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Vol. 42, Issue 30

August 3, 2018

## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  Thunderstorms <b>High 86°F Low 67°F</b>	<b>Saturday</b>  A.M. Thunderstorms <b>High 87°F Low 69°F</b>
<b>Sunday</b>  A.M. Fog <b>High 90°F Low 71°F</b>	<b>Monday</b>  Partly Cloudy <b>High 92°F Low 71°F</b>

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

## News Briefs

### Commander's Base Farewell

The Columbus Club will host a farewell barbeque dinner at 6 p.m., Aug. 4, for Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. Contact Columbus Air Force Base's protocol officer to RSVP.

### 14th Flying Training Wing Change of Command

The 14th Flying Training Wing is hosting a change of command ceremony at 9:14 a.m. Aug. 6, at the McAlister Fire Station.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled for 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 7, at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel.

## Inside



### Feature 8

Col. Douglas Gosney's retirement is highlighted in this week's feature.

See GORDON, Page 3

## 2nd OG commander recognizes newest Air Force aviators

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

Col. David Gordon, 2nd Operations Group commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, was the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-12's graduation July 27 at Columbus AFB, Mississippi.

Gordon earned his silver wings in the same auditorium roughly 20 years ago. He remarked his excitement to be back and noted the base felt comfortably familiar during the graduation festivities.

"It was 20 years ago last December that I was sitting in these very seats," Gordon said. "Bursting with excitement and energy at the thought I was going to fly Air Force jet aircraft, and they were going to pay me to do that."

He recognized each student's determination to get to this point in their career regardless of their path, and expressed his confidence in their abilities. Gordon also recognized they had many struggles through pilot training, but noted them graduating was a testament to their strength and ability as officers and aviators.

"It's the ability to adapt, change course, to bounce back and keep charging forward that defines these aviators that will put on their wings today," Gordon said. "You can't take a timeout at 30,000 feet, you can't pull over to figure out what is going on in the situation, you have to keep charging forward ... and these stu-



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

**Col. David Gordon, 2nd Operations Group commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, speaks to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-12 July 27, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gordon earned his silver wings in the same auditorium roughly 20 years ago and he remarked his excitement to be back and noted the base felt comfortably familiar during the graduation festivities.**

## 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 (19-06)	-7.22 days	-10.27 days	Aug. 13	48th (18-14)	6.58 days	4.66 days	Sept. 7	49th (18-KBC)	-9.68 days	-3.34 days	Aug. 21	T-6	131	101	23,120
41st (19-08)	-9.67 days	-11.51 days	Sept. 27	50th (18-14)	-1.24 days	-2.22 days	Sept. 7	* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.				T-1	45	45	7,541
												T-38	50	49	9,451
												IFF	21	21	3,674





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**Silver Wings**

**How to reach us**

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14th Flying Training Wing  
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NCOIC of Media Operations

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Mrs. Tina Perry  
Layout Designer

**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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**News Around Town**

**Now through October**

The Hitching Lot Farmers Market on the corner of 2nd St. and 2nd Ave. North in Historic Downtown Columbus is open Mondays 4-6 p.m., Thursdays 7-10 a.m. and Saturdays 7-10 a.m. (Saturdays only in October.)

**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](mailto:silverwings@us.af.mil) or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

**Miscellaneous**

For Sale: Collection of 14 assorted ceramic ducks which includes three small ducks, two large planter ducks, one candy dish large duck, three medium ducks and five large ducks. These ducks are in excellent condition. Asking \$29, one buyer only.

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Retruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

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# PACAF welcomes new commander

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Joining a proud legacy of leaders, Gen. C.Q. Brown Jr. assumed command of Pacific Air Forces during a ceremony here, July 26, 2018.

Presiding over the ceremony, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson expressed confidence in Brown and his abilities to lead those within his area of responsibility.

“When it came time to pick the new PACAF commander, General Brown was the obvious choice,” Wilson said. “He’s steeped in the critical role of strengthening our alliances and partnerships in order to deter aggression, maintain stability, and ensure free access to global domains. He is a combat-proven leader, supporting multiple operations. He’s gained a tremendous perspective of the Air Force through his operational warfighting experiences and lenses.”

Wilson described one of Brown’s recent roles as the “operational architect, leading and managing the air war that decimated the Islamic state. As then-General Mattis once stated, ‘Put CQ in the war, and the enemy will pay.’” Wilson went on to describe Brown’s role at U.S. Central Command, where he strengthened political-military ties and helped shape issues for key decision makers.

“In your new commander, PACAF has a joint Airman who is recognized as one of the top team builders, warfighting experts, and leaders, not only in the Air Force but in the entire U.S. military. That’s why he is the right person at the right time,” Wilson said.

As the 35th PACAF commander, or COM-PACAF, Brown now leads 46,000 Airmen throughout an area of responsibility that covers more than 100 million square miles and extends from the west coast of the United States to the east coast of Africa and from the Arctic to the Antarctic.

“Pacific Airmen serve as our nation’s ambassadors in an area larger than all, and as complicated as any,” Wilson said. “As a component commander, the Airmen here must be ready to employ with the lethality our joint force and our nation depends on... and the level of readiness our diplomats expect.”

Adm. Phil Davidson, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander, welcomed Brown to the Indo-Pacific.

“Leading a component command and integrating the air component in joint warfare is not a new concept for Gen. CQ Brown,” Davidson said.



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson passes the guidon of the Pacific Air Forces to Gen. CQ Brown Jr., signifying Brown’s assumption of command during the PACAF assumption-of-command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 26, 2018. Wilson and Adm. Philip S. Davidson, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander, presided over the ceremony. Brown now leads U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s air component, delivering airpower across 52 percent of the globe.

vidson said. “He has passed the test of leadership multiple times, commanding forces both forward deployed and back home. I know CQ to be a man of integrity, and a man with extraordinary leadership skills ... I know you are the right leader for PACAF and I am honored to have you as part of the team.”

Upon accepting the PACAF flag from Wilson, Brown conveyed his readiness to take on the challenges presented in this complex region.

“I have no doubt the Indo-Pacific will continue to have its share of challenges,” Brown said. “But every challenge provides an opportunity to demonstrate success or to strengthen a relationship. As INDOPACOM takes steps to implement the National Defense Strategy, PACAF, with its sister components, will have to continue to rethink how we think about the Indo-Pacific region. We will build upon a mature, agile combat employment and strategic shaping concepts so that PACAF can provide combat-ready Airmen that contribute to a more lethal, more resilient, and more rapidly innovative joint and combined force.”

Brown closed by communicating his core principles and commitment to the continued advancement of PACAF’s mission before

receiving his first salute as the new COM-PACAF.

“No matter the challenges and opportunities that come our way, I will lead using four tenants that I have operated with throughout my career: execute a high standard, be disciplined in execution, pay attention to detail, and have fun,” Brown said. “I look forward to working together to employ the resources provided by our chief of staff, Gen. David Goldfein, and our Air Force to deliver the air, space and cyberspace capabilities Admiral Davidson, INDOPACOM and our nation require, to promote security cooperation, encourage peaceful development, respond to contingencies, deter aggression and, when necessary, fight to win.”

Gen. T.J. O’Shaughnessy relinquished command of PACAF May 20 before becoming the commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command in Colorado.

Following O’Shaughnessy’s departure, Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez was appointed to command PACAF until Brown was confirmed by the Senate and assumed command. Martinez resumes his previous duties as commander of U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force, at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

## MEDAL OF HONOR

(Continued from page 13)

fense Ash Carter, the secretary of the Air Force recommended Chapman’s Air Force Cross be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

In accordance with Air Force policy whereby Medal of Honor recipients are automatically promoted one grade on the first day of the month following the award, Chapman will be posthumously promoted to the rank of master sergeant on Sept. 1, 2018.

Although Chapman will be awarded the Medal of Honor, family and friends have expressed his humility and how he would react today, if he were here.

“If John were to find out he received the Medal of Honor, he would be very humbled and honored,” said Chief Master Sergeant West. “He was just doing his job, and that’s what he would say at this moment.”

His widow, Valerie Nessel, has always known her husband was capable of such greatness, but asserts that John wouldn’t be anxious to be in the spotlight.

“[John] would want to recognize the other men that lost their lives,” said Valerie. “Even though he did something he was awarded the Medal of Honor for, he would not want the other guys to be forgotten – that they were part of the team together.”

“I think he would say that his Medal of Honor was not just for him, but for all of the guys who were lost,” she added.

In total, seven service members lost their lives during the Battle of Takur Ghar:

Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts – U.S. Navy SEAL

Tech. Sgt. John Chapman – U.S. Air Force combat control

Senior Airman Jason Cunningham – U.S. Air Force pararescue

Cpl. Matthew Commons – U.S. Army Ranger

Sgt. Bradley Crose – U.S. Army Ranger

Spc. Marc Anderson – U.S. Army Ranger

Sgt. Philip Svitak – U.S. Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment

“John would have, so I’ll say it for him. Every American who set foot on that mountaintop acted with great courage and selflessness, and deserves all of our praise and admiration for the sacrifices they made,” said Rodriguez.

LIBRARY HOURS

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10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LIBRARY HOURS

## Hunt Housing tip of the week

Upon extended absences of seven days or more, it is encouraged that residents notify the housing office. This practice is requested so if any unusual activity is present during your absence, management can respond on your behalf or can notify you. The resident also understands that management is not liable for the premises while the resident is away. If the resident is absent from the home for more than 30 days without notification to Columbus Family Housing, the home may be deemed abandoned in accordance with the terms of the lease.



## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 28 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.



Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, introduces Col. David Gordon, 2nd Operations Group commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, as the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-12 July 27, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney and Gordon both flew the B-52 Stratofortress and eventually worked together, becoming friends years ago.

## GORDON

(Continued from page 1)

dents have proven they can do that today.”

He recounted a story sitting with his first pilot training instructor and two other pilots and listened to the instructor explain the difficulty of the training they were about to begin.

Gordon later realized the instructor gave him his first lesson of pilot training that day. It showed you have to have the will keep moving forward no matter the situation. Resolve and resilience is in every U.S. military aviator he said, it’s a few of many universal traits in all of those who wear wings he explained.

“The folks that graduated today all have that strength, fortitude and resolve that they learned

“The folks that graduated today all have that strength, fortitude and resolve that they learned throughout pilot training,” Gordon said.

throughout pilot training,” Gordon said. “Those are also reflected in our core values to do what’s right: Integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do, are part of all our characters ... its part of all Airmen’s heritage.”

## Security and policy review

Did you know that as a military member you must coordinate all information relating to speeches, presentations, academic papers, multimedia visual information materials and information proposed for release to a publicly accessible Worldwide Website, with exception of Air Force publications, through the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office? For more information contact the 14th FTW/PA at 434-7068.



# Col. Weeks to take command of 14th FTW Aug. 6

Col. Samantha Weeks will take command of the 14th Flying Training Wing during a change of command ceremony at 9:14 a.m. Aug. 6 at the McAllister Fire Station. During her previous assignment she was the commander, 57th Adversary Tactics Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. As the commander, she was responsible for seven squadrons replicating worldwide Adversary Air Power. The group integrates operations across air, space, cyberspace, and land domains, presenting a selectively-manned aggressor force to train and prepare America and her Allies for victory. Weeks recently completed the Stephen R. Lorenz Fellowship where she worked on a Doctoral dissertation focusing on leader and leadership preparation, and the development of the Air Force squadron commander. Prior to this assignment, she was the executive assistant to the commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM). Weeks received her commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1997. After graduating from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, she flew the F-15C where she supported Operations Northern and Southern Watch. She was assigned as an Air Force Fellow to the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison, Washington D.C., and was chosen for a Lorenz Fellowship in Colorado Springs. She was also a demonstration pilot in the United States Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds. Weeks is a command pilot with more than 2,200 flying hours including 105 combat hours in support of Operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch, and has flown in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

## EDUCATION

1997 Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, U.S. Air

Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
2002 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2005 Masters in Human Relations, University of Oklahoma  
2008 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence  
2009 Air Force Fellows, Strategic Policy Intern Program, Washington, D.C.  
2010 Master of Philosophy, Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
2014 Air War College, by correspondence  
2016 Doctoral dissertation on leader and leadership preparation, Stephen R. Lorenz Fellowship

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1997 – November 1997, Athletic Instructor, Athletic Department, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
2. November 1997 – October 1998, Student Pilot, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
3. Apr 1999 – October 1999, Student Pilot, F-15C initial training, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
4. October 1999 - March 2003, F-15C pilot, 4-ship flight lead, mission commander, 94th Fighter Squadron, 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.
5. May 2003 – May 2004, Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Assistant Director of Operations, 607th Air Support Operations Group, Osan Air Base, South Korea
6. July 2004 – July 2006, Flight commander and Instructor pilot, 12th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
7. October 2006 – November 2008, #6: Opposing Solo, #5: Lead Solo, F-16 Instructor Pilot, Chief of Training, Aircrew Flight Equipment Officer, and Budget Officer, USAF Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis AFB, Nev.
8. November 2008 – July 2009, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force Warfare Center, Nellis AFB, Nev.
9. August 2009 – July 2010, Air Force Fellows-Strategic Policy Intern, Washington, D.C.
10. July 2010 – June 2011, Student, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
11. Sep 2011 – May 2012, Chief of Safety, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea
12. May 2012 – June 2013, Commander, 8th Operations

Support Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea  
13. June 2013 – July 2015, Deputy Executive Assistant and Executive Assistant to the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U. S. Northern Command, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
14. July 2015 – August 2016, Air Force Fellow-Lorenz Fellowship, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
15. August 2016 – June 2018, Commander, 57th Adversary Tactics Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.

## SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 2013 – July 2015, Deputy Executive Assistant and Executive Assistant to the Commander, NORAD/NORTHCOM, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a lieutenant colonel

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot  
Total Flight Hours: 2,200 with 105 Combat Hours  
Aircraft Flown: F-16, F-15C

## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal  
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Aerial Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster  
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with silver and bronze oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award  
Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	28 May 1997
First Lieutenant	28 May 1999
Captain	28 May 2001
Major	1 Dec 2006
Lieutenant Colonel	1 Dec 2011
Colonel	1 Jun 2016

(DRAFT Current as of Jun 2018)

# Airman posthumously receives Medal of Honor

Staff Sgt. Ryan Conroy  
24th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The White House announced July 27, 2018, that Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Aug. 22, for his extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Takur Ghar, Afghanistan, in March 2002.

According to the Medal of Honor nomination, Chapman distinguished himself on the battlefield through “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity,” sacrificing his life to preserve those of his teammates.

## Making it look easy

Chapman enlisted in the Air Force Sept. 27, 1985, as an information systems operator, but felt called to be part of Air Force special operations. In 1989, he cross-trained to become an Air Force combat controller.

According to friends and family, Chapman had a tendency to make the difficult look effortless, and consistently sought new challenges. Dating back to his high school days, he made the varsity soccer squad as a freshman. Also an avid muscle-car enthusiast, he rebuilt and maintained an old Pontiac GTO.

Combat control would prove to be another instance of “making it look easy.”

Combat control training is more than two years long and amongst the most rigorous in the U.S. military. Only about one in ten Airmen who start the program graduate.

From months of rigorous physical fitness training to multiple joint schools – including military SCUBA, Army static-line and freefall, air traffic control, and combat control schools – Chapman is remembered as someone who could do anything put in front of him.

“One remembers two types of students – the sharp ones and the really dull ones – and Chapman was in the sharp category,” said Ron Childress, a former Combat Control School instructor.

Combat Control School is one of the most difficult points of a combat controller's training program, from completing arduous tasks without sleeping for days, to running miles with weighted rucksacks and a gas mask.

“During one of his first days at Combat Control School, I noticed a slight smirk on his face like [the training] was too simple for him...and it was,” said Childress.

Following Combat Control School, Chapman served with the 1721st Combat Control Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, where he met his wife, Valerie, in 1992. They had two daughters, who were the center of Chapman's world even when he was away from home – which was common in the combat control career field.

“He would come home from a long trip and immediately have on his father hat – feeding, bathing, reading and getting his girls ready for bed,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael West, who served with Chapman through Combat Control School, a three-year tour in Okinawa, Japan, and at Pope AFB. “They were his life and he was proud of them...to the Air Force he was a great hero...what I saw was a great father.”



Courtesy photo

**Air Force Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, a combat controller, was killed during a fierce battle against al-Qaida fighters in Takur Ghar, Afghanistan, March 4, 2002. He will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.”**

## The Battle of Takur Ghar

In conjunction with Operation Anaconda in March 2002, small reconnaissance teams were tasked to establish observation posts in strategic locations in Afghanistan, and when able, direct U.S. air power to destroy enemy targets. The mountain of Takur Ghar was an ideal spot for such an observation post, with excellent visibility to key locations.

For Chapman and his joint special operations teammates, the mission on the night of March 3 was to establish a reconnaissance position on Takur Ghar and report al-Qaida movement in the Sahi-Kowt area.

“This was very high profile, no-fail job, and we picked John,” said retired Air Force Col. Ken Rodriguez, Chapman's commander at the time. “In a very high-caliber career field, with the highest quality of men – even then – John stood out as our guy.”

During the initial insertion onto Afghanistan's Takur Ghar mountaintop on March 4, the MH-47 “Chinook” helicopter carrying Chapman and the joint special operations reconnaissance team was ambushed. A rocket propelled grenade struck the helicopter and bullets ripped through the fuselage. The blast ripped through the left side of the Chinook, throw-

ing Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts off the ramp of the helicopter onto the enemy-infested mountaintop below.

The severely damaged aircraft was unable to return for Roberts, and performed a controlled crash landing a few miles from the mountaintop. Thus began the chain of events that led to unparalleled acts of valor by numerous joint special operations forces, the deaths of seven

U.S. servicemen and now, 16 years later, posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Chapman.

Alone, against the elements and separated from his team with enemy personnel closing in, Roberts was in desperate need of support. The remaining joint special operations team members, fully aware of his precarious situation, immediately began planning a daring rescue attempt that included returning to the top of Takur Ghar where they had just taken heavy enemy fire.

As the team returned to Roberts' last-known position, now on a second MH-47, the entrenched enemy forces immediately engaged the approaching helicopter with heavy fire.

Miraculously, the helicopter, although heavily damaged, was able to successfully offload the remaining special operations team members and return to base. Chapman, upon exiting the helicopter, immediately charged uphill through the snow toward enemy positions while under heavy fire from three directions.

Once on the ground, the team assessed the situation and moved quickly to the high ground. The most prominent cover and concealment on the hilltop were a large rock and tree. As they approached the tree, Chapman received fire from two enemy personnel in a fortified position. He returned fire, charged the enemy position and took out the enemy combatants within.

Almost immediately, the team began taking machine gun fire from another fortified enemy position only 12 meters away. Chapman deliberately moved into the open to engage the new enemy position. As he heroically engaged the enemy, he was struck by a burst of gunfire and became critically injured.



Chapman regained his faculties and continued to fight relentlessly despite his severe wounds. He sustained a violent engagement with multiple enemy fighters, for over an hour through the arrival of the quick reaction force, before paying the ultimate sacrifice. In performance of these remarkably heroic actions, Chapman is credited with saving the lives of his teammates.

## The upgrade to MOH

“John was always selfless – it didn't just emerge on Takur Ghar – he had always been selfless and highly competent, and thank God for all those qualities,” said Rodriguez. “He could have hunkered down in the bunker and waited for the (Quick Reaction Force) and (Combat Search and Rescue) team to come in, but he assessed the situation and selflessly gave his life for them.”

Chapman was originally awarded the Air Force Cross for his actions; however, following a review of Air Force Cross and Silver Star recipients directed by then-Secretary of De-

See MEDAL OF HONOR, Page 14



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



### 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.

### Force Support Squadron Smile Program

We want to make you smile! Watch for hidden smiles for a chance to win with 14th Force Support Squadron during the month of August. More details coming soon!

### New Library Hours of Operation

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

### Lunch Buffets at the Overrun

Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday thru Friday at the Columbus Club. Daily buffets include: Tuesday–Taco and Nacho \$9, Wednesday–Chicken Wings and Pasta \$10, Thursday–Southern Style \$10 and Friday–Fried Catfish \$10. Club Members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, contact 434-2489.

### Flag Football and Cheerleading Registration

The Youth Center is offering Flag Football and Cheerleading for ages three–18. Register no later than Aug. 3. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

### UFC Fight Night

Catch all the action at the UFC Fight Night Aug. 4! Doors open at 6 p.m.; pre-fight at 7 p.m. and featured fight “Dilashaw vs. Garbrandt 2” at 9 p.m. Club members receive a \$5 food voucher. Food and drink specials available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

### Youth Soccer Registration

Register by Aug. 3 and save \$5 per youth! The Youth Center is offering Youth Soccer for ages 3–18. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

### Bench Press and 1000 LB Club

The Fitness Center is offering a Bench Press and 1000 LB Club from 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Aug. 13. Judging based on total for bench, squats and deadlift; raw weight with 3 attempts. For more information, contact 434-2772.

### Summer Time Blues 5K Fitness Run

The Fitness Center is offering a free 5K fitness run at 7 a.m. Aug. 17. For more information, contact 434-2772.

### Alpha Warrior Air Force Tour

Are you ready for the challenge? The Alpha Warrior Air Force Tour is coming to Columbus Air Force Base Aug. 23–24 featuring celebrity competitors. For more information, contact the Fitness Center at 434-2772.



### Dodgeball Tournament

The Fitness Center is offering a free Dodgeball Tournament at 5 p.m. Aug. 27. This event requires a team of six and is single elimination. Register by 12 p.m. Aug. 27. For more information, contact 434-2772.

### Storytime Schedule

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

### 14th FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your 14th FSS 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 AFB 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 avail-

able at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

### Play Paintball

Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book twenty-four hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

### The Overrun Open Friday Nights

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

### 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.

## Airmen promoted, recognized



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

**Enlisted promotees and quarterly award winners are recognized July 31, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Enlisted promotion ceremonies are held on the last duty of each month, while quarterly awards are held at the end of each quarter.**

## 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.



**Ride Safe,  
Wear a helmet  
and protective  
gear.**

## Marshall takes command of 14th MDSS



U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Ybarra

**Col. (Dr.) Guy Majkowski, 14th Medical Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Sean Marshall, the new 14th Medical Support Squadron commander, June 28, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th MDSS provides pharmacy, laboratory and radiology services, as well as medical logistics and administrative support to the Airmen of Columbus Air Force Base and our 8,200 beneficiaries.**

## Last Look Area

Recycling is what the Last Look Area provides! Slightly used furniture and equipment is available to all Columbus Air Force Base facilities for free. Pick-up and delivery is the customer's responsibility. There is a three-day maximum for customers who wish to reserve items.

**Facility hours are from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday.**

**Need more information?  
Contact Inspections at 434-7231 or 434-7332.  
Parking is available at the back of building 158.**



# Medical Corner

## Stress, tobacco and deployments

The use of tobacco by service members serving in the military has seen a greater negative impact on productivity and absenteeism than non-smokers. The reverse can be said to be true for those that are former smokers or tobacco users showing a decline in absenteeism and increased productivity after successfully quitting. Various studies have assessed the reason, benefit and value smokers get from the use of tobacco and tobacco related products and have discovered that individuals that are users were influenced in some way to do so or felt a great need to begin.

Within the military, tobacco use has seen a decrease during state side or continental U.S. assignments, yet has stayed constant or in some cases risen during deployments or outside continental U.S. assignments. This rise in use is the result of several contributing factors of which stress is the main culprit.

### Why start

Most tobacco users are users for one primary reason – the relief of stress. Whether it is a cigarette, dip, water pipe, hoo-kah, or Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), they all provide the same thing to the body – nicotine.

Most smokers usually started out when they were teens or were frequently around tobacco users. Some early users have even stated that they started because they either “just wanted to try it” or thought that it was “cool” to smoke. What they did not realize was that “coolness” came with a price – addiction.

### How nicotine affects you

When a person smokes, dips, or puffs on an ENDS device, the nicotine will quickly spread throughout the body. Within seconds of taking a puff or placing the dip into the mouth, the nicotine will cause a pleasant feeling to spread through the mind and body creating a period of calm and euphoria. This feeling of calm and peace is a result of the nicotine triggering a flood of dopamine within the brains reward center. Once that feeling of euphoria wears off, whatever triggered the need for it returns and causing a vicious cycle of want and need in order to sustain and function during any stressful event and beyond.

### The risks of tobacco use and deployment readiness

Airmen who have been deployed to combat environments have been identified as having a higher potential to pick up the habit of cigarette use as it is more readily available, easier to transport and provides a quick fix to combat and push through stressful situations. One study showed that one-in-six Airmen deployed will become a tobacco user or will increase use during their deployment.

In the past, the military supported tobacco use among de-



The importance of having a tobacco-free force

ployed service members until it was discovered that smoking cigarettes caused serious health problems. The Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) spends more than 1.6 billion dollars per year to provide tobacco-related medical care with the VA spending more than five billion per year treating veterans for chronic lung diseases.

Tobacco use among service members impacts mission and deployment readiness. Users tend to have a lower physical performance capacity than non smokers and are at higher risk of becoming injured. Tobacco users also have a higher absenteeism rate than non-tobacco users and are at greater risk for hospitalization due to chronic illnesses.

### Be tobacco free and mission ready at home and abroad

Tobacco use affects mission readiness. Every day more than 1,200 people die in the country due to smoking. For each of those deaths, at least two young adults ages 18-25 became regular smokers. This age range is the most common age that service members begin smoking or progress from occasional use to regular use. During deployments, environmental along with social influencers trigger the need to “do some-thing” to deal with stressful situations leading to the most obvious stress reliever that is legal and readily available – tobacco.

There are other and better ways to manage stressful situations. Change only comes when there is a desire to make an actual effort. Instead of “lighting one up” to alleviate any stress you may have while deployed, try one of these tips to manage your stress and be mentally and physically mission ready and stay tobacco-free.

#### 5 tips to deal with stress and stay tobacco free during deployment

1. Keep up the routine of regular meals, sleep and exercise.
2. Give yourself a break after a stressful event. Learn some relaxation techniques.
3. Talk to others who have been there. You'll see you are not alone.
4. Have a laugh. Humor can be a powerful stress reliever and help you see things differently.
5. If problems back home is what is leading you to start smoking, ask someone back on the home front to take care of any stressful issues that may arise.

#### Additional References & Resources:

1. Stress management During Deployment - <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/-/stress-management-during-deployment>
2. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults - <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/fact-sheet.html>
3. Tobacco Use Among Military Deployment - Nicotine & Tobacco Research, Volume 15, Number 8 (August 2013) 1348-1354
4. Why People Start Smoking and Why It's So Hard To Stop - American Cancer Society

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



Dear Myth Busters,  
*I just received orders for my first deployment overseas, and I was warned by a fellow Airman that I may be enticed to start smoking while I am deployed. I've heard many Airmen start smoking while they are deployed and then have trouble quitting once they return from deployment. I have never been a smoker and don't intend to start, so should I even worry about getting the urge to smoke while I am deployed?*

Sincerely,  
Deploying Non-Smoker

Dear Deploying Non-Smoker,  
It's great news that you are currently choosing to live smoke free through your military career and plan to continue to remain smoke free through your deployment! This is an accomplishment within itself because according to a 2016 Department of Defense study, 38 percent of current smokers in the military actually began smoking after joining. Military recruits are particularly vulnerable to smoking initiation and their smoking rates increase between recruitment and active duty.

Some studies have also shown that military deployment is associated with starting to smoke and, more strongly with continuing to smoke, particularly among those with prolonged deployments, multiple deployments or combat exposures. This is especially true for males among 18-29 which are twice as likely to start smoking compared to females and adults aged over forty-five.

It's important to remember that smoking may impair performance through direct exposure to nicotine, carbon monoxide and other tobacco smoke toxins, as well as through nicotine withdrawal. Exposure to carbon monoxide can also impair strength and physical endurance because it reduces the capacity of blood to carry oxygen. You may also have trouble adapting to the dark and have lower visual awareness in dim lighting, as well as accelerated hearing loss during aging. Smoking affects your fitness for duty which consequently affects mission readiness.

Although you may feel the need to start smoking while deployed, remember that it is much easier to never initiate smoking than to have to go through the process of quitting nicotine addiction. Pick up a book, meditate, call your loved ones for support, but do not smoke!

Sincerely,  
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, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m., and it takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) at (662) 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 at (662) 434-2794/2790 for more information.

#### Survivor Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

#### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and family life counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress, and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 364-0504/434-2790.

#### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members, and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application SF-76, Federal Write-in

### Civil Air Patrol visits for SUPT Familiarization Course



U.S. Air Force graphic by Elizabeth Owens

**Civil Air Patrol cadets and Team BLAZE members stand in front of a T-38C Talon, July 24, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cadets were visiting to go through the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course, a two-week endeavor where they will get a glimpse of what it takes to become an Air Force pilot.**

Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186, and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). For more information, please contact the Installation Voting Assistance Office at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: [vote.columbus@us.af.mil](mailto:vote.columbus@us.af.mil).

#### Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The personal financial counselor can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home, and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private, and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411/434-2790 or e-mail [PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com](mailto:PFC.Columbus.USAF@zeiders.com), located in the A&FRC.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman's Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office, and many other locations. 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 will be held Sept. 10-14, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and includes seminars on: Tran-

sition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is eight-12 months prior to separation/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.

#### Discovery Resource Center

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

#### Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP 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 KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-3323.

#### School Liaison Officer

The school liaison officer assists Department of Defense employees and their families in making a smooth transition in and out of local public, private, and homeschool environments. The SLO is the primary point of contact for all school related matters, advocates for the needs of military students, make referrals, provides educational options and networking opportunities, and is the liaison between the base, schools, and local community. The SLO office is located in the Airman & Family Readiness Center and can be reached at: work (662) 434-2791, cell (662) 352-6456; email [SLO2@us.af.mil](mailto:SLO2@us.af.mil).

#### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support is delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a recovery care coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill, and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury, (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time, (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB 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:**  
3:30 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Start in Fall)  
4 p.m. – Choir Practice  
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)  
5 p.m. – Mass  
1st and 3rd Sunday - Fellowship Meal following Mass  
**Tuesdays:**  
11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass (Phillips Auditorium)  
**Wednesdays:**  
11:30 a.m. – Adoration (Phillips Auditorium)  
2nd Saturday of each month - Faith Ablaze

#### Protestant Community

**Sundays:**  
9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Community Worship Service (Donut Fellowship following)  
3rd Sunday of Each Month - Protestant Faith Ablaze  
**Wednesdays:**  
6 p.m. - AWANA: Begins September 26th (Open to all denominations)  
**Thursdays:**  
5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Open to all denominations)  
**\*\*All Sunday Worship Services are held in the Kaye Auditorium until further notice\*\***



# High-touch leadership

**Lt. Col. Chris Carnduff**  
628th Civil Engineer Squadron

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Technology has revolutionized our lives and the Air Force. Our high-tech culture and military are capable of unprecedented effectiveness and agility due to the speed of communication. In many facets of our personal and professional lives, technology gives us the ability to communicate rapidly and accomplish a variety of tasks with minimal personal interaction. However, this high-tech world introduces a risk of leaders losing touch with those under their command. To reduce the potential of technological isolationism, leaders must focus on using high-touch tactics, including learning about subordinates, providing continuous performance feedback and taking ownership of the organization's actions.

Leaders cannot lead effectively by sending a barrage of e-mails; it takes time, effort, creativity and, most of all, requires genuinely caring about the welfare and development of their personnel. In the age of social media and mass e-mails, it is easy to think we know people based on what we see on a computer screen but learning about an individual demands face-to-face interaction, understanding their non-ver-

bal communications and gauging their motivations. Only through the process of learning about an individual can leaders understand how to motivate and mentor their Airmen to achieve excellence.

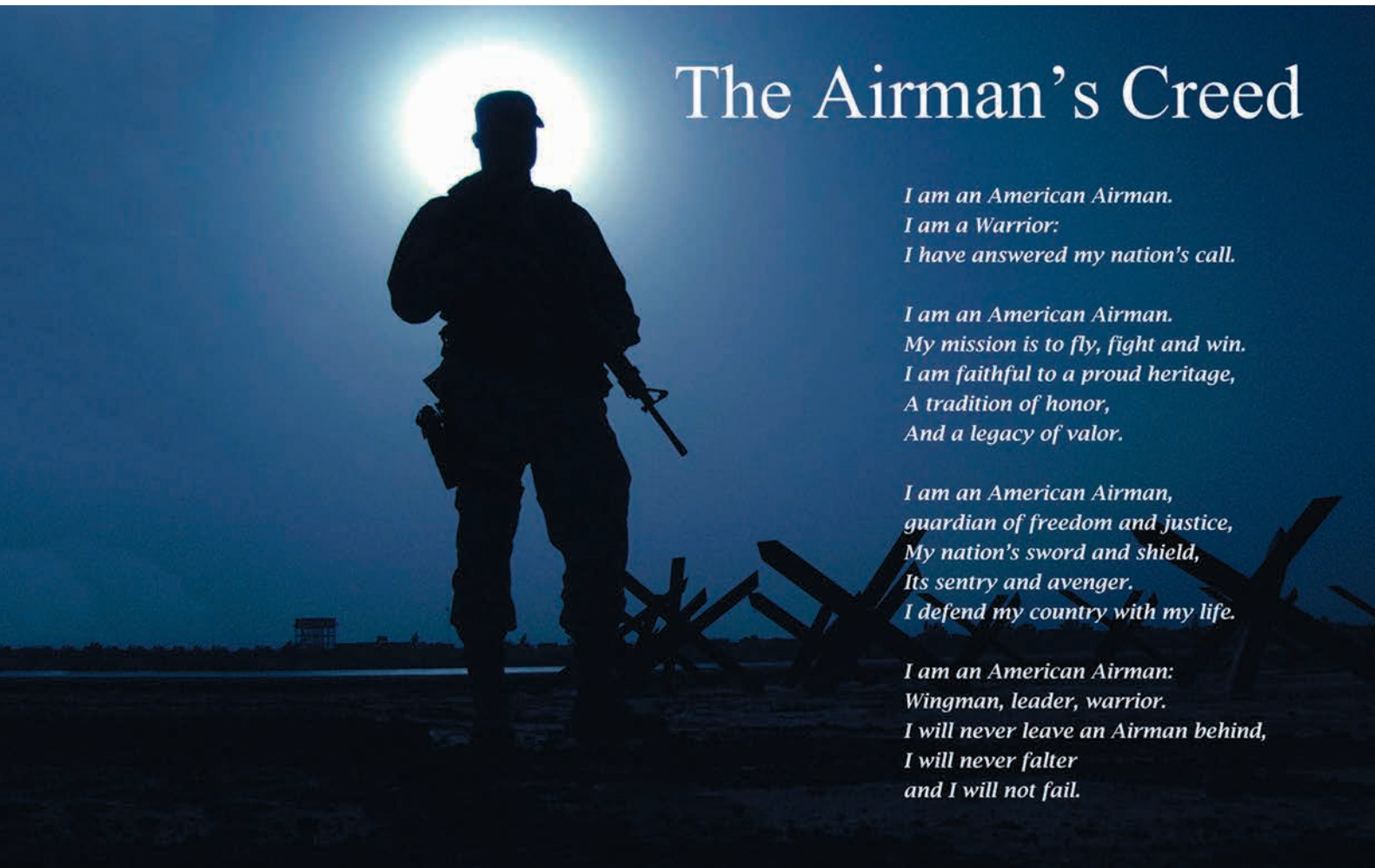
Deliberate performance feedback is critical to correcting substandard performance, rewarding excellence and putting individuals on a path to being outstanding contributors to the goals of the organization. Virtual feedback is not sufficient. Performance feedback must be a face-to-face communication capitalizing on the knowledge a leader gains from learning about the subordinate. It is easy for leaders to think they provide continuous feedback because they give guidance via e-mail or through another virtual means but those mechanisms are ineffective in comparison to focused personal interactions aimed at guidance and mentorship. Without engaging in interactive and personal performance feedback, leaders risk abdicating the responsibility of taking unbiased ownership of each member's actions.

A critical component of effective leadership is taking complete ownership of the intent and execution of the organization's mission. One can only achieve such ownership through high-touch interactions. In an age of digital work accomplishment and communication, a leader can fail to take

*Leaders cannot lead effectively by sending a barrage of e-mails; it takes time, effort, creativity and, most of all, requires genuinely caring about the welfare and development of their personnel.*

responsibility for subordinates' work. Many times that failing is due to not wanting to micromanage Airmen, a noble intent. However, a leader can make the motivation clearer by involving themselves in their subordinates' actions personally instead of virtually. Additionally, being involved personally, leaders enable an open dialogue which enhances communications of intent.

The technological revolution our society has undertaken over the past few decades is awesome and the application of new technologies has contributed to the U. S. Air Force's dominance in air, space and cyberspace. However, we must never forget our people are, and will always be, our greatest asset. Regardless of the generation, people are best understood by, mentored by and led by people...not ones and zeros. A high-tech organization deserves high-touch leadership to maximize the effectiveness of its people.



## The Airman's Creed

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

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

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

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



## Don't text while driving

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-52 Stratofortress

## Mission

The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can perform a variety of missions. The bomber is capable of flying at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet (15,166.6 meters). It can carry nuclear or precision guided conventional ordnance with worldwide precision navigation capability.

## Features

In a conventional conflict, the B-52 can perform strategic attack, close-air support, air interdiction, offensive counter-air and maritime operations. During Desert Storm, B-52s delivered 40 percent of all the weapons dropped by coalition forces. It is highly effective when used for ocean surveillance, and can assist the U.S. Navy in anti-ship and mine-laying operations. Two B-52s, in two hours, can monitor 140,000 square miles (364,000 square kilometers) of ocean surface.

All B-52s can be equipped with two electro-optical viewing sensors, a forward-looking infrared and advanced targeting pods to augment targeting, battle assessment and flight safety, thus further improving its combat ability.

Pilots wear night vision goggles to enhance their vision during night operations. Night vision goggles provide greater safety during night operations by increasing the pilot's ability to visually clear terrain, to increase the peacetime and combat situational awareness of the aircrew and visually acquire other aircraft.

B-52s are currently upgrading from the Litening Advanced Targeting Pod to the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod. Sniper pods provide improved long-range target detection/identification and continuous stabilized surveillance for all missions, including close air support of ground forces. The pod's advanced targeting and image processing technology significantly increases the combat effectiveness of the B-52 during day, night and under-the-weather conditions in the attack of ground targets with a variety of standoff weapons (i.e., laser-guided bombs, conventional bombs and GPS-guided weapons).

The use of aerial refueling gives the B-52 a range limited

only by crew endurance. It has an unrefueled combat range in excess of 8,800 miles (14,080 kilometers).

## Background

For more than 40 years, B-52 Stratofortresses have been the backbone of the manned strategic bomber force for the United States. The B-52 is capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory. This includes gravity bombs, cluster bombs, precision guided missiles and joint direct attack munitions. Updated with modern technology, the B-52 will be capable of delivering the full complement of joint developed weapons and will continue into the 21st century as an important element of our nation's defenses. Current engineering analyses show the B-52's life span to extend beyond the year 2040.

The B-52A first flew in 1954, and the B model entered service in 1955. A total of 744 B-52s were built with the last, a B-52H, delivered in October 1962. The first of 102 B-52H's was delivered to Strategic Air Command in May 1961. The H model can carry up to 20 air launched cruise missiles. In addition, it can carry the conventional cruise missile that was launched in several contingencies during the 1990s, starting with Operation Desert Storm and culminating with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The aircraft's flexibility was evident in Operation Desert Storm and again during Operation Allied Force. B-52s struck wide-area troop concentrations, fixed installations and bunkers, and decimated the morale of Iraq's Republican Guard. On Sept. 2 to 3, 1996, two B-52Hs struck Baghdad power stations and communications facilities with 13 AGM-86C conventional air launched cruise missiles, or CALCMs, as part of Operation Desert Strike. At that time, this was the longest distance flown for a combat mission involving a 34-hour, 16,000 statute mile round trip from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

In 2001, the B-52 contributed to the success in Operation Enduring Freedom, providing the ability to loiter high above the battlefield and provide close air support through the use of

precision guided munitions.

The B-52 also played a role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On March 21, 2003, B-52Hs launched approximately 100 CALCMs during a night mission.

Only the H model is still in the Air Force inventory and is assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota, and the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, which fall under Air Force Global Strike Command. The aircraft is also assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** heavy bomber

**Contractor:** Boeing Military Airplane Co.

**Power plant:** eight Pratt & Whitney engines TF33-P-3/103 turbofan

**Thrust:** each engine up to 17,000 pounds

**Wingspan:** 185 feet (56.4 meters)

**Length:** 159 feet, 4 inches (48.5 meters)

**Height:** 40 feet, 8 inches (12.4 meters)

**Weight:** Approximately 185,000 pounds (83,250 kilograms)

**Maximum takeoff weight:** 488,000 pounds (219,600 kilograms)

**Fuel capacity:** 312,197 pounds (141,610 kilograms)

**Payload:** 70,000 pounds (31,500 kilograms)

**Speed:** 650 miles per hour (Mach 0.84)

**Range:** 8,800 miles (7,652 nautical miles)

**Ceiling:** 50,000 feet (15,151.5 meters)

**Armament:** approximately 70,000 pounds (31,500 kilograms) mixed ordnance: bombs, mines and missiles. (Modified to carry air-launched cruise missiles)

**Crew:** five (aircraft commander, pilot, radar navigator, navigator and electronic warfare officer)

**Unit cost:** \$84 million (fiscal 2012 constant dollars)

**Initial operating capability:** April 1952

**Inventory:** active force, 58; ANG, 0; Reserve, 18



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

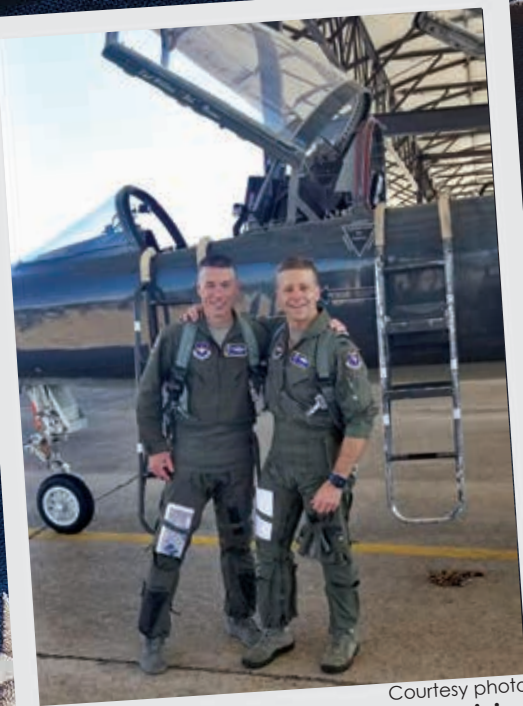
A B-52 Stratofortress from Minot Air Force Base launches off the flightline during Red Flag 18-3 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, July 24, 2018. Red Flag gives aircrew an opportunity to safely experience advanced, relevant and realistic combat-like situations in a controlled environment.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua J. Garcia

A B-52 Stratofortress deployed from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, taxis the runway of Royal Air Force Fairford, England, Jan. 9, 2018. The deployment of strategic bombers to the United Kingdom helps exercise United States Air Forces in Europe's forward operating location for bombers. Training with joint partners, allied nations and other U.S. Air Force units helps the 5th Bomb Wing contribute to ready and postured forces.





Courtesy photo

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, stand in front of a T-38 Talon on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney has commanded the 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for the past two years. He took command on July 22, 2016, and is scheduled to relinquish command and retire Aug. 6.



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

The 454th Bombardment Wing reunion group stand next to a B-52 Stratofortress static display April 21, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, during the 2018 Wings Over Columbus Open House and Air and Space Show. The 454th conducted air refueling operations and trained in bombardment operations, so a B-52 taking flight was a normal sight for many of the veterans during their time at Columbus AFB during the Vietnam War.



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

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and Col. Stanley Lawrie, 14th Operations Group commander, gives retired Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, former Vietnam War prisoner of war, a standing ovation after his graduation speech to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-06 March 9, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Harris spent 2,871 days in Vietnam as a prisoner of war after being shot down April 4, 1965.



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

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and his wife Beth receive a gift from Nancy Carpenter, CEO of Visit Columbus, July 31, 2018, in Columbus, Mississippi. The gift was a painting of some of the local events the Gosneys have participated in during their two years in Columbus. Over 100 members of the local community gathered at Graham's Camp to wish Gosney's good luck as he retires and continues forward.



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

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, speaks to Airmen during a dorm dinner March 2, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Dorm dinners are held for senior leaders to show appreciation to Airmen by making them a home cooked meal.

## 14th FTW says goodbye to Gosney

Col. Douglas Gosney has commanded the 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for the past two years. He took command on July 22, 2016.

The 14th FTW conducts Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training for U.S. Air Force and allied officers, as well as tactical training for Afghan and Lebanese pilots and aircraft maintainers in the A-29 Super Tucano at Moody AFB, Georgia. The wing is composed of 244 aircraft flying more than 55,000 sorties and 77,000 hours per year while training over 400 pilots and combat system operators annually. Colonel Gosney manages an operations and maintenance budget of \$106 million with capital assets exceeding \$2.3 billion. He will retire after 23 years of service as a professional military aviator and leader as a U.S. Air Force officer. He will relinquish command Aug. 6.

Gosney was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Utah State University in 1995. He graduated Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and was operationally assigned to the B-52 Stratofortress. Gosney has served in numerous flying squadron, group, and wing leadership positions. Gosney previously served as commander of the 2nd Operations Group, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. He deployed and/or supported Operations Desert Thunder, Desert Fox, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, and the Pacific Air Force's Continuous Bomber Presence mission.

Gosney was a command pilot with over 3,400 flight hours in primarily the B-52 and T-38 Talon aircraft, serving as an instructor and evaluator in both.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, former commander of Air Education and Training Command, is greeted by Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, as he steps onto the flightline Sept. 12, 2016 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Roberson accompanied by his wife Cheryl and Chief Master Sgt. David Staton, AETC command chief, visited Columbus to meet Team BLAZE.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Col. Douglas Gosney, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, walks away from a T-38C Talon after his final flight before retirement Aug. 1, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Gosney will relinquish command to Col. Samantha Weeks, 57th Adversary Tactics Group, Nellis AFB, Nevada, on Aug. 6 at the McAllister Fire Station.



Courtesy photo

Col. Douglas Gosney sits in the cockpit of a B-52 Stratofortress. Gosney has commanded the 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, for the past two years. He took command on July 22, 2016, and is scheduled to relinquish command and retire Aug. 6.