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# SILVER WINGS

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"Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

November 16, 2018

Vol. 42, Issue 45

## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  Partly Cloudy <b>High 57°F Low 34°F</b>	<b>Saturday</b>  Sunny <b>High 64°F Low 39°F</b>
<b>Sunday</b>  Partly Cloudy <b>High 63°F Low 43°F</b>	<b>Monday</b>  Mostly Cloudy w/chc Rain <b>High 55°F Low 38°F</b>

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

## News Briefs

### Thanksgiving/AETC Family Day

Thanksgiving is Nov. 22 and will be followed by an Air Education and Training Command 'Family Day' Nov. 23. Most base offices and buildings will be closed from Nov. 22-23.

### Enlisted Promotions

An Enlisted Promotions Ceremony will be from 3-4 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Columbus Club. Stop by to support the success of fellow Team BLAZE members.

### 19-03 Assignment Night

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-03 will receive their next airframe and duty location at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Columbus Club.

## Inside



### Feature 8

SUPT Class 19-02 graduates today at 10 a.m. at the Kaye Auditorium.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean  
Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guard march in formation followed by members of the Columbus High School Air Force Junior ROTC during the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10, 2018, in Columbus, Mississippi. Organizations from Lowndes County, the city of Columbus and Columbus AFB participated in a parade down Main Street and hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 10 to honor America's veterans past and present.

# Columbus AFB, city host parade, ceremony to celebrate veterans

**Tech. Sgt. Christopher Gross**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Organizations from Lowndes County, the city of Columbus and Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, participated in a parade down Main Street and attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse in Columbus Nov. 10 to

honor America's veterans past and present.  
Marching formations from 14th Flying Training Wing and Columbus AFB Honor Guard led the parade and also participating from Columbus AFB were a firetruck from the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, the 43rd Flying Training Squadron's 'Bama

See VETERANS, Page 3

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II		PHASE III		IFF		WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Track Select	Squadron	Graduation	Squadron	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (19-16)	Nov. 28	48th (19-03)	Dec. 14	49th (19-BBC)	Nov. 19	T-6	1,075	675	3,622
41st (19-05)	Dec. 14	50th (19-03)	Dec. 14			T-1	443	325	1,252
Colonel Stephen P. Nelson, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, will be the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-02's graduation at 10 a.m. today, in the Kaye Auditorium.						T-38	438	319	1,423
						IFF	177	115	521

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.

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Worship Service - 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:15 am  
**SUNDAY EVENING**  
Youth Drama & AWANA - 4pm  
Discipleship Training - 5pm  
Evening Worship - 6pm  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Kid's Drama - 6 pm  
Adult/Youth Bible Study, RAs, GAs  
& Mission Friends - 6:30 pm  
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*This is personal.*

Photo: Andrew Magalhães

*My mother died of  
colon cancer when  
she was only 56.*

Terrence Howard, actor/musician



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# 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 6 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.*

# OCP Tip of the week



U.S. Air Force Photo by Munnaf Joarder

- Alterations that affect the functionality of the uniform are not authorized, e.g., sewing down collars, or pockets.
- Unit commanders may authorize Airmen to wear awarded U.S. Army shoulder sleeve insignia for former wartime service, such as the 82nd Airborne patch.

## Silver Wings

### How to reach us

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### Submission Deadline

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

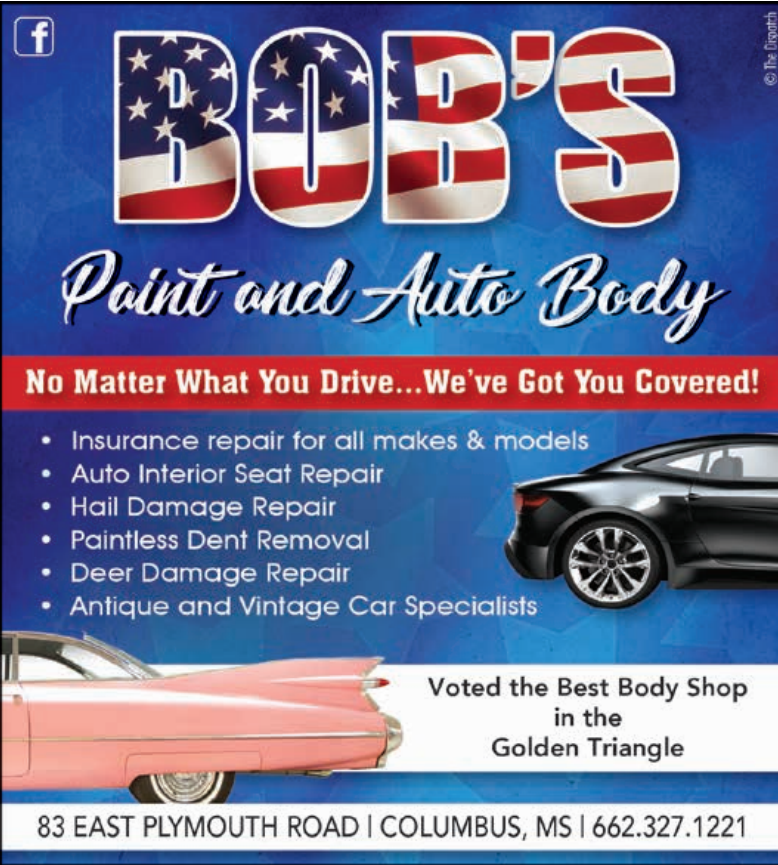
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The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

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# 19th Air Force activates commander's action line

## Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — A commander's action phone line was activated by 19th Air Force Nov. 4.

The new line provides Airmen in the flying training community a direct avenue to the commander if they want to provide suggestions or to voice concerns they feel need to be addressed.

"It is without question that we know the professionalism, dedication and passion that happens every day across our flying training wings," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th AF commander. "We must cultivate a training environment and network that encourages conversations with everyone in our organization. For me, this includes listening and being prepared to address those conversations that are critical and uncomfortable in nature."

Personnel are asked to use their chain of command to address and solve issues first. If working through the chain of command isn't effective or a viable option, please call the action line number at (210) 652-1920 or DSN 487-1920. The phone line is available 24 hours a day. Each message will be responded to in a timely manner.

"The commander's action line is your direct line to me," Doherty said. "It is one more way we can make our flying training community a better place to work and live."

## NEWS AROUND TOWN

### Sucarnochee Revue

Sucarnochee Revue is a variety show featuring some of the area's young and established performing artists. Held the first Friday of every month on the historic Temple Theater stage. For more information visit <http://www.meridiantempletheater.com/>.

### Child Development through martial arts

A free introduction to basic martial arts techniques for children ages 5-18 will be held from 1-2 p.m. Nov. 17.

### Jingle Bell Run

The Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run will start at 9 a.m. Nov. 17 at 2101 Madison Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee. All proceeds from registration will go towards fundraising efforts of the Arthritis Foundation. An after party will be held in the Tower Courtyard following the run. Put on your favorite holiday costume.

### PAW Patrol Live!: Race to the Rescue

The PAW Patrol Live!: Race to the Rescue show will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, Memphis, Tennessee. Individuals ages one and older must have a 'CIP' ticket, starting at \$20 to attend. Purchase a VIP Package and become a VIP – Very Important Pup! The VIP package includes a premium seat, special souvenir gift and exclusive access to a Meet & Greet with Ryder and two PAW Patrol Characters after the show. Each adult & child (age 1 & up) in a group must have a VIP ticket. Pick up your VIP Packet at the VIP Check in table prior to the show.

### Christmas Pop Up Local Art Show

The Pop Porium is hosting a pre-Christmas pop-up art show from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 1. Come to support a local artist or look at one-of-a-kind handmade pieces of ceramics, jewelry and many other items.



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# Falcons undergo facelift

Senior Airman  
Christopher Maldonado  
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — Upon entering a room lined with panels and LED lights, described solely as something out of a science fiction movie, people in polar white suits are ready to re-skin a new beast. The Airmen working across two shifts in the work center, paint and renovate the aircraft and equipment assigned to the Air Force's largest combat F-16 Fighting Falcon wing. The work being performed on the aircraft is intended to provide a protective finish that prevents damage to the structure and enhance the aircraft's overall lifespan. "Our mission here is to remove defective aircraft coatings," said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Tinsley, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron corrosion control noncommissioned officer in charge. "We also inspect for corrosion and reapply coats should the aircraft need it." Tinsley went on to say the flight helps identify and troubleshoot paint fatigue that may be caused by consistent flights.

Within the facility, a locker room houses the protective gear of the Airmen assigned to the 20th EMS aircraft structural maintenance flight. "When we paint, no matter what we are working on that day, we keep safety in mind at all times," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Harris, 20th EMS corrosion control shift lead. Each job requires the Airmen to gear up from top to bottom to prevent any damage or poisoning that could be caused by the exposure to paint fumes. During the painting process, corrosion control Airmen inspect the aircraft for any cracks or wear that may have been caused through various aerial missions. "Our Airmen are the ones out there doing the hard work," said Tinsley. "They are either sanding or painting anything that may come into the paint barn ... they're the real work horses, they're killing it." With the continued support of these technicians the mission of the 20th Fighter Wing can thrive and allow the pilots to accomplish the suppression of enemy air defenses mission anytime, anywhere.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Maldonado  
**Airmen assigned to the 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron corrosion control paint barn, work on an F-16CM Fighting Falcon at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, Nov. 13, 2018. The maintenance performed on the aircraft helps protect the aircraft from the elements while stateside or overseas.**

# Reservists credit teamwork in life-saving mission

Maj. Wayne Capps  
315th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — As if by fate, a weather delay in Germany allowed a group of reservists to embark on a challenging 22-and-a-half-hour mission to help save a fellow service member. When severe weather delayed a C-17 aircrew from the 315th Airlift Wing heading home to Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina was delayed in Germany Nov. 3, the crew was asked to take on an emergency mission transporting a burn patient to Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas. "When our mission was delayed, everyone was a little frustrated because they had to get back to their civilian jobs," said Capt. Dennis Conner, the mission's aircraft commander from the 701st Airlift Squadron. "Then I get a call asking if we would stay out and take a medical evacuation mission because there was a Soldier who was pretty badly burned. There was not one hesitation, the entire crew stepped up. They put their civilian lives on hold to do this; they missed work and school to get him home." The Soldier was transported from Hungary to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, by an Air Force aeromedical evacuation team and was destined for the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. According to the Daily News Hungary, "an American soldier was electrocuted at the Ferencváros railway station

*"This was one of those missions where you make a difference helping a brother in arms," said Master Sgt. Glenn Walker, the flying crew chief on the mission from the 315th Maintenance Squadron. "We all came together as a team and worked like a flawless Swiss watch," he said.*

when he climbed up to a cargo train transporting combat vehicles." The article states there was an electrical line carrying 25,000 volts above the train's cargo, potentially causing the incident. The Hungarian National Health Service also gave details of the incident, "40 percent of the man's body suffered second and third degree burns. What is more, he seemed to have broken his femur," said Pál Gyórfy, spokesperson for the organization. "It was an unbelievable effort. No other country in the world would go to the extent we did to help one of our warfighters," said Capt. Bryan Chianella, one of the 701 AS pilots on the mission. "We do what we can to take care of our own."

During the flight, the C-17 was scheduled to do an aerial refueling so it could continue to San Antonio without stopping, said Conner. "It was chaos," he said. "Ten minutes before our AR, the tanker lost one of their engines and had to turn around. We did a lot of planning for this mission... We had several back-up plans in place. We could only land in Boston or (Joint Base Andrews, Maryland) because if our jet broke down, he needed to be close to a burn center. Since we had strong headwinds, we didn't have enough gas to get us to Andrews; we had to try to make it to Boston." "It was pretty stressful," said Chianella. "They only had enough pain meds for our original flight time plus two hours and we landed in Boston with our emergency fuel." With the quick stop in Boston for fuel, the crew took off for San Antonio and landed at Lackland AFB, Texas then returned to home to Charleston with no further incidents. "This was one of those missions where you make a difference helping a brother in arms," said Master Sgt. Glenn Walker, the flying crew chief on the mission from the 315th Maintenance Squadron. "We all came together as a team and worked like a flawless Swiss watch," he said. Both Conner and Chianella also credited the crew's teamwork in making the mission a success. "I was very proud of the entire crew. I didn't do anything special, the crew just did what they do and made this mission happen," explained Connor.

## VETERANS

(Continued from page 1)

Bird,' and riders from Columbus AFB's Chapter of the Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club. A marching formation of more than 30 Airmen representing every group within the 14th FTW was led by Col. Gary Hayward, 14th Mission Support Group commander. A wreath laying ceremony followed the parade at the courthouse. Again, representatives from the county, city and base came together to honor America's veterans. William Quick, American Legion District 4 vice commander, and organizer for the parade and ceremony, said it was good to see the community come together and support America's veterans. "They are not alone, they leave their home and they travel all over the country," Quick said. "There's people in the community to basically back them and help them out while they're doing this." The ceremony began with the presentation of colors from West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard and patrolmen Raymond Hackler and Darnell Madison from the Columbus Police Department, sang the national anthem. A wreath was also laid at the Lowndes



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Hannah Bean  
**Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base march in formation during the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10, 2018, in Columbus, Mississippi. Organizations from Lowndes County, the city of Columbus and Columbus AFB participated in a parade down Main Street and hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Lowndes County Courthouse Nov. 10 to honor America's veterans past and present.**

County Courthouse Veterans Memorial. Laying the wreath and representing Columbus AFB was Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th

FTW commander, and representing veterans in the local area was former Private 1st Class Brad Freeman of Caledonia. They were also

accompanied by Harry Sanders, Lowndes County Supervisor for District 1 and president of the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors, who represented all Lowndes County residents; and Bill Gavin, vice mayor of the City of Columbus, who represented all Columbus residents. Freeman, a former member of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 101st Airborne Division, was one of the Soldiers who parachuted in behind enemy lines before the D-Day invasion during World War II. His company is the one portrayed in the TV series, "Band of Brothers." Freeman said he was a part of a "real good outfit," during his time in the Army and likes honoring those who have served. The ceremony was wrapped up with a moment of silence followed by a T-1A Jayhawk formation flyover from the 48th Flying Training Squadron. Reflecting on the day's events, Quick said it was good to see how times have changed since his time in the Marine Corps. Quick was served in the Marine Corps from 1967-1971 and was in Vietnam from 1970-1971. "When we came back it was a different time and a different war," Quick said. "When we came back it wasn't like this, I'm glad today we can support our troops."



**First. Lt. Kara Crennan, 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs officer, welcomes people to the Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony Nov. 10, 2018, at the Lowndes County Courthouse in Columbus, Mississippi. The ceremony honored those who have served and are serving in the armed forces.**



**Airman 1st Class Clark Mann, Columbus Air Force Base Honor guard, presents the wreath to Harry Sanders, Lowndes County Supervisor for District 1 and president of the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors; Bill Gavin, vice mayor of the City of Columbus; Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th FTW commander; and former Private 1st Class Brad Freeman of Caledonia who represented veterans in the local area. Nov. 10, 2018 at the Lowndes County Courthouse in Columbus, Mississippi. The wreath was presented in honor and remembrance of the sacrifices veterans and their families gave in service to the cause of freedom.**



## Award highlights

AETC Outstanding Security Forces Flight-Level Civilian Award at the Supervisory Level — James L. Rackley, 14th Security Forces Squadron

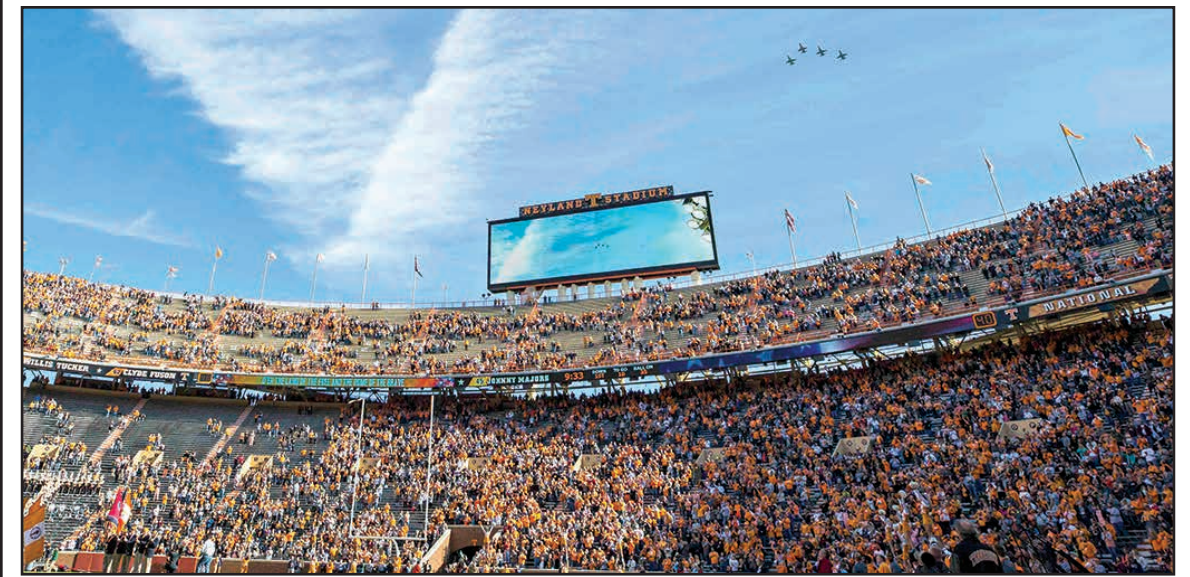
2018 Defense Acquisition Workforce Individual Achievement, Flexibility in Contracting, and Development Innovation Award – Earned Value Management — Lt. Col. Bennet Burton, 14th Mission Support Group

Today we recognize the accomplishments of these professionals for their commitment to excellence and contributions in support of the Warfighter.

## In Observance of the Holiday Thanksgiving Day November 22, 2018

Commissary Hours of Operation are:  
Sunday: Noon-6 p.m.  
Monday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. OPEN  
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Thursday: CLOSED Thanksgiving  
Friday: CLOSED  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

## 50th FTS performs flyover at football game



Courtesy photo

Four T-38 Talon's from the 50th Flying Training Squadron perform a flyover Nov. 3, 2018, over Neyland Stadium, Tennessee. Performing flyovers is one of many ways the 14th Flying Training Wing can connect to communities.



## Natural gas public awareness program

**Darrell Petters**  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

Everyone in our community should be familiar with natural gas, but some may not realize natural gas utilities receive from natural gas pipeline systems.

The purpose for these underground energy portals is to safely transport this vital fuel to heat homes and power businesses and vital service institutions. The transportation of natural gas through these pipelines is one of the safest methods for transporting energy, although accidents can occur.

One of the ways accidents occur is when someone digs in the vicinity of a gas pipe and cuts the line. The Mississippi 811 One-Call system is an organization to prevent these types of accidents. Dialing 811 and providing information to the operator will ensure local utilities, including gas utilities, will mark their lines.

Another way accidents occur is when leaks from pipelines, appliances or other gas-related equipment occur. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless fuel lighter than air; because it is odorless, a harmless odorant, usually smelling like rotten eggs, is added to the gas so the presence of gas may be detected.

Leaks may be detected by noticing the following:

- 1) Smelling gas (odorant) near a meter or pipeline, sometimes after excavation work
- 2) A hissing or roaring sound caused by escaping gas
- 3) Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green environment
- 4) Blowing dirt, grass or leaves
- 5) Steady bubbling in a wet, flooded areas or other water environment
- 6) A fire in or near an appliance or gas pipe
- 7) Unusual noise at an appliance
- 8) Unusual behavior of the flame

at an appliance burner

In the event of a detected gas leak, the following should take place:

- 1) Leave the vicinity immediately without making calls or operating light switches
- 2) Evacuate others in the vicinity
- 3) Turn off and abandon cars or equipment in the vicinity
- 4) Do not start a car or other equipment in the vicinity
- 5) Do not operate any electrical or electronic equipment in the vicinity
- 6) Do not light a match or use another source of ignition
- 7) Do not smoke
- 8) Warn others to stay away from the area
- 9) Stay away from open flames
- 10) Wait for maintenance, emergency or utility personnel to put out flames

To report a leak, call 911. In order to keep the public safe from the potential hazards of natural gas, such as fire or explosion caused by leaks, Columbus Air Force Base is required to perform a quarterly patrolling of the pipeline.

The distribution piping is made of plastic and requires a survey to ensure the pipe is not leaking or damaged. A leak survey is also performed annually to find leaks in piping and related gas equipment. Additionally, the maintenance staff performs periodic tests to ensure odorant can be detected in the gas. The maintenance staff also makes periodic checks for gas leaks and monitors each gas meter.

The agency who oversees all natural gas safety related activity for our distribution piping is the Columbus Air Force Base Natural Gas System. They can be reached at 434-7341, 434-7383 or 434-2262. To obtain further information about natural gas you may contact Darrell Petters, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Gas Operator.

## 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.)

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be from 8 a.m.-noon Dec. 11. 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. Dec. 13. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour, or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

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

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop will be held 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 7-11 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. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 8-12 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.

### Federal USAJobs Workshop

The next Federal USAJobs workshop will be from 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 16. 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.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 31, 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.

### Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 21, 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.

### 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.

## Brisse speaks at Airbus Helicopters Inc. on Veterans Day



Courtesy photo

Chief Master Sgt. Kellie Brisse, 14th Operations Group Superintendent, gives a Veterans Day speech to Airbus Helicopters Inc. Nov. 9, 2018, in Columbus, Mississippi. Over 25 percent of employees are veterans.

### 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.

### 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) 435-1110/360-5372.

### 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 members 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.

### 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 (SBP). 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.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office which is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 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 (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in 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.

## 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)



## 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.

## Get Connected with Your New Base App!

As a way to connect people together, Columbus Air Force Base launched a new app to connect Airmen and families to the mission and community! The app is available on all app stores and can be found by searching 'Columbus Air Force Base'.

## Lunch Buffets at the Overrun

Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday–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.

## Lunch Brunch

Enjoy brunch at the Columbus Club from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month!

Menu will include a wide selection of delicious breakfast and lunch options and options will vary each month. The cost is only \$10 club members; \$12 non-members; \$5 ages 5-11; free for ages 4 and under. For more information, contact 434-2489.

## 2018 Air Force Art Contest

Showcase your entry at the Columbus Club! Win prizes! Enter the 2018 Air Force Art Contest from Nov. 1–30. Categories include adult: novice, adult: accomplished, children: 6–8 years, preteens: 9–12 years and teens: 13–17 years. Contact the Arts and Crafts Center at 434-7836 to submit your entry and request additional information or visit [myairforcelife.com/arts](http://myairforcelife.com/arts).

## Free Crafts at the Base Library

Craft like no one is watching! The Base Library is offering the following craft weeks during normal business hours: Thanksgiving Craft Week from Nov. 13–21, Hanukkah Craft Week from Dec. 3–8 and Kwanza Craft Week from Dec. 26–29. For more information, contact the Base Library at 434-2934.

## Free Movie 'Incredibles 2'

The Force Support Squadron is offering a free movie 'Incredibles 2' at 3 p.m. Nov. 17. Free popcorn and drinks will be available. For more information, contact 434-2337.

## The Nutcracker Ballet Trip

ITT is offering a trip to The Nutcracker Ballet at the historic Orpheum Theatre in Memphis, Tennessee on Dec. 8. The cost is only \$40 per person and includes transportation and performance ticket. Depart the BLAZE Commons parking lot at 9 a.m., enjoy lunch at the Majestic Grille (not included in trip purchase) and the 2 p.m. performance. Sign up by Nov. 20 at ITT or call 434-7861 for more information.

**Holiday Coloring Contest**

Pick up your coloring page on 1 December

Return by 12 December

Coloring contest winners will be announced at the Winter Reading Program Event on 15 December @ 11 a.m.

**Age Categories**

- Kindergarden
- 1st-2nd Graders
- 3rd-4th Graders
- 5th-6th Graders
- 7th-8th Graders

Please contact Library for more information at 434-2934

## Youth Basketball

Sign up by Nov. 30 at the Youth Center for the upcoming basketball season. The cost is \$35 per player for ages 3–4 and \$40 per player for ages 5–18. Volunteer coaches needed; season begins Jan. 3, 2019. For more information, contact 434-2504.

## Free Breakfast for Club Members

Start your morning off at the Overrun with free breakfast for club members and \$8 for non-members from 6:30–9 a.m. Dec. 11. Become a club member and save! For more information, contact 434-2489.

## Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT? Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation, visit or contact your ITT office at (662) 434-7861.

## 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 children up to 2 years old. For more information, contact 434-2934.

## Force Support Squadron Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your 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 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 available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact 434-2934.

## Play Paintball

Outdoor Recreation offers paintball for groups or individuals. You must book 24 hours in advance; 17 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per person for party of 10 or more; \$20 per person for party of nine or less. You must purchase paint balls at Outdoor Recreation for \$50 per case of 2,000. For more information, contact 434-2505.

## The Overrun Open Friday Nights

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

## 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.

# MSU cadets explore variety of careers at Columbus AFB

## Airman Hannah Bean

14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Over 70 Mississippi State University Air Force ROTC cadets had the opportunity to visit Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 9 and learned about various career fields in the Air Force.

Career day was inside the BLAZE Chapel annex and cadets learned how an operational base functions and obtained a better understanding of the specifics within each career field. They were also taken on a tour and were shown aircraft of the 14th Flying Training Wing.

"It's a good opportunity for them to interact with members currently serving in that career beyond the scope of what they read on a website or in a textbook," said Lt. Col. Joseph Cassidy, MSU Air Force ROTC Detachment 425 commander. "The ability to come out to a base and see how things work on a military installation firsthand brings ROTC academics to life. It also gives them a chance to interact with individuals their age in an informal setting."

A variety of careers were showcased at the career day, including civil engineering, public affairs, security forces, logistics, and more. Cadets were given the opportunity to visit each field and ask any questions they had



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Hannah Bean

**Capt. Aaron Bath, 49th Fighter Training Squadron instructor pilot, shows the T-38C Talon to Mississippi State University Air Force ROTC cadets Nov. 9, 2018, on the flight line at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Pilots gave brief descriptions of the different aircraft and what they're used for at Columbus AFB.**

about the Air Force and what it has to offer.

"Most of the time you have cadets who first come into the program straight out of high school, they know they want to join the military, but they don't know exactly what they want to do," said Courtney Conway, MSU Air Force ROTC Detachment 425 cadet.

"They get to come here for this career

day and visit with officers in careers ranging from intelligence to public affairs to communication. It's really great for them to see that it's not only pilots in the Air Force. You have a huge range of careers that are open."

Cadets were allowed to explore their primary career goals in the Air Force, but were highly encouraged to check out the other ca-



**Capt. Tara Dixon, Columbus Air Force Base chaplain, talks with Mississippi State University Air Force ROTC cadets Nov. 9, 2018, at the BLAZE Chapel on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Cadets were allowed to explore their primary career goals in the Air Force, but were highly encouraged to check out the other fields available to them.**



**Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing vice wing commander, talks with Mississippi State University Air Force ROTC cadets Nov. 9, 2018, at the BLAZE Chapel on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Denham thanked the students for visiting Columbus AFB, adding that whatever career they decide to join, there will be incredible opportunities for them while executing the mission of the greatest Air Force in the world.**





U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Joshua Smoot  
Military retirees visit information booths Nov. 9, 2018, during the Retiree Appreciation Day on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. There are more than 5,700 military retirees in a 50-mile radius of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.



Retirees fill their plates Nov. 9, 2018, during the Retiree Appreciation Day on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During the event, retirees were treated with a free lunch buffet, raffle prizes, a medical expo and free flu shots.

# Columbus AFB honors, shows appreciation to military retirees

Staff Sgt. Joshua Smoot

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

There are more than 5,700 military retirees in a 50-mile radius of Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, and to show appreciation for their years of service, the base hosted a Retiree Appreciation Day Nov. 9.

More than 150 retirees came out to the base, where they were treated to a day of activities, lunch and information. The day aligned with this month's theme of military family appreciation and allowed Columbus AFB to show its gratitude for the retiree community.

"It's important to take care of not only retirees, but any former service members because of the sacrifices they have made for our country," said 2nd Lt. Brandon Solomon, RAD event coordinator. "They have set a pathway of courage, strength and honor that we continue to follow today as active-duty service members. They are local heroes who spent years protecting our freedoms and have earned any care we can provide to them."

The RAD began with a base tour, which allowed retirees to see how the base looks and operates today. They were shown the Koritz Clinic – where they can receive medical care; the enlisted and officer dorms; the flight line where they got an up-close look of Columbus AFB's aircraft; and a few more facilities on base.

*"It's important to take care of not only retirees, but any former service members because of the sacrifices they have made for our country," said 2nd Lt. Brandon Solomon, RAD event coordinator. "They have set a pathway of courage, strength and honor that we continue to follow today as active-duty service members. They are local heroes who spent years protecting our freedoms and have earned any care we can provide to them."*

Following the tour, representatives from the 14th Medical Group, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, the Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and other base and local agencies set up informational booths and spoke to retirees about the benefits of their organizations and how they could assist them in the future.

A free lunch buffet immediately followed, and this was a great chance for Airmen currently serving at Columbus AFB to interact and share stories with the retirees. As everyone finished their meals, Solomon announced prize winners via a raffle. Some of the prizes included \$150 in gift cards, a coffee machine and massage kits.

"The event was a way to communicate with the retiree population that they are still a part of our military family," Solomon said. "We highlighted what we can offer to our retirees through information on our services. Additionally, we let them know we are here for them for any concerns they have in their future as retirees such as medical care changes."

Col. William Denham, 14th Flying Training Wing vice commander, pitched one more way Columbus AFB can help the retiree population – the Columbus AFB App. Denham said the app is a great resource that can connect retirees to all sorts of things on base and highlighted the directory, which will aid in getting them the proper contact info for agencies across Columbus AFB. The app can be found on the apple and android app stores by searching "Columbus Air Force Base".

The RAD was just one example of how Columbus AFB takes care of its family.

"The event was a success, not only because of a large crowd, but because you could tell the sense of appreciation shown for every person who came to the event," Solomon said.

# Don't let the 'Stress Grinch' steal your holidays

Laurie Wilson

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — They're here. The holidays have recycled again and no matter where we look, we're reminded we ought to be filled with boundless joy. So, we plaster on smiles and juggle schedules going through the roof, burning both ends of our candles.

We negotiate unexpected travel hassles, maneuver extended family face time, handle difficult gift-buying decisions, and produce menus tailored to picky dietary needs.

For some, all this "joy making" can lead to overwhelming stress, anger or even depression. Many cope with deep sadness, dread, or loneliness while trying to appear happy.

That's not uncommon, said Jeremy Morales, the 10th Medical Operations Squadron's Family Advocacy Outreach manager.

"This time of year can bring up so much intense emotion mixed with mounting stress," Morales said. "[Plus] the culture around expected spending can really put many in a financial bind."

While depression is a year-round diagnosed medical condition, Morales says stress and anxiety during November and December can cause even unusually content individuals to experience a deep disappointment or sadness.

Add to that the general divisiveness that seems to permeate social media these days, and it's understandable why the Healthline Wellness website shows the holiday season is a high season for mental health professionals. Some of us just might feel ill-prepared to be "jolly."

So let's talk holiday coping skills. We all deserve to survive the holidays intact, and hopefully create some memorable moments of joy for ourselves in the process.

## Dealing with holiday depression and emotions:

The first thing you can do to improve your mood is to practice self-care. Maintain a healthy diet and a consistent sleep pattern, and monitor your alcohol consumption. Don't forget to exercise. Even a short walk with a friend or a pet can do wonders.

According to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry's Primary Care Companion, as little as 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise can provide an immediate mood boost similar to antidepressant medication.



U.S. Air Force graphic

Finding a support group with people who are experiencing similar issues can help too.

"Lean on local resources," Morales said. "The Family Advocacy Center and the Mental Health Clinic at the Academy have a host of caring staff members equipped to help, especially during the holiday season. Our services include individual, couples and family counseling, and assorted classes ranging from parenting skills to maintaining healthy relationships."

Morales said if feelings of sadness during the holidays are accompanied by suicidal thoughts, do one of the following immediately: Call 911, go to a hospital emergency room or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK/8255.

## Tips for handling holiday stress

But not everyone is suicidal. Some people are just overwhelmed. There's numerous ways to handle the typical holiday stress. Here are some of Morales' suggestions:

- Slow down. The holidays are filled with endless options for activity. Set boundaries and say "no" when you need down

time.

- Keep photos of favorite people and happy times in the open as they can often boost your emotional state

- Stop comparing how you celebrate to how others celebrate or spend. Establish a holiday budget and, if needed, ask a friend or family member to help you stay true to your budget.

- The drive for perfection can drain a person's energy. If a task or objective doesn't require perfection, leave well-enough alone.

- Relax. Massages or long baths can be very soothing.

- Piggyback on your comforts. If you love horses, for example, visit the Air Force Academy's equestrian center and go for a horseback ride.

- Watch movies or spend time with people who make you laugh. Some say laughter is the best medicine for the stressors in life.

- Spend time with pets. If you don't have one, consider rescuing one from a shelter.

- Put down your cellphone or computer and connect with those around you

- Reach out to family and friends before the holiday stressors have a chance to develop. Make plans early so you are not caught by surprise over something unwanted.

- Count the days to your favorite holiday or to the day after the holiday ends by crossing off the days on the calendar. Celebrate to reward yourself for making it through the season, one day at a time.

- Use your strengths against your struggles. If you're an artist, lean on those talents to engage your creative passions and focus on what brings you joy.

- If you know someone having a hard time during the holidays, offer your presence, call or text to check in periodically, invite them for coffee, and express your care in words and action. Some of the greatest gifts we can give at the holidays are our time, care and concern. And that doesn't cost a dime.

- If painful memories seem to affect your season, make an appointment with a trauma therapist

The holidays, while full of social interactions and encounters, are a personal experience. This season, gift yourself with the time and attention you need to ensure the most joy possible. You deserve it.

(Laurie Wilson is the 10th Air Base Wing Mission Element public affairs representative)



## Commander's Action Line

# 434-1414

In an effort to stay Connected, the Commander's Action Line is your direct link to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

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 can be reached at 434-1414. Leave your name and phone number or email if you would like to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

If you would like to remain anonymous, please submit your inquiries through our base application in the 'Our Wing' then 'Contact the CC' tab or you can submit through the webpage at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Click "Contact Us" at the top left of the page and select "Commander's Action Line" in the Recipient drop down menu.





# Medical Corner

## Views on shuteye among our armed forces are evolving for the better

When it comes to sleep, the U.S. military is adopting a new attitude. Today's law of the land includes commander-developed sleep plans to help Airmen perform to the best of their abilities, remain safe, and possibly avoid mental health issues down the road. In fact, the military has implemented a plan called the Performance Triad—a focus on sleep, as well as physical fitness and proper nutrition—to “improve readiness and increase resilience through public health initiatives and leadership engagement.”

Science is on the military's side: Getting fewer than eight hours of sleep puts Airmen and their companions at the same risk as if they had a few beers before shooting a grenade launcher or driving a Bradley fighting vehicle. In fact, a lack of sleep likely contributed to both friendly fire incidents in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the navigational error that led to the 2003 capture of Army PFC Jessica Lynch in Iraq.

Military investigators are beginning to admit that sleep deprivation is a deep-rooted part of military culture. In the past, the popular “four-hour rule” stipulated that troops working in high-tempo, operational environments could function on only four hours of sleep. Today, thankfully, more and more members of the military recognize that this simply isn't the case: Working under any circumstances with only four hours of sleep will lead to poor performance and weakened cognitive abilities (aka the brain-based skills we need to carry out tasks).

Of course, implementing new sleep mandates won't be without challenges, especially since 51 percent of active duty U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy personnel have obstructive sleep apnea and another 24 percent suffer from insomnia.

The old belief that sleeping for eight hours is a sign of weakness or cowardice is slowly changing, and troop leaders are encouraged to set a good example by taking care of their own sleep habits. If small changes can start to make ripple effects throughout the military, we may eventually see major benefits, like fewer mental health issues and fewer costly mistakes in combat.

*Soldiers and Sleep: The Military's Shifting Stance; Retrieved from <https://www.sleep.org/articles/how-soldiers-deal-with-sleepdeprivation/>*

Tricks Airmen can use to reduce the effects of sleep deprivation, stay alert and perform well on the job

Nap. Even taking a 20-minute afternoon snooze once a day can hugely improve how the body performs, both physically and mentally.

Stay Physically Fit. The higher their level of fitness, the better Airmen are able to cope with fatigue.

Rely on Fellow Airmen. Teamwork, strong leadership, and high morale will keep people working longer and harder under tough conditions.


Experience sleep deprivation during training. Exposing Airmen to fatigue in a training environment teaches them how it affects them and their performance.

Master Skills. When Airmen are sleep deprived, they need to rely on their instincts. Being able to complete tasks automatically means they can do so under stress—without having to think hard.

Cross-Train the Unit. When one Airman is badly affected by sleep deprivation and can't perform his job optimally (or at all), the rest of his unit may have to pick up the slack.

Up All Night: How Soldiers Deal with Sleep Deprivation; Retrieved from <https://www.sleep.org/articles/how-soldiers-deal-with-sleepdeprivation/>

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



Dear Health Myth Busters,

After extended missions, I experience sleep deprivation and I've been researching ways to mitigate this to help improve my performance during the mission. In my research I came across a term sleep banking, is it true that you can bank sleep for when you need it?

Sincerely,  
Sleep Deprived

Dear Sleep Deprived,

It's great that you're seeking advice on sleep deprivation because it can hamper cognitive performance, motivation, performance of physical tasks, and heighten stress and tension. Typically the military culture does not place a priority on sleep which can leave you feeling sleep deprived while still trying to maintain your same level of performance. There are many ways that you can try and alleviate sleep deprivation and yes, sleep banking is one strategy that will help.

You may be familiar with the term sleep debt, this happens when you try to get by on less and less sleep and you start accumulating a balance of sleep loss just as you would with a credit card. Sooner or later you will have to start paying back this sleep debt. Now think of the reverse, you pay down extra sleep in advance before a known period of sleep restriction. This is called sleep banking, which can be used as a way to optimize sleep and enhance performance. Sleep banking can be planned, operationalized, and strategically placed to create large gains in performance when the stakes are high. Up to two weeks prior to the start of a mission, you can pay down your sleep debt and bank sleep by getting 8 or more hours of sleep. This will help you to start the mission with a full bank.

Sleep banking before a period of sleep deprivation improves alertness, physical performance, cognitive function, and can contribute to faster recovery from fatigue-induced impairments. This is just one strategy you can incorporate to manage your sleep better and remember during continuous operations get as much sleep as possible in as large chunks of time as operations or mission allows.

Sincerely,  
Health Myth Busters

Got questions on other health issues related to sleep health, physical activity, tobacco, or nutrition? Share them with us and we will help you “Bust The Myths!” Send your questions to [usaf.jbsa.afmoa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.afmoa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil). Make sure to include in the subject line “Health Myth Buster.” For more online health tips visit the Air Force Healthy Living webpage <http://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/HealthyLiving/>

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: MQ-9 Reaper

**Mission**  
The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons, it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.

**General Characteristics**  
**Primary Function:** Intelligence collection in support of strike, coordination, and reconnaissance missions  
**Contractor:** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.  
**Power Plant:** Honeywell TPE331-10GD turboprop engine  
**Thrust:** 900 shaft horsepower maximum  
**Wingspan:** 66 feet (20.1 meters)  
**Length:** 36 feet (11 meters)  
**Height:** 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)  
**Weight:** 4,900 pounds (2,223 kilograms) empty  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,760 kilograms)

uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in support of combatant commander objectives.

**Reapers can also perform the following missions and tasks:**  
Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-laser, convoy/raid overwatch, route clearance, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-9's capabilities make it


**Fuel Capacity:** 4,000 pounds (602 gallons)  
**Payload:** 3,750 pounds (1,701 kilograms)  
**Speed:** Cruise speed around 230 miles per hour (200 knots)  
**Range:** 1,150 miles (1,000 nautical miles)  
**Ceiling:** Up to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)  
**Armament:** Combination of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, GBU-12 Paveway II and GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions  
**Crew (remote):** Two (pilot and sensor operator)  
**Unit Cost:** \$56.5 million (includes four aircraft with sensors, ground control station and Predator Primary satellite link) (fiscal 2011 dollars)  
**Initial operating capability:** October 2007  
Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle pilots go to training at Randolph and Holloman Air Force Base. The Air Force drones can be flown by pilots stationed at Creech, Holloman, Cannon, Ellsworth and Whiteman Air Force Base.




Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Neil Ballecer  
An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft assigned to the 163d Attack Wing soars over Southern California skies on a training flight to March Air Reserve Base, California, on Sept. 15, 2016.



Air National Guard photo illustration by Airman Michelle J. Ulber  
An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft from the 163rd Attack Wing lands for the first time at March Air Reserve Base, California April 5, 2017. This was a milestone event for the base in their efforts to move the wing's flight operations to March ARB from Southern California's high desert where it currently flies at. (This photo was manipulated to remove the aircraft tail number for security purposes.)



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





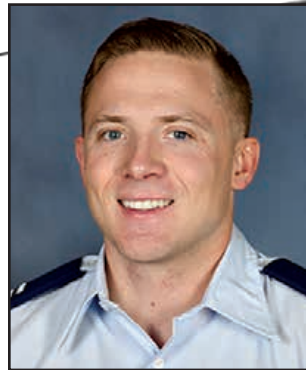


T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

# SUPT Class 19-02 earns silver wings



Capt. Aaron Cox  
KC-135



Capt. Peter Themelis  
U-28



Capt. Gilberto Moreno  
KC-135

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

Students from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-02 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Col. Stephen Snelson, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, is the graduation guest speaker.

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

Second Lt. Jeffery Echevarrias, T-1A Jayhawk, and 2nd Lt. Valentin Arredondo, T-38C Talon, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to Capt. Gilberto Moreno-Medino and Arredondo. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Echevarrias and Arredondo were the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 19-02.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus AFB, Miss. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation

flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

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

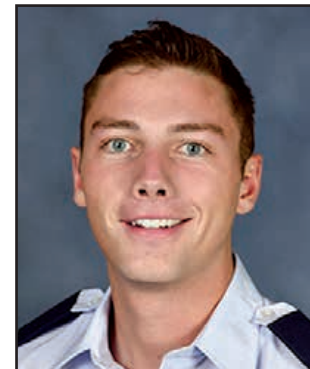
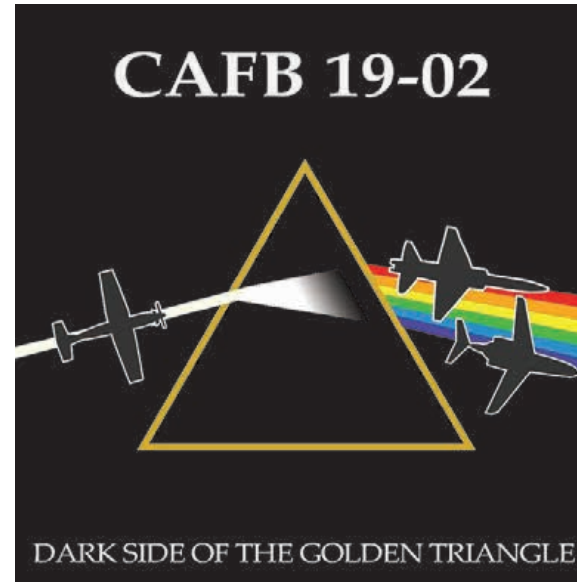
Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student

will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 19-02 pilot partners are Children's Health Center of Columbus and Zachary's.



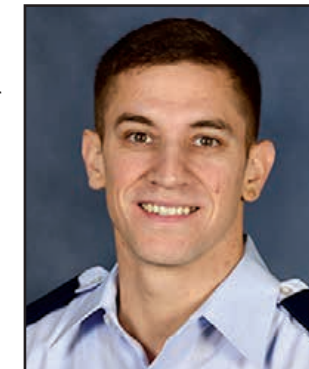
2nd Lt. Seth Bolon  
F-16



2nd Lt. Zac Brown  
F-15E



2nd Lt. Taylor Combs  
T-38C



2nd Lt. Jeffrey Echevarrias  
AC-130J



2nd Lt. Cody Favorite  
T-6A



2nd Lt. Sara Fishbein  
T-6A



2nd Lt. Matthew Fracasso  
KC-135



2nd Lt. John France  
F-16



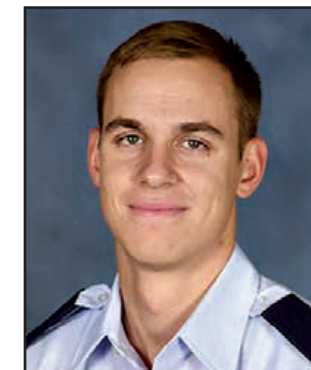
2nd Lt. Hayden Fry  
E-3



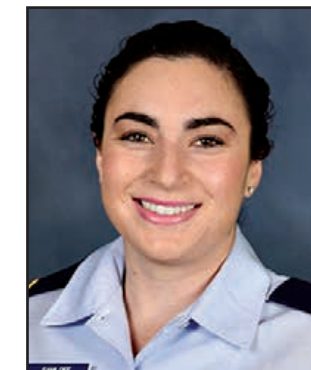
2nd Lt. Tyler Laska  
T-1A



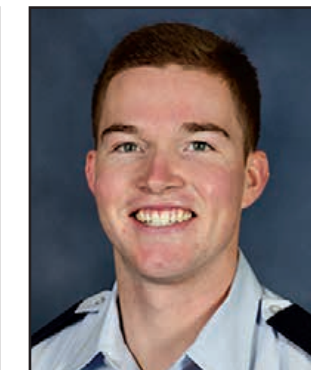
2nd Lt. Junwoo Park  
AC-130J



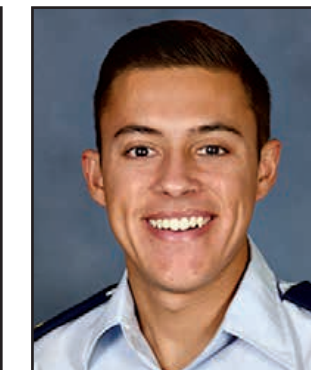
2nd Lt. Viktor Rymniak  
C-5M



2nd Lt. Alexis Samloff  
KC-135



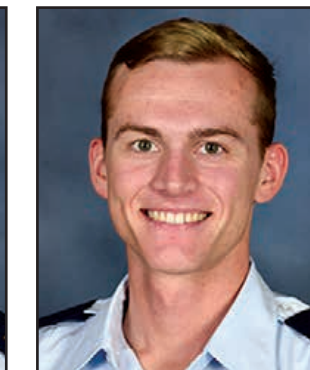
2nd Lt. William Shanley  
T-6A



2nd Lt. Keanu Starrantino  
C-17A



2nd Lt. Miller Trant  
B-52



2nd Lt. Daniel Weisz  
C-17A