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Vol. 42, Issue 8

March 2, 2018

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### Weather

<b>Friday</b> Foggy High 62°F Low 43°F	<b>Saturday</b> Sunny High 65°F Low 35°F
<b>Sunday</b> Sunny High 67°F Low 38°F	<b>Monday</b> Rain High 64°F Low 47°F

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

### News Briefs

#### Enlisted Dorm Dinner

A Dorm Dinner for enlisted Airmen living in the dorms is scheduled for 5 p.m., March 2 at the Montgomery Village.

#### Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 6, at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel.

#### SUPT Class 18-06 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-06 graduates 10 a.m. March 9, at the Kaye Auditorium.

### Inside

#### Feature 8

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron is highlighted in this week's feature.




Courtesy Photo  
U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, and Air Education and Training Command pilots, maintainers and flight surgeons, plus NASA personnel gather for a photograph during the command's collection and analysis of operational flight test data at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The T-6 operational pause which began Feb. 1 was lifted Feb. 27. Following the incidents, a team including experts from the Air Force, Navy, NASA, and medical specialties, came together to aggressively capture and analyze data from the pilots who had experienced physiological events and the aircraft.

## T-6 operational pause lifted today

### Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, has ordered an end to the operational pause of the T-6 Texan II fleet, with flying operations resuming Feb. 27 following the collection and analysis of operational flight test data.

The pause was the result of multiple unexplained physiological events experienced by AETC pilots at several bases during the last two weeks of January. The incidents were different from classic hypoxia, which is caused by oxygen deprivation.

“The operational pause was required to provide a robust and intrusive look at every component on every aircraft connected to or critical to the On-Board Oxygen Generating System,” said Doherty. “Our intent was to ensure aircrew awareness of UPEs, as well as newly-required aerospace physiology training, checklist procedures, and flight equipment modifications that ensure

See T-6, Page 3

# Cooper's Closet

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### 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 (18-15)	-4.51 days	-2.38 days	Mar. 30	48th (18-06)	-1.75 days	2.19 days	Mar. 9	49th (18-EBC)	-0.34 days	2.13 days	Mar. 7	T-6	2,500	62	10,297
41st (10-01)	-5.41 days	-2.57 days	Apr. 23	50th (18-06)	0.76 days	-1.60 days	Mar. 9					T-1	867	752	3,428
												T-38	952	901	4,777
												IFF	338	380	1,815

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.  
Retired Col. Caryle "Smitty" Harris, former Vietnam Prisoner of War, is the guest speaker for the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-06 graduation at 10 a.m. March 9 in the Kaye Auditorium.

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

# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 18 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



## Prayer Breakfast



Retired Maj. Gen., Cecil Richardson, former Air Force Chief of Chaplains will lead the National Prayer Breakfast week. He will be spending time at 6 separate events throughout the base.

**March 5:** 7:30 a.m. 14th Medical Group-clinic  
**March 5:** 9 a.m. Phillips Auditorium  
**March 6:** 7:30 a.m. 14th Security Forces Squadron-mobility warehouse  
**March 6:** 9 a.m. Wing Staff-HQ Lobby  
**March 6:** 10 a.m. 14th Mission Support Group-lobby  
**March 7:** 7:30 a.m. 14th Civil Engineer-Fire Station

## Hunt Housing tip of the week



Lately there has been issues with parking in front of the bus stops. Please remember that it is prohibited to park in front of the bus stop areas. Failure to do so will result in notifying Security Forces.

## Marriage Monday



Marriage Monday Kick-off Dinner will be held from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. March 5 at the chapel. Free dinner will be provided for couples along with short marriage tune-ups provided by the chaplain, Mental Health, Family Advocacy, and the MFLC. Children are welcome. For more information or to sign up please contact 14ftw.hc@us.af.mil

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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## NEWS AROUND TOWN

**March 2-3**  
 Cabela's Crappie USA 2018 Tournament Trail runs through Columbus as anglers compete for cash and prizes! Anglers may fish Aberdeen, Columbus, and Aliceville Lakes on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway on Saturday, March 3, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weigh-in takes place at the Columbus East Boat Ramp on Wilkins-Wise Rd. Those not in line by 4 p.m. will be disqualified. Late sign-in is Friday, March 2, 5-7 p.m., at the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau Office, 117 3rd St. S.

**March 10**  
 Celebrate the 8th Annual Golden Triangle Music Awards 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. March 10, at the Charity Mission Full Gospel Baptist Church. Honoring Gospel Artists, producers, pastors, ministry leaders, etc. throughout the Golden Triangle area, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The entrance fee is \$10 and are non-refundable.

## 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.

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12	13	14	15	16	17/18 17th: CGOC Beer Garden	Mar. 26: Happy Irby Golf Tournament  Mar. 27: Wing New-comers  Mar. 30: Enlisted Promotions  Apr. 5-14: Columbus Pilgrimage

### 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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Guor Maker, a trainee at basic military training, supports a wingman taking a physical fitness test Jan. 30, 2018 at the 324th Training Squadron's physical training pad at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker was selected as a physical training leader for his time at BMT, his duties include leading the flight during warm-ups and providing support for struggling trainees.



Guor Maker, a trainee at Air Force Basic Military Training, stands in formation at the Coin Ceremony Feb. 1, 2018 outside the Pfingston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. During the BMT Coin Ceremony trainees are given "Airman's Coins" signifying the final transition from trainee to Airman.

## AIRMAN

(Continued from page 13)

"All of the people in South Sudan knew where I was from," said Maker. "I wanted to be the inspiration for the children to say, 'Hey, if Maker can do it, you know what, I can do it too.'"

After the 2012 Olympics, Maker was undeterred and set a new goal for himself and his country.

"I said to myself, 'In 2016, I'm going to bring South Sudan to the Olympics for the first time,'" said Maker. "I wanted to try to do more for my country and the 2012 Olympics only strengthened my conviction to accomplish my goal."

This time around Maker's dream became a reality in Rio de Janeiro 2016 when he became one of three athletes to be the first to represent South Sudan in an Olympic games, as well as South Sudan's flag bearer for the opening ceremony.

"Walking into that stadium, carrying the South Sudan flag was just indescribable," said Maker. "The people of South Sudan were in my mind the whole time I was running into the stadium with that flag and it meant so much to me."

While it was a truly incredible and improbable moment for Maker, his thoughts were filled with the people of his home country while he was running with that flag.

"Over 50 years of civil war and my country finally got independence," said Maker. "So many lives were lost for our freedom, it was just ringing in my head that we have done it, we have done it. On that day, everyone in South Sudan was at peace watching the Olympics for the first time."

The 2016 Olympics were an enormous accomplishment for the former slave and South Sudan native that went far beyond his 82nd overall finish.

"I couldn't have accomplished any of it without all the

*"I said to myself, 'In 2016, I'm going to bring South Sudan to the Olympics for the first time,'" said Maker. "I wanted to try to do more for my country and the 2012 Olympics only strengthened my conviction to accomplish my goal."*

support I received from my family and the opportunity the United States gave me. It's the highlight of my athletic career so far and a moment I'll treasure forever."

## Serving

The next chapter in Maker's life began when he decided to join the U.S. Air Force to serve the country that gave him so many opportunities.

"All of the things I've accomplished have derived from the opportunities the U.S. has afforded me," said Maker. "When I first came to America, I didn't have hardly anything, but with the support and opportunity this country has given me, I've been able to completely change my life."

The staff at basic military training had no idea who Maker was, but he quickly stood out to leadership at the 324th Training Squadron.

"I went out to the track and saw the instructors were putting their attention on one trainee in particular," said Maj. John Lippolis, director of operations for the 324th TRS. "I could see him running noticeably faster than everyone else and the instructors explained to me that we had a two-time Olympian at BMT."

In addition to Maker's Olympian status, his unique personal story also stood out Lippolis.

"I was just absolutely floored when I talked to him about what he went through to get to where he is today," said Lippolis. "Not only did he get survive, he wanted to better himself and he has accomplished so much. He has an amazing story and the drive he has displayed to succeed like that in the face of such adversity is truly inspiring."

Maker not only inspired Lippolis, but other members of his flight were inspired too.

"All of his wingmen said the same things when I talked to them," said Lippolis. "They told me what an inspiration he was within the flight; that the flight rallied around him and he doesn't do anything he's supposed to do for himself until he helps out everybody else."

While Maker has accomplished a great deal in his lifetime, he's not done dreaming.

Maker hopes to join the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, a program designed to allow elite athletes the opportunity to train and compete in national events to make the Olympics. He also wants to make the 2020 Olympics where he'll have the opportunity to represent his new home and the country that gave him so much.

"Joining the greatest Air Force in the world has been an absolute miracle," said Maker. "I can't wait to see what this next chapter holds for me."

## T-6

(Continued from page 1)

aircrew safety."

Following the incidents, Doherty assembled a team including experts from the Air Force, Navy, NASA, and medical specialties, to aggressively capture and analyze data from the pilots who had experienced physiological events and the aircraft. Collaboration with Navy officials allowed 19th Air Force officials to gain insights and lessons learned from similar events in the T-45 Goshawk.

"The team was tasked with identifying the root causes and driving solutions toward protecting the aircrew," said Doherty. "After listening to pilots, maintainers, engineers and flight surgeons, it became apparent the T-6 fleet was exhibiting symptoms indicative of a compromise of the integrity of the OBOGS, leading to degradations in performance, which then likely led to the pilots' physiological events."

"As tests, inspections, and data were gathered, component failures or degradations were identified as affecting the topline performance of OBOGS oxygen pressure, flow, and content, resulting in various disruptions that negatively impacted the human-machine interface," said Doherty. "Further investigation by engineers and flight surgeons is needed, but the speed at which professionals descended on this challenge to share their expertise and solutions was phenomenal."

The engineers will continue studying the data and running further tests for final root cause diagnosis for greater insights and applications for future aircraft designs.

"With 30 years of flying experience, looking at all of the facts and listening to our experts, these particular types of T-6 UPEs aren't unexplained anymore in my mind," Doherty said. "We have zeroed in on a handful of components that are degrading or failing to perform and needed to be replaced or repaired more often than the Air Force anticipated when they bought the aircraft."

With the new, reoccurring inspections focusing on OBOGS components, 19th Air Force officials hope to drive down the number of physiological events in the future.

"I'm very confident the team has reset T-6 OBOGS system back to peak performance for our pilots," said Doherty.

"Proactive maintenance mitigation practices and inspections based on flight hours, have been created and are being accomplished on a much more aggressive timeline to ensure high performance of the OBOGS," said Doherty. "The scientists, engineers, and flight surgeons will continue to investigate the UPEs, and will also review the original acquisition and sustainment strategies developed when the aircraft was bought about 20 years ago."

Doherty also reported that the cadre of more than 40 pilots who participated in the flight tests have a reinvigorated confidence in the reset of the OBOGS system after personally seeing all the data and experiencing the flights.

Instructor pilots will be the first to return to flying to re-



OVER LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A T-6A Texan II pilot flies in formation with another T-6A here May 19. The Texan II is replacing the T-37 Tweet as the primary trainer for Air Force pilots.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

*"With 30 years of flying experience, looking at all of the facts and listening to our experts, these particular types of T-6 UPEs aren't unexplained anymore in my mind," Doherty said.*

gain currencies, followed by students, who will go back to flying by the end of the week. This will start with warmup sorties to regain currencies before going forward with sorties required by the syllabus.

"The T-6 has been an incredible workhorse for the Air Force and has safely flown more than two million flight hours, but the aircraft is about a third of the way through its lifecycle

and we need to institutionally arm our phenomenal aircraft maintenance professionals—the best in the world—with wise maintenance and sustainment strategies and policies that ensure continued safe flying operations for our aircrew in the future," said Doherty. "I have been able to visit each pilot training base in the last two weeks and after looking each one of them in the eye, I know without a doubt that the T-6 nation is fired up and ready to get back in the air!"

*Editor's Note: Gen. Doherty would like to individually thank several people "whose leadership and incredible team effort helped the T-6 nation return to flying so quickly." The list of thank yous goes out to Lt. Gen. Steve Kwast, AETC commander; Gen. Ellen Paulikowski, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, and her team lead Maj. Gen. Glenn Davis; Lt. Gen. Arnold Bunch and his acquisition professionals; Col. Travis Willis, Col. Brian Beers, Senior Master Sgt. Austin, our wing leaders and maintenance experts, Col. Lee Gentile, Col. Tony Waldrop and Lt. Col. Derrick Leggio, operational flight test managers; our Navy counterparts, and Dr. Dave Alexander, NASA's flight surgeon, and his lab teammates from the Johnson Space Center in Houston.*

## Civilian Attorney of the Year

Congratulations Will Cunningham, 14th Wing Staff Agency civilian attorney for being recognized as the 19 AF Civilian Attorney of the Year!

## 2017 AETC Chaplain Team of the Year Award

Congratulations to the 14th Flying Training Wing chaplain team on winning the 2017 AETC Chaplain Team of the Year Award (Medium Chapel Team Category)!  
Terrance P. Finnegan Award (Medium Chapel Team): 14th FTW Chapel

# Columbus AFB tells children they are 'Too Good for Drugs'

**Airman 1st Class  
Beaux Hebert**

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Children from West Lowndes and Columbus High Schools participated in a Too Good for Drugs program Feb. 23 here to promote a healthier lifestyle.

Airmen from the base volunteered to help organize and manage activities which focused on children staying healthy and making smart decisions for their future.

"We are incorporating military culture with a Too Good for Drugs program which is handled out of the community counseling service office in Columbus," said Chaplain (Capt.) Tara Dixon, 14th Operations Group chaplain. "We wanted to give the children a chance to learn about the Air Force culture while enforcing healthy decisions and positive behavior."

Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group commander, welcomed the children to the base and talked to them about the importance of healthy living and smart decisions. The group then observed a Military Working Dog demonstration. Tech. Sgt. Karl Stefanowicz, 14th Security Forces Squadron kennel master, followed Sansano by narrating the actions of MWD Dito. The children watched as the dog chased, tackled and wrestled Senior Airman Raymond Dwonznik, 14th SFS MWD handler, to the ground and with one stern command returned to his master, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Juarez Andrade, also a 14th SFS MWD handler.

After the MWD demonstration, the children were then separated into five groups and formed up in a military-like formation. Staff Sgt. Mariel Constantino Rodriguez called out a few warm up exercises in a military-training instructor fashion.

Next the team leaders led their groups to one of five stations; the first station had two parts, the first was a strength exercise where three or more children flipped a heavy tire



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

**West Lowndes and Columbus High School students do push-ups Feb. 23, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The students are enrolled in a Too Good for Drugs program, which promotes healthy living and smart life choices.**

a few times. The next part involved the children running through a series of tires, place each step through each tire to better their agility.

The second station was the self-aid buddy care station.

This station demonstrated what to do if the children need to help an injured friend. They took turns learning how to do a two-man carry

and a single-man carry.

The third station focused on self-defense and involved the children defending themselves against the simulated assailant Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Chargualaf, 14th SFS installation patrolman. The children were given a cushioned baton and had to make Chargualaf, who was outfitted in a red man

suit for safety, comply with their demands. While they were fighting Chargualaf, Tech Sgt. Miguel Stewart, 14th SFS NCO in charge of training, asked random questions such as their birthday, what they had for breakfast, their favorite sports team and so on. Stewart explained that the children have to be

focused and calm in order to safely defend themselves.

The fourth station focused mainly on calisthenics. Two instructors showed the children how to correctly do push-ups, squats, various stretches and more.

The final station was another strength building station that involved body armor and sand bags. The children put the vests on and grabbed a sand bag and ran about 150 yards. Once they returned to the station, they did squats and lifts using the sand bags like medicine balls.

"I think the purpose of the obstacles was to challenge the children and see how they react under pressure," said Airman 1st Class Joseph Van Dyke, 14th SFS installation patrolman. "This program not only helps the children stay healthy but improves the relation between the local community and our base."

After the final station, the children were taken to the 14th Flying Training Wing Chapel where lunch was provided.

Dixon said that this program is great because it shows the children that a little structured discipline will help them make smart life decisions and it allows them to see firsthand what Team BLAZE is all about.



**Two students from West Lowndes High School participate in a self-aid buddy care demonstration Feb. 23, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The students completed an obstacle course consisting of five different stations which taught them different ways to stay healthy or safe.**



**Staff Sgt. Jimmy Juarez Andrade, 14th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, commands MWD Dito to attack Senior Airman Raymond Dwonznik, 14th SFS MWD handler, during a demonstration Feb. 23, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Children from West Lowndes and Columbus High Schools started the day with a MWD demonstration before completing a Too Good for Drugs obstacle course.**

# Former slave, two-time Olympian becomes an Airman

**Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker**  
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — After enduring countless hardships and overcoming unimaginable obstacles, Airman 1st Class Guor Maker, a dental assistant currently in technical training, found his way out of war-torn South Sudan, Africa and into the U.S. nearly 20 years ago.

## Surviving

As one of roughly 20,000 children uprooted by the gruesome Second Sudanese Civil War, Maker's childhood was far from normal. After losing 28 family members, including eight of his nine siblings, 8-year-old Maker set out on foot from South Sudan to live with his uncle.

"The country I came from was torn apart by war," said Maker. "It was all I knew growing up, nothing else. I've seen people die in front of me, but I knew no matter what, I had to make it."

During his harrowing journey, Maker was captured and enslaved twice: once by Sudanese soldiers, and once by herdsmen.

"When I was captured, I was forced to be a slave laborer," said Maker. "I would wash dishes or do anything else needed to get by. I slept in a small cell and rarely got to eat... but not always."

Both times, Maker successfully escaped from enslavement and was finally able to join his uncle in Khartoum after three perilous years. However, his journey to safety was far from over.

During a nighttime attack on the perceived safety of his uncle's home, Maker sustained serious injuries when he was beaten unconscious by a soldier who smashed his jaw with a rifle.

"My mouth was shut for two months and I could only consume liquids because my jaw was broken," he said. "We fled to Egypt after that, and the United Nations treated my injuries."

After two years of filling out paperwork at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Egypt, Maker and his uncle's family were finally granted permission to enter the United States.

"I was very excited to come to the U.S.," said Maker. "Looking back at everything my family and I endured, it is a miracle that we made it out of there."

## Dreaming

When Maker first arrived in the U.S. in



**Guor Maker, a trainee at basic military training, receives an "Airman's Coin" at the Coin Ceremony Feb. 1, 2018 outside the Pfingston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker was recognized by his wingmen as a selfless leader and motivator during his time at BMT.**

*"I wanted to change my life, help my parents back in South Sudan, and give my future children a better childhood than the one I had," he said. "And the only way to do that was through education and determination."*

2001, he settled in Concord, New Hampshire. Not only did he want to survive, but he wanted to thrive.

"I wanted to change my life, help my parents back in South Sudan, and give my future children a better childhood than the one I had," he said. "And the only way to do that was through education and determination." Maker started with the basics and began learning English by watching children's cartoons and spending plenty of time with other high school kids just listening to their conversations and absorbing all that he could.

"Within a short amount of time, I was able to communicate with effectively with other students and teachers, order food, and really get by on my own," Maker said.

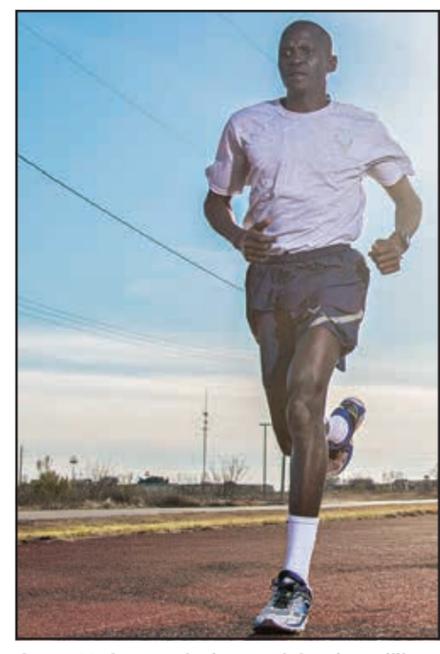
While learning English was a crucial step on his personal journey, Maker's high school career really took off when one of his teachers introduced him to running.

"Running was always just natural and easy for me," said Maker. "It was a great high school experience and it helped me meet a lot of friends, build confidence and it was genuinely fun."

After winning the National High School indoor two-mile title, Maker received a scholarship to compete at Iowa State University, where he allowed himself to dream of things that had never been done before.

"When I got to college in 2005, I remember hanging a piece of paper on my wall that said I was going to run in the Olympics in 2012 for South Sudan," said Maker. "I thought 'Why not me? Why can't I do it?'"

Maker graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and reached All-American status as a student athlete. Ready to start his new life. Maker planned to head to Flagstaff, Arizona to train for the 2012 Olympics. The same day he left for Arizona in 2011



**Guor Maker, a trainee at basic military training, completes the one and a half mile run portion of the Air Force physical fitness test Jan. 30, 2018 at the 324th Training Squadron's physical training pad at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker finished his run with a time of 7 minutes 31 seconds, earning the top fitness score for males in his graduating class.**

was the day South Sudan officially gained its independence.

"I drove the whole way celebrating and it was a very special day that I will always remember," said Maker.

Following his year of training, Maker qualified to run the marathon in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Even though South Sudan officially gained its independence, the country was not yet a member of the International Olympic Committee and Maker was still not an official U.S. citizen.

"State senators from New Hampshire and Arizona presented my case to the Senate in Washington D.C. so the International Olympic Committee allowed me to run in the Olympics without a country," said Maker.

Even though his dream of running for South Sudan had not yet come true, Maker accomplished a great deal as an unaffiliated Olympian.

**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.

**Lunch Buffets at the Overrun**

Buffets are back! Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday thru Friday at the Columbus Club. Daily buffets include: Tuesday-taco and nacho \$9, Wednesday-chicken wings and pasta \$11, Thursday-southern style \$11 and Friday-fried catfish \$11. Club members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**BLAZE Teen Book Club**

Stop by the Base Library and pick up "The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes" by Marlane Kennedy. Book discussion will be held at 4 p.m. March 21. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Wine and Cheese Tasting**

The Columbus Club is offering a wine and cheese tasting at 7 p.m. Mar.16. Non-alcoholic fruit cocktails will be available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Baseball, Tee Ball and Girls Softball Registration**

Registration begins Feb. 26 for youth 3-18 years of age. The cost is \$35 for ages 3-4 years and \$40 for ages 5-18 years. Register by March 2 and save \$5 per registration. Volunteer coaches needed. Sports physical required. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Tennis Registration**

Registration begins Feb. 26 for youth 8-18 years of age. The cost is \$40 per participant. Register by March 2 and save \$5 per registration. Volunteer coaches needed. Sports physical required. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration**

Celebrate Dr. Seuss with the Base Library! Create Dr. Seuss crafts and read his books from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 2 and 8 a.m.-noon. March 3. Bring your family and friends and watch "The Lorax" movie at 10 a.m. March 3. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**Free Breakfast for Club Members**

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

**Youth Center Open Recreation**

The Youth Center's open recreation area will be open from 1-6 p.m. March 12-16. The following open recreation trips will be offered: March 13 at Skate Zone, March 14 at Malco Columbus Cinema and March 15 at Applebee's. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Youth Center Spring Break Camp**

The Youth Center is offering Spring Break Camp from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. March 12-16 for grades kindergarten-sixth grade. Fees are based on annual family income. Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, fitness, S.T.E.M., cooking and more. Current immunization records required. Register at the Youth Center no later than March 7. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**St. Patrick's Day 5K Fitness Run**

The Fitness Center is offering a St. Patrick's Day 5K run at

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU DR. SEUSS!**

**Celebrate Dr. Seuss with the Base Library!**

- Friday, Mar 2 from 10 am - 5 pm  
Create Dr. Seuss Crafts and Read Dr. Seuss Books
- Saturday, Mar 3 from 8 am - 12 pm  
Create Dr. Seuss Crafts and Read Dr. Seuss Books
- Saturday, Mar 3 at 10 am  
Free Movie "The Lorax"

For more information, contact 434-2934

7 a.m. March 16. Free hats to participants while supplies last. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Wine and Cheese Tasting**

Look, swirl, taste. The Columbus Club is offering a wine and cheese tasting at 7 p.m. March 16. Non-alcoholic fruit cocktails will be available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**Kick Butts Health Fair**

Stand up, speak out and seize control of tobacco. Stop by the Youth Center from 4-5 p.m. March 21 and learn more about tobacco cessation. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**March Madness Luchtime three-on-three Basketball Tournament**

Are you ready to shoot some hoops? Sign up by March 22 at the Fitness Center for a lunchtime three-on-three basketball tournament. The tournament begins at 1 p.m. on March 26. Games will be played in the Fitness Center gymnasium. For more information, contact 434-2772.

**Spring Fling and Egg Hunt**

The 14th Force Support Squadron is offering a Spring Fling and Egg Hunt from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 24 at the Café at Whispering Pines. Activities include egg hunt, dessert contest, spoon races, sack races, petting zoo, bouncy houses, create a craft tent, music by a DJ and much more. For more information, contact 434-2504.

**Game Night at the Library**

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

**The Overrun Open Friday Nights**

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

**Breakfast Club**  
Start your morning at the Overrun

**Tuesday, Mar 6**  
6:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Free for Club Members  
\$8 for Non-Members

Become a Member of the Columbus Club & Save  
For More Information 434-2489

**Horse Boarding Available**

The Columbus Air Force Base Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 434-2505.

**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.

**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.

**Professional Organization Corner**

**Company Grade Officers Council**

The council — second and first lieutenants, and captains — promotes the development of CGOs throughout the 14th Flying Training Wing. They maintain an informational network to enhance the professional development and officer camaraderie throughout the wing.

Meets first Friday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

**President:** 1st Lt. Brittney Alonzo; **Vice President:** 1st Lt. John Morrow

**Air Force Sergeants Association**

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) is an association dedicated to representing enlisted men and women and their families. AFSA fights for more that benefits and pay, they have a by-name seat at the influential tables in both the Congress and the Pentagon to help shape the tough policy decisions affecting the enlisted corps today.

Meets 3rd Thursday of the month at noon at the Columbus Club

**President:** Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Ryan; **Vice President:** Master Sgt. Brent Shields

**BLAZE Top 3**

The Top 3 establishes and maintains a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all senior NCOs, encourage an attitude of unified purpose and set an example for all enlisted

personnel according to the standards, traditions and customs of the Air Force.

Meets the third Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at the Columbus Club.

**President:** Master Sgt. Joshua Matias; **Vice President:** Master Sgt. Demetri Harper

**BLAZE 5/6**

The 5/6 represent motivated staff and technical sergeants. They provide an opportunity to meet Airmen, and to network with peers. The organization mentors junior enlisted, assist other private organizations, and are heavily involved with community relations.

Meets the last Wednesday of every month at noon at the Columbus Club

**President:** Staff Sgt. Nabila Ivaldi; **Vice President:** Tech. Sgt. Crayton Felder

**First Four**

The Airman's Activity Council functions as a social and professional organization established to enhance morale, esprit de corps, and cooperation between members from the E1-E4. This is accomplished through fundraisers, on and off base, volunteer opportunities, and events or trips for those eligible to become members.

Meets the last Thursday of every month at noon at the Montgomery Village

**President:** Airman 1st Class Kiara Rodriguez; **Vice President:** Senior Airman Brittani Amavizca-Waddington

**The Airman's Creed**

I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior.  
I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage.  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman.  
Guardian of freedom and justice,  
My nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.

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

**Precision Exotics at Wings Over Columbus**

**1st Lt. Jason Cryder**  
41st Flying Training Squadron

The Precision Exotics team will be at the Wings Over Columbus, Mississippi, Air and Space Show to showcase their lineup of high end exotic sports cars. They will be offering their "Precision Extreme Drive" experience to all patrons 18 and over, where you will get the opportunity to push the limits of driving a high end exotic car.

The name says it all, the ride will be "extreme", says the Precision Exotics team.

Their extreme drive experience allows one to feel the pure euphoria that comes with driving your dream car on the open road. With the drive, you can experience what it's like to push a super car past the 160mph barrier.

This experience will be a positive assault on your senses as you take the wheel and push the speed to the edge of the envelope, said the team. In this experience, you'll sign in, choose your rocket sled and one of their professional instructors will strap in next to you, coaching you along the entire way.

This will be performed on our very own 12,000

**COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, MS**  
**Presents**  
**Wings Over Columbus**  
**Open House & Air & Space Show**

**April 21-22, 2018**  
**Featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds**

For more information and event details go to [www.wingsovercolumbus.net](http://www.wingsovercolumbus.net)

U.S. Air Force graphic designed by 14th Flying Training Wing Multimedia. Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi Wings Over Columbus Open House Air Show scheduled to be held April 21-22, 2018, vintage poster design.

FT Runway where you will have plenty of room to really stretch the legs of the car of your choice. Precision Exotics will also be more than willing to strap you into the passenger seat and let one of their professional drivers show you the true power and

handling of these amazing man made machines.

Please join us April 21-22, as Precision Exotics showcases their sports cars for the community to see and experience at Wings Over Columbus 2018 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

**Buckle up!**  
**It's the law.**

# 2017 WIT of the Year

Congratulations to the WIT of the Year for 2017. The Wing Inspection Team is had a competitive group of Airmen, but were narrowed down to the top 10% for our annual Superior Performer Awards:

- Capt. Christopher Higginbotham—14th Student Squadron
- Capt. Thomas Witter—14th Medical Operations Squadron
- Maj. Connie Burnett—14th MDOS
- Staff Sgt. Viviana Chalfonte—14th MDOS
- Tim Abbey—14th Wing Staff Agency
- Staff Sgt. Holly Sivard—14th WSA
- Capt. Alisha Foster—14th WSA
- Jim Cross—14th Contingency Support Directorate
- Gary Crosson—14th Civil Engineer Flight
- Master Sgt. Jeffrey McCreary—14 Security Forces Squadron



## Airman on the Street:

# Who is your favorite inspirational woman?



**Rank/Name:** Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver  
**Unit/Duty Title:** 14th Medical Group superintendent  
**Hometown:** Newark, Ohio  
**Answer:** My mom is inspirational to me because she is resilient, stays positive and has always wanted a better life for her family.



**Rank/Name:** Maj. Randi Ludington  
**Unit/Duty Title:** 14th Comptroller Squadron commander  
**Hometown:** Murphy, North Carolina  
**Answer:** Ellen DeGeneres is my favorite inspirational woman because she believes that kindness is key and respects every one.

# 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.



# Tax Center Hours

The Columbus Air Force Base Tax Center will be open Feb. 13-April 6 in building 926 to prepare taxes for retirees, active-duty military, and their dependents. Hours are from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

The following are issues that fall outside of the scope of our tax center:

- Net operating loss (current year or carryforward)
- Self-employment income not shown on Form 1099
- Self-employment expenses in the form of payments to employees/independent contractors
- Home office expenses
- Airbnb income
- Extensive investment income
- Health savings accounts
- Returns for 2016 or amended returns

To schedule an appointment, please call the Columbus AFB legal office at Comm. 662-434-7030.



78<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Columbus, Mississippi  
April 5 - 14  
**SPRING PILGRIMAGE**

Please join us for cake and coffee as we register to host these lovely homes exclusively for Columbus Air Force Base Volunteers. The coffee will take place Friday morning, February 23, 10 am - 12 pm at the Visit Columbus office located at 117 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South. We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to Claudia Denham. claudiamargaret@gmail.com

Visit COLUMBUS MISSISSIPPI  
The Columbus Legends Commission and Veterans Bureau

## 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 Briefing

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.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8:30 a.m.-noon. May 23, 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.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. March 22, 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.

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

This workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. April 2-6, 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.

### Career Technical Training Track Workshop

The next Career Technical Training Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 5-6 in the A&FRC. This workshop covers the importance

## Assignment night: Columbus AFB Tradition



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Second Lt. Charles Loadholt and 2nd Lt. Austin Gregory, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students speak at an assignment night Feb. 23, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Assignment nights are full of traditions and heritage, from the drinking mugs given to the students who will graduate soon to the experience of finding out the airframe.**

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.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief is from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. March 6 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 next Military Life Cycle is from 1-2 p.m. March 6. VA contractors 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 or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. March 7, This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

### Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop is from 10-11 a.m. March 13, 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 (TMO), 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.

### Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. May 17, 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 four-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.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 10-11. 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.

### Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is from 2-5 p.m. May. 14-15. This workshop will teach you how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and more information, please call 434-2790.

## Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This program provides military families and DOD civilian member's individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

## Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is now available. It can be found on the Military Installations homepage militaryinstallations.dod.mil, under "Are You A Sponsor?" For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

## Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has 12 computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications, and companies' employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs, and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## 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)

## Eccumenical 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 preparation is vital today

2nd Lt. Riley Quinlan

14th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight Commander

For me, as with most people, it was my coaches, teachers and parents that played a pivotal role in shaping my values. As a kid playing sports I remember one of my coaches repeating the age old adage “practice makes permanent” while we painstakingly rehearsed the ins and outs of his various defensive and offensive tactical schemes. It was one of those moments where I would think back to the memory years down the road and reflect on just how substantial it was in forming myself.

Aside from letting me reminisce in the glory days, this memory helped me cultivate a ‘practice like you play’ mentality in all facets of life. Today, the Air Force is asking us to become more ready. Our adversaries are demanding that we fight and execute at a higher level of competency. It is because of this demand that we must strive to increase our wartime readiness in every aspect of our professions. Whether it be unit specific combat skills, CBRN, weapons qualifications, or other pre-deployment training, it is all aimed toward one thing; a mindset shift. According to Department of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, it is this mindset shift that is required of us in the profession of arms to create a culture of increased readiness and flex the proverbial muscles that have “strategically atrophied” in our military over the past seven years.

The Fiscal Year 2018 budget that will likely pass calls for \$700 Billion for military; a 10% increase from last year. Rather than drastically increasing the numbers of military personnel, the focus is instead on the existing

**AIR FORCE PRIORITIES**

- RESTORE READINESS**  
...to win any fight, any time
- COST-EFFECTIVELY MODERNIZE**  
...to increase the lethality of the force
- DRIVE INNOVATION**  
...to secure our future
- DEVELOP EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS**  
...to lead the world's most powerful teams
- STRENGTHEN OUR ALLIANCES**  
...because we are stronger together

Courtesy graphic

**Air Force priorities graphic.**

work force and obtaining new aircraft. For us, this is another sign leadership is investing in current personnel and it would benefit all involved to increase overall war-fighting skills.

Ultimately, this shift will decrease the “Just in Time” training burden that is involved in every pre-deployment

checklist and improve the overall product that we collectively send down range. The Expeditionary Readiness Program, as it is termed, is designed to ensure our force is readier than ever to meet the growing demand worldwide. When tagged to increase our readiness, let’s do it justice and be “all in”.

## Visit us online!



Web page:  
[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)



Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusAFB)



Twitter:  
[www.twitter.com/Columbus\\_AFB](http://www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB)

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: MQ-1B Predator

**Mission**

The MQ-1B Predator is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets. Predators can also perform the following missions and tasks: intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-lase, convoy/raid overwatch, route clearance, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-1’s capabilities make it uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in support of combatant commander objectives.

**Background**

The Predator system was designed in response to a Department of Defense requirement to provide to the warfighter persistent intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance in-

formation combined with a kill capability.

In April 1996, the secretary of defense selected the U.S. Air Force as the operating service for the RQ-1 Predator system. The “R” is the Department of Defense designation for reconnaissance aircraft. The “M” is the DOD designation for multi-role, and “Q” means remotely piloted aircraft system. The “1” refers to the aircraft being the first of the series of remotely piloted aircraft systems.

A change in designation from “RQ-1” to “MQ-1” occurred in 2002 with the addition of the AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, enabling reaction against intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, close air support, and interdiction targets.

The Predator remotely piloted aircraft system continues to provide required armed intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities to overseas contingency operations warfighters. In August 2011, the Predator surpassed one million hours of total development, test, training, and combat — a significant accomplishment for the U.S. Air Force.

**General Characteristics**

**Primary Function:** Armed reconnaissance, airborne surveillance, and target acquisition

- Contractor:** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.
- Power Plant:** Rotax 914F four-cylinder engine
- Thrust:** 115 horsepower
- Wingspan:** 55 feet (16.8 meters)
- Length:** 27 feet (8.22 meters)
- Height:** 6.9 feet (2.1 meters)
- Weight:** 1,130 pounds ( 512 kilograms) empty
- Maximum takeoff weight:** 2,250 pounds (1,020 kilograms)
- Fuel Capacity:** 665 pounds (100 gallons)
- Payload:** 450 pounds (204 kilograms)
- Speed:** Cruise speed around 84 mph (70 knots), up to 135 mph
- Range:** Up to 770 miles (675 nautical miles)
- Ceiling:** Up to 25,000 feet (7,620 meters)
- Armament:** Two laser-guided AGM-114 Hellfire missiles
- Crew (remote):** Two (pilot and sensor operator)
- Unit Cost:** \$20 million (includes four aircraft with sensors, ground control station and Predator Primary satellite link) (fiscal 2009 dollars)
- Initial operational capability:** March 2005
- Inventory:** Total force, 164



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Damon Kasberg

Service members and civilians gather to commemorate the last flight of a MQ-1B Predator assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Attack Squadron, July 2, 2017, in Southwest Asia. In the 18 months the MQ-1B was assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, later designated as the 361st EATKS, its aircrew flew the aircraft on more than 2,000 combat missions,



Photo by Sgt. William Begley, 3rd CAB Public Affairs

An MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aerial system flies over Division Artillery as they fire during the Mass Fire Mission on Fort Stewart March 1. The MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aerial system provided target identification, observing the rounds as they are fired, and assessing battle damage during the mission.



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



# 14th CES; maintaining Columbus AFB one step at a time



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Airmen examine M8 paper Jan. 9, 2017, outside Emergency Management on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training. The Air Force recently shortened the timeframe for hands-on CBRN training from every three years to 18 months.**

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

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron is tasked with planning, constructing and maintaining infrastructure here.

Their mission is to provide sustainable infrastructure, environment, readiness and emergency response continuing Columbus' ability to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen and Feed the Fight.

"We are in charge of maintaining the Air Force property on this base as well as adapting what we have available to the future mission, build new infrastructure to those missions and demolish what is old," said 1st Lt. Scott Guerin, chief of project execution.

Guerin also said the squadron is in charge of taking care of 171 base facilities as well as countless linear feet of roads and runways.

The 14th CES is a diverse squadron. There are several different organizations that make up the squadron such as fire protection, emergency management, an engineering flight, installation management and operations.

With new requirements from higher Air Force command,

*"Pilots are masters of their aircraft," Guerin said. "As an engineer, you have to solve a multitude of problems regardless if it's in your skill set or not."*

the Emergency Management Flight has been busy training Airmen for deployments. The flight went from training about six Airmen a week to 50.

"Our day to day operations have changed from doing second-hand tasks to focusing on getting people prepared to deploy," said Airman 1st Class Nicholas Walkup, 14th CES emergency management technician.

Guerin feels that it is a rewarding job because you learn so

much. He is by trade a structural engineer, however has assisted on architectural, electrical and mechanical products.

"Pilots are masters of their aircraft," Guerin said. "As an engineer, you have to solve a multitude of problems regardless if it's in your skill set or not."

The squadron has also been recently award several times, to include the 2017 Air Force Small Civil Engineer Squadron and several awards from the fire department.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**Contractors from J.A. Dawson & Co. prepare to install an awning over a new fitness station on the Fit Trail Dec. 19, 2017, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th Force Support Squadron, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 14th Contracting Squadron work hand in hand to provide Columbus AFB service members and families with equipment and opportunities they can use to enhance their quality of life.**



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