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Vol. 42, Issue 22

June 8, 2018

Weather



News Briefs

Autocross

Autocross is scheduled for 9 a.m. June 9-10 at the SAC ramp.

41st Flying Training Squadron Change of Command

The 41st Flying Training Squadron is hosting a Change of Command ceremony 9:41 a.m. June 14, at the Fire Station.

14th Civil Engineer Squadron Change of Command

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Change of Command is hosting a Change of Command ceremony 9 a.m. June 19, at the Fire Station.

Inside



Feature 8

SUPT Classes 18-10 and 18-11 graduate today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



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

Robert Miller, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron pest controller, prepares a fogging machine June 5, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The pest controllers fill the fogger with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved pesticides and drive around the base to control the mosquito population.

No pests, no problems

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Tucked away by the Kortiz Clinic, the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Entomology team never really sees the spotlight, but the work they do keeps Team BLAZE safe and comfortable.

Two men, Craig Hoke and Robert Miller, 14th CES pest controllers, are the frontline defense against insects, snakes,

raccoons, skunks and any creature that could harm Airmen or damage Air Force property.

“The best part about my job is you never know what kind of call you’re going to get,” Hoke said. “It keeps me busy and on my toes.”

The team has a wide-range of responsibilities which in-

See PESTS, 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 (19-04)	-5.71 days	-4.75 days	June 29	48th (18-11)	-3.21 days	2.54 days	June 15	49th (18-IBC)	-2.11 days	-1.38 days	June 26	T-6	569	580	18,441
41st (19-05)	-7.25 days	-9.11 days	June 23	50th (18-11)	5.76 days	2.17 days	June 15					T-1	212	177	6,146
* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.												T-38	216	166	7,875
Maj. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, Vice Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., is the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-10's graduation at 10 a.m. June 8, 2018, in the Kaye Auditorium.												IFF	79	85	2,975



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 26 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.

14th MDOS changes command



Col. Guy Majkowski, 14th Medical Group commander, passes the 14th Medical Operations Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Tracy Snyder, the new 14th MDOS commander, June 1, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Snyder's last assignment was at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Dublin

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

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

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11 USAF Ops Air Force Visit	12	13	14 41st FTS Change of Command	15 SUPT Class 18-11 Assign- ment Night	16/17	June 21: Dorm Dinner
18 USAF Ops Air Force Visit	19 Wing New- comers 14th CES Change of Command	20	21	22	23/24	June 22: 81st FS Change of Command June. 28: 14th MDSS Change of Command June 29: SUPT Class 18-11 Graduation July 4: Independence Day Holiday July 5: AETC Family Day July 6: Patriot Fest

AIRDROP

(Continued from page 13)

bundle fundamentals, parachute rigging and airdrop mission instruction, and they feel prepared to support similar airdrops in the future.

“We are really proud because we are going to help our soldiers,” Frotton said. “It’s part of our mission. When our soldiers are faced with lack of supplies, we are ready to support from the air.”

Established in 2015, Resolute Support is a NATO-led, non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, who assumed nationwide responsibility for Afghanistan’s security following the conclusion of the previous NATO-led International Security Assistance Force mission. Its purpose is to help the Afghan security forces and institutions develop the capacity to defend Afghanistan and protect its citizens in a sustainable manner.

NEWS AROUND TOWN

June 6-10

This year marks the 20th year for the Tupelo Elvis Festival in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tupelo Elvis Festival is a celebration designed to honor Elvis Presley, Tupelo’s native son, and the impact that his music has on the world. For tickets and more information, please visit tupeloelvisfestival.com.

June 10

World Wrestling Entertainment will be performing 5 p.m. June 10 at the Bancorp South Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tickets are available online.

Sept. 7

Alabama, American country-music group, will be performing at 7:30 p.m. at the Bancorp South Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tickets are available online.

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

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PESTS

(Continued from page 1)

volves spraying U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved chemicals on base infrastructures to fighting weeds and invasive plant life, removing wasps nest or beehives from buildings and setting traps for wildlife that disrupts the mission.

One of the major jobs that the team does is fogging for mosquitoes by using a fan that mists EPA-approved chemicals ithe air. 14th Medical Operations Squadron Public Health Flight will do a test to see how many mosquitoes are in the area and if there are too many, they give the green-light to the team. Columbus Air Force base was built on a low lying area that tends to hold water, which is prime habitat for the tiny nuisances. While the team may never be able to stop all mosquitoes from flying around, they keep the numbers in check.

Another job, and in some cases a more dangerous one, is keeping wildlife away from the populated portions of the base. The team is not responsible for family housing due to it being contracted out, but they are in charge of all Air Force and government facilities, such as the enlisted and officers dormitories. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, skunks, foxes, raccoons and coyotes are the terrestrial animals most often infected with rabies. In the last year and a half alone, the team removed 92 skunks from the base ... without getting sprayed.

“The first time I caught a skunk, I didn’t know what to do. I knew I was going to get sprayed,” Miller said.

“The first time I caught a skunk, I didn’t know what to do. I knew I was going to get sprayed,” Miller said. “We developed a method which involved holding a bed sheet in front of us and easing up to the trap. When we were close enough we would drape it over the trap, pick it up and load it in the truck.”

Certain calls hold precedence over others, for example a stinging insect job is more important than weeds in a road. Some people can be fatally allergic to insect stings, so the team fixes the biggest and most dangerous problems first, and after they are resolved they return to their daily tasks.

Hoke said summer is the peak pest season but not because the pests all of a sudden grow in numbers it’s because people do more outdoor activities during the summer increasing the chance of a pest encounter.

With a combined experience of 33 years, Hoke and Miller are the unsung heroes of Columbus AFB, ensuring that our lives and jobs are safe, comfortable and free of pests.

Columbus AFB recognizes E-7 promotees



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Dublin

Col. Anthony Sansano, 14th Mission Support Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. William Whitt, 14th MSG superintendent, stand with Team BLAZE’s newest master sergeants selects May 31, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

14th Civil Engineer Squadron and Housing Management Open House

The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, Lt Col David Jokinen, and the Housing Management Office would like to invite all base housing residents to join them at the Columbus Club on June 7, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. for an Open House to discuss any housing concerns/issues.”

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.



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

Robert Miller, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron pest controller, drives his team’s utility vehicle while fogging for mosquitoes June 5, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The team’s utility vehicle has a wide variety of tools, traps, bait and other things necessary to stop pests from harming Airmen and damaging Air Force property.



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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 the 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. Demitri 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 Brit-tani Amavizca-Waddington

Show your true colors

On a typical warm June morning, while rushing to beat the crowds at your local grocery store, you're handed a rainbow flag with a flyer as you walk in. You're in a hurry, so you toss them toward the bottom of your cart thinking nothing of it. On your way home, you find yourself stuck in traffic while a large parade of people holding rainbow flags march down the street. Suddenly, you recall the flyer you were given earlier, except now you wish you'd read it.

Many people are uninformed and unaware of the significance LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender) events have and why they are celebrated in such a way. June is LGBT pride month in the United States. The month of June was chosen for LGBT pride month to commemorate the Stonewall riots of 1969, so you may continue to see plenty of rainbows and celebrations throughout this month. But why rainbows; why not other color combinations, and why a color combination at all? Being part of the LGBT community isn't about gaining attention through an exaggerated logo or label as the stereotype suggests. It is part of a movement; standing up for happiness within, and being proud of who you are as diverse individuals!

The pride flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a gay rights activist and army veteran. He created the flag for the first huge Gay Freedom Pride Parade that year in San Francisco, CA. The flag, which began with 8 stripes, was merged down to the six colors known in the original rainbow. Each color has its own symbolic meaning: 1. Red, representing life 2. Orange, representing healing 3. Yellow, representing sunlight 4. Green, representing nature 5. Blue, representing peace 6. Violet, representing spirit. The pride flag gives the LGBT community a touch of something striking to symbolize the happiness and diversity in the beauty of being equally unique through many different ways.

The history of the LGBT community stretches far back in time, and the community continues to be further accepted today. Although the LGBT community continues to face discrimination through preconceptions, poor portrayal, ignorance, and prejudice, it seems as though acceptance has become more common during the last few years, specifically through the media. Recently through TV shows and movies, the media has brought to light the stories of men and women who have found a new sense of courage to share their experiences, receiving overwhelming amounts of support for coming out and discussing their own feelings and stories. Portraying these individuals, several movies and TV shows have based their

storylines around current social events relating to every day struggles with acceptance – a reality of the lifestyle. For example, the recently aired Cinemark movie Love, Simon, featured a gay teen high school boy as its main character. In the movie, Simon explained to the audience that, "I'm just like you." Suddenly, this phrase became eye opening. Coming out can be a scary and deeply personal process, so it's no surprise that fear about friends and family treating him differently upon discovering his secret motivated Simon. What's remarkable about Love, Simon is how it captured the process of coming out and built a whole movie around it in a positive way, encouraging positivity in love and self-discovery, as well as showing the importance of acceptance. Hollywood may have broken the silence and opened the door to acceptance. After all, more now than ever, we live in a world where everyone is uniquely different. However, that doesn't change the fact that we all walk on a common ground.

When it comes to the Air Force culture and the training we go through together, it's hard to believe harassment or discrimination would ever be an issue. As Airmen, we are consistently told disrespect of any form will not be tolerated. Despite this policy, harassment and discrimination continue to be an ongoing matter. There's a common controversy over whether members of the LGBT community should or should not be allowed to serve. There are comments and questions about one's appearance, sexual histories or love lives, and the biggest dispute being an LGBT member's ability to do their job as well as anyone else. The effects of harassment and discrimination in the workplace is hard to imagine until you've become a victim, but remember your reaction and support matters. Remember to treat each person how you want to be treated. Speaking for the entire community, we can hope that the increased awareness and activism against all forms of discrimination will finally allow all individuals to feel safe and respected no matter who they are and what they represent.

As we enter the month of June, Pride Month, take time to recognize the true meaning behind the rainbow flag. Understand that it is more than just cloth and stripes that Gilbert Baker created, but a movement. Take time to understand the flag, so that each time you see those six colors you have a better appreciation of its meaning. As we raise our flags, sport our t-shirts, tie the rainbow bandanna on our dogs, know we do so as a movement that represents members of the LGBT community who are strong, present, and proud to be whom they chose to be.

Afghan Air Force conducts first emergency combat airdrop

1st Lt Erin Recanzone

KABUL AIR WING, Afghanistan — Afghan Air Force C-208 aircrew members conducted their first emergency combat airdrop mission bringing ammunition to Afghan National Police and citizens fighting the Taliban in Badakshan province, June 1, 2018.

The success of this emergency combat airdrop proves the Afghan Air Force's ability to respond quickly to emergent requests and deliver necessary supplies to support the Afghan National Army, police, and citizens as they combat the Taliban.

Aircrew members conducted mission planning, prepared nearly 1,000 pounds of ammunition for delivery, and successfully dropped the supplies all within six hours of being notified of the need for support.

"In the past we didn't have anything to support the soldiers," said 1st Lt. Froton, Afghan Air Force loadmaster. "Now when our soldiers are faced with any kind of problem, especially lack of ammunition, we are ready to support them, and it's really bad news for the Taliban."

All ammo was received by friendly forces, which allowed

the Afghan National Police and local citizens defending their home town to continue fighting.

With guidance from Train, Advise and Assist Command-Air advisors, the Afghan Air Force began training on airdrop capabilities in October 2016, and conducted their first mission airdrops in July 2017.

Since that time, airdrops have primarily been conducted in support of ground forces as a means of resupplying ammo, food and water. Many of the compounds and checkpoints the Afghan National Army, Afghan Border Patrol and Afghan National Police operate out of are in austere locations and airdrops are the only means of effective and timely resupply.

"It has been remarkable to see the progress of the C-208 and C-130 Afghan aircrew members," said Lt. Col. Erik Johnson, 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander. "This combat airdrop is a prime example of what these loadmasters are capable of. They proved that they can get supplies wherever it needs to go quickly and effectively without coalition assistance."

The Afghan loadmasters who prepared the ammunition for this mission are considered experts in mission planning, See AIRDROP, Page 14



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Brian Barnett
An Afghan Air Force loadmaster works with a Train, Advise, Assist, Command-Air advisor to build a bundle for the AAF's first emergency air drop June 1, 2018, at Kabul Air Wing, Afghanistan. Afghan C-208 aircrew members planned the mission, prepared the bundles and loaded the aircraft all within five hours of being notified.

Hunt Housing tip of the week



Residents are encouraged to submit routine (non-emergency) maintenance requests via the website, www.columbusfamilyhousing.com, by calling 662-434-8213, or hand-delivering requests to the neighborhood housing office. All emergency and urgent maintenance requests must be submitted by calling 662-434-8213 or by hand-delivering to the housing office.

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CSAF Goldfein: ‘Family, friends, caregivers — we’re on your wing for life’ during DoD Wounded Warrior Games opening ceremony

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein spoke about teamwork and resiliency during the opening ceremony of the Department of Defense Warrior Games at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 2, 2018.

“There’s this old saying, ‘Age wrinkles the body but quitting wrinkles the soul,’” said Goldfein. “And while all of us grow older, not all of us grow stronger as we age. The athletes and warriors we celebrate this week show us how to grow stronger over time as they conquer the daily challenges in mind, in body, in spirit. Warrior Games athletes are not defined by illness, injury or the invisible wounds of war. They’re defined by their courage, their determination, their grit, their resilience and their friends and family who cheer them on here and at home.”

The Air Force is committed to supporting the service’s wounded warriors, their families and caregivers throughout the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration process. Goldfein said every athlete’s story is unique and deeply personal, but there are common threads of strength and resilience between the athletes. “These Warrior Games allow all of us, from both here and watching from home to recommit that no warrior takes the road to recovery alone,” said Goldfein. “Family, friends and caregivers — we’re on your wing for life. It’s a full contact team sport. And within the profession of arms it’s family business.”

Goldfein also announced a new tradition by presenting an official Warrior Games flag to Air Force Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, this year’s Warrior Games commander.

Star Power at the Ceremony

Other senior military leaders were in attendance for the opening ceremony, including Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who addressed the athletes in attendance.

“To all the athletes, thank you for being an inspiration,” Selva said. “This week is all about sportsmanship and camaraderie. It’s about making friends. It’s about being the heroes that you are.”

Comedian Jon Stewart served as the master of ceremonies for the event, and pop singer Kelly Clarkson performed a free concert



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Anthony Nelson Jr.
Lt. Gen. Gina M. Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, waves the Department of Defense Warrior Games flag June 2, 2018, during the opening ceremony at the U.S. Air Force Academy's Falcon Stadium. First held in Colorado Springs in 2010, the Warrior Games were established as a way to expose service members who were wounded, ill or injured to adaptive sports. The Air Force is the host service for this year's Games.

for the athletes and their families at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Stewart had jumped earlier with the Air Force’s Wings of Blue parachute team and joked about his trouble keeping his breakfast down.

Goldfein told him, “Thank you Jon Stewart for joining the Wings of Blue and jumping out of a perfectly good airplane today. I just hope we were able to replace the breakfast you lost on the way down.”

This is Stewart’s third year as host of the Warrior Games.

Athletes at the Warrior Games “will go to any lengths for their teammates, for the victory, and I hope you’re not here just to support them but to learn from them,” Stewart told the opening ceremony audience.

“Whenever I spend time with the athletes at the Warrior Games,” he added, “I hope that just a fraction of their tenacity, their honor, their grace, their resilience and their teamwork will inspire me to do better in my life every day.”

Clarkson said she was honored to return to the Warrior Games.

“It was such a blessing to do the first one. It’s such an honor. Thank you so much for

your service,” she said. “Thank your families for the sacrifice that you all make.”

Lighting the Torch

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro Jr., a 2010 inaugural games athlete, began the torch passing to representatives of each branch of the service until retired Air Force Master Sgt. Shanon Hampton had the flame for the big cauldron on the stage. As Goldfein told him to light the cauldron, he reached up to light it, but strong winds prevented him from doing so.

Goldfein announced the official opening of the 2018 DoD Warrior Games but Stewart jumped in, getting an assist from stage support for a ladder. A stage hand lit the torch.

“Done — we are open for business,” Stewart said.

Hampton said he was honored to carry the torch.

“It is difficult to put into words the honor I was given to carry the torch for the Air Force and the Warrior Games. To once again serve with the Air Force, with my teammates, for my country and for God will be a memory I will cherish the rest of my life,” Hampton said. “We all have faced trials, hardship and

14th FTW warrior places
in shooting event

As of June 6, Capt. Hunter Barnhill, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, earned the bronze medal in the SH2 standing 10 meter air rifle event.

heartache to get where we are at, but some things are just worth hurting for. Go Air Force!”

History and Purpose of the Games

This year’s Warrior Games competitions began June 1 and will conclude June 9. About 300 wounded, ill and injured service members, including 39 Air Force athletes, representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and U.S. Special Operations Command, along with allied armed forces from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, are competing in shooting, archery, track and field, swimming, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, powerlifting, time-trial cycling and indoor rowing.

The Warrior Games was created in 2010 as an introduction to adaptive sports and reconditioning activities for service members and veterans.

The U.S. Olympic Committee led and organized the Warrior Games from 2010 to 2014, hosting them each year in Colorado Springs. In 2015, the DoD assumed responsibility for planning and organizing the Warrior Games, having a service branch host the games each year.

The Marines hosted in 2015 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, and then handed it off to Army at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The Navy hosted last year in Chicago, near its basic training center.

Adaptive sports and reconditioning are linked to a variety of benefits for wounded, ill and injured service members across all branches of the military. Benefits include less stress, reduced dependency on pain and depression medication, fewer secondary medical conditions, higher achievement in education and employment and increased independence, self-confidence and mobility.

Admission to Warrior Games competition events is free and open to the public.

(DoD News Service contributed to this story.)

Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight

Silver Wings Article: Hurricane Season

Staff Sgt. Cory Henning
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

The month of June is the official start of Hurricane Season across the U.S, and for many counties in the south-east, this means checking emergency supplies, verifying insurance information, and ensuring family members have the most current evacuation information. While conventional wisdom may say Columbus, Mississippi, is too far from the coast to worry about hurricanes, many of their dangerous effects can reach even here!

The primary threats of hurricanes in the U.S are storm surges, high winds, torrential rains, and the threat of tornadoes. Thankfully, Columbus can escape the storm surge – arguably the most damaging aspect of a hurricane – but it is still within the threatened

areas of damaging winds and heavy rains.

This hurricane season it is important to consider how flooding, high winds, and potential tornadoes could affect you, your home, and your family. Keep this in mind when you follow the Three Basic Steps for Disaster Preparedness.

Get a Kit — Assemble a collection of first aid supplies, food, water, medicines, and important papers that can sustain you and your family until the emergency passes.

Make a Plan — You and your family members may not be together when an emergency strikes. Planning ahead will improve your chances of keeping in touch, staying safe, and quickly reuniting.

Be Prepared — Anticipate emergencies most likely to affect you and your family.

It is impractical to be fully prepared for

all emergencies, so your plans should be fluid enough to deal with unexpected complications while still providing clear goals, such as reconnecting with family members if there is no internet or phone connections and having sufficient supplies to last several days if flood waters make roads impassable.

In addition, it is important to realize during an emergency, resources and Emergency Responders may be stretched thin; therefore, your emergency supplies should be sufficient to last for several days. It is also critical that supplies and plans are reviewed at least twice a year to ensure expired items are replaced and information, such as contact information, is kept up to date.

Finally, ensure that your emergency plans and supplies also account for any pets you may have. Many emergency shelters will ac-

cept pets if the owner has a cage and appropriate supplies to care for the pet until the situation has improved; as before, you should plan and stock for several days.

When disaster strikes, it is too late to review plans or prepare supplies. One day of preparation can prevent a lifetime of problems.

For more information contact the 14th CES Readiness & Emergency Management Flight.

Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook: Columbus AFB, Mississippi, Emergency Management

Additional Resources:
www.beready.af.mil/
www.msmema.org
www.ready.gov
www.fema.gov/

BLAZE Hangar Tails: A-29 Super Tucano

Mission

The A-29, aka the Embraer EMB 314 Super Tucano, is a turboprop aircraft designed for light attack, counter insurgency, close air support and aerial reconnaissance missions in low threat environments, as well as providing pilot training.

The Super Tucano was designed to operate in high temperature and humidity conditions in extremely rugged terrain. The Super Tucano is highly maneuverable, has a low heat signature, and incorporates fourth generation avionics and weapons system to deliver precision guided munitions.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillian Bamman

Chris Carlson, a Sierra Nevada Corporation senior pilot, taxis an A-29 Super Tucano on the flightline during its first arrival, Sept. 26, 2014, at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The Afghan Air Force will implement the A-29 as their current air-to-ground aircraft, the Mi-35 attack helicopter, reaches its end of service life in January 2016.

General characteristics

Crew: Pilot plus one navigator/student in tandem on Martin Baker Mk 10 LCX zero-zero ejection seats
Payload: 1,500 kg (3,307 lb)
Length: 11.38 m (37 ft 4 in)
Wingspan: 11.14 m (36 ft 6.5 in)
Height: 3.97 m (13 ft 0.25 in)
Wing area: 19.4 m² (208.8 sq ft)
Empty weight: 3,200 kg (7,055 lb)
Max. takeoff weight: 5,400 kg (11,905 lb)
Maximum speed: 590 km/h (319 knots, 367 mph)

Cruise speed: 520 km/h (281 knots, 323 mph)
Stall speed: 148 km/h (80 knots, 92 mph)
g-limit: +7/-3.5 g)
Range: 720 nmi (827 mi, 1,330 km)
Combat radius: 550 km (300 nmi, 342 mi) (hi-lo-hi profile, 1,500 kg (3,300 lb) of external stores)[174]
Ferry range: 1,541 nmi (1,774 mi, 2,855 km) [175]
Service ceiling: 10,668 m (35,000 ft)
Rate of climb: 24 m/s (1600 fpm)

For more information on how this aircraft is utilized see our feature on the 81st Fighter Squadron on page 8.



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

Two 14th Flying Training Wing T-38C Talons fly in formation behind an A-29 Super Tucano, April 20, 2018, over Columbus, Mississippi. The A-29 is a trainer aircraft the U.S. uses to train foreign pilots out of a detachment squadron. The T-38 is a trainer aircraft used to train U.S., allied, and coalition forces at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Medical Corner

Raising the tobacco age from eighteen to twenty one

Since 1999 the Unites States has enforced a Minimum Age of Legal Access (MLA) for the purchasing of tobacco products at 18 years of age with a few requiring you to be 19.

Although the current MLA is set at 18, the age limit for the purchasing of tobacco products has seen its share of ups and downs. States like Illinois in 1920 lowered it to 16 then raised it again to 18 in 1964. During the 1950's and 1960's, access to tobacco in 10 states was raised from 18 to 21 until they were pressured to lower it back town to 18. So why the constant up and down and what should that magic number be to legally purchase tobacco products?

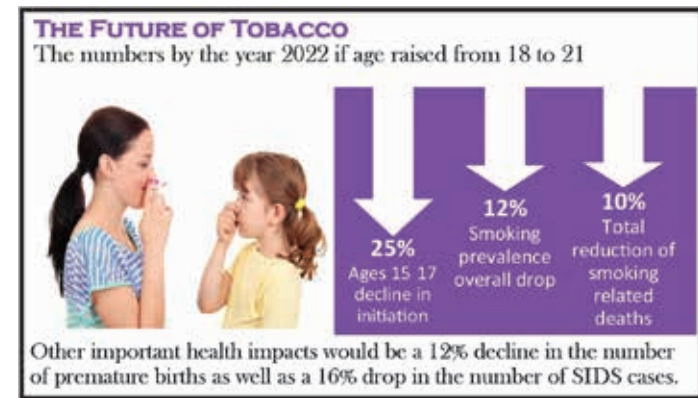
It goes without saying, tobacco is bad for your health. Yet many still use tobacco products even through there are warning labels right on the packaging from the Surgeon General saying "Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, and May Complicate Pregnancy." or "Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health." So why smoke at all?

The Age of 21
Turning 21 is a significant time in most young adults lives. It is now legal to drink, gamble, own and carry a firearm. Renting, leasing or buying a vehicle is less expensive, and buying a house has become easier as you have built some financial credibility. Yet for many, smoking and the use of tobacco is tied to turning 18, not 21.

Research has shown that the primary source kids turn to for cigarettes and other tobacco related products are older friends and classmates. Unfortunately, after a decline in teen and youth tobacco use over a decade, 2014 showed an alarming increase in tobacco use among teens and young adults. With the introduction of e-cigarettes, hookahs, and clever marketing by the tobacco industry, tobacco use among teens and youth is once again on the rise. There are more than 350 kids each day under the age of 18 that become tobacco users with one in three eventually dying.

Currently, the FDA in conjunction with the CDC and Health and Human Services has the power to raise the Federal age to 21. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act gave the FDA broad authority over tobacco policies of legal access in 2009 and allowed for the option to raise it from 18 to 21 of there

can be shown proof of supportable benefits in doing so. In 2015 the FDA commissioned a report by the Institute of Medicine (Now called the National Academy of Medicine) "Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products" and showed there was a 95% increase in adult tobacco users who began use before age 21. The study showed that many young adults between the age of 18 and 21 moved from experimental use to regular use with some using a combination of combustible and electronic.



The biggest hurdle that tobacco activists face is the mantra of "if you are old enough to fight and vote, you are old enough to drink and smoke." By raising the minimum sales age, access to tobacco is almost but eliminated for teens since most high school students are younger than 21 making it harder for younger students to acquire cigarettes or tobacco related products from older classmates or friends.

Tobacco and Readiness
The use of tobacco can have serious negative impacts on your health readiness. Using any tobacco related product can contribute to being less combat ready, take longer to heal from injuries, and affect the health and care of beneficiaries. By raising the age limit, tobacco industry efforts to target young warfighters just entering service can be countered improving their health and readiness. If you are a current smoker and are wanting to quit, contact your doctor, local Behavioral Health office or go to www.tobaccofree.gov, www.tobaccofreekids.org or freedomequitline.org.

Additional References & Resources:
1. Tobacco Twenty One: <https://tobacco21.org/critical-issues/>
2. American Lung Association - How Raising Tobacco Sales to 21 Will Save Lives
3. Tobaccofreekids.gov: Raising the Tobacco Age to 21

A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team



Dear Health Myth Buster,

I am a 20 year old Airman who started smoking during tech training school. I have tried to quit tobacco a couple of times but keep coming back because all my friends smoke. I just pcs'd from Travis AFB, CA to Anderson AFB, Guam. Now they say that I can't buy cigarettes anywhere on Guam including on base because I'm under 31. What gives? There was no problem in California. I will be 21 in 6 months. Is this legal?

Not Fair in Guam

Dear Not Fair,

First of all, congratulations on your previous attempts to quit tobacco, one of the most addictive substances know to man. It is a fact that many people quit several times before they quit for good. What you are describing are the Tobacco 21 laws and their varied impact on military members in different states. States that have passed Tobacco 21 laws set the minimum legal sales age (MLSA) at 21. In other words they restrict the sale of tobacco products to persons 21 and older, however some states provide exemptions for military personnel and some do not.

California passed such a law in 2016, however military personnel are exempt. The Guam Tobacco 21 law was passed in 2017 and does not provide a military exemption. The bases in Guam are required to comply with the law. The Tobacco 21 movement has gained momentum in large part because research has clearly shown that teen and young adult brains are more susceptible to nicotine addiction. Other states that have passed Tobacco 21 laws include New Jersey, Maine, Oregon, and Hawaii. The city of San Antonio, Texas passes a municipal law in 2017.

While you are experiencing an uncomfortable circumstance, this may present another opportunity to kick the habit for good. Talk with your health care provider to learn your options for nicotine replacement therapy and available tobacco cessation coaching.

Sincerely,
Health Myth Busters

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 one hour. 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, (662) 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop is from 10-11 a.m. June 12 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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation is from 8 a.m.-noon June 19. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel, and spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. 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. June 28. 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

The next Transition Assistance Program workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 9-13, and includes seminars on transition, military occupational code crosswalk, financial planning, health benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, and Department of Labor. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending,

Columbus AFB hosts first triathlon of 2018



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

Triathlon participants bike follow directions from an event volunteer June 2, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The triathlon for the adults consisted of a 300 meter swim, a 20 kilometer bike ride, and a 5 kilometer run.

and recommended attendance is 8-12 months prior to separation or retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

Career Technical Training Track Workshop

The next Career Technical Training Track workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. July 16-17, 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.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

The next Federal USAJobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. July 18. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. 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 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 16 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.

Linked-In Workshop

The next Linked-In workshop is 2-5 p.m. Sept. 17-18. You'll learn how to establish/use a Linked-In account. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Aug. 22, 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.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 20-21, This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of Key Spouse Program is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a commander's program. The commander establishes and maintains the program within the

unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a key spouse in writing, you will need to attend initial/refreshers key spouse training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-3323.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday from 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.

Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

Catholic Community

Sundays:
3:45 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex) Start date TBA
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month
Tuesdays:
11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass
Wednesdays:
11:30-12:30 p.m. – Adoration

Protestant Community

Sundays:
9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service
Wednesdays:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal
Thursdays:
5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)

Ecumenical services

Wednesdays:
6 p.m. – AWANA, a religious education program for children ages three years old to 6th grade
6 p.m. – Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John
6 p.m. – Youth Group

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.

New Arts and Crafts Customer Service Hours

The Arts and Crafts customer service hours are as follows: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information, contact 434-7836.

Lunch Buffets at the Overrun

Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday-Friday at the Columbus Club. Daily buffets include: Tuesday: taco and nacho for \$9, Wednesday: chicken wings and pasta for \$10, Thursday: southern-style lunch for \$10 and Friday: fried catfish for \$10. Club Members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Youth Book Club

Explore new worlds and ideas through reading! Stop by the Base Library and pick up a copy of the book “Scat,” by Carl Hiaasen, for the Youth Book Club. The book club discussion meeting will be held June 20 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Base Pool Opens for Season

Independence Pool is open daily from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. through Sept. 3. Lap swim is available Monday–Friday from 6–7:30 a.m., 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 5–6 p.m. No lap swim available on holidays or weekends. You may purchase your seasonal pool pass at ITT; located in the BLAZE Commons. For more information, contact ITT at 434-7861.

Swim Lessons

So you want to learn to swim? Sign up now at ITT! Swim lesson ages: Frog and Tadpole (ages 6 months thru 3 years), Little Nemo (ages 4 and 5 years), and Dolphin (must have completed level 1 and 2 of Little Nemo). Sessions will be held June 18 until June 29, July 9-July 20 and July 23–Aug. 3. For more information, contact the ITT office located in the BLAZE Commons.

Seasonal Pool Pass

Purchase your seasonal pool pass today! The Base Pool will open May 25 for the pool season. For more information, contact ITT at 434-7861.

Triathlon for Adults and Youth

The Fitness Center is offering a free triathlon for adults and youth at 7 a.m. June 2. Participants ages 17 and up will swim 300M, bike 23K and run 5K. Youth 5 – 16 years old may participate and distance will vary based on age. T-shirts available for purchase. A free spaghetti dinner will be offered to registered participants and their family at 5 p.m. June 1 at the Columbus Club. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Free Home Run Derby

The Fitness Center is offering a free home run derby from 5–8 p.m. June 7 at the softball field No. 1. Prizes awarded to the top hitters; ten balls pitched per participant. Each participant must bring own pitcher. Registration deadline is 1 p.m. Jun. 7. For more information, contact 434-2772.

UFC 225 Fight Night

Catch all the action at the Columbus Club June 9! Watch the UFC 225 Fight “Whittaker vs Romero 2”! This is a free event; doors open at 6:30 p.m.; pre-fight at 7 p.m.; featured fight at 11 p.m. Club members receive a \$5 food voucher. For more information, contact 434-2489.



British Soccer Camp

Register now for British Soccer Camp for ages 3–18! The camp will be held June 11–15. The cost varies due to age and special session. Register online at www.challengersports.com or for more information, contact 434-2504.

Free Breakfast for Club Members

Start your morning off at the Overrun! Free breakfast buffet for club members from 6:30–9 a.m. June 19. The cost is only \$8 for non-members. Become a club member and save! For more information, contact 434-2489.

Ice Cream Soda Day

Celebrate National Ice Cream Soda Day! Enjoy this soda fountain favorite for only \$1.75 from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. June 20 at the Columbus Club. Lunch guests may substitute beverage for an ice cream soda at no additional charge. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Wine and Cheese Tasting

Swirl. Sniff. Sip. Join the Columbus Club for a Wine and Cheese Tasting at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 23 at Independence Pool. Non-alcoholic cocktails available; swim attire optional. Purchase your tickets at the Columbus Club. For more information, contact 434-2489 or 434-2471.

Ties and Tiaras Father Daughter Dance

The Columbus Club is offering a father-daughter dance from 5:30–9:30 p.m. June 23. The cost is only \$30 per couple; \$12 each additional daughter. Enjoy fun, food, games and an evening of music by Paul Brady. A photographer will be available. Reserve no later than June 19 at the Columbus Club or thru the memberplanet app. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Storytime Schedule

The Base Library is offering Storytime on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for ages 3–6 years and Fridays at 10 a.m. for ages birth–2 years. For more information, contact 434-2934.

FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your 14th Force Support Squadron gift card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Café at Whispering Pines, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

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.

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 24 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.

Airman on the Street:

What do you think about holding recreational sports leagues like softball on base?



Rank/Name: Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tolliver
Unit/Duty Title: 14th Medical Group superintendent
Answer: We try to win in the recreational sports leagues because it's fun, and gives us bragging rights if we do win. It's friendly competition and helps build a strong team on and off the fields.
Hometown: Newark, Ohio



Rank/Name: Airman 1st Class Black Harwell
Unit/Duty Title: 14th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter
Answer: I used to play baseball so the softball team lets me play a sport and is a relaxing way to wind down after work with my teammates. I enjoy it.
Hometown: Horn Lake, Mississippi



Rank/Name: Maj. Eric Browning
Unit/Duty Title: 48th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot
Answer: The recreational sports have a bigger impact within squadrons and units, I don't see a huge difference in squadrons interactions after games against each other.
Hometown: Loxahatchee, Florida



Rank/Name: 2nd Lt. Garrett Frazell
Unit/Duty Title: 14th Student Squadron student pilot
Answer: The unit and team mind-set allows morale and team spirit to thrive, especially between the new students. It's a good way to get to meet the people we will be working with.
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

VIEWPOINT

PA is not selling your secrets to the Media, we swear.

In the past nine months of being a public affairs officer the biggest thing that has taken me by surprise is how other military personnel think we are spies for external media. My Airmen and I have received comments from peers such as

“PA is useless”
“Well, you guys are always talking to the media so I don't want to give you that information...”
“...it's usually dangerous to talk to public affairs...”
“I don't trust public affairs”
“And one last thing, don't talk to public affairs”
Guys! Seriously?! Like, seriously? What can we do to convince you we are not selling our military's secrets to the media? We love the military as much as you do. We want to protect our deployed brothers and sisters as much as you do. We need the mission to succeed as much as you do.

Do you know what's critical to a mission's success? Public support. How do we get public support? Through telling our story to the American people. That doesn't mean we tell them everything, but enough so they can understand, be inspired and then support what we do. You see, if we don't write our own narrative someone else will write it for us and we might not like how that story is written.

Let me show you what I am talking about ... In World War II media was on our side. Everything the American media printed was pro-war and pro-military. To write or broadcast against the war was seen as unpatriotic. So the narrative the media created was immensely positive, however it was arguably more propaganda than informative. There was little freedom on what the media could say in opposition to the military.

Fast-forward some years later and we have the Vietnam War. Media was uncensored and unregulated. All a photo-journalist had to do was convince a helicopter pilot to let him or her to tag along, take some photos of a battle, then

print and release to the public. No oversight from a military representative. As we know, what was being released did not paint a positive image of our beloved military. And though only a handful of soldiers committed despicable crimes, the few represented the many and when our troops came home from Vietnam they were jeered and sneered at because they wore our nation's uniform. All because we let someone else write our narrative.

Vietnam media was uncensored, it discredited our government and diminished support of our military.

Because of that, the “Reagan” and “Bush” administrations put reins on press coverage within military conflicts. Media was only allowed to join a military operation after critical parts of the mission were accomplished which inhibited journalists from relaying timely and accurate experiences to the American public. Basically, media coverage was useless. Recognizing the issue of not relaying accurate information to the American public and also seeing value in having information dominance, Ex-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld highlighted at the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003 that “communications would be a top priority should hostilities occur not as a public relations imperative but as a military one. The essence of the communication plan is to flood the zone with information... information dominance.” News reporters, alongside Public Affairs Officers, were embedded into military units involved in armed conflicts which provided an antidote to Saddam Hussein's propaganda, transparency to American people and ability for the military to maintain credibility.

The American people have a right to know what their military is doing and how their military is doing it. We fight for the people and we should be held accountable by the people. Yes, information should be protected in order to protect our soldiers, sailors and airmen, however, information that does not jeopardize operational security should and needs to be

shared. That's where public affairs comes in.

Information can be twisted to fit any individual's agenda. So while we can never fully know what a journalist will do with releasable information we provide them, public affairs can release the same information with the military's best interest at heart. Our overall mission is to plan, coordinate and synchronize U.S. military public information to support the commander's intent and concept of operations. Basically, we are telling our side of the story to the public. We are fighting our enemies with truth. We are humanizing our military forces while garnering public support.

Do bad things happen within our ranks? Yes. We have cheating scandals, drunk driving incidents and sexual assaults, etc. These are things we are not proud of, however, we release this information because even when we are ashamed of tragic events we do not let them define our forces. The few does not represent the many. We know that while there are things we are ashamed of, we have so much more to be proud of. We have stories like Capt. Hunter Barnhill who fought through a brain tumor and just received a bronze medal at the 2018 DOD Warrior Games, 1st Lt. Hannah Ferrarini who after being told she would never run again has gone on to compete in multiple marathons, and Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly who received a Silver Star and Purple Heart for his leadership on the battle field. As Public Affairs Airmen, we understand you have a story that just might inspire, motivate and change another person's life.

According to the 2017 Gallup poll, the public now rates military professionals as the second most trusted individuals in the country. Serving your country is selfless, sacrificial and noble. And thanks to public affairs writing your narrative, the American people think so too.

One last thing... please talk to your public affairs. Sincerely yours, THE Columbus AFB Public Affairs team.

SUPT Classes 18-10/11 earn silver wings



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

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

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Classes 18-10 and 18-11 T-38C Talon pilots graduate at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Maj. Gen. Glen D. VanHerk, Vice Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., is the graduation guest speaker.

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

Second Lt. Samuel Soderberg, 2nd Lt. Paul Young, and 2nd Lt. Edward Royal, T-1A Jayhawk, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

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

Soderberg, T-38C, Royal and 2nd Lt. Sean Cothran, T-1A, were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 18-10.

The 53-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and

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

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

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

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks

and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 18-10 pilot partners are Doug Pllum, Zachary's, and Dr. J. Barton Williams, Liberty Heart Center.



1st Lt. Benjamin Carrero
Downingtown, Pennsylvania
F-16



1st Lt. Edison Dohms
Bradenton, Florida
KC-135



2nd Lt. Daniel Cartin
Marietta, Georgia
F-16



2nd Lt. Sean Cothran
Troy, Ohio
U-28



2nd Lt. Alec Dawson
Cleveland, Ohio
C-5M



2nd Lt. Matthew Heinrich
Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
C-130J



2nd Lt. Thomas Hennings
Highlands Ranch, Colorado
T-1A



2nd Lt. Kelly Hightaian
Montgomery, Alabama
KC-135



2nd Lt. Matthew Hoban
Orlando, Florida
EC-130



2nd Lt. Kevin Leslie
Toledo, Ohio
C-130J



2nd Lt. Tyler Faley
Leesburg, Virginia
C-21



2nd Lt. John Fick
Stafford, Virginia
MC-130J



2nd Lt. Rand Fowler
Austin, Texas
C-130J



2nd Lt. Jonathan Gross
Carthage, Mississippi
KC-135



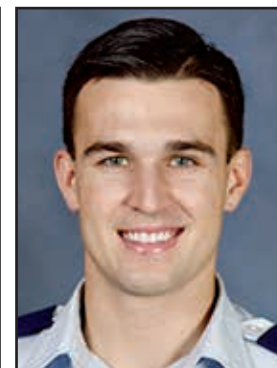
2nd Lt. Cameron Hefner
Yuma, Arizona
RC-135



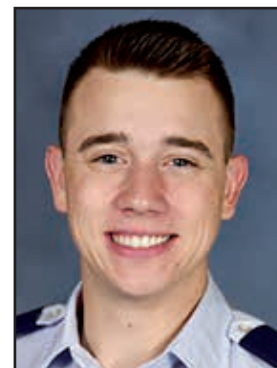
2nd Lt. Evan Maes
Summerville, South Carolina
C-17



2nd Lt. Alexander McCunn
Waterloo, Wisconsin
F-16



2nd Lt. Cody Means
Topeka, Kansas
KC-135



2nd Lt. Jonathan Michels
Oak Ridge, North Carolina
C-17



2nd Lt. Stephen Muer
Grosse Pointe, Michigan
C-17



2nd Lt. Daniel Mumford
Cocoa Beach, Florida
C-130J



2nd Lt. Hitoshi Okuma
Takeo, Japan
UH-60J



2nd Lt. Jacob Pope
Warner Robins, Georgia
C-17



2nd Lt. Bradley Reimers
Hobbs, New Mexico
U-28



2nd Lt. Ryan Rivera
Ocean Springs, Mississippi
C-130J



2nd Lt. Alexander Robichaud
Winchester, Virginia
CV-22



2nd Lt. Edward Royal
Midnight, Mississippi
C-17



2nd Lt. Jillian Sanning
Black Forrest, Colorado
C-17



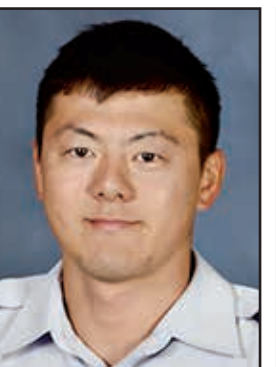
2nd Lt. Joshua Schoettekotte
Xenia, Ohio
T-6A



2nd Lt. Samuel Soderberg
Mosinee, Wisconsin
F-16



2nd Lt. Charles Stankie
Cocoa Beach, Florida
T-38 ADAIR



2nd Lt. Kizuku Watanabe
Yamagata, Japan
C-2



2nd Lt. Paul Young
Monroe, Connecticut
F-15E