the wing commander and there may be some changes in the future.

The chief elaborated on the significance of Airmen being involved in professional organizations such as the Top Three, BLAZE 5/6 and First Four. Professional organizations are a part of the Air Force's heritage and it's every Airman's duty to be a part of them and enhance them.

Lastly, the command chief discussed future events such as the Happy Irby Shop and Wrap Dec. 14, the last flying day Dec. 22, the return to flying day Jan. 2, 2018, and the Wing Annual Awards Ceremony Feb. 9, 2018.



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

**Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover, 14th Flying Training Wing Command Chief, speaks with enlisted Airmen at an enlisted all call Dec. 1, 2017, at the Kaye Auditorium on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During his all call Hover discussed future events, expectations of Airmen and welcomed feedback about items of interest such as the Wing Commander Shadow Program, promotion ceremonies, wing mentorship programs and more.**

# 'Tis the season to save at the Columbus Exchange

## Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is extending its holiday price guarantee so authorized shoppers will always get the best deals at the Exchange this December.

Through Dec. 24, all purchases made at the Columbus Air Force Base Exchange are guaranteed to offer the best value as shoppers who find an identical item elsewhere for less will receive an Exchange gift card for the difference.

“The Exchange wants to be military shoppers' first choice this holiday season,” said Gregory Templeton, General Manager at the Columbus Exchange. “This price guarantee—along with our everyday low prices, price matching and tax-free shop-

ping—should help military families with their holiday budgets.”

In the event a lower price on an item purchased at the Exchange is found elsewhere, shoppers should bring the original Exchange receipt along with a current local or online competitor's ad to a store. If the item was purchased online, shoppers should contact the ShopMyExchange.com Customer Relations Department.

The holiday price guarantee extends ShopMyExchange.com's normal price guarantee of 14 days on any item originally purchased from ShopMyExchange.com and subsequently sold at a lower price by ShopMyExchange.com or select authorized competitors. The 14-day price guarantee does not apply to Exchange Online Mall concession sites or special orders.

Visit [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil) to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



# Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders visit CAFB families during USO tour

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

Members of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders visited Columbus Air Force Base Dec. 4 where they were given a flight line tour, did a meet-and-greet at the Exchange, were shown a military working dog demonstration and conducted a Cheer to Fitness Clinic for children at the Youth Center.

Ten members of the squad were selected to participate in a USO tour across U.S. Air Force bases throughout the winter holidays.

“Our goal is to really spread Christmas cheer and visit families who have members that may be deployed,” said Simone, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. “Another aspect of these visits are to help promote fitness to all the families.”

She said this opportunity is an honor because every year only about a third of the 34 members are chosen.

“Being able to meet the kids, but also the spouses that are home with service members deployed make this trip such an honor for me,” said Savannah, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. “People often forget the sacrifices the family members at home make, so getting to see and speak with the spouses was an amazing thing.”

Members of the squad said they appreciate the work and sacrifice the military and families make and that’s a driving force for this 82nd USO organized tour.

“I used to get handwritten letters from my father when he was deployed but it was hard because you’re wondering if they’re OK and the family is kind of stressed out,” said Savannah, whose father was also a member of the armed services. “I love that this organization [the USO] is so supportive of the military and that’s what stood out to me because of my background with a military family.”

During their tour of the flight line, the cheerleaders were briefed on the 14th Flying Training Wing’s mission, were shown the aircraft and met with Airmen who support the mission on a daily basis. Then they were shown flight simulators and got to gear up, fly and communicate within the simulators, similar to



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Khalyne, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, sits inside a T-38C Talon as Capt. James Couch, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Assistant Upgrading Instructor Pilot Flight Commander, talks about some of the key features during a tour of the flight line on Columbus Air Force Base Mississippi, Dec. 4, 2017. Numerous members of the cheerleading squad visited the base where they were shown the 4th Flying Training Wing mission and conducted a Cheer to Fitness Clinic for children at the Youth Center.**

what student pilots do every day.

“The big thing was to show them what the mission of Columbus Air Force Base is and show them how the pilots are trained,” said Capt. James Couch, 49th Fighter Training Squadron Assistant Upgrading Instructor Pilot Flight Commander. “We wanted them to experience a little of what Air Force pilots are going through, so getting them in the G-suits, explaining what everything is, letting them fly simulations, it is to give visitors a perspective on what is going on here.”

Finally, the group led a fitness clinic at the Youth Center, engaging with the children and bringing a once-in-a-lifetime



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Staff Sgt. Zachary Kunkler, 14th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, and his daughter, Emrie, speak with Kelsey, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, Dec. 4, 2017, at the Exchange on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cheerleaders met with Airmen and their families throughout the day.**

experience to them.

“We want to try and teach the kids about nutrition and health, dedication, character and community,” Simone said. “We talk to them about each quality and why those aspects are important along with fitness.”

The cheerleaders will continue their tour and also spread their messages to families and service members around the globe.

“It was great to have them here,” Couch said. “It’s great to see people and work with people who care about the military who will take time out of their day to work with us and thank us, so it’s nice to help them as well and educate them on what we do and thank them for giving such a large amount of support.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross  
**Jay Johnson, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader fitness trainer and retired U.S. Army soldier, calls out the time during the Cheer to Fitness Clinic Dec. 4, 2017, at the Youth Center on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The clinic was organized by the cheerleaders and was part of their visit to the base which also included a tour on the flight line, meet-and-greet at the Exchange and military working dog demonstration.**

## Sign up for the volunteer victim advocate training

**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.

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.

## VIEWPOINT

# Sexual assault prevention, response protocol for leadership: Unrestricted reports

**Dr. Marcia Stewart**

14th Flying Training Wing Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program Manager

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response is centered on providing victim care for alleged victims.

The 14th Flying Training Wing SAPR office offers assistance to the victim of unrestricted reporting, to transport the victim to be examined at OCH Regional Medical Center in Starkville, Mississippi. The SAPR office also assists the victim with setting up appointments regarding resources such as seeking counseling from a chaplain, mental health, special victims council, expedited transfer, and other resources obtainable for the victim. These resources are provided and setup within 24 hours of being notified of the sexual assault

by the SAPR team.

The protocol for command leadership’s unrestricted reporting is as follows. Once leadership has been notified by the alleged victim of the incident, the commander is to inform the SAPR office. The SAPR program manager or victim advocate will reach out to the victim. The SAPR PM/VA will arrange to meet with the victim. Once the SAPR PM or VA has made contact with the victim, the SAPR PM will then formulate a 24-hour notification to the Vice Commander, input information into the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database, and initiate special victim services. There are no reports forwarded out of the SAPR office.

The SAPR PM will initiate the Sexual Assault Incident Response Oversight and will forward the incomplete report to the victim’s commander to complete. The SAIRO report

has to be completed within eight days of the incident report in response to an unrestricted report. Once the SAIRO is complete the commander then sends it to the victim’s first O-6, then to the next field grade officer, and back to the SAPR PM to be filed into the alleged victim’s case file.

Once the case is entered into DSAID the commander is required to attend the monthly Case Management Group meeting until the case is closed. The commander is also required to provide the victim an update after each CMG held the first Wednesday of each month.

If you have any more questions on protocol for leadership concerning unrestricted reports, please feel free to stop by the Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office at building 680, suite 117.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
**Maggie, a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, participates in a hand-to-hand combat simulation with Senior Airman Jasson Adamson, 14th Security Forces Squadron unit trainer, and Tech. Sgt. Miguel Stewart, 14th SFS NCO in Charge of Training, Dec. 4, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The demonstration was part of a tour visit the cheerleaders made to the base.**



**Share the road.  
Watch for  
motorcyclists.**

**Buckle  
up!  
It’s the  
law.**





# BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-15E Strike Eagle

## Mission

The F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night, and in all weather.

## Features

The aircraft uses two crew members, a pilot and a weapon systems officer. Previous models of the F-15 are assigned air-to-air roles; the “E” model is a dual-role fighter. It has the capability to fight its way to a target over long ranges, destroy enemy ground positions and fight its way out.

The aircraft’s navigation system uses a laser gyro and a Global Positioning System to continuously monitor the aircraft’s position and provide information to the central computer and other systems, including a digital moving map in both cockpits.

The APG-70 radar system allows aircrews to detect ground targets from long ranges. One feature of this system is that after a sweep of a target area, the crew freezes the air-

to-ground map then goes back into air-to-air mode to clear for air threats. During the air-to-surface weapon delivery, the pilot is capable of detecting, targeting and engaging air-to-air targets while the WSO designates the ground target.

The low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared for night, or LANTIRN, system allows the aircraft to fly at low altitudes, at night and in any weather conditions, to attack ground targets with a variety of precision-guided and unguided weapons. The LANTIRN system gives the F-15E unequaled accuracy in weapons delivery day or night and in poor weather, and consists of two pods attached to the exterior of the aircraft.

## General Characteristics

**Primary function:** Air-to-ground attack aircraft  
**Contractor:** The Boeing Company  
**Power plant:** Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners  
**Thrust:** 25,000 - 29,000 pounds each engine  
**Wingspan:** 42.8 feet (13 meters)

**Length:** 63.8 feet (19.44 meters)  
**Height:** 18.5 feet (5.6 meters)  
**Weight:** 37,500 pounds ( 17,010 kilograms)  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** 81,000 pounds (36,450 kilograms)  
**Fuel capacity:** 35,550 pounds (three external tanks plus conformal fuel tanks)  
**Payload:** depends upon mission  
**Speed:** 1,875 mph (Mach 2.5 plus)  
**Range:** 2,400 miles (3,840 kilometers) ferry range with conformal fuel tanks and three external fuel tanks  
**Ceiling:** 60,000 feet (18,288 meters)  
**Armament:** One 20mm multibarrel gun mounted internally with 500 rounds of ammunition. Four AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles and four AIM-120 AMRAAM, or eight AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles. Any air-to-surface weapon in the Air Force inventory (nuclear and conventional)  
**Crew:** Pilot and weapon systems officer  
**Unit cost:** \$31.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)  
**Initial operating capability:** September 1989  
**Inventory:** Total force, 219



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Lee  
Four U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles, assigned to the 334th Fighter Squadron from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, conduct a fly-over for the U.S. Open Men’s Championship and throughout New York on September 10, 2017. The F-15E Strike Eagle is a multi-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Battles  
A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle departs after receiving fuel from a 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on Oct. 6, 2017. The F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night, and in all weather conditions.



## To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424

# Assignment night: Where dreams come true

## Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Two weeks before student pilots at Columbus Air Force Base graduate Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, they find out their first assignment and aircraft during a casual, long standing tradition known as assignment night.

Several weeks of anticipation build up to this night where the pilots will find out their destiny, and those outcomes are a result of several factors the Air Force Personnel Center looks at when handing out assignments.

“Assignment night, in short is the best part of Columbus Air Force Base’s mission,” said 1st Lt. Nikolas Elson, Wing Assignment Night Officer. “While graduation is the point that the students become winged Air Force pilots, this night represents the aspects of pilot training that makes it so effective: competition and comradery.”

The event kicks off with enlisted and commander’s toasts to wish the SUPT class good luck on their journey, and the enlisted airmen are also recognized for their efforts in helping the pilots succeed.

Then, pilots are called up to the center stage and “introduced” by the master of ceremony with their back to a screen, until they are finally allowed to turn around and see the air-

*“Assignment night, in short is the best part of Columbus Air Force Base’s mission,” said 1st Lt. Nikolas Elson, Wing Assignment Night Officer. “While graduation is the point that the students become winged Air Force pilots, this night represents the aspects of pilot training that makes it so effective: competition and comradery.”*

frame they’ve earned after 13 months of intense training.

When the students turn around, pending which track they were selected to fly, they will see either a trainer, fighter, tanker, bomber or cargo aircraft and the base they’ve been assigned to.

Some pilots are selected to be a First Assignment Instruc-

tor Pilot and will stay at Columbus AFB to train the next generation of pilots.

“It was a huge surprise [to find out my assignment,]” said Capt. Jennifer Crum, 14th Student Squadron student pilot. “When they announced that I got the B-2 Spirit it was unreal.”

Student pilots are selected for their assignment based on their grades in SUPT. Grades consist of how well students execute daily rides in which they’re graded on things such as how well they perform maneuvers, take offs and landings. Students also fly check rides which are like final exams.

Every maneuver is graded along with decision making, situational awareness and communication. The final score is called the Merit Assignment Selection System. This is what determines the class’s ranking and who gets what assignment.

“Flying scores, academic scores, their flight commander ranking, all factor in to their overall rank,” Elson said.

AFPC sends Columbus AFB a list of airframes and assignments they need pilots for. The squadron then matches that list with the preferences of the student pilots.

“After that, the students get a list of the available assignments and rank them based on their desires. The top student receives their top choice and it goes down the list from there,” Elson said.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert  
Capt. Jennifer Crum, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, stands in front of a T-38C Talon Dec. 6, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Crum is in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03 and will fly the B-2 Spirit at Whiteman AFB, Missouri.



Second Lt. Zach Morrow, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, receives his first assignment as an Air Force pilot at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03’s Assignment Night Dec. 1, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Morrow will fly a C-17 Globemaster III at Travis AFB, California.



# Columbus AFE keeps pilot production going

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

The U.S. Air Force is known for its air supremacy around the globe, and pilots are recognized for their ability to keep the skies safe from America's enemies. But who keeps the pilots safe?

Airmen who work in aircrew flight equipment units throughout the Air Force ensure pilots have gear and equipment ready for them to perform their missions.

At Columbus Air Force Base, the AFE unit is one of the busiest



Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Necaise, 41st and 37th Flying Training Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, replaces parts on multiple helmets Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Every helmet is made to fit every student individually, and the 41st and 37th FTS AFE Airmen take care of over 400 helmets.



Senior Airman Hayden Harrison, 48th Flying Training Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, reads a T-6A Texan II survival equipment checklist Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The T-6 and T-38C Talon have survival kits inside of the cockpit with each pilot and are an essential portion of the AFE mission.

in the Air Force, because they're responsible for instructor pilots and pilots going through Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

"I can explain to you how busy it is to take care of 150 instructor pilots' gear on top of 400 students' gear to the best of my ability, but it's 10 times busier than that," said Staff Sgt. Dale Thibodeaux, 37th and 41st FTS NCO in charge. "I can't see any other AFE units being busier than this. At my previous base we would have roughly five sets to work on a day, and here we work with roughly 25 sets a day or more."

Each flying training squadron has an AFE unit attached to provide support to that specific squadron's mission and airframe.

Every 14th Student Squadron student pilot will go through the 37th and 41st FTS to learn how to fly the T-6A Texan II, making their AFE



Senior Airman Hayden Harrison, 48th Flying Training Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, goes through a T-1A Jayhawk survival equipment checklist Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Every T-1 scheduled to fly must be checked every day before its first flight to ensure the pilots have all the equipment necessary to potentially survive an emergency situation.

unit responsible for the most gear sets and survival kits of any squadron on the base.

"Our job is to make sure when a pilot goes out the door everything is good to go," said Senior Airman Hayden Harrison, 48th Flying Training Squadron AFE technician. "If anything goes wrong and they're at that last line of defense, they can depend on quality equipment so they can stay alive."

Much of their daily work involves customer service as well. Pilots bringing in gear they may need assistance with, fixing visors and replacing parts is commonplace during each week.

"It's a constant building of helmets, masks, suits and every three weeks the new class adds to the workload," Thibodeaux said. "If I prioritized one thing wrong it could throw off the entire schedule and back everything up."

One of the more time consuming efforts the AFE Airmen work through is the building of custom equipment and fitting every pilot starting pilot training.

"We are responsible for fitting up and training them on how to use their gear properly," said Staff Sgt. Steven Kern, 50th Flying Training

Squadron AFE NCO in charge. "Each piece of equipment is custom fit for every individual and we repeat that process every three weeks for the incoming classes while we take care of the current students' gear as well."

A survival kit, maintained by AFE, must be available on every aircraft, and with over 200 aircraft on the base it's important that each kit is checked and up to date.

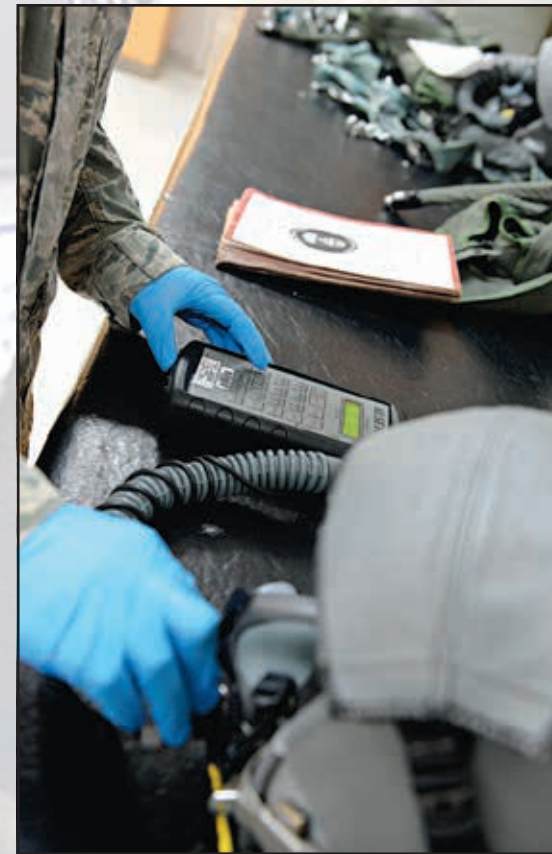
"Each aircraft has a survival kit and it's unique for the T-1's kits because we have to make sure every aircraft that will be flying that day is checked and is ready for the pilots to use," Harrison said. "We have to do that while keeping in mind the pilots are trying to take off so we have to prioritize it in a way that doesn't hinder them."

Helmets, masks, harnesses, G-suits, and survival kits are all the AFE units' responsibility to keep the hundreds of pilots in each squadron safe every year.

"As long as guys are getting out of the door and we are putting out the highest quality equipment we can put out, you know you don't need recognition for it," Harrison said. "For the most part it's a thankless job, but knowing what you're doing is keeping people safe is the reward."



Senior Airman Hayden Harrison, 48th Flying Training Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, inspects a helmet's visor Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. At Columbus AFB, AFE Airmen do not have to learn how to sew together parachutes or pilots' G-suits, but do have to learn how to fix hundreds of helmets, harnesses and survival kits every year.



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Marcus Telio, 41st and 37th Flying Training Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, checks the air-flow of a helmet's tube Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. If any equipment needs repaired, the AFE unit will test, evaluate and replace or fix the issue so pilots are ready to encounter any situation during their flights.



BELOW: Senior Airman Hayden Harrison, 48th Flying Training Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, checks a part from a T-6A Texan II survival equipment checklist Dec. 5, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Every piece of a survival kit has a matching serial number and expiration date that must be checked and updated as necessary.

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