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Vol. 41, Issue 49

December 15, 2017

Weather

<div>Friday</div> <div></div> <div>Partly Cloudy</div> <div>High 48°F Low 27°F</div>	<div>Saturday</div> <div></div> <div>Partly Cloudy</div> <div>High 57°F Low 30°F</div>
<div>Sunday</div> <div></div> <div>Thunderstorms</div> <div>High 59°F Low 38°F</div>	<div>Monday</div> <div></div> <div>Rain</div> <div>High 62°F Low 41°F</div>

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Last Student Training Day

The last student pilot training day for the year will be Dec. 22, 2017. Pilot training will resume Jan. 3, 2018.

Enlisted Promotion Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. Dec. 28 at the Columbus Club.

Silver Wings Notice

The Silver Wings newspaper will not run the weeks of Dec. 29, 2017, and Jan. 5, 2018. The paper will resume publication on Jan. 12, 2018. Deadline for submissions to Silver Wings is by noon on Mondays.

Inside

Feature 8

SUPT Class 18-03 graduates at 10 a.m. today at the Kaye Auditorium.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (18-13)	0.08 days	1.60 days	Feb. 9	48th (18-03)	0.00 days	3.04 days	Dec. 15	49th (18-CBC)	0.17 days	0.42 days	Dec. 21	T-6	1,224	1,192	7,191
41st (18-12)	2.73 days	3.01 days	Jan. 17	50th (18-03)	-2.61 days	-0.21 days	Dec. 15					T-1	432	292	1,720
												T-38	456	452	2,658
												IFF	165	132	994

* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

The 14th Security Forces Squadron is the highlighted squadron for the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-04 graduation at 10 a.m. Jan. 19 in the Kaye Auditorium. Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., is the guest speaker.

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

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, and Greg Lewis, Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority Director, sign a memorandum of understanding Dec. 12, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This MOU provides the framework for Columbus AFB youth between the ages of 11 to 18 years old to be able to participate in CLRA baseball leagues. This is often needed due to the small youth population on the base. This was one of 16 areas explored during an Air Force Community Partnership meeting.

Base, community leaders work in partnership for better opportunities


Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Columbus Air Force Base senior leaders and Columbus and Lowndes County community partnership members gathered here Dec. 12 for an Air Force Community Partnership quarterly meeting.

One focus of the meeting was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Columbus AFB and Columbus Lowndes Recreation Authority to address the issue of community and Columbus AFB baseball leagues being unable to fill full rosters. “The whole purpose of the new initiative we signed today

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 3



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.

Deadline for volunteer VA training is Dec. 20

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.

To register, 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.

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.

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
18	19 SUPT 19-03 Pilot Partner Welcome, 6 p.m. @ Hyatt	20	21	22 Last Student Fly Day	23/24 24th: Christmas Eve	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 Jan. 31: Enlisted Promotions Jan. 31: Wing Quarterly Awards Feb. 2: SUPT Class 18-05 Assignment Night
25 Christmas Day	26 AETC Family Day	27 South gate closed	28 Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club	29	30/31 31st: New Year's Eve	

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.

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Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Air Force announces change to deployments

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced another milestone under the chief of staff's number two focus area: Strengthening Joint Leaders and Teams.

Airmen deploying on individual taskings will now deploy in teams of three or more. This move will provide mutual support during the entire deployment continuum. This directive, effective Nov. 30, 2017, is referred to as "Deployed Teaming."

"Deployed Teaming places a higher value on mutual support and improves our warfighting capability," said Maj. Gen. Brian Killough, director of Air Force Strategic Plans. "It allows us to be more effective, while increasing resiliency."

This concept will be comprised of Airmen from the same duty location, deploying to the same location, during the same cycle. Members will accomplish pre-deployment training, travel to and from the area of responsibility and perform reintegration together.

"Airmen traveling in teams of fewer than three personnel will be paired with Airmen from the same installation who are traveling to the same deployed location, within the same month and with similar tour lengths," Webb said.

"Our Air Force is working hard to provide Airmen the support structures they need to be successful and resilient for the duration of their deployments," said Killough.

Martin Webb, 14th Flying Training Wing Alternate Installation Deployment Officer, said the Deployed Teaming concept is geared toward Airmen assigned to unit type codes of two or less personnel.

"Airmen traveling in teams of fewer than three personnel will be paired with Airmen from the same installation who are traveling to the same deployed location, within the same month and with similar tour lengths," Webb said.

Team leaders will be appointed to guide and lead their teams during the deployment process. Although Airmen deploying as a part of a team may not be assigned to the same work center, the leads will ensure there is crosstalk and mutual support.

"If Airmen cannot be teamed according to these requirements, the Installation Deployment Readiness Cell will initiate the major command waiver process as necessary to support the deployment," Webb said.

Additional information will be available through Installation Deployment Readiness Cells.

(Editor's note: Additions to the original article were added by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office.)

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Dec. 16

A Live 2 Lead leadership experience is at 10 a.m. at the Courtyard Marriott in Columbus, Mississippi. This event is designed to equip attendees with new perspectives, practical tools and key take-aways about leadership. John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, Cheryl Bachelder and Warrick Dunn will be the key speakers, each with their own take on successful leadership. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live2lead-columbus-ms-tickets-38358442133>.

Jan. 18

The American rock band Styx will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tickets are on sale online.



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Operation Christmas Drop launches

Airman 1st Class Christopher Quail

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — The 66th iteration of Operation Christmas Drop took to the sky Dec. 11 as military leaders ceremoniously pushed the first pallet of donated toys, food, supplies and educational materials into a C-130J Super Hercules at Andersen Air Force Base.

The ceremony marked the continuation of the longest running Department of Defense humanitarian and disaster relief training mission, which delivers donated supplies to remote Pacific islands via low-cost, low-altitude airdrops from C-130 aircraft.

The mission is supported by U.S. Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard, which are joined by Japanese Air Self-Defense Force and Royal Australian Air Force aircrews, offering teams of the participating nations a unique airdrop training opportunity.

“We are truly humbled with the relationship Andersen (AFB) shares with the men and women of Yokota Air Base, our Andersen (AFB)-based air mobility command unit, the 734th Air Mobility Squadron and our international partners,” said Col. Scott Hurrelbrink, 36th Wing vice commander. “While the training missions are conducted by maintenance and operations, it’s important to emphasize that this is truly a joint endeavor that includes raising awareness and collecting donations from the local community right here on Guam.”

The tradition began during the Christmas season in 1952 when a B-29 Superfortress aircrew saw islanders waving at them from the island of Kapingamarangi, 3,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. In the spirit of Christmas, the aircrew

“The role of military forces during any humanitarian assistance event is to rapidly respond with support to help mitigate human suffering and prevent further loss of life and property damage,” said Master Sgt. Sean Gray, 36th Contingency Response Group first sergeant and project manager for the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony. “This is what Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony prepares us for.”

dropped a bundle of supplies attached to a parachute to the islanders below, giving the operation its name. Since its beginning, Christmas Drop has impacted more than 20,000 islanders annually, covering 1.8 million square nautical miles and more than 50 Micronesian islands.

“The role of military forces during any humanitarian assistance event is to rapidly respond with support to help mitigate human suffering and prevent further loss of life and property damage,” said Master Sgt. Sean Gray, 36th Contingency Response Group first sergeant and project manager for the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony. “This is what

Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony prepares us for.”

For the first time, aviators assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing will fly the C-130J-model during Operation Christmas Drop. Utilizing new technology, the redesigned airframe eliminates the positions of navigator and the flight engineer, resulting in a smaller aircrew able to accomplish the same mission. This allows for lower operation and support costs over the earlier C-130 models.

Demonstrating and executing low-cost, low-altitude drops alongside regional allies is just one example of the Air Force actively pursuing and participating in interoperability partner training to increase operational capabilities while ensuring stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific region.

“The 374th Airlift Wing, and more specifically, the 36th Airlift Squadron, has transitioned to the newer C-130J Super Hercules over the last year, and we are proud to bring this aircraft and its improved capabilities to Operation Christmas Drop,” said Col. Sergio Vega Jr., 374th AW vice commander. “This year we will be able to fly farther, faster and with more cargo allowing us increased flexibility as we complete our mission and training objectives.”

Between sorties, more than 65,000 pounds of food, supplies, educational materials and toys will be dropped during the operation. The OCD committee raised more than \$53,000 and received more than \$20,000 in donated supplies for this year’s efforts to date.

“A lot of people come together to support such an amazing venture with either their donations or their personal time to ensure that this event is successful,” Gray said. “This is truly an amazing event that showcases the meaning of the holiday season.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Christopher Quail

Military and civilian leaders push a box onto a C-130J Super Hercules during the 2017 Operation Christmas Drop Push Ceremony Dec. 11, 2017, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. This year marks 66 years of Operation Christmas Drop which provides joint airlift training opportunities for both peace and wartime efforts.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard P. Ebersberger

Tech. Sgt. Gary Patterson, 36th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, Yokota Air Base, Japan, pushes a practice bundle from a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during Operation Christmas Drop Dec. 8, 2017, near Naval Base, Guam. Over the course of 12 days, crews will airdrop donated food, supplies, educational materials and tools to 56 islands throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.



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

Base leaders and community partners discuss possible initiatives Dec. 12, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, during an Air Force Community Partnership meeting. These gatherings help develop new and better ways to benefit the Air Force and the surrounding communities through emergency management, Airmen Against Drunk Driving, downtown shooting range use and more.

PARTNERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

was to create teams for kids who don’t have a full roster,” said Maj. Mark Hancock, 14th Flying Training Wing Director of Staff. “The point is not to take any sports away from Columbus AFB, but to add to teams who are short players.”

The community partnership events allow city and base members to discuss programs and initiatives that strengthen the communities around Air Force bases.

“We are here looking for solutions to problems,” said Lt. Col. Nathaniel Miller, Air Force Community Partnership Director.

After signing the MOU, there was an open workshop between base leadership and community partners about the specific initiatives they were in charge of.

Several base leaders provided an update on initiatives such as Maj. Eric Eaton, 14th Security Forces Squadron Commander, who spoke about regulations to help the firing range on base. Lt. Col. David Jokinen, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron



Base leaders and community partners discuss possible initiatives Dec. 12, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, during an Air Force Community Partnership meeting. Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, works with the community partners to create the initiatives. The meetings provide everyone with insight on the changes that have been discussed throughout the year, and propose and further review other ideas and research to make informed decisions.

Commander, and one of Columbus AFB’s fire chiefs spoke with community partners about privatizing dorms and emergency planning initiatives. Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, spoke with community partners about ideas for progressing these initiatives past the local areas and different ways to improve past initiatives.

“These meetings are not supposed to be a one way street, it has to work both ways,” said Maj. Douglas Hickey, 14th Force Support Squadron Commander. “We just try to find common ground for the base and community to work together.”

Columbus AFB Exchange partnering with DOD for Smart Fueling Initiative

Columbus Air Force Base Exchange

From food court to flight line, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is making it easier than ever for Airmen at Columbus Air Force Base to lead a BE FIT lifestyle.

The Exchange has introduced several nutrition-related improvements to support the Defense Department Smart Fueling Initiative, a pilot program at Columbus AFB aimed at providing Airmen with healthier nutritional options, and the Exchange’s BE FIT initiative.

“The Exchange is dedicated to helping Airmen at Columbus AFB stay well-nourished and ready for takeoff,” said Gregory Templeton, Columbus AFB Exchange general manager. “We are pleased to bring more options and greater convenience to the military community at Columbus.”

For Airmen on the go, the Exchange has brought better-for-you options to flight line vending machines, including veggie chips,

meat sticks and jerky, protein bars and shakes and more.

The Exchange is also making it easier for pilots in training to have a nutritious meal at the flight line by allowing Subway and Taco Bell orders to be placed ahead by phone or email. Orders may be placed any time before 6 p.m. the night before, and pickup can be scheduled any time the following day.

Subway’s Fresh-Fit® menu includes eight sandwiches with 350 calories or fewer. Taco Bell offers seven items with 350 calories or fewer. Subway orders can be placed by calling 662-434-1369 or emailing CAFBSubway@aafes.com. Taco Bell orders can be placed by calling 662-434-1369 or emailing CAFBTacoBell@aafes.com.

Airmen and military family members can also support a BE FIT lifestyle at the Express, which offers healthy grab-and-go fare such as bananas, tuna packs, protein packs, veggie trays and more. The Columbus AFB Express, located at Bldg. 161, is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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.

Track Select

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2nd Lt. Brian Bilbo

T-1

2nd Lt. John Bolton

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HOUSE COLUMBUS

18 11

WINGS ARE COMING

Leverette Award

2nd Lt. Carl Berggren

Top Guns


Contact: Berggren

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18-11

Columbus AFB Airmen, families wrap gifts for local students



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

Service members and their families wrap gifts during the Happy Irby Shop and Wrap Dec. 14, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The annual gift wrapping event provides gifts to students picked by their teachers. Georgy (Happy) Irby started the tradition over 50 years ago.



THURSDAY
JANUARY 11
1400 TO 1600
HAPPY IRBY ROOM

Every Airman has a story ... what's yours?
A Storyteller event will take place
2-4 p.m. Jan. 11, 2018, in the Columbus Club.
Refreshments will be provided. Arrive early as seating
is limited! For more information, contact Daisy Jones-
Brown at 434-1244, William Sherman at 434-1617 or
Senior Master Sgt. Jamee Clark at 434-7531.

The South Gate will be closed Dec. 27 through 29.
Normal gate operations will resume Jan. 2.

Cyber operations Airmen ‘Hack the Air Force’

Trevor Tiernan

24th Air Force Public Affairs

NEW YORK — Within 30 seconds of receiving the order to “start hacking,” researchers at the Hack the Air Force 2.0 event discovered two vulnerabilities — exactly the result the organizers were hoping for.

The researchers were cyber security specialists invited to the Dec. 9 event in New York to identify security gaps in Air Force websites.

Hack the Air Force 2.0 is a continuation of the Hack the Air Force event held in June 2017. Initiated by the Defense Digital Service, the event is a by-invitation opportunity for computer experts outside the Air Force to assist in strengthening the service’s defensive cyber posture, by discovering and reporting vulnerabilities in Air Force websites.

DDS contracted HackerOne, an internationally respected vulnerability disclosure and bug bounty company, to host and coordinate the event. Twenty Fourth Air Force sent a team of Airmen from the 90th, 315th, 352nd and 390th Cyber Operations Squadrons to work alongside their industry counterparts discovering bugs and weaknesses.

“This was a first to showcase our offensive capabilities in an official capacity alongside private and commercial sectors and international partners,” said Maj. Gen. Christopher Weggeman, 24th AF commander. “Not only does this program strengthen those partnerships, it allows the Air Force to both teach and learn from the best and brightest outside of the [Department of Defense].”

“Hack the Air Force allowed us to look outward and leverage the range of talent in our country and partner nations to secure our defenses,” said Peter Kim, Air Force chief information security officer.

Even though HackerOne invited some of the world’s elite hackers to the event, they were surprised to find the Air Force sites were not that easy to crack.

“They were impressed,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Joshua, 24th AF deputy chief of staff. “As a vulnerability was identified, shortly thereafter, hackers would be attempting to highlight the vulnerability to another team of hackers ... but the vulnerability had already been patched. They’d be trying to grab screen shots to prepare a post-day brief, but they couldn’t because the systems were already healthy.”

The non-Air Force researchers were able to receive cash rewards of up to \$50,000 for each vulnerability they identified under a practice commonly used in private sector known as “Bug Bounties.” Under bounty programs, companies pay so-called “white hat” hackers a reward for pointing out holes in their security.

“Hack the Air Force allowed us to look outward and leverage the range of talent in our country and partner nations to

secure our defenses,” said Peter Kim, Air Force chief information security officer. “We’re greatly expanding on the tremendous success of the first challenge by targeting approximately 300 public facing Air Force websites. The cost-benefit of this partnership in invaluable.”


For Maj. Barrett Darnell, 315th COS, the highlight of the day was the interaction between different groups participating.

“What stood out was seeing private sector, independent bounty hunters and the government all come together to find these vulnerabilities,” he said. “I was amazed at the creativity [of the researchers] with some of these issues that were found. So the best part was seeing all these resources come together to solve security problems.”

In a rapidly and perpetually evolving domain such as cyber, interacting with industry partners is essential for the Air Force to stay on top of its game.


“Our cyber warriors are in the fight every day,” said Weggeman. “Our Airmen operate within Air Force networks and employ offensive and defensive capabilities 24/7 in a highly contested environment where the adversary constantly changes tactics and techniques, creating complex vulnerabilities. Participating in the HackerOne hosted ‘hackathon’ allowed our cyber warriors to showcase their immense talent and skills while also learning and strengthening relationships with our partners in industry and other nations.”

At the close of the event, after 12 hours of hacking, participants had identified multiple vulnerabilities, protected 300 Air Force websites and forged immeasurable new partnerships.



Courtesy photo by HackerOne

First Lt. Stephen Baker, 352nd Cyber Operations Squadron, watches as one of the Hack the Air Force 2.0 participants attempts to breach the security on a military website Dec. 9, 2017. HtAF2.0 is a Defense Digital Service sponsored event where civilian cyber security experts were invited to identify and report vulnerabilities in more than 300 Air Force sites.



U.S. Air Force photo by Trevor Tiernan

Capt. Katherine Lawall, 390th Cyber Operations Squadron, answers questions posed by local high school students during a “Hackers Panel” Dec. 9, 2017. HackerOne coordinated with the non-profit organization Code.org, to invite a group of students to the Hack the Air Force 2.0 event to learn more about computer sciences.

AETC explores learning possibilities through new pilot training program

Master Sgt. Joshua Strang
Air Education and Training
Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Air Education and Training Command is looking to explore how people learn and making a more efficient path to pilots earning their wings by revolutionizing training through the Pilot Training Next initiative.

Scheduled to begin in February 2018, the program's goal exemplifies the command's concepts of the Continuum of Learning, including blended learning and data-centric facets by using existing and emerging technologies that can decrease the time and cost of training without sacrificing the depth of learning.

"This is student-centric learning," said Lt. Col. Robert Vicars, Pilot Training Next initiative director. "We are going to use immersive technology to see how we can help people learn more effectively. This is an initiative to explore whether or not these technologies can help us learn deeper and faster."

Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, AETC commander, said the PTN initiative is one way AETC helps make the Air Force more agile, adaptive and lethal.

"AETC is creating a new learning paradigm," said Kwast. "It is vital we exceed the Air Force's expectations with action. Creating Pilot Training Next is one step, one milestone, to ensuring America's Air Force is fueled with the best pilots in the world. We owe it to them to get it right and we will rise to that challenge!"

"AETC chose to focus on flying training because of the urgency involved with the enterprise," he continued. "However, our focus is on how Airmen learn, not necessarily what they learn, exploring technology and how that technology can produce better and faster learning."

PTN will lean on a variety of technological platforms to include virtual and augmented reality, advanced biometrics, artificial intelligence and data analytics, all of which can be tailored to the training environment and individual student. That knowledge will be used to refine sci-



U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Chip Pons
Air Education and Training Command is looking to explore how people learn and making a more efficient path to pilots earning their wings by revolutionizing training through the Pilot Training Next initiative.

entific measuring capabilities and teaching techniques in order to produce the world's greatest military aviators.

"The next generation of technology is emerging so we will rely on current as well as future technologies," said Vicars. "We are looking at building an intelligent tutor that can monitor the students. It will track their biometrics and understand the stress level they are under to optimize the learning environment for the individual and put them under the right amount of stress to create learning."

The PTN class, beginning in February, will consist of both Air Force enlisted members and officers. The officers for the class are slated to start undergraduate pilot training between December and February, and the enlisted members were specifically chosen because they have not attended college. In order to be successful, AETC officials are seeking students from different learning backgrounds. The enlisted Airmen eligible for the program will be selected from a pool of basic training Airmen who have recently completed basic training.

Vicars said there is a pilot candidate selection method as well as an enlisted candidate selection method that will allow for the best possible candidates.

"We want to select the top-caliber students and give them the tools, objectives and teachers so they can help structure a quality learning environment," said Vicars. "Selecting enlisted members to fill the non-college student role is not intended to



T-6A Texan II aircraft taxi toward the runway at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, May 28, 2010.

develop enlisted aviators. In this selection model, we can pool the data to determine what qualities, habits of mind and patterns of thought equal success in the flying training environment. We are then able to filter that data to develop simulators, apps and testing tools to pull in the very best talent."

Upon completion of training, the officer students will move on to specialized undergraduate pilot training and the enlisted members will continue on to their predetermined technical training.

"If we do this right, and the students learn all the functional competency sets, as well as key and critical learning objectives and skills, then we would expect to be able to pin wings on them," said Vicars. "Part of the challenge is to demonstrate that knowledge and those skillsets have been created. Using the software we are integrating, we will be able to prove and demonstrate that learning more objectively than what is available right now — even in legacy pilot training."

"Our enlisted Airmen are an important part of this program and will help us evaluate the learning methods across ranks, edu-

cation background and learning styles," he continued.

The training will be located at the Reserve Center at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Austin, Texas.

"We wanted to give the training its own environment and Austin has a very good growing technology ecosystem," said Vicars. "Austin currently has the second-largest virtual reality ecosystem in the country. There is an energy there that we can tap into which will allow us to iterate this technology. It is also close enough to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph to have access to Air Force resources."

Instructor cadre and AETC officials must remain fluid and adapt to failures as this new training program rolls out and evolves.

"This only fails if we don't learn in the moment," said Vicars. "We are driving and pushing for things to fail, which in turn will create a safer training environment. Our intent is quality training and if the benefit is that we can do it faster and cheaper, so be it. We are striving for deeper and more meaningful learning."

BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award

Name: Airman 1st Class Jose Torres

Hometown: Oceanside, California

Unit: 14th Operation Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Flight

Duty Title: Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems apprentice

Airman 1st Class Jose Torres displayed outstanding leadership recently. His efforts were instrumental in resolving a 74-day lightning detector outage, which is critical in providing accurate weather forecasting and weather info to student pilots flying 8,800 sorties.

Additionally, his quick response, fault isolation and repair of an emergency frequency, led to the removal of a group-mandated waiver allowing T-38C Talon student pilot training to continue with no mission degradation.

Furthermore, he volunteered 10 hours at Talladega raceway, ensuring the safety of 80,000 in attendance and raising \$1,600 for the 14th OSS booster club.

Lastly, he completed 67 course hours of training by completing 61 tasks toward his 5-level as well as two computer based training courses on the Digital Airport Surveillance Radar and Next Generation Radar, posturing him for upgrade within the newly combined career field.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Spencer Hurlbert
Airman 1st Class Jose Torres, 14th Operation Support Squadron Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems apprentice, receives the November BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award Dec. 1, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Torres displayed outstanding leadership through November including the removal of a group-mandated waiver allowing T-38C Talon student pilot training to continue with no mission degradation.

Columbus AFB spouses, first sergeants deliver holiday cheer



Master Sgt. Noe Torres, 14th Wing Staff Agencies First Sergeant, passes cookies to Senior Airman Benjamin Scaramuzzino, 14th Flying Training Wing Staff Judge Advocate assistant, and Airman 1st Class Allison Terrell, 14th FTW Staff Judge Advocate paralegal, Dec. 13, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Columbus AFB Spouses Club baked and packaged over 250 dozen cookies for Airmen in the dorms and first sergeants helped distribute them.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Members of the Columbus Air Force Base Spouse's Club stand in front of cookies they baked and received Dec. 13, 2017, at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The club and first sergeants packaged and distributed over 250 dozen cookies to Airmen in the dorms.

BLAZE Hangar Tails: F-16 Fighting Falcon

Mission

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations.

Features

In an air combat role, the F-16's maneuverability and combat radius (distance it can fly to enter air combat, stay, fight and return) exceed that of all potential threat fighter aircraft. It can locate targets in all weather conditions and detect low flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. In an air-to-surface role, the F-16 can fly more than 500 miles, deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft, and return to its starting point. An all-weather capability allows it to accurately deliver ordnance during non-visual bombing conditions. In designing the F-16, advanced aerospace science and proven reliable systems from other aircraft such as the F-15 and F-111 were selected. These were combined to simplify the airplane and reduce its size, purchase price, maintenance costs and weight. The light weight of the fuselage is achieved without reducing its strength. With a full load of internal fuel, the F-16 can withstand up to nine G's -- nine times the force of gravity -- which exceeds the capability of other current fighter aircraft.

The cockpit and its bubble canopy give the pilot unobstructed forward and upward vision, and greatly improved vision over the side and to the rear. The seat-back angle was expanded from the usual 13 degrees to 30 degrees, increasing pilot comfort and gravity force tolerance. The pilot has excellent flight control of the F-16 through its "fly-by-wire" system. Electrical wires relay commands, replacing the usual cables and linkage controls. For easy and accurate control of the aircraft during high G-force combat maneuvers, a side stick controller is used instead of the conventional center-mounted stick. Hand pressure

on the side stick controller sends electrical signals to actuators of flight control surfaces such as ailerons and rudder. Avionics systems include a highly accurate inertial navigation system in which a computer provides steering information to the pilot. The plane has UHF and VHF radios plus an instrument landing system. It also has a warning system and modular countermeasure pods to be used against airborne or surface electronic threats. The fuselage has space for additional avionics systems.

General Characteristics

- Primary Function:** Multirole fighter
- Contractor:** Lockheed Martin Corp.
- Power Plant:** F-16C/D: one Pratt and Whitney F100-PW-200/220/229 or General Electric F110-GE-100/129
- Thrust:** F-16C/D, 27,000 pounds
- Wingspan:** 32 feet, 8 inches
- Length:** 49 feet, 5 inches
- Height:** 16 feet
- Weight:** 19,700 pounds without fuel
- Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 37,500 pounds
- Fuel Capacity:** 7,000 pounds internal; typical capacity, 12,000 pounds with two external tanks
- Payload:** Two 2,000-pound bombs, two AIM-9 and 1,040-gallon external tanks
- Speed:** 1,500 mph (Mach 2 at altitude)
- Range:** More than 2,002 miles ferry range (1,740 nautical miles)
- Ceiling:** Above 50,000 feet
- Armament:** One M-61A1 20mm multibarrel cannon with 500 rounds; external stations can carry up to six air-to-air missiles, conventional air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions and electronic countermeasure pods
- Crew:** F-16C, one; F-16D, one or two
- Unit cost:** F-16A/B , \$14.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars); F-16C/D,\$18.8 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)
- Initial operating capability:** F-16A, January 1979; F-16C/D Block 25-32, 1981; F-16C/D Block 40-42, 1989; and F-16C/D Block 50-52, 1994.
- Inventory:** Total force, F-16C/D, 1,280



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Boltz
An F-16 Fighting Falcon from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, soars over the Las Vegas Strip Nov. 9, 2017. The Fighting Falcon features a Vegas Strong paint scheme which pays tribute to those affected by the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting and the resiliency of the Las Vegas community.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook
A four-ship formation of F-16 Fighting Falcons flies over Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, July 21, 2017, as part of a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 55th Fighter Squadron's activation. The formation consisted of the wing flagship aircraft from the 55th, 77th, and 79th fighter squadrons all stationed at Shaw AFB.

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.

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

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Jan. 16 and 26 at the Columbus Club. The orientation is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop is from 1-2 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The workshop allows Veterans Affairs contractors to explain to service members--whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran--what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and for more information, please call 434-2839/2790.

Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is from 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.

Columbus Club offers free breakfast for club members



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Staff Sgt. Reginald Roberts, 14th Force Support Squadron manpower analyst, Scott Worsham, 14th FSS management analyst, and Senior Master Sgt. Eric Gloss, 14th FSS Manpower Superintendent, eat breakfast at the Columbus Club Dec. 12, 2017 on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Once a month, the Columbus Club will offer a free breakfast for Club members.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is from 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 is from 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.

Military and Family Life Counselor Program

The Military and Family Life Counselor Program counselors provide a non-medical counseling to help Airmen, (both single and married) their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges, such as marital issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, call 662-364-0504.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your Mary Chambers, SBP Counselor, at (662) 434-2720.

Chapel holiday services

Catholic Holiday Services

Jan. 1
Dec. 25
Catholic Mass 10 a.m.
Dec. 26
Catholic Mass Christmas Eve 5 p.m.
No Daily Mass
Dec. 27
No Adoration
Dec. 31
Catholic Mass 5 p.m.

Jan. 1
No Mass

Protestant Holiday Services

Dec. 24
Worship Service Christmas Eve 10:45 a.m.
Candle Light Service Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 25
No service

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.

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

Why contracting matters to you



The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman:
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter
and I will not fail.*



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

SUPT Class 18-03 earns silver wings



Capt. Jennifer Crum
Burton, Kan.
B-2, Whiteman AFB, Mo.



1st Lt. Ryan Dunne
Bristow, Va.
KC-135, Macdill AFB, Fla.



1st Lt. Hillary Redmond
Littleton, Colo.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, 3rd Air Force Commander from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is the graduation guest speaker.

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

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

The Air Force Association Award was presented to Capt. Jennifer Crum, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Ana Ekhaus, T-1A. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Shoaf, Hernandez and 2nd Lt. Eli Parsch, T-1A, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 18-03.

The 54-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also prac-

tice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

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

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

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

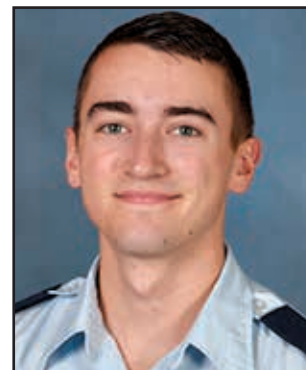
Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and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

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 18-03 pilot partners are Ralph Carter with BankFirst Financial Services and Lindsey Beck with Zachary's.



2nd Lt. Jacob Cable
Grantville, Ga.
KC-136, Birmingham IAP, Ala.



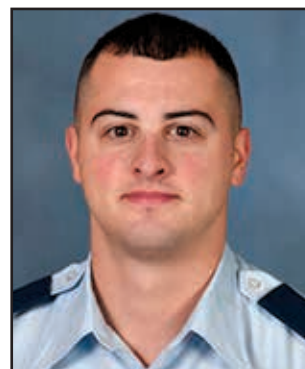
2nd Lt. Timothy Crain
Tucson, Ariz.
T-38C, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Josue Diaz Amaya
La Union, El Salvador
A-37, Comalapa, El Salvador



2nd Lt. Sutton Hernandez
Huntsville, Ala.
C-21, Ramstein AB, Germany



2nd Lt. Jeremiah McCormick
Hampstead, Md.
EC-130J, Harrisburg IAP ARS, Pa.



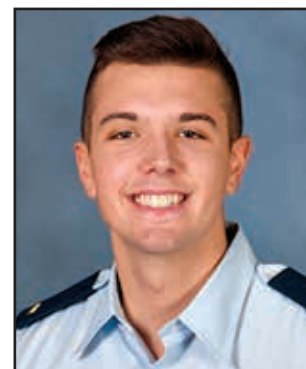
2nd Lt. Miranda Mila
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
C-130J, Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Zach Morrow
McCall, Idaho
C-17, Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Michael Padilla
Memphis, Tenn.
AT-38, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Eli Parsch
North Branch, Mich.
C-5, Dover AFB, Del.



2nd Lt. Heath Reichenbach
Canton, Ohio
T-1A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Christian Restrepo Lope
Medellin, Colombia
T-37, Puerto Salgar, Colombia



2nd Lt. Steel Shoaf
Alamogordo, N.M.
A-10 Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.



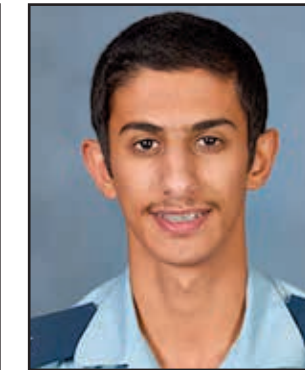
2nd Lt. Ryan Stark
Anchorage, Alaska
C-17, JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska



2nd Lt. Jonathan Vargas
Milwaukee
KC-135, Milwaukee



1st Lt. Joseph Uhle
Powell, Ohio
T-6A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Ahmed Alshahrani
Riyhad, Saudi Arabia
F-15SA



2nd Lt. Alex Augustyniewicz
Wichita, Kan.
KC-135, Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Ana Ekhaus
Arlington, Mass.
C-17, JB Charleston, S.C.



2nd Lt. Anthony Franze
Wading River, N.Y.
T-6A, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Thomas Hamlin
Flower Mound, Texas
KC-135, Sioux City, Iowa