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"Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight"

Vol. 42, Issue 1

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

January 12, 2018

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### Weather

<b>Friday</b> Rain High 41°F Low 23°F	<b>Saturday</b> Sunny High 39°F Low 19°F
<b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy High 38°F Low 22°F	<b>Monday</b> Partly Cloudy High 49°F Low 23°F

Forecast provided by the 14<sup>th</sup> O55 Weather Flight.

### News Briefs

**Blood Drive**  
A Wing Blood Drive will be from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 12 in the parking lot behind the Chapel Annex. Every donation could help save a life.

**Wing Newcomers**  
A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

**Shred Truck**  
A shred truck will be on base from 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 18 in building 926's parking lot. The truck is a secure way of disposing of sensitive documents, such as medical records and tax related papers.

**SUPT Class 18-04 Graduation**  
Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-04 graduates at 10 a.m. Jan. 19 at the Kaye Auditorium.

### Inside

Feature 8

2017: A year in review is highlighted in this week's feature.



Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, and senior leaders from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, speak with the Adaptive Flight Training Study research team as Lt. Col. Marc Deshaies, 14th Student Squadron Commander, flies a virtual aircraft Jan. 9, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Senior leaders observed the study and learned about the project before it began. They were allowed to test out the equipment and watch others fly in the virtual world.

## Researchers test virtual reality Adaptive Flight Training Study at Columbus AFB

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

A team of student researchers from Air Command and Staff College, Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, conducted an Adaptive Flight Training Study from Jan. 9-12, here, to aid in the Air Force's advancement in training and education through virtual reality.

The study was held primarily to find out if the VR environ-

ment would help adults learn at or above the rates they are currently learning, and how the brain works and reacts in conjunction with other parts of the body during the learning process.

Three test groups were tasked to fly a T-6 Texan II simulator with no prior T-6 flying experience. The groups ranged from experienced pilots who had not flown the T-6; pilots who have limited flying experience and none within the T-6; and the final group had no flying experience whatsoever.

See STUDY, Page 3

### COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III			IFF			WING SORTIE BOARD					
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (18-13)	2.36 days	1.00 days	Feb. 9	48th (18-04)	0.39 days	3.94 days	Jan. 19	49th (18-DBC)	1.06 days	-0.14 days	Feb. 1	T-6	857	786	8,691
41st (18-12)	1.41 days	1.03 days	Jan. 17	50th (18-04)	0.18 days	0.21 days	Jan. 19					T-1	330	253	2,239
												T-38	340	323	3,270
												IFF	122	121	1,217

\* 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.



## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 57 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

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

# Columbus 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.

### Exchange inventory closure

The Columbus Air Force Base Main Exchange is closed Jan. 20, to conduct the annual store inventory. All other Exchange facilities are open their normal hours.

### Finance Hours

The Finance Office in the 14th Mission Support Group complex is now open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

### 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. Child-care 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday, Most CAFB offices closed	16 Wing Newcomers, 8 a.m. @ Club	17	18 Bulk Shredding Company visit, 9 a.m.-noon @ Bldg. 926 Parking lot  Daedalian's Meeting, TBD	19 SUPT Class 18-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	20/21	Jan. 31: Enlisted Promotions and Quarterly Awards Feb. 2: SUPT Class 18-05 Assignment Night Feb. 4: Super Bowl Party Feb. 6: Wing Newcomers Banquet Feb. 9: Annual Awards
22	23 Installation Enhancement Team Meeting, 9 a.m. @ WCR	24	25 Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ AFRC	26	27/28	Feb. 13: SUPT Class 19-05's Pilot Partner Welcome Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Feb. 15: Daedalian's Dinner Meeting Feb. 16: SUPT Class 18-05 Graduation

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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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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*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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## BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@us.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

### Miscellaneous

For sale: HP 11.6 inch touch screen 360 convertible notebook with high-speed Wi-Fi running Windows 10, Intel Pentium N2840 Dual Core Processor with a 32-gigabyte hard drive, webcam with integrated microphone plus numerous other features and programs. This is a blue colored notebook with all updates and Norton Security Deluxe installed. Excellent condition, asking \$195.00, call (662) 327-1205.

For sale: A lightly used Belkin N300 Wi-Fi router. Makes a great router for computer, tablet and smart phone connections. Router is in excellent condition, asking \$39, for more information, call (662) 327-1205.



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# EOD Airman receives Purple Heart medal

**Airman 1st Class Breanna Carter**  
90th Missile Wing Public Affairs

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — More than 10 years after his injury, Tech. Sgt. Douglas Smits, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team leader, received a Purple Heart medal at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, Jan. 5, 2018.

The Purple Heart medal is one of the military's oldest commendations, dating back to 1782. It recognizes military members who were wounded or killed in combat.

In 2007, then-Senior Airman Smits went on a six-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Achilles, one of NATO's largest ground operations at the time.

"I was deployed out of Kandahar, and we were going into the Ghorak Valley to root out the Taliban, but as we were driving to one of our rally points, we hit an improvised explosive device," Smits said.

Upon hitting the anti-tank mine, which contained more than 30 pounds of explosives, the 51,000-pound vehicle was blown up, and resulted in Smits suffering a traumatic brain injury.

"It was like riding lightning, and it sent a shockwave through my body," Smits said. "My ears were ringing, and I remember looking up and seeing pieces flying off of the vehicle and black smoke covering the crater. Although I was in significant pain, I did not request medical evacuation as I felt I could still function to contribute to our mission and continue with field treatments of injuries to other members of the team."

Senior Master Sgt. Alejandro Rodriguez, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight chief, who was the team leader at the time, said they had to be tough and resourceful. The team was isolated for five days until recovery assets were sent.

"We strapped our equipment onto a stretcher and carried it throughout the battlefield from scene to scene clearing other detonation sites," Rodriguez said. "We never quit, and we never hesitated. We were facing bitter cold conditions; I'm talking about bone-chilling, teeth-rattling cold. It was just one more obstacle that was working against us and testing our resolve."

Smits reflected on the challenges of adjusting back to normal life after the deployment.

"The hardest part for me was coming back from an experience where you almost get ad-



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Breanna Carter

**Tech. Sgt. Douglas Smits, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team leader, receives a purple heart medal during a ceremony at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, Jan. 5, 2018. Smits suffered a traumatic brain injury during a 2007 deployment in support of a combat operation in Afghanistan.**

*"I was deployed out of Kandahar, and we were going into the Ghorak Valley to root out the Taliban, but as we were driving to one of our rally points, we hit an improvised explosive device," Smits said.*

dicted to the adrenaline, and then you don't have that anymore when you come home," Smits said. "The experience of almost getting blown up, or helping people who have, just becomes the norm while deployed."

Smits is still making strides to overcome some of the mental obstacles associated with the explosion.

"I initially felt like it was a weakness to

admit having post-traumatic stress disorder, but now I wish I would've gotten help sooner in my career," Smits said. "There's nothing wrong with seeking help after a deployment, and when a person close to you notices that you're not being yourself, never be ashamed to go talk to someone."

Smits continues to serve in the EOD career field, and his efforts from 2007 are not

forgotten.

"The team proudly represented the best of what this country and the Air Force has to offer," said Rodriguez. "I would describe Doug as a battle-proven man of grit, and I am extremely proud to have served with him."

During the ceremony, Col. Stacy Jo Huser, 90th Missile Wing commander, acknowledged Smits' composure and courage under fire.

"I want to personally thank you for your extensive preparation and your willingness to go beyond the call of duty," Huser said. "Your example inspires the rest of us to serve with distinction and go the extra mile, not only in combat, but in our training and day-to-day duties as well."

## STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

"We took the idea of learning through advanced technologies like VR, and came up with our idea of a targeted learning system," said Maj. Matt Elmore from Air Command and Staff College student. "We are focusing on how our troops learn, using technology to measure the person, the environment and their performance, to see if we can provide better feedback both adaptively in the curriculum and to provide variables or indicators to select people for certain jobs based on the results."

The three test groups flew four simulations; the first simulated flight set the baseline so the data could be compared to the other three flights. The task was to fly a basic sortie around Columbus AFB and land safely.

During the baseline simulation flight, participants were given 10 minutes to read instructions of the pattern they would be flying and how to operate the aircraft. For their virtual training sessions the subjects were given three learning environments, providing less optical and auditory cues as they progressed to help them learn their task.

Following their training sessions the subjects would fly a final flight in the T-6 Texan II flight simulator to determine if there was any amount of improvement through the virtual reality training.

"The data we are gathering can hopefully help us start to determine the key factors of what makes individuals succeed or perform better," Elmore said. "Now this won't be an end all but it's good to be on the leading edge of this and start the conversation."

Because there is a lot of data that is being gathered, there are multiple groups attached to this project. Only a handful of individuals came to Columbus AFB to set up and conduct the study, each of them with a specific skill and portion of the study to control.

"There's a lot of use cases with our technology that the Air Force was trying to do, like being able to actually measure the activity of the brain as a student was learning to fly," said David Zakariaie, CEO of Senseye.

The Senseye team members are primarily setting up the gear, running the VR programs, and collecting the data from where, when and how the subject's eyes are moving throughout their sorties.

"We're focusing on pilots now, but everything that we are



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

**Second Lt. Kenneth Soyars, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, takes off during a virtual reality flight simulation Jan. 10, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Two subjects flew at a time but no other subjects were allowed to watch or learn from other individuals' sorties. The Adaptive Flight Training Study pushed subjects to learn through the VR technology.**

doing here today, could be applied to almost any [Air Force specialty code]," Zakariaie said.

Along with the tracking of eye movement there is another set of data that will be collected; the heart and respiratory patterns will be tracked throughout the study to see if any connection can be made to patterns of success or failure during subject's flights.

"We were briefed on the study and learned they wanted to include, in all of this, an element of state assessment," said Capt. Wesley Baker, Air Force Research Laboratory Deputy Program Manager for Cognitive Performance Optimization. "For the purposes of this study I will be measuring the heart rate and respiration data of 15 individuals' as they fly in the simulations."

The data is specifically being collected from the eyes, heart, and lungs to possibly find each individuals estimated maximum cognitive loads; this is a factor on the success of the research, as the implications of the possible findings could be applied to limitless training environments across the Air Force.

"What we want to prove is that a virtual reality environment will help our students learn at a faster rate than the traditional methods, and more effectively," Elmore said. "The real



**Participants of an Adaptive Flight Training Study complete a pre-study questionnaire Jan. 9, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Roughly 30 participants were involved in the study, with 15 of those subjects wearing heart monitors to gather additional data. Researchers were at Columbus AFB for three days, with each participant flying for up to an hour, two days in a row.**



**Second Lt. Madeline Schmitz, 14th Student Squadron student pilot, prepares to take flight in the T-6 Texan II flight simulator Jan 10, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. An Adaptive Flight Training Study here pushed subjects to learn through the VR technology but used the T-6 flight simulator as a baseline to compare the other virtual reality sorties to. This allowed researchers to see if the subject's flights got better or worse after the VR flight training.**

question is where can't this kind of learning go? We can drive this training and make it work for us instead of playing catch up and that's a big takeaway, if we become early adopters."

## Commander's Action Line 434-1414



The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

## 14th AOP Flight awarded AETC level award

Congratulations to the 14th Medical Operations Squadron's Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight for winning the 2018 Air Force Association Aerospace Award in the Theodore Von Karman category. Wish them luck as they go to compete at the Air Force level.

**Buckle up!  
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# Air Force saves Airmen time, no longer requires first year evaluations

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced Jan. 4, 2018, Enlisted Performance Reports are no longer required for regular Air Force Airmen in the grade of airman first class and below with less than 36 months' Time-In-Service or Air Reserve Component Airmen below the grade of senior airman.

This policy change supports Air Force senior leaders' focus on revitalizing the squadron and saving Airmen time. It is intended to eliminate an unnecessary administrative requirement and empower frontline supervisors, raters and commanders to frequently engage with their Airmen face-to-face, said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"While the Air Force values the contributions of all en-

listed personnel, the requirement to document performance in a formal evaluation prior to the grade of senior airman is not necessary," said Grosso.

Instead, the Air Force has additional means available to document an Airman's performance and to ensure he or she is meeting the training, developmental and experiential skills required to perform as professional Airmen."

Performance feedback and Airmen Comprehensive Assessments will still be required. Initial feedback sessions will occur within 60 days of raters taking over as supervisors and then every 180 days until an EPR occurs.

The removal of EPRs prior to promotion to senior airman will allow Airmen more time to learn their primary skills and missions before their performance is documented on an EPR, Grosso said.

All active-duty enlisted Airmen will receive their ini-

tial evaluation upon reaching their first March 31 Static Close-out Date after either promotion to senior airman, or after completion of a minimum of 36 months' time-in-service, regardless of grade, whichever occurs first. All Air Force Reserve Component enlisted Airmen will receive initial evaluations upon the first March 31 SCOD as a senior airman.

Commanders still retain the option to complete a Directed By Commander evaluation to document substandard performance for those airmen first class and below any time after an Airman reaches 20 months' Time-In-Service. If a Directed By Commander evaluation is written, the Airman will receive a subsequent evaluation the following March 31 SCOD.

More information about the policy change is available at myPers.

## Five Team BLAZE members rank up at promotion ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra

Five members of Team BLAZE were promoted to their next ranks Dec. 28, 2017, at the December Enlisted Promotion Ceremony on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Airmen in the U.S. Air Force have to work hard and diligently to earn their next rank and when they do, they are held to a higher standard than their previous rank.

# Recreational UAS use temporarily halted at Columbus AFB

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Effective immediately, the Federal Aviation Administration has rescinded military installation commanders' authority to approve recreational unmanned aircraft system use in temporary flight restrictions.

All Department of Defense installations with UAS Special Security Instructions/TFRs are affected.

Headquarters Air Force is working with



the FAA and expects updated guidance next month.

For more information, call 434-2764.

## 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.

# A-10s bring thunder, lightning during fight against ISIS

Staff Sgt. Trevor Rhynes

Air Force Central Command Public Affairs

INCIRILIK AIR BASE, Turkey — The 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron is wrapping up a deployment that saw heavy involvement in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Upon arrival, their efforts were focused on Raqqa for approximately three months. During that time A-10 Thunderbolt IIs participated in an urban close air support role. Pilots focused on protecting friendly forces as they maneuvered in the city between very large buildings in which the enemy hid and used as fighting positions.

"It was a difficult location to work in and we faced some situations that we have not dealt with before we arrived here," said Maj. Matthew Cichowski, 74th EFS assistant director of operations. "Our weapons and tactics planners have done an excellent job preparing us for the variety of tactics and locations that we use and operate in."

Adapting the squadron to the new location and varied tactical situations fell to the squadron's weapons tactics planners.

"When we showed up we got thrown into this fight essentially on day one," said Lt. Col. Craig Morash, 74th EFS commander. "The fight itself was within the urban complex of Raqqa and the pilots had to get creative to figure out ways to strike targets at the bottom of these five story buildings. There was a lot of learning as this wasn't something we traditionally trained to when we arrived. We reached out to different communities to see what we could learn from them."

"Everyone jumped on board trying to figure out solutions to the problems we faced even though we had long days and a mountain of work to accomplish," Morash continued. "Our intel shop processed an unbelievable amount of expenditure reports to make sure (U. S. Air Forces Central Command) had an accurate picture for what we were doing. Our life support troops were generating equipment and doing it perfectly every single time."

The squadron's intelligence Airmen also provide vital key information to pilots before their missions, enabling those pilots to adapt to threats and challenges on the fly.

"We're trained on what the capabilities of the aircraft are, which allows us to give threat perspectives to pilots with what's going on in the area of operations and how that affects the aircraft and pilots," said Senior Airman Jake Owens, 74th EFS intelligence analyst. "We brief pilots on possible threats they may face while flying missions and we're also tied into the intelligence reporting, where we report targets struck to higher headquarters. There's a lot of battle tracking and predictive analysis."

According to the squadron's weapons and tactics chief, one of the most difficult aspects of close air support isn't physically dropping the bomb, it's making sure the rest of the



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Labbe

Two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs depart to continue a mission after receiving fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group over Syria, Dec. 1, 2017. A-10s have been involved in fighting from Mosul to Raqqa and are currently used in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in countries such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

*"We're trained on what the capabilities of the aircraft are, which allows us to give threat perspectives to pilots with what's going on in the area of operations and how that affects the aircraft and pilots," said Senior Airman Jake Owens, 74th EFS intelligence analyst.*

process has been done correctly. The pilots assigned to the 74th EFS are trained to work through that process correctly, making sure friendly positions are confirmed, any attack restrictions make sense and are adhered to, and they are flying above or are laterally deconflicted with any artillery that may be firing, and avoiding any exposure to threats like anti-air-

craft fire or other aircraft.

"Positive identification is extremely important and is something that takes a large team and a long amount of time to get right," said Capt. Eric Calvey, 74th EFS chief of weapons and tactics. "Long before we show up there are individuals who use Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance assets to get an idea of what targets to strike and make sure that what we drop on is in fact a hostile target. We're the last link in the chain and there's a large amount of work done ahead of time to prepare these targets for strike before we employ munitions on them. It's amazing seeing the utmost care that is taken before we employ on these targets."

Although the squadron's deployment is coming to a close, Morash said they are still keen on supporting the ground forces, no matter where they are.

"Every single person in this squadron was and still is mission focused. They are looking at the bigger picture, seeing what solutions to problems could be and mitigating risk to ground forces every single day," Morash said. "The way this team came together, operations and maintenance, to look after each other and to get things done made me proud to be an Airman."

**Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events**

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at www.columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

**BLAZE Book Club**

Stop by the Base Library and check out “Winter Garden” by Kristin Hannah. The BLAZE Book Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 15 at the BLAZE Commons to discuss this book. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Storytime with Mother Goose**

Special guest, Mother Goose, will attend storytime at the Base Library 11 a.m. Jan. 12 and Feb. 16. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Free Breakfast for Club Members**

The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. Jan. 16 for Club members; \$8 non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**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: super cheeseburger with kettle chips Jan. 16 at the 14th Operations Group between building 268 and building 230; pork kabobs with roasted rosemary potatoes Jan. 23 at L3 parking lot across from building 640; turkey burger with kettle chips Jan. 30 at 14th OG. The cost is \$6 for Club members and \$8 for non-members. In the event of inclement weather, this event will be moved to the Columbus Club. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Frostbite 5K Run/Walk**

The Fitness Center is offering a Frostbite 5K Run/Walk at 7 a.m. Jan. 19. This event begins and ends at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Military Youth of the Year**

You can earn scholarships for your accomplishments and exceptional character. Submit your Youth of the Year package no later than Jan. 30 at www.nyoy.org. The Youth of the Year ceremony will be at 4:14 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Monster Jam Tickets**

Monstrous savings for Columbus Air Force Base families and personnel! Purchase your tickets at Information, Ticket and Travel for the March 3 event at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Pit Party tickets available for \$10 each and require the purchase of a 1 p.m. event ticket. Event held at the BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi, and

tickets must be purchased no later than Feb. 9. For more information, contact 434-7861.

**Winter Reading Program**

Register at the Base Library and enjoy a winter of stories, activities and tons of fun! For more information, contact 434-2934.

**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.

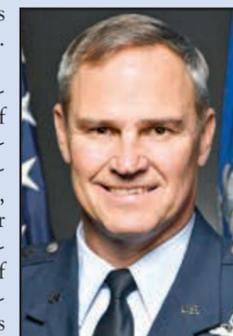
**Ride in Style**

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

**Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight**

**Nowland to speak at SUPT Class 18-04 graduation**

Lt. Gen. Mark C. Nowland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. will be the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-04’s graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. Jan. 19 at the Kaye Auditorium.



He is responsible to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff for formulating policy supporting air, space, cyber, and irregular warfare, counter proliferation, homeland security and weather operations. As the Air Force operations deputy to the Joint Chief of Staff, the general determines operational requirements, capabilities and training necessary to support national security objectives and military strategy.

General Nowland is a 1985 graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He previously commanded at the squadron, wing, and numbered Air Force levels. He also served on the Joint Staff, US SOUTHCOM and two Air Force major command staffs. The general has flown combat operations in support of operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom. He is also a graduate of the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies and was a National Security Fellow at the Olin Institute at Harvard University. Prior to his current assignment, General Nowland was the Commander, 12th Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Commander, Air Forces Southern, U.S. Southern Command, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

General Nowland is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours, primarily in the A-10, F-15A/C/D, T-37B, T-38A/C A/T-38B and T-6.

**EDUCATION**

- 1985 Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1990 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1998 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1999 School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1999 Master of Aviation Sciences degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2003 Air War College, by correspondence
- 2004 John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2008 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 2009 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2011 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2012 National and International Security Leadership Seminar, Latin America Forces, Washington, D.C.

2013 Combined Force Maritime Component Command Course, Miami, Fla.

2014 Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2015 National Defense University Pinnacle Course, Suffolk, Va.

2016 Leadership at the Peak, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1. July 1985 - July 1986, student, undergraduate pilot training, Williams AFB, Ariz.
- 2. July 1986 - July 1988, T-37B Instructor Pilot, Williams AFB, Ariz.
- 3. July 1988 - December 1989, T-37 Instructor Pilot, Randolph AFB, Texas
- 4. December 1989 - August 1990, student, AT-38B lead-in fighter training, 435th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M.
- 5. August 1990 - May 1991, student, F-15C Replacement Training Unit, 1st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Tyn-dall AFB, Fla.
- 6. May 1991 - July 1995, F-15 Instructor Pilot, 71st Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 7. July 1995 - July 1997, F-15 Fighter Flight Commander, 85th Operations Support Squadron, Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland
- 8. July 1997 - July 1999, student, Air Command and Staff and the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 9. July 1999 - February 2000, Chief, Doctrine Branch, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein AB, Germany
- 10. February 2000 - May 2001, Deputy, Commander’s Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe, Ramstein AB, Germany
- 11. June 2001 - June 2002, Assistant Operations Officer, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 12. June 2002 - May 2003, Operations Officer, 71st Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 13. May 2003 - May 2004, Commander, 1st Operations Support Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 14. June 2004 - May 2005, Olin Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 15. June 2005 - May 2006, Chief, Program Support Division (J39), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 16. May 2006 - June 2007, Executive Assistant to the Director of Operations (J3), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 17. June 2007- July 2008, Vice Commander, 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
- 18. July 2008 - May 2010, Commander, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.
- 19. May 2010 - June 2012, Director, Plans, Programs, Requirements and Assessments Directorate, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas
- 20. July 2012 - June 2013, Director for Strategy, Policy

and Plans (J5), Headquarters U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla.

21. June 2013 - December 2014, Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla.

22. December 2014 - October 2016, Commander, 12th Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Commander, Air Forces Southern, U.S. Southern Command, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

23. October 2016 - present, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

**SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1. June 2005 - May 2006, Chief, Program Support Division (J39), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a colonel
- 2. May 2006 - June 2007, Executive Assistant to the Director of Operations (J3), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a colonel
- 3. July 2012 - June 2013, Director for Strategy, Policy and Plans (J5), Headquarters U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla., as a brigadier general
- 4. June 2013 – Dec 2014, Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla., as a brigadier general and major general

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: command pilot  
Flight hours: more than 3,600 hours  
Aircraft flown: A-10, F-15A/C/D, AT-38B, T-38A/C, T-6 and T-37

**MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

- Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster
- Bronze Star Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
- Air Medal
- Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Chilean Cross for Aeronautical Merit  
SICOFAA Legion of Merit Medal In Grade of “Great Cross”

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

- Second Lieutenant May 29, 1985
- First Lieutenant May 29, 1987
- Captain May 29, 1989
- Major May 1, 1996
- Lieutenant Colonel May 1, 2000
- Colonel July 1, 2005
- Brigadier General Aug. 6, 2010
- Major General Dec. 31, 2013
- Lieutenant General Dec. 19, 2014  
(Current as of November 2016)

# Aircraft Fact Sheets: F-35A

## Mission

The F-35A is the U.S. Air Force's latest fifth-generation fighter. It will replace the U.S. Air Force's aging fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt II's, which have been the primary fighter aircraft for more than 20 years, and bring with it an enhanced capability to survive in the advanced threat environment in which it was designed to operate. With its aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35A will provide next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations.

## Features

The conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A gives the U.S. Air Force and allies the power to dominate the skies – anytime, anywhere. The F-35A is an agile, versatile, high-performance, 9g capable multirole fighter that combines stealth, sensor fusion, and unprecedented situational awareness.

The F-35A's advanced sensor package is designed to gather, fuse and distribute more information than any fighter in history, giving operators a decisive advantage over all adver-

saries. Its processing power, open architecture, sophisticated sensors, information fusion and flexible communication links make the F-35 an indispensable tool in future homeland defense, Joint and Coalition irregular warfare and major combat operations.

The F-35's electronic sensors include the Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (DAS). This system provides pilots with situational awareness in a sphere around the aircraft for enhanced missile warning, aircraft warning, and day/night pilot vision.. Additionally, the aircraft is equipped with the Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS). The internally mounted EOTS provides extended range detection and precision targeting against ground targets, plus long range detection of air-to-air threats.

The F-35's helmet mounted display system is the most advanced system of its kind. All the intelligence and targeting information an F-35 pilot needs to complete the mission is displayed on the helmet's visor.

The F-35's engine produces 43,000 lbs of thrust and consists of a 3-stage fan, a 6-stage compressor, an annular combustor, a single stage high-pressure turbine, and a 2 stage low-pressure turbine.

The F-35 is designed to provide the pilot with unsurpassed situational awareness, positive target identification and precision strike in all weather conditions. Mission systems integration and outstanding over-the-nose visibility features are designed to dramatically enhance pilot performance.

## Background

The F-35 is designed to replace aging fighter inventories including U.S. Air Force F-16s and A-10s, U.S. Navy F/A-18s, U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18s, and U.K. Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers. With stealth and a host of next-generation technologies, the F-35 will be far and away the world's most advanced multi-role fighter. There exists an aging fleet of tactical aircraft worldwide. The F-35 is intended to solve that problem.

On October 26, 2001, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge Jr. announced the decision to proceed with the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. This approval advanced the program to the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) phase. The Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche announced the selection of Lockheed Martin teamed with Northrop Grumman and BAE to develop and then produce the JSF aircraft.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel

Airman 1st Class Eric Ruiz-Garcia, 63rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, performs an inspection on an F-35A Lightning II at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Dec. 1, 2017. The unit is the first Luke F-35 AMU to receive a 3F, or full-up, combat aircraft capable of pulling 9G's in the air.



Photo courtesy Scott Wolff

An F-35A Lightning II aircraft from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, drops a 2,000-pound GBU-31 bomb over the Utah Test and Training Range Aug. 10, 2017. The F-35 flew Combat Hammer, an evaluation exercise which tests and validates the performance of crews, pilots, and their technology while deploying precision-guided munitions.

## 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. 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. 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.

### 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.



### Career Technical Training Track Workshop

The next Career Technical Training Track Workshop will be from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 22-23 in the A&FRC. This workshop covers the importance and how to go about obtaining skills required to make better decisions about your technical goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop will be from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 25, in the A&FRC. This monthly venue provides information for relocating members and families. Here you'll learn what to expect before you move from agencies such as Traffic Management Office, Housing, Military Pay, Lodging, Tri-Care, School Liaison Officer and A&FRC. To register or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. Jan. 25, in the A&FRC. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour, or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop is from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 7 in the A&FRC. This program is designed for active duty Air Force members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8 a.m.-noon Feb. 21 in the A&FRC. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area, and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Transition Assistance Program GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) Workshop

This workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 26-March 2, at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The Transition Assistance

Program 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.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

The A&FRC will house the Voting Assistance Office which offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members, and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form. For more information, please contact the Installation Voting Assistance Officer Mr. E.J. Griffis at (662) 434-2792, or his alternate, Mr. James R. Brady, at (662) 434-2701, or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

## Chapel Schedule

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

REVIEW

(Continued from page 7)

opening in 1942.

The BLAZE Commons Coffee House opened for business on May 3. This one of a kind base facility not only offered convenient hours of operation – Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., but it was designed with a drive thru service-window; an option for patrons to call ahead to place an order; and a varied menu of hot and cold beverages, sandwiches, homemade pastries, seasonal soups, desserts and much more. During May 25, Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony, Gosney recognized the contributions of fallen warrior, Capt. Jordan Pierson, a former Columbus AFB Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training student who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

On June 5, Columbus Air Force Base, selected as one of only 45 qualifying cities in the United States, received its 24th annual Tree City USA Award and Growth Award. As part of an Independence Day celebration, on July 1 Columbus AFB joined over 6,000 attendees, at the Stennis Lock and Dam in Columbus, to create a most memorable community fireworks event. Later that month, Team BLAZE welcomed Col. William S. Denham, the new 14th FTW Vice Commander.

Air Education and Training Command announced that two squadrons celebrated their 100th anniversary during 2017: the 48th Flying Training Squadron at Columbus, Mississippi, Aug. 4, 1917; and the 87th Flying Training Squadron at Laughlin, Texas, Aug. 18, 1917. On Aug. 11, during the Base Community Council Luncheon, held at the Columbus Club, Gosney addressed the Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Impact Report. He emphasized that the total economic impact for FY16 was \$260.8 million. An \$11.2 million increase compared to fiscal 2015, which was measured by the economic impact of personnel and payroll, indirect jobs, and annual expenditures.

The Columbus Air Force Base Fire Department organized and hosted 11 events, designed to educate the base and local community on fire prevention and safety during Fire Prevention Week, Sept. 25-30. William O'Meara, Assistant Chief of Health and Safety for fire and emergency services emphasized the importance of the 2017 theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

On Oct. 13, Trey Fontaine, a legislative aide to Mississippi's U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, received a T-6A Texan II orientation flight during his visit to Columbus AFB. On Oct. 20, the base hosted its annual Retiree Appreciation Day events, which included an information fair held at the Columbus Club, retiree appreciation discounts at the Commissary and Exchange and retiree's opportunity to tour the air traffic control tower and to view aircraft static and base history displays.

With the start of Day Light saving time on Nov. 5, came an additional hour of sleep, followed by the Nov. 10, Veterans Day Holiday to include a parade held on Nov. 11 in downtown Columbus.

During the following month, a walking parade, led by Santa, began at Base Operations and ended with a traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on Dec. 5, at the Base Chapel — an event which heralded the end of a long productive year. Meanwhile, other personnel attended Christmas parties, finished administrative requirements and made plans to share their much needed time-off with family and friends. While December denoted another 12 months — passage of

## 14TH Flying Training Wing 2017 Fourth Quarter Events





**Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, talks to students as they wait in line for the Rapid Strike simulator Oct. 3, 2017, during the Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo at the BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Airmen from Columbus AFB represented seven pathways at the expo, including aerospace, communications, engineering, government and public administration, health sciences, logistics and law and public safety. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross)**



**Maggie Wesley, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 8 Commander, hands Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Columbus Vice Mayor Bill Gavin, former Spc. Roy Fuqua and Supervisor Harry Sanders a wreath during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 11, 2017, in Columbus, Mississippi. Members of Columbus AFB and the city of Columbus came together to organize a parade and ceremony to honor veterans. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross)**



**Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, 3rd Air Force Commander from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, speaks at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-03's graduation ceremony Dec. 15, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Clark talked about the three phases of commitment to the Air Force's newest pilots. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)**



**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 the Air Force Community Partnership meeting. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)**



**Ryan Daniel, lead singer of the Ryan Daniel Band, performs for Team BLAZE March 31, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Daniel spent nearly 10 years as a Munitions System Specialist for the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)**

time, let us remember all we have accomplished during 2017, in an endeavor to fulfill the 14th FTW's mission to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight. As the Wing moves forward into the year 2018, here's wishing our Team BLAZE members another most fulfilling and prosperous New Year.

# 2017: A Year in Review

Dr. Doris Crusoe

## 14TH Flying Training Wing 2017 First Quarter Events





**Maj. Gen. Brett Williams, U.S. Air Force retired, speaks to attendees of the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-05's graduation Feb. 10, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Williams thanked those in attendance, including Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, Team BLAZE for the work they do at Columbus AFB, the instructor pilots for their hard work, and the parents for supporting their sons and daughters through SUPT. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Day)**



**Second Lt. Dylan Flynn, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 17-07, and Airman 1st Class Henry Scott, 14th Operations Support Squadron Air Traffic Controller, kick off the 2017 Intramural Basketball Championship between the 14th Student Squadron and RAPCON with a jump ball March 2, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th STUS started strong and finished by defeating RAPCON 51 to 39. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)**



**Retired Lt. Col. Richard "Gene" Smith, former Vietnam POW, speaks with fellow Columbus Air Force Base Wingman Mark Alexander March 14, 2014, at the Memorial Wall on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. March 14 marked the 44th anniversary of Smith's repatriation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin)**



**Senior Airmen Donald Porter, 14th Communications Squadron Knowledge Operation Technician, Zach Sellers, 49th Flying Training Squadron Aviation Resource Manager, and Adrian Johnson, 14th Medical Support Squadron Health Service Management, lower the U.S. Flag during an Airman Leadership School Retreat Ceremony March 16, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. ALS Class 17-3 has gone through five weeks of training in order to transition from senior airman to staff sergeant. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)**



Team BLAZE members can truly celebrate and appreciate the 14th Flying Training Wing's numerous accomplishments experienced throughout 2017.

During the 12-month passage through 2017, the base not only gained new wing, group and squadron level senior leadership, resulting from numerous change of commands, but Columbus lost and gained senior leadership and Airmen, at all levels, due to numerous retirements, separations and change of duty stations. Nonetheless, the 14th FTW successfully met its primary mission requirement to produce military pilots, subsequently training and graduating over 320 new military Air Force pilots as well as 23 international partners, resulting in 57,714 sorties and 76,508.8 flying training hours. Moreover, in 2017, Team BLAZE frequently advanced Airmen, made evident through the numerous promotion and award ceremonies, to include recipients of both individual and unit level awards. The wing continued to "Feed the Fight" as Airmen deployed to support contingency locations overseas and stateside.

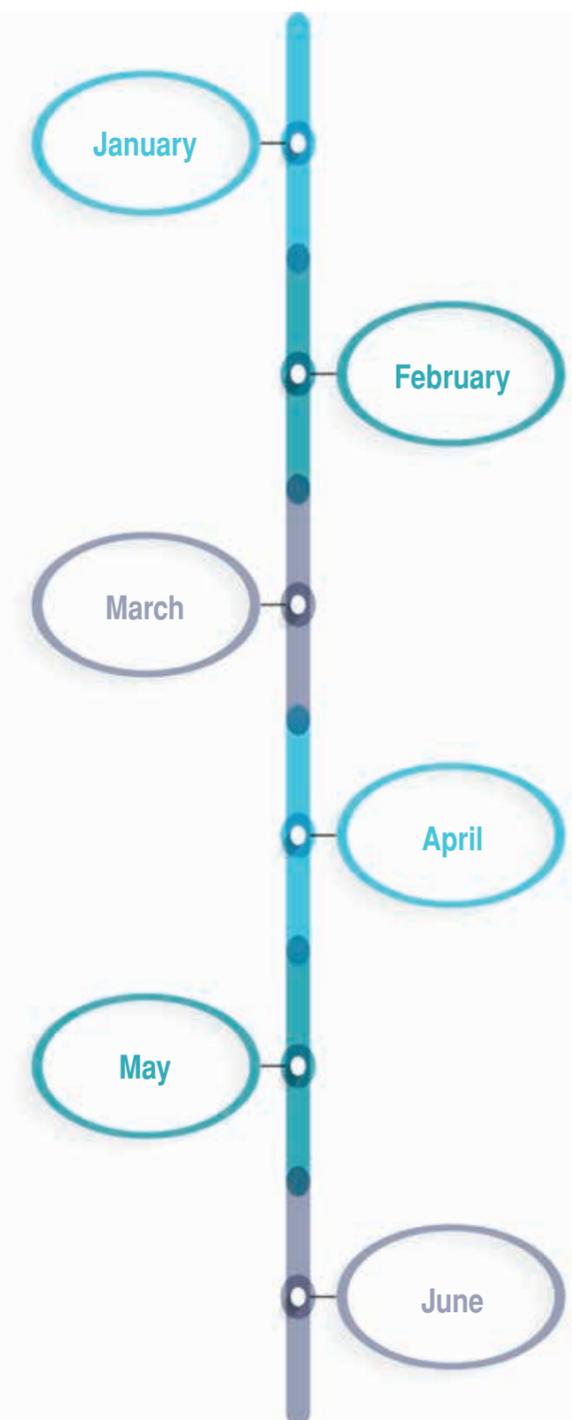
In January, the base received an overall Satisfactory rating for displaying a consistency of performance, as a result of a higher headquarters Unit Effectiveness Inspection. The inspection took place during Jan. 23-30 and the major graded areas included evaluations of the unit's ability to execute its mission, to manage resources, to improve the unit and to lead its personnel. Also, on Jan. 23, Air Education and Training Command celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Noteworthy, Columbus Air Force Base celebrated its 75th birthday. On Feb. 9, 1942, 25 cadets entered advanced training at Columbus and graduated on March 6, 1942.

On March 30, Airmen Leadership School held a graduation ceremony at the Columbus Club for 16 enlisted Airmen, Class 17-3 graduates. Col. Douglas S. Gosney, 14th FTW Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Johnathan V. Hover, 14th FTW Command Chief, joined Dr. Marcia E. Stewart, Program Manager for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response team, after signing the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation on March 31, at Freedom Park on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Later during that day, former, U.S. Air Force Munitions Systems Specialist, turned professional musician and lead singer of the Ryan Daniel Band, performed for Airmen and family members at Columbus Air Force Base during an outdoor concert.

Columbus Air Force Base partnered with the local downtown community on April 1 to celebrate the City of Columbus Mayor's 10th Annual Unity Picnic. The former Commander of Air Education and Training Command, Gen. Robin Rand, Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, spoke during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 17-07, graduation ceremony at Columbus on April 7. Later that month, the base golf course, Whispering Pines, officially closed April 30, after providing 75 years of recreational service to patrons, since its initial

# 2017 In Review



## 14TH Flying Training Wing 2017 Second Quarter Events



Staff Sgt. Derek Mortensen, 14th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog Handler, releases MWD Dito to attack a perpetrator, Senior Airman Zachary Kunkler, 14th SFS MWD Handler, during a demonstration May 16, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The demonstration was in honor of Police Week and raising awareness for the many different jobs that Defenders do in order to keep Air Force bases and assets safe. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)



Airman 1st Class Alan Elkins, 14th Operation Support Squadron Air Traffic Controller, practices a position in the Radar Approach Control room May 31, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The RAPCON is where Air Traffic Controllers direct and coordinate flight paths for aircraft in flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)



The Golden Triangle Leaders tour poses for a photo April 19, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. GTL is an adult leadership program designed to bring the leaders of the Golden Triangle together in order to strengthen the bond and development between all three regions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra)

Team BLAZE members attend the 2017 Mississippi State University versus Auburn University Military Appreciation Day Baseball Game April 29, 2017, in Starkville, Mississippi. The volunteers assisted other service members in holding the flag for the ceremonial first pitches and the playing of the national anthem. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)



## 14TH Flying Training Wing 2017 Third Quarter Events



Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, is shown the airfield from the perspective of the radar control room July 11, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Radar Approach Control room is where Air Traffic Controllers direct and coordinate flight paths for aircraft in flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)



Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, listens to Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group Commander, as they talk about the perimeter July 17, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. There were a few choice areas that Sansano pointed out to Denham where security forces would like to provide extra security to accommodate additional activities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)

Participants throw a flurry of powder in the air after the 5th annual Color Run July 8, 2017, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Color Run had two routes, a 5-kilometer run and a 2-mile route. The Red Cross provided water, Gatorade and fruits after the race. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)



Three A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft depart from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Sept. 13, 2017. Twenty-one A-10s from Moody AFB, Georgia, evacuated to Columbus AFB as Hurricane Irma approached mainland U.S. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)



Airman Michael Cargile, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, uses a shovel to take coals from a fire and place them in a barbecue pit Sept. 29, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Columbus AFB Fire Department hosted a s'mores roast and played an informational video for families during Fire Prevention Week Sept. 25-30. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert)

Four runners from Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, train on Columbus AFB Aug. 4, 2017, for the Air Force Marathon. The Air Force Marathon will be Sept. 16, 2017, on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb)



# 2017 In Review

