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## Weather

<b>Friday</b> P.M.Thunderstorms High 89°F Low 68°F	<b>Saturday</b> Thunderstorms High 85°F Low 68°F
<b>Sunday</b> Thunderstorms High 85°F Low 69°F	<b>Monday</b> P.M.Thunderstorms High 83°F Low 68°F

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

## News Briefs

**Enlisted Promotion Ceremony**  
The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3 p.m. May 31, at the Columbus Club.

**Master Sergeant Release Party**  
The 2018 Master Sergeant Release Party is scheduled for 4 p.m. May 31. The party will follow Enlisted Promotions.

**14th Medical Operations Squadron Change of Command**  
The 14th Medical Operations Squadron is hosting a change of command ceremony at 10:14 a.m. June 1, at the Columbus Club.

## Inside



**Feature 8**

Summer safety is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
**A T-38C Talon from the 50th Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flies over Columbus AFB April 19, 2018, during a training sortie. An Air Force T-38C Talon crashed at about 8:30 a.m. May 23 just outside Columbus AFB.**

## T-38 mishap at Columbus AFB, both pilots safe

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

An Air Force T-38C Talon crashed at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday, May 23, just outside the fence line by the north gate of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Both pilots ejected from the aircraft safely and were transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital for evaluation and have been released.

Local law enforcement and first responders arrived on scene shortly after where they extinguished a fire, secured the scene and cordoned off the area. The crash occurred in a remote area and there were no structures in the immediate area.

The aircraft, which was flown by an instructor pilot and student pilot, was on a routine training sortie at the time.

As of right now, the incident is under investigation by a safety board, and additional details will be provided as soon as they become available.

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)	-5.08 days	-3.67 days	June 29	48th (18-10)	0.12 days	4.81 days	June 8	49th (18-HBC)	-1.30 days	-0.47 days	May 30	T-6	2,297	2,025	17,382				
41st (19-03)	-5.13 days	-7.96 days	June 6	50th (18-10)	2.45 days	2.98 days	June 8	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	812	647	5,816				
												T-38	896	713	7,601				
												IFF	329	277	2,827				
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.																			



14TH FLYING TRAINING  
WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 27 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.

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
28 Memorial Day Weekend and Family Day	29 Wing New-comers, 8 a.m. @ Club	30 14th CS Change of Command, 10:14 a.m. @ Club  Pilot Partner Base Tour, Noon-4:30 p.m.	31 Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club Master Sergeant Release Party, 4 p.m. @ Club Hearts Apart, 5 p.m. @ TBD	1 14th MDOS Change of Command, 10:14 a.m. @ Club	2/3 2nd: CAFB Triathlon, check-in at 7 a.m., Race starts at 8 a.m. @ Base Pool	
4 USAFA Ops Air Force Visit HQ AETC Continuum of Learning Team Visit	5	6	7 Daedalians Meeting, Noon @ 41st FTS Heritage Room	8 SUPT Class 18-10 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	9/10 9th-10th: Autocross, 9 a.m. @ SAC Ramp	

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Submission Deadline

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

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

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

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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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The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

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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.

To advertise in  
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# Laser guided bombs enhance Afghan Air Force strike capability

1st Lt. Erin Recanzone  
Train Advise Assist Command

KABUL AIR WING, Afghanistan — Since March 22, 2018, the Afghan Air Force has both introduced and increased the use of precision guided munitions in southern Afghanistan.

“The recent addition of laser-guided bomb strike capability is huge for the Afghan Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Justin Williams, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron commander. “Afghanistan did not have it last fighting season, and we are already seeing the crippling psychological effect it is having on the enemies of Afghanistan this season.”

Since the implementation of Laser Guided Bombs, nearly 96 percent of strikes have been successful and have led to a 30 percent increase in ground force commander desired effects on the battlefield and a greater overall mission success.

The capability, which consists of conventional bombs enabled with laser guidance kits, is almost entirely Afghan.

“The bombs are built by Afghan ammunition specialists and loaded onto Afghan planes by Afghan maintainers,” Williams said. “This is one example of how the Afghan Air Force is assuming ownership across the board.”

As of May 11, 2018, A-29 Super Tucano pilots have supported approximately 30 Afghan ground missions with this technology, successfully dropping over 50 laser guided bombs on enemy targets.

“The Taliban like to hide in towns and places where civilians are,” said an Afghan Air Force A-29 pilot. “The Laser Guided Bomb lets me strike those places without hurting the local people.”

Williams echoed the Afghan pilot’s comments.

“Using laser-guided technology, the Afghan Air Force pilots are able to strike with extreme precision, limiting civilian casualties while still having a greater, more profound effect on



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jared J. Duhon  
**An Afghan Air Force A-29 Super Tucano taxis to a parking spot March 6, 2018, Kabul Air Wing, Afghanistan. The aircraft is highly maneuverable, and capable of operating in austere environments and rugged terrain.**

the battlefield,” Williams aid.

Afghan Air Force members are constantly working with their train, advise and assist coalition partners to develop new capabilities that create a more professional, capable and sustainable Afghan Air Force.

The implementation of laser-guided bombs comes just two years after the Afghan Air Force gained air strike capabilities in the A-29 and is part of an overall effort to modernize the Afghan Air Force and give it a lethal advantage over the enemy.



## Cycle safe, wear a helmet

## Be safe on the water, wear a life preserver





## Share the road. Watch for motorcyclist.



## School's Out! BE SAFE!

# Tuck welcomes new class of Air Force aviators

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

Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, spoke to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-09 during their graduation May 18, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Tuck flew in from Scott AFB, Illinois, to speak in front of an Air Force pilot graduating class for the first time. He said he was thankful to Air Education and Training Command and the 14th Flying Training Wing for making it possible.

“I’m honored to be here today,” he said. “This has been a work in the making for me; for at least about six months to get to this class ... I can’t thank you enough for allowing me to be on this stage today.”

He thanked everyone in the audience with a sincere appreciation for supporting the brand new pilots up to this point in

*“It doesn’t really end here, a graduation is the start of something new,” he said. “For [the 25 new pilots], it’s about making a difference in the next job they go to, being credible in their craft, and not wanting to let up on the gas.”*

their career and assured they will go on to do even bigger and better things after wings are pinned on their chest.

Tuck spoke about the importance of keeping goals in mind and finding the best of every situation. Then he began to speak about a very important word in every aspect of military aviation and leadership-credibility.

“Credibility, your word’s going to matter,” Tuck said to the students. “When you say you’re going to do something, I’m asking you to do it. It’s vitally important you come through with that and I hope you understand

what you say as an officer in our Air Force matters.”

Tuck said their knowledge and credibility can and will be used to make tactical and impactful decisions throughout their career from training environments to joint combat environments overseas.

“From the first six months to a year at your first unit, what kind of officer are you going to be,” he questioned the students. “What kind of aviator are you going to be? I hope you carry away the traditions you learned here ... it’s important you keep the power and the gas up

and be the best that you can be.”

He said each pilot will have to hold themselves accountable and earn their credibility through their work as well as their ability to succeed in every task before them.

“It doesn’t really end here, a graduation is the start of something new,” he said. “For [the 25 new pilots], it’s about making a difference in the next job they go to, being credible in their craft, and not wanting to let up on the gas.”

He said he doesn’t want any graduating pilot to lose their work ethic they showed during pilot training, because if they continue to be their best, they will be able to solve issues more efficiently because their preparation and ability will take over.

“It was just powerful today to see the smiles of Airmen receiving their wings and knowing you got to participate in that,” Tuck said. “For me, it’s about mentoring, building up the leaders behind me, so when I retire ... I know I’m turning over what we have been doing in this Air Force to a great team.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Dublin  
**Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, speaks to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-09 during their graduation ceremony May 18, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. More than half of the 18-09 class will be flying aircraft in Tuck’s command.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens  
**Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, speaks with student pilots in the 48th Flying Training Squadron May 17, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Tuck went around Columbus AFB to see the pilot training mission before speaking at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-09’s graduation ceremony May 18.**





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

**Capt. Hunter Barnhill, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, completes a rep on his rowing machine May 15, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Barnhill was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2017, and has since become one of the many resilient Airmen and participants in the Air Force Wounded Warrior community.**



**Capt. Hunter Barnhill, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, trains on his road bike May 15, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Barnhill will bike anywhere from a few miles to over 15 miles in one training session. As a member of the Air Force Wounded Warrior program he is preparing for the 2018 Warrior Games June 1-9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

# Instructor pilot shares experience in AFW2 program before competing in Warrior Games

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

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The end of an Easter egg hunt in 2017 brought Capt. Hunter Barnhill down to the ground as his body was trapped in a seizure.

The seizure was a result of the brain cancer that doctors would soon discover. Within days and through the following months his family, friends and co-workers were helping Barnhill, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, through one of the most difficult times in his life, but there was another helping hand already looking to grab hold of the pilot.

“There was an email chain between my commander at the time and somebody at the Air Force Wounded Warrior program (AFW2),” Barnhill said. “They had said something along the lines of ‘Capt. Barnhill just went under some serious brain surgery and we’d recommend him as a member of the AFW2 program.’”

He recalled going through physical therapy the summer after his surgery and he would watch the Invictus Games, an international adaptive multi-sport event, on his computer as he stretched and did his workouts.

“I was impressed,” he said. “If they could go through the traumas they went through and find their healing through different sports, then why couldn’t I do it? That’s kind of where my interest in the Warrior Games began.”

He competed in a handful of adaptive sports during an

AFW2 camp at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, which only motivated him further to try out for the Warrior Games team.

“When you get down to it, the real motivation is competing alongside other resilient Airmen,” Barnhill said. “I wanted to compete alongside them. These people at the Warrior Games know, in a way, what I’ve gone through. That’s a bond we all share.”

After the tryouts, Barnhill qualified for shooting, cycling and indoor rowing events and will be competing in all three events at the 2018 Warrior Games from June 1-9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“I grew up deer hunting and shooting, so I was immediately drawn to the air pistol and air rifle shooting,” he said. “I was never much of a cyclist before I started training, honestly. I have never done any competitive cycling, but I used to bike everywhere as a kid and in college. I used rowing predominantly as a warm up before workouts, but the indoor rowing in particular is one of those sports I have fallen in love with because of its introduction to me through the AFW2 program.”

The teams for each of the sports have Facebook groups where they can communicate with teammates, have live videos of workouts for instant feedback from their coaches, and review new workout routines or receive tips to improve.

A lot of coaches, like Col. Todd Benson, one of AFW2’s shooting coaches, are active-duty members in the Air Force and have a large background in the sport they are involved

with.

“Our warriors have taught me that two of the most important tools to recovery are humor and patience,” Benson said. “Lending an ear or igniting a smile can mean more to our warriors than you will ever know.”

Benson said from his experience coaching the marksmen over the years and helping the athletes overcome their different obstacles is a very rewarding experience.

“If you want to be inspired and humbled, meet a wounded warrior and ask them to tell you their story,” Benson said. “You will discover a renewed sense of patriotism and become energized to contribute to this great nation. It is an honor to coach amazing Airmen such as Capt. Barnhill. His drive, positive attitude, and amazing family has been an inspiration. I have no doubt he will inspire anyone who has the privilege to shake his hand.”

The shared experiences and sacrifices of the athletes builds strong bonds between everyone involved, Barnhill explained. Everyone knows in a way what the person next to them has gone through and the team concept is what allows the program to work as a recovery tool.

“All through training, my wife, Crystal, has been really patient with me,” Barnhill said. “There’s been a lot of time I’ve had to spend training. Her and my son have put up with me and my schedule because they know how much it means to me and it’s been really great. I really appreciate them.”

See **WARRIOR GAMES**, Page 5

## From Africa to America: Perseverance paves the way for a future officer

**Cadet Chad Beighley**  
Air Force Officer Training School

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. —

There are many ways to distinguish yourself from a group of people. Maybe you’re the smartest, most athletic or funniest person in a group. Maybe you have a different background or speak a different language.

If you’re Gabriele McStanislav-Cudjoe, a cadet in Air Force Officer Training School, you’re from a different country, your first spoken language isn’t English and you came from a different branch of the U.S. military. Of all the differences between McStanislav-Cudjoe and his fellow cadets, however, the one thing that truly makes him stand out is his heart.

In May 2008, 25-year-old McStanislav-Cudjoe left his hometown of Accra, Ghana, where his first spoken language was Ewe. Although he already had a bachelor’s degree in geological engineering, he sought opportunities that he couldn’t get in his home country. In Ghana, there are things that the citizens there don’t have control over. Leaving his home country wasn’t his first plan, but no other country offered such opportunity as the United States of America.

McStanislav-Cudjoe had a scholarship lined up for a master’s in business administration program in the states, but after he arrived in the U.S., the scholarship fell through. He continued to work odd jobs to pay the bills, eventually starting a master’s in intelligence management. A year after starting graduate school, McStanislav-Cudjoe joined the Navy as a personnel specialist.

“Education is all you have; it’s all that you can take with you from place to place and job to job,” said McStanislav-Cudjoe.

While in the Navy, he completed his master’s in intelligence management, as well as a master’s in business administration. He earned both graduate degrees through the University of Maryland University College by age 34.

McStanislav-Cudjoe wasn’t able to commission in the Navy, but still felt the call to lead.

He decided to pursue a commission in the Air Force, and was accepted into Officer Training School to be an acquisitions officer after graduation.



Courtesy photo

**Cadet Gabriele McStanislav-Cudjoe gives a briefing in his flight room, May 2, 2018, at the Air Force’s Officer Training School on Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. One of the biggest sources of inspiration for McStanislav-Cudjoe is his family, which includes his wife and 7-year-old son. All of his extended family is still in Ghana.**

One of the things that sets McStanislav-Cudjoe apart from his fellow cadets in OTS is that his perspective is eternally positive, and his background is a major reason for that.

“When you feel like people are denied opportunities simply because of where they are from, you want to do something to ensure the generations that follow don’t have that same fate,” he said.

His attitude toward OTS is a refreshing change of pace. While many cadets are frustrated with the seemingly endless rules and regulations, McStanislav-Cudjoe embraces the challenge. He believes that the curriculum is designed to change all of the cadets into something better, but they can only get the most out of it through hard work and dedication.

“The curriculum here is designed to shape

you,” he said. “We are all required to work with a team, and it’s the responsibility of everyone around you to make sure everyone is being held accountable. We are tried and tested over and over. Your desire for growth and development will determine how much you get out of this course.”

He knows graduating won’t be easy, but will rely on his education and experiences overseas and as a Sailor to carry him through. His view is that no one can fit in with all groups of people completely, but they can bring forth their unique characteristics during the team building process.

“You should always remind yourself of your purpose in life, so that you can embrace what is outside your comfort zone and accomplish something great,” he said.

One of the biggest sources of inspiration for McStanislav-Cudjoe is his family, which

includes his wife and 7-year-old son. All of his extended family is still in Ghana.

“When people who look like you see you doing something, they start to think they can do it, too,” said McStanislav-Cudjoe.

It’s this mindset that guides him in his quest to be a role model for his son. Like most fathers, he wants his son to have as many opportunities as possible, and he wants to be the one to show him that people can do anything. He wants to show that if someone believes in something enough, they will find a way around the obstacles before them no matter what happens.

McStanislav-Cudjoe’s infectious optimism has spread to his fellow students. Barry Alexander, a cadet in the same flight, knows that someone like McStanislav-Cudjoe doesn’t come around every day.

“Gabriele is an individual in my flight with a story that should be heard,” said Alexander. “He came and grabbed the American dream, and it couldn’t have happened to a better person.”

Moving forward from OTS and into the operational Air Force, McStanislav-Cudjoe has a few goals. First, since someone gave him the opportunity to succeed and become an officer, he wants to give a similar opportunity to another.

“Value the opportunities that come your way, and make sure you do something with your opportunities,” he said.

In addition, since some leaders fail to recognize talent, McStanislav-Cudjoe would like to cultivate the change to make sure that talent isn’t being overlooked. He also hopes that, by the end of OTS, he has at least inspired one person to be better than they are.

“If you’re going to be an officer in the Armed Forces, you have to give something back, to inspire others and give them something to aspire to,” he said.

Finally, he wants to complete a doctoral degree in either international relations or global leadership.

A man like McStanislav-Cudjoe has proven that he can navigate the obstacles before him. When he continues to do it as an Airman the same way he did as a Sailor, the Air Force is going to find out that they snatched a great leader from a sister service.



### Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

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

### 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 Jun. 20 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact 434-2934.

### 2018 Air Force Photo Contest

The theme for the 2018 Air Force Photo Contest is “freedom”. Participants may enter up to two images that depict how they view freedom through their camera lens. Images may be of people, places or things but must adhere to the theme. For more information or to enter, go to <http://www.MyAirForceLife.com/Photo-Contest> no later than May 31.

### 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.

### Poolside Movie

The Base Pool is offering a free movie “Paddington 2” (PG) at 8:30 p.m. May 27. The snack bar will be closed. Feel free to bring your own snacks. For more information, contact 434-2491.

### Free Breakfast for Club Members

Free breakfast buffet for club members from 6:30–9 a.m. May 29. The cost is \$8 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

### 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.

### Officer Skydiving Trip

The ITT office is offering an Officer Single Airman Skydiving Trip from 7 a.m.–5 p.m. June 6. The cost is only \$40 for club members and \$45 for non-members. Participant must be at least 19 years old. Sign up no later than May 30. For more information, contact 434-7861.

### 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; 10 balls pitched per participant. Each participant must bring own pitcher. Registration deadline is 1 p.m. Jun. 7. For more information, contact 434-2772.



### 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](http://www.challengersports.com) or for more information, contact 434-2504.

### 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.

### 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.–midnight. For more information, contact 434-2419.

### Library Hours of Operation

The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

### Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and self-help bicycle repair. For more information, contact 434-2507.

### Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. For more information, contact 434-7836.

### Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact 434-2772.

### RV Storage Lot

Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

### Instructors Needed

The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

### Fitness on Request

The Fitness Center offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with 119 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

### Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

### Ride in Style

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

### WARRIOR GAMES

(Continued from page 4)

Barnhill said this supportive family dynamic is evident with other members of the team as well, and their families are willing to support the team by any means possible.

“All of the families are very integrated into the teams,” Barnhill said. “Athletes and caregivers, athletes and immediate family members, everyone’s on the team together and it’s a one-team fight.”

When the games or AFW2 camps are over, the families work with the athletes continuously to help them recover and progress personally and professionally. They are the heroes behind the scenes, Barnhill said.

“Everybody at the Warrior Games has one goal,” he said. “The goal is healing. There are second and third order effects that come from that healing such as comradery and friendship. It’s those kinds of things keep me coming back.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
Capt. Hunter Barnhill, 37th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, stands with his training equipment May 15, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Barnhill qualified for the Air Force Wounded Warrior team in the shooting, cycling and indoor rowing events. He will be competing in all three events at the 2018 Warrior Games June 1-9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## CAFB Education Center is base’s education compass

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

All Airmen, service members and civilians are encouraged to use their educational benefits while they serve their country, yet some take for granted the opportunities offered to them.

The 14th Force Support Squadron Education Center is Team BLAZE’s educational compass, steering Airmen and their civilian counterparts in the right direction toward technical certifications, college degrees and professional military education.

“We encourage the personal and professional development of all Airmen,” said Larry Brooks, 14th FSS chief of education and training. “Primarily, we serve our active-duty force through academic degrees and make sure they understand their tuition assistance benefits.”

Anybody on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, can use the Education Center to further their education. Even career-status civilian Airmen now have specialized programs to help make the civilian sector more educated to keep the best and brightest minds performing the base’s mission. Spouses can also receive academic advising and find out about potential scholarships.

Among the many education opportunities offered to active-duty Airmen is the Air Force Credential Opportunities Online (AFCOOL) that opens up certification tuition assistance that is no longer covered by the Air Force Tuition Assistance program.

Another opportunity offered to Airmen is the College Level Examination Program. CLEP allows Airmen to take one free test to get credit

*“We encourage the personal and professional development of all Airmen,” said Larry Brooks, 14th FSS chief of education and training. “Primarily, we serve our active-duty force through academic degrees and make sure they understand their tuition assistance benefits.”*

for an entire class. For example, if an Airman passes an algebra CLEP, in most cases they won’t have to take the class, but will still get the credit. If an Airman does use this program, they are highly encouraged to study before the test because if they fail they have to pay to take it again.

AFCOOL and CLEP are just two of many programs available for furthering education. If an Airman is interested in other opportunities, the Air Force Virtual Education Center is where the majority of their questions can be answered.

“Everything takes place on the Air Force Virtual Education Center,” Brooks said. “That’s where your education records are maintained and your Air Force goal is approved.”

Between the 14th FSS Education Center and AFVEC, all Airmen can reach their educational goal and use the benefits they earned to their full advantage.

**Drive Smart,  
Save Lives**

**Don’t text  
while driving**





# BLAZE Hangar Tails: U-28A

## Background

The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 aircraft and is part of the Air Force Special Operations Command manned, airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance fleet. Operational squadrons include the 319th, 34th and 318th Special Operations Squadrons, and the 5th and 19th SOS conduct the airframe's formal training.

## Mission

The U-28A provides manned fixed-wing tactical airborne ISR support to humanitarian operations, search and rescue and conventional and special operation missions.

## Features

AFSOC fielded the U-28A fleet through the purchase of commercially available aircraft and subsequent military modification to include tactical communications capabilities, aircraft survivability equipment, electro-optical sensors, and advanced navigation systems. The advanced radio-commu-

nications suite is capable of establishing U.S. Department of Defense and NATO data-links, delivering full-motion video, and transmitting secure voice communications. The U-28A benefits from outstanding reliability and performance, and the aircraft is capable of operating from short runways and semi-prepared surfaces.

## Background

The diverse Special Operations Command mission requirements generated a need for small numbers of mission-specific aircraft which were procured rapidly to address specific mission needs. The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 that operates worldwide.

The U-28A is part of AFSOC's Light Tactical Fixed Wing fleet, formerly known as non-standard aviation.

The initial block of U-28 aircraft were procured and modified for use in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

All U-28A aircraft are maintained through contractor lo-

gistics support.

## General Characteristics

**Crew:** 2 Pilots, 1 Combat Systems Officer, 1 Tactical Systems Officer

**Builder:** Pilatus Aircraft Ltd

**Power Plant:** Pratt-Whitney PT6A-67B

**Thrust:** 1,200 horse power

**Wingspan:** 53 feet 3 inches (16.23 meters)

**Length:** 47 feet 3 inches (14.4 meters)

**Height:** 14 feet (4.25 meters)

**Speed:** 220 knots

**Range:** 1,500 nautical miles

**Ceiling:** 30,000 feet

**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 10,935 lbs.

**Deployment Date:** 2006

**Unit Cost:** \$16.5 million

**Inventory:** Active duty, 28; Reserve/ANG, 0

(Current as of September 2017)



Courtesy photo

The U-28A provides a manned fixed wing, on-call/surge capability for Improved Tactical Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) in support of Special Operations Forces.



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

A U-28A is parked on the Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, flight line April 13, 2018. The diverse Special Operations Command mission requirements generated a need for small numbers of mission-specific aircraft which were procured rapidly to address specific mission needs. The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 that operates worldwide.

## 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.

## Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be from 8 a.m.-noon May 29. 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 will be from 5-7 p.m. May 31. 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.

## Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop will be 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.

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

The next Transition Assistance Program workshop will be 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 re-

## Louisville Junior ROTC tours Columbus AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Smoot

The Louisville High School Junior ROTC group stands in the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Firehouse May 21, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The group toured multiple place around base including the enlisted dormitories and the 14th Operations Group flight simulators.

quired before attending, 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 will be from July 16-17, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 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 will be 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 will be 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 qual-

ifying 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.

## Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be 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.

## Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop will be 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 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.

## Heart Link

The next Heart Link will be 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.

## 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/refresher 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.

## 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

4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)

4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)

5 p.m. – Mass at Kaye Auditorium

Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd

Sundays of every month

**Tuesdays:**

11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass at Phillips Auditorium

**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 at Kaye Auditorium

**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



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



# Columbus AFB Top 3 spotlight




**Name:** Staff Sgt. Teddrick Thibodeaux  
**Hometown:** Lafayette, Louisiana  
**Unit:** 14th Operations Support Squadron  
**Duty Title:** Aircrew Flight Equipment craftsman

Thibodeaux was nominated for the Top 3 Spotlight because of his outstanding leadership. He is the NCO in charge of a combined T-6A Texan II Aircrew Flight Equipment section for two flying squadrons. There, he manages the operations and equipment for 404 instructor, student, and international pilots.

Additionally, Thibodeaux oversaw the Columbus AFB portion of a T-6 fleet-wide project to modify oxygen connectors, enabling aircrews and 99 T-6 aircraft to return to flying status. Furthermore, he led a time-critical inspection which required a breakdown and reassembly of 404 oxygen masks. This was completed 84 percent earlier than the required time frame to restore an \$83 million T-6 training pipeline.

Finally, Thibodeaux briefed a major general, and seven Air Force equipment and aircraft engineers on AFE unexplained physiologic event procedures and fail-safes, for which he was recognized by a major general that is assistant to the Air Force Materiel Command commander, and coined by the Human Systems division chief.



**Staff Sgt. Teddrick Thibodeaux, 14th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment craftsman, receives the April Top 3 Spotlight Award from Master Sgts. Carmina Beedle and Latoria Mathis, Top 3 representatives.**

Courtesy photo

VIEWPOINT

Don't let complacency rule out safety

**Lt. Col. Philip Poeppelman**  
14th Flying Training Wing chief of safety

I think most of us have an event we remember like it happened yesterday, we remember exactly where we were and what we were doing and all the details are super vivid.

For a lot of us, that event is Sept. 11, 2001. In addition to Sept. 11, 2001, I remember Sept. 26, 1998, like it was yesterday.

It was a Saturday afternoon, I was in my apartment at Ohio State University. I was watching a random football game because my Buckeyes did not have a game that week.

The phone in my apartment rang, so I answered. It was my older sister. She told me if you're not sitting down you should. As soon as she said that I had this huge sinking feeling, I thought something had happened to my father as he had a heart attack a couple years prior, but my dad was fine.

She said "Mom was killed in a car accident this morning." I just kind of sat there in disbelief and said "OK, I'm going to come home."

My sister told me to have a friend drive me because she didn't want me to drive in that mental state. She was smart to request that.

*Warmer weather is upon us and motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians are out in force throughout the country. Motorists and other road users are reminded to look out for and "share the road", while other road users are reminded to follow the rules of the road and wear protective gear that will increase their visibility.*

Private motor vehicle mishaps are the most severe threat to most of our safety. Nearly 40,000 Americans die each year on our nation's highways. Usually, between 40 to 50 Airmen die each year in PMV mishaps.

Warmer weather is upon us and motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians are out in force throughout the country. Motorists and other road users are reminded to look out for and "share the road", while other road users are reminded to fol-


low the rules of the road and wear protective gear that will increase their visibility.

ALL road users are reminded to never drive, ride, bike or walk while distracted. By increasing safe operation and co-operation between all we can reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways.

Here are 10 tips to keep yourself safe while driving in no particular order.

1. Keep your vehicle well maintained
2. Practice defensive driving
3. Watch out for the other guy
4. Don't follow too closely
5. Be extra careful in bad weather
6. Wear your seatbelt
7. Don't drive drowsy
8. Don't speed
9. Avoid distractions
10. Don't drink and drive

As we approach the Memorial Day Weekend and the start of summer, keep yourself and your loved ones safe in all of your summer activities. Don't let an event happen that someone will remember forever, at least not one due to bad stuff happening.



## Medical Corner

# The truth about secondhand smoke

Every pack of cigarettes has a label on it warning you of the dangers to your health. Yet for millions of smokers world-wide, it is ignored. You feel the harmful effects that smoking does to your lungs and body, yet you continue to smoke. But what about those around you that have not made the same choice that you did? Do they not get a say?

Secondhand smoke and the health problems that are associated with it continues to be a problem that many non-smokers face on a daily basis. It's not just the smoke coming from the person exhaling the pollutants from their mouth and nose, but also the trail of smoke that a burning cigarette or cigar leaves sitting on an ash tray as well as the ashes themselves that can harm non-smokers.

**Health effects of secondhand smoke**  
Over time, secondhand smoke has been known to be associ-

ated with serious health risks in non-smokers. These health risks include lung cancer, heart disease, heart attacks or strokes, breathing problems such as asthma or emphysema, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Mothers who breathe secondhand smoke suffer the same health issues as smokers and are more likely to have babies with lower birth weights. After birth, babies tend to have more respiratory infections than those not around secondhand smoke and continued exposure can lead to your child developing asthma with more frequent and severe attacks as well as get sick more often.

Children are not the only ones affected from secondhand smoke. Adults in and around their workplace are also exposed to secondhand smoke and can cause health problems. The Federal office of the Surgeon General has said the only way to protect non-smokers from secondhand smoke is to not smoke around non-smokers at all.

**Steps you can take**


It's not enough to just have a designated place to smoke, or to say that you will smoke outside or away from others. Remember, you are a powerful role model. If you don't smoke, your children and other family members are less likely to smoke or may even give them a reason to quit. Here are some steps you can take to make it easier to breathe for everyone and yourself:

- Remove all smoking items from inside your house and vehicle and smoke only outdoors. Smoking with the windows down or open may not be enough as particles from the cigarette smoke have been shown to settle on surfaces which can be inhaled by others.
- If your kids' school or day care allows faculty or visitors to smoke on or around campus, check what their smoking policy is and ask that they enforce it.
- If you have in-home or live-in nanny or babysitter, ensure that they understand smoking inside or around your children will not be tolerated.

The only way that you can truly prevent secondhand smoke is to not smoke at all. Remember, it's not just your health that is impacted from smoking. When you smoke, you may miss out on spending time with family, having that extra money in your pocket to spend on the people that you love, and sets a poor example for your kids', family and others who depend on you to be around. Become smoke free. Contact your health provider to find out ways that you can quit or visit: [freedomquitline.org](http://freedomquitline.org) or [smokefree.gov](http://smokefree.gov).

**References:**  
1. American Heart Association; Why Is It So Hard To Quit  
2. American Cancer Society; Why People Start Smoking and Why It's So Hard To Stop  
3. HHS Be Tobacco Free.gov; Don't Start

## A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team



Dear Health Myth Busters,

*I've heard that secondhand smoke is really bad for you. I'm not really interested in smoking or being exposed to secondhand smoke. Yuck! But at work I've noticed smokers get breaks, while the rest of us have to keep working. I've seen people laughing it up and sometimes they seem to be having informal meetings. What gives? Is this another urban myth?*

Sincerely,  
Not Fair

Dear Not Fair

Congratulations on remaining tobacco free in the midst of what appears to be compelling reasons to at least join the group for socialization. Despite your impression that smoking may be an easy gateway to more on the job breaks, joining your friends at the pit is not the way to go to get more break time. Secondhand smoke is a mixture of what is exhaled by a smoker and what is escaping from the lighted end of their cigarette. Secondhand smoke has the same harmful chemicals that smokers inhale. There's no safe level of exposure for secondhand smoke.

Unfortunately, your perceptions may not be based on a total myth. "Smoke breaks" are sometimes a common, unofficially sanctioned workplace activity. Nevertheless, AFI40-102 Tobacco Free Living states: 'supervisors will ensure tobacco use does not entitle tobacco users to additional break time from duties compared with non-tobacco users'. If this is happening in your workplace, don't just wander off as a countermeasure. Well timed mental and physical breaks have been shown to increase productivity. I encourage you to make an appointment with your boss to get permission for breaks at a time that is convenient for both of you.

Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters





## SUMMER SAFETY CHECKLISTS





### ROAD

- ☑ Driving and texting don't mix
- ☑ Never drink and drive
- ☑ Plan your outing...know the area and pack accordingly
- ☑ Perform a vehicle check-up
- ☑ Slow down...enjoy the drive
- ☑ Get a good night's sleep and take frequent rest stops
- ☑ Keep emergency supplies in your vehicle...prepare for the unexpected



### FIRE

- ☑ Gasoline is intended to power an engine, not to start a BBQ grill or campfire
- ☑ BBQ grills are meant for outdoor use only
- ☑ Charcoal remains hot for hours...ensure it's completely out before disposing
- ☑ Hot surfaces are not limited to cooking surfaces
- ☑ Build campfires in appropriate areas...ensure they are completely out before leaving



### WATER

- ☑ Don't go it alone...water is safer and more fun with a friend
- ☑ Summer sun...don't forget the sunscreen
- ☑ Not all water is the same...use designated swimming areas
- ☑ Look before you leap
- ☑ Never leave children unattended
- ☑ Use life vests on boats...even if you know how to swim
- ☑ Alcohol and water don't mix
- ☑ Use non-slip material or mats around pools and on boats

# Summer's coming, be prepared, stay safe

**Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller**  
Air Force chief of safety

Summer weather brings with it the opportunity to get out and enjoy outdoor activities with fellow Airmen, family and friends. There is nothing quite like a warm afternoon on the beach, around the neighborhood pool or even in the backyard showcasing your favorite barbecue technique, to make some lasting memories. There is no question about it—summer is a lot of fun!

However, each year Airmen or members of their family are needlessly injured, or worse, while participating in outdoor activities. Over the past 10 years, an average of 50 Airmen and an equal number of family members died in off-duty activities such as boating, kayaking, swimming, biking, riding an all-terrain vehicle and general aviation. Today, it's much more common to be injured or killed off duty than on duty.

How are most Airmen injured off duty?

**Sports and Recreation:** I'm surprised by the number of injuries incurred in common sports like basketball and softball. In 2016, the Air Force experienced 2,031 injuries in sports and recreation activities. Each year, you get a little older and the speed and agility you had in high school doesn't magically reappear each summer. Take time to prepare for sports activities with a good routine of stretching and warm up. If you don't have the skills in a particular sport, practice or take a lesson or two. Stay in shape throughout the year so you are ready to win when you engage in your favorite sport.

**Water:** Each summer, a few Airmen die while boating, water skiing, scuba diving and in more cases than one would expect, from simply watching waves during hurricanes. In most all cases, using a sound buddy system could have prevented these mishaps. Some-



times the calmness of the open ocean seems to challenge us to go beyond our limits, all in the spirit of fun. Unfortunately, the open ocean is terribly unforgiving. So stick with a partner, know your limits and most importantly, use the safety gear that can save your life.

**Fire and fireworks:** Every year, Airmen are severely burned starting their barbecue or from open flames. Throwing flammable items, like fireworks, into fires has the same result every time ... it will burn, it will explode and someone will get hurt. Barbecues and fire pits are great for camping or enjoying the backyard, but both involve open flames. There's nothing better than a fresh-toasted marshmallow for sure, but respect open flames and pre-light that gas grill.

**On the Road:** This one you do every day. It's driving. Our hazard exposure goes up during summer because we spend more time on



the road. From road trips to theme parks, to visiting relatives in the next state or on a far coast, or the call of Route 66, the open road calls to many military families. No lecture here, just encouragement. If you're a passenger, maintain your situational awareness of the road. Help the driver. All of our minds wander and that's deadly at 65 mph. And make a family rule of turning off the cell phone when you're the driver.

Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Franklin, Air Force Safety career field manager, and I want to thank all our Air Force families for the support you give our nation's Airmen. Our families represent the core of who we are, our strength as a service and a touchstone for those deployed in harm's way. Be certain, each of you are a valuable part of our Air Force and our nation. Make this summer a fun one, full of enjoyable memories to last a lifetime.

For more information on summer safety, please visit <https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/10178/Pages/Summer-Safety.aspx>.

*(Editor's Note: This article was edited to match the local writing style of 14th Flying Training Wing's Public Affairs Office.)*