



Photo Credit: LAF Out Loud Photography

SENSORY FRIENDLY SANTA NIGHT

December 14 • 5-7pm

Free Event • Open to Community

Please RSVP by phone or email so we have enough materials on hand for each child! 662-391-1964 • gtac0315@gmail.com

Each child has an opportunity to meet Santa in a quiet atmosphere with minimal stimulation & have their photo taken by Leah Alonso of LAF Out Loud Photography!

SENSORY ACTIVITY CENTER • COOKIES & HOT CHOCOLATE

Community Counseling Services Golden Triangle Autism Center
252 Calhoun Street, West Point, MS

© The Dispatch



**Go behind the scenes and
see what it takes to put out
a daily newspaper!**

**Call 662-328-2424 today
to schedule a tour for your
group or organization.**

An advertisement for Bob's Paint and Auto Body. The top features the name 'BOB'S' in large, stylized letters with an American flag motif (stars and stripes). Below the name is the text 'Paint and Auto Body' in a cursive font. A red banner across the middle contains the slogan 'No Matter What You Drive...We've Got You Covered!'. To the left of this banner is a Facebook 'f' logo. Below the banner is a list of services: Insurance repair for all makes & models, Auto Interior Seat Repair, Hail Damage Repair, Paintless Dent Removal, Deer Damage Repair, and Antique and Vintage Car Specialists. On the right side, there is a black sports car. At the bottom, there is a pink classic car. To the right of the pink car, text reads 'Voted the Best Body Shop in the Golden Triangle'. The bottom of the ad features the address and phone number: 83 EAST PLYMOUTH ROAD | COLUMBUS, MS | 662.327.1221. A small copyright notice '© The Triangle' is visible in the top right corner.



**Extra
Newsprint**
is a great,
inexpensive solution for....

- Firestarter
- Packing Materials
- Shipping Materials
- Art Projects
- Window Cleaning

Visit
**THE COMMERCIAL
DISPATCH**

**Office at
516 Main Street
Columbus, MS**

Cultivate, Create, CONNECT

HOUSE FOR RENT: SOUTHSIDE

3BR/2BA, 2300 sqft, very nice w/ 2 car garage, lg back yard. Pets need approval. \$1,050 per mo + dep.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2BR/2BA located in Historic Downtown Columbus. 2,000 sq. feet. Hardwood floors throughout. Open floor. Very nice. \$1300/mo.

**Call 662-328-8655
or 662-574-7879**




**New Salem
Baptist
Church**
*welcomes
you!*

7086 Wolf Road
3 miles south of Caledonia, MS
(662) 356-4940
www.newsalem baptistcaledonia.com
Pastor: Bro. Mel Howton

SUNDAY
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
Nursery available for all services.




St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

318 College Street • Columbus

Holy Communion
at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday

(childcare provided)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Anne Harris
328-6673 • www.stpaulscolumbus.com



Find us on
facebook.

Return Service:
The Commercial
Dispatch
P.O. Box 511
Columbus, MS
39703

SILVERWINGS

Vol. 42, Issue 49

“Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, CONNECT”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

December 14, 2018



News Briefs

AETC Family Day and Christmas

Most base offices will be closed from Dec. 24-25 because of an Air Education and Training Command's family day and Christmas.

Enlisted Promotions

Enlisted Promotions will begin at 11 a.m. Dec. 28 in the Columbus Club. Join fellow Team BLAZE members in celebrating their accomplishment.

AETC Family Day and New Years

Most base offices will be closed from Dec. 31- Jan.1 because of an Air Education and Training Command's family day and New Year's Holiday.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II		PHASE III		IFF		WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Track Select	Squadron	Graduation	Squadron	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (19-18)	Jan. 8	48th (19-05)	Jan. 24	49th (19-DBC)	Jan. 31	T-6	819	913	5,692
41st (19-19)	Jan. 24	50th (19-04)	Jan. 15			T-1	384	206	1,841
Maj. Gen. Scott L. Pleus, is the Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, will be the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-03's graduation at 10 a.m. today, in the Kaye Auditorium.						T-38	400	335	2,264
						IFF	144	145	866
						* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.			

Friday

Rain

High 55°F Low 47°F

Saturday

Cloudy

High 54°F Low 45°F

Sunday

Partly Cloudy

High 57°F Low 39°F

Monday

Partly Cloudy

High 56°F Low 34°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

Mark Horning
Retirement
Ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Mark Horning, Airman and Family Readiness Flight Chief, will begin at 1 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Columbus Club. Horning is a Marine and Airman who has served the U.S. Department of Defense in numerous roles for a majority of his life. Join him in celebrating a successful career and thank him for his great service to the country.

14TH FLYING TRAINING
WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 8 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.

Help a wish come true

Drake Quibodeaux, an 8 year old in Louisiana, has terminal brain cancer. Last week, his family received news that the tumor was growing. There is no cure for Difude Intrinsic Pontine Glioma. He requested Christmas cards and his goal is to receive a 190 cards.

To help him receive as many cards as possible please bring them to the front office by Dec. 18.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
17	18	19	20	21	22/23	Dec. 31: AETC Family Day Jan. 1: New Year's Day Holiday Jan. 11: SUPT Class 19-04/05 Assignment Night Jan. 15: Wing Newcomers Jan. 21: Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 24: Enlisted Partnering Jan. 31: Quarterly Awards/ Enlisted Promotions
24 AETC Family Day	25 Christmas Holiday	26 Back Gate Closed 14th FTW Minimum Base Manning	27	28	29/30	Feb. 1: SUPT Class 19-06 Assignment Night Feb. 5: Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 15: SUPT Class 19-06 Graduation

Silver Wings

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
555 Seventh Street, Suite 210,
Columbus AFB, MS, 39710
Commercial: (662) 434-7068
DSN: 742-7068
Fax: (662) 434-7009
E-mail: silverwings@us.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Samantha Weeks
14th Flying Training Wing
Commander

Mr. Sonic Johnson
Chief of Public Affairs

1st Lt. Kara Crennan
Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Gross
NCOIC of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Joshua Smoot
NCOIC of Media Operations

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Editor

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Airman Hannah Bean
Photojournalist

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.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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

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

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.

Winter driving safety

The holiday season brings many challenges, and while the professionals in the wing safety shop can't help pick the perfect gift for your significant other, we can help you navigate the challenges of driving this winter.

First, safe winter driving starts before you get on the road.

- If you plan to travel when inclement weather is possible, monitor road and weather conditions by checking local news stations, internet traffic, and weather sites. If you're unsure whether it is safe to drive, consider waiting until the roads improve.
- Plan your route and allow extra time to get to your destination. Driving on ice, sleet, or snow requires you to drive slower.
- Check your fluid levels and ensure your battery is adequately charged. Cold weather can put additional strain on your car's battery resulting in slow or no starts.
- Ensure you have windshield washer fluid with a low freezing temperature to help with visibility while driving.
- If your windshield wipers need replacing, do it before the bad weather hits. Wipers are essential to visibility during adverse weather.
- Make sure your tires have enough tread and are adequately inflated.
- Consider keeping emergency supplies in your vehicle (blankets, water, food, flashlights, emergency radio w/extra batteries, etc.)
- Clear all snow and frost from your windows, mirrors, and lights. Don't drive down the road with only a small patch of windshield cleared.

Second, adapt your driving to the road conditions.

- As road conditions deteriorate, plan and anticipate how to slow or stop the vehicle to avoid a dangerous situation.
- Slow down! The faster you go, the more

time and distance it takes to stop on slick roads.

- Increase your distance behind other vehicles. Poor surface conditions will increase the distance required to stop.
- Black ice is dangerous because it is hard to see. Anticipate black ice when conditions are favorable for water to freeze on bridges and roads.
- With anti-lock brakes apply them smoothly and firmly. Without anti-lock brakes, consider pumping the brakes gently when bringing the vehicle to a stop.
- If you get into a skid, don't panic and don't slam on the brakes! Slowly let off the gas and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go. This might require multiple counter-steering changes.

Finally, if you find yourself stranded, stay with your vehicle, call for help, and make your car visible to other traffic and rescue personnel.

- You can run the car heater for 10 minutes every hour, but ensure the exhaust pipe is clear to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If your travel route takes you into remote areas with limited cell phone coverage, consider informing a third party of your travel plans that include your route and when you plan to arrive. This way, if you are overdue, first responders will know where to start looking.

The responsibility for keeping you and your family safe while driving this winter is squarely on your shoulders. However, with the proper amount of preparation before any trip, understanding how your car will perform in wintery conditions, and adapting the way you drive to the current road conditions are basics everyone needs before getting behind the wheel this winter.

Electrical
fire safety

Darren Amos
Fire Inspector

Flipping a light switch, plugging in a coffeemaker, charging a laptop computer-these are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind. Dial 911 to report any emergency.

- Always plug major appliances like refrigerators, stoves, washers/dryers directly into a wall outlet.
- Always plug small appliances like coffeemakers, microwaves, air conditioners and portable heaters directly into wall outlet.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs away from anything that can easily burn like draperies.
- Use extension cords for temporary purposes only.
- Do not overload electrical outlet and/or daisy chain extension cords.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under carpet or through doorways or windows.
- Do not tape circuit breaker in "On" position.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) should be installed near water sources.
- Test GFCI outlets once per month to make sure they work properly.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on lamp or fixtures.
- If extension cords are damaged, do not repair, replace cord with new.

CALL A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN IF:

- Frequent problems with blown fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- Tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets or sparks
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance

Data from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and U.S. Fire Administration FEMA

News Around Town

Day of Giving

Breakfast followed by volunteers giving out school supplies to teachers to help finish the school year from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 21 at 402 Second Ave. North Columbus, Mississippi. It is sponsored by Visit Columbus, The City of Columbus, United Way, and The W. For additional information on this or any other Columbus events, contact Nancy Carpenter, CEO,

Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, 662-329-1191 or 800-327-2686, or nancy@visitcolumbusms.org.

Columbus Arts Council 35th Annual Gala

Enjoy an open bar, New Orleans cuisine, music, dancing and more at Columbus Arts Council's 35th Annual Gala honoring Larry Feeney on Feb. 23 at 402 Second Ave.

North Columbus, Mississippi. Prices and more information can be found at <http://www.visitcolumbusms.org/event/columbus-arts-council-35th-annual-gala/>. To purchase tickets, call 662-328-2787 and for additional information on this or any other Columbus events, contact Nancy Carpenter, CEO, Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, 662-329-1191 or 800-327-2686, or nancy@visitcolumbusms.org.

The professional development day was also tied to the 77th anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor. This gave Columbus AFB an opportunity to reflect on its military heritage and the daring acts fellow Airmen executed during the attack, in defense of the U.S.

Airman awarded November BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight


Name: Airman 1st Class Michaela Austin
Hometown: Batavia, New York
Unit: 14th Operations Support Squadron
Duty Title: Air Traffic Control Apprentice

Austin has proven her dedication to upgrade training by completing 50 task items and one certification in 80 percent of the allotted time, outperforming her peers by one month. Additionally, she performed above and beyond by authoring monthly proficiency guides covering five key tasks, resulting in 100 percent pass rate for 10 Airmen.

Her dedication to development for herself and her peers is evident as she was hand-selected to conduct a “well-trained Airman” professional development briefing for seven crew members, ranging from grades E-3 to E-7. Furthermore, she has demonstrated her skills as future journeyman by monitoring four emergencies, engaging in quick reaction checklists that resulted in safe recovery of \$10 million in assets and six aircrew members.

Lastly, Austin led three facility tours for 90 JROTC cadets and 12 student pilots in six separate briefings, showcasing the complexities of air traffic control and unique mission at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Austin has been at Columbus AFB for about four months, and is striving to earn her Control Tower Operator certificate within six months of training. Austin is also working to progress her career and is working diligently for Senior Airman Below the Zone.



U.S. Air Force photo by Mary Crump

Airman 1st Class Michaela Austin, 14th Operations Support Squadron, Air Traffic Control Apprentice, won the November BLAZE 5/6 Leadership Highlight Award Dec. 6, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. This award is given to Airmen grades E-4 and below to recognize leadership, responsibility and self-development.

In observance of the upcoming holidays
Dec. 16, 2018 – Jan. 5, 2019

Commissary Hours of Operations are:											
SUNDAY: 16 Noon–6 p.m.				SUNDAY: 23 Noon–4 p.m. Early Close				SUNDAY: 30 Noon–4 p.m. Early Close			
MONDAY: 17 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.				MONDAY: 24 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. CLOSED (Christmas Eve)				MONDAY: 31 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. CLOSED (New Year's Eve)			
TUESDAY: 18 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.				TUESDAY: 25 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. CLOSED (Christmas Day)				(New Year's Day)			
WEDNESDAY: 19 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.				WEDNESDAY: 26 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.				WEDNESDAY: 2 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.			
THURSDAY: 20 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m.				THURSDAY: 27 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m.				THURSDAY: 3 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m.			
FRIDAY: 21 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.				FRIDAY: 28 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.				FRIDAY: 4 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.			
SATURDAY: 22 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.				SATURDAY: 29 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.				SATURDAY: 5 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.			

Please read from top to bottom on each column.

Interested in Starting a Business?

The curriculum provides valuable assistance to transitioning Service members and Spouses exploring business ownership or other self-employment opportunities by leading them through the key steps for evaluating business concepts and providing the foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan.

Thursday and Friday, January 17-18, 2019, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Columbus AFB Airman and Family Readiness Center

To Register, Call (662) 434-2790

Sponsored by: CAFB Airman and Family Readiness Center
MSU Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
MSU Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

The Operation Boots to Business: From Service to Startup entrepreneurship education program is provided through the coordinated efforts of the SBA and the following valued partners:

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.)

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.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be from 8 a.m.-noon Jan 29. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel, and spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. To register or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be from 5-7 p.m. Jan 31. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour, or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

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

Pilot partner welcome



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st. Lt. Kara Crennan
Mike Arzaundi stands with Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 20-01 and 20-02 students Dec. 11, 2018, at Paccar.

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.

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 the 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)

New perspectives could be what you need

2nd Lt. Joseph Montero
14th Student Squadron

I was on top of the world, and I felt like nothing could possibly bring me down. I had just recently graduated from the University of Central Florida, had a pilot slot secured, and was moving to my first training base to begin my career in the world's greatest Air Force.

Little did I know my whole life was about to change and wouldn't be taking off (quite literally) how I thought it would. One of the biggest lessons I would come to understand is the importance of the Team BLAZE mission and what it truly means.

My story

In-processing was a breeze, the days seemed to roll by with ease and consisted of me driving around the base aimlessly trying to find out if "that is the right building" or if "this is the right person that I need to speak to."

I met new friends along the way and even ran into old buddies from college, but I also ran into the biggest obstacle that I have ever had in my life. A medical waiver.

I went through the medical section of my in-processing checklist, one thing led to another and I was soon sitting face-to-face with one of the flight docs as he explained to me that I needed a waiver to get cleared to begin pilot training ... everything came to a screeching halt.

I had no more deadlines for training to set up, my training slot was filled due to the fact that I was removed, and I was left wondering what this all meant, and why it was happening to me. What did I do wrong?

Sure, things weren't going so great at Columbus Air Force Base right off the bat, but I did have one thing going for me, my casual job.

This opportunity gave me some consistency and routine in my daily life. It helped get my mind off of the medical waiver process too. I was enjoying the work that I was doing, and I especially liked the people that I was surrounded by.

Now I know what you may be thinking, "this lieutenant actually liked his transition job?" The truth is that I was fortunate enough to have a day-to-day position in, what I believe is the best squadron on the whole base, the 14th Communications Squadron.

Maj. Eddy Gutierrez, 14th CS commander, took me under his wing and quickly began to challenge me.

He gave me tasks that I had no idea what to do with, and I'm sure he knew that, because I had zero cyber or communications background. He trusted me enough though to handle these tasks without ever questioning me if I felt overwhelmed or not.

There were times where I was, but there was no way that I would say no to a task that he gave me because I knew it was a test. A test to see if I could adapt to the situation, all while learning new things from on the job experiences.

Cultivate Airmen

On a daily basis I would work with the Airmen in the squadron and get to know their story. I would ask them why they

Honestly, everything is about perspective and attitude in life. There were plenty of ways that I could have looked at my situation.

decided to join the Air Force, what this means to them, and what their strengths are.

I wanted to know every individual on a personal level as well because it's the way I am. I like getting to know people, it can help with the work environment, and if my previous work experience in management had taught me anything it was knowing your people and knowing what motivates them can be crucial.

Whenever there was a slow moment in the shop, I would ask what we could be doing with our time, or if there were any tickets that we could go out on. I was motivated to get up and get out to do work with the team.

Create Pilots

I quickly learned about the communications realm and was tasked with an exciting, innovative project for not only the squadron, but for the base and how pilot training would be instructed.

I was to assist with procuring Mobile Training Devices for student pilots each programmed with necessary pubs, coursework, and some programs they need to access. The fact you could pause your work, relocate, and pick up where you left off is also a huge benefit of having these Mobile Training Devices.

I was to help with bringing pilot training into the future and as hectic as the work got at times knowing my impact was going to have a positive lasting effect would make the effort worth it.

I never really thought about how many different teams and squadrons have an impact on the training of student pilots. To me, it was pretty easy to just think that the instructor pilots do all the work and get all the glory, but I was very wrong in my assumptions.

Seeing things from the outside, as a part of the communications squadron, showed me just how much effort goes into training the next generation of student pilots, and I have a new found respect for every person and every team on this base. Without the spear itself, there can be no tip.

Connect

In the squadron I was also tasked with escorting construction workers as they renovated the Network Control Center. I could have easily sat there bored every day and minded my own business, but I would ask questions about their work and get to know them.

It definitely made time pass a lot faster, but more importantly it also made our days more enjoyable, knowing that we would see each other tomorrow and share more stories.

One of the more rewarding moments was when I wrote letters to the family members of those in the squadron that were nominated for awards.

I thought nothing of it and just figured that they would receive the letter in the mail, read it, and put it on the kitchen counter like it didn't mean much.

When Maj. Gutierrez called me into his office to tell me that two different families reached back out to him to show their gratitude for nominating their child for these awards, it was amazing.

One mother was brought to tears and didn't know how to express her thanks.

It's the little things, like taking the extra time to just notify families of how well their Airmen are doing, that makes everything worth it.

I was fortunate enough to even give back to the community of Columbus.

Myself, as well as about 10 members of the squadron, were able to help with Habitat for Humanity to tear down an older home in downtown Columbus, this way it could be reconstructed for a family in need of a home.

Not only was the event a lot of fun to just destroy things, but it was one of the first times that I was able to interact and hang out with people from the office outside of work.

I was able to also meet some great individuals who volunteer their time almost every Saturday to help out with Habitat for Humanity. Without the communications squadron, I would not have known how to connect to the community, and I honestly don't think that I would have been motivated enough to do it on my own.

What it all means

Six long months. That is how long I was waiting to hear back about my waiver, but most importantly, that is how long I was fortunate enough to work with the communication squadron.

At times the stress of not knowing my future would be overwhelming, but then I would take a step back and think about how great things were in the moment.

I finally got my phone call and the news wasn't exactly what I was hoping to hear, but at the same time it was still a relief. I was officially medically disqualified from continuing with UPT, but this wasn't going to stop me from pursuing my Air Force career.

I'm going to move on and find a career that will allow me to Cultivate Airmen, Create Pilots, and Connect. Whether that career is Cyber, Intel, Personnel, you name it, I want to have an impact similar to the impact that Columbus, and the communications squadron has had on me.

Honestly, everything is about perspective and attitude in life. There were plenty of ways that I could have looked at my situation. I could have lost all motivation, felt bad for myself, and even resented the Air Force for doing this to me, but instead I saw this as a blessing in disguise.

I have no doubt in my mind that I could have been successful in UPT and would have loved the thrill of flying, but that was just not meant for me in my journey.

I still don't know what I will do or where I will end up, but I know that the 14th Communication Squadron, Maj. Gutierrez, and even Team BLAZE has prepared me for whatever my future will hold. That I am truly thankful for.

Airman Hannah Bean
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Tobias Taylor, a 5-year-old boy who suffers from cystic fibrosis, never lets any of his disadvantages slow him down and with the help of the Pilot for a Day program, Tobias got to experience something new Dec. 6, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Arriving at Columbus AFB, Tobias was greeted at the 41st Flying Training Squadron with roaring applause and cheers from students and instructor pilots.

Pilot for a Day is a program where Airmen like Capt. Ricardo Torres, 41st Flying Training Squadron T-6 instructor pilot and flight commander, gives medically disabled youth and their families a "red carpet day" custom-tailored to their desires and capabilities. The program is conducted in partnership with the Local Chamber of Commerce.

"We really didn't know what to expect, but he was extremely excited," said Clay Taylor, Tobias' father. "He didn't know if he was going to be flying the planes. I said 'No, you're not going to be flying the planes.' After that, we kind of told him that it was a program where he could go see the planes, see what the base is like and all that. He's been really excited and was looking forward to it."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean

Tobias Taylor, Pilot for a Day, and Clay Taylor, Tobias' father, ride in a firetruck with Airman 1st Class Michael Findlay, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, Dec. 6, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Tobias, a 5-year-old boy who suffers from cystic fibrosis, spent the day experiencing life as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force

Tobias and his family enjoyed many aspects of Columbus AFB including displays of all three 14th FTW training aircraft, a personalized tour of the fire department, time in the T-6 flight simulator, and lunch in the 41st FTS heritage room.

Even with cystic fibrosis, Tobias is a resilient child who continues to enjoy life without much fear in his mind.

"He has cystic fibrosis, so he's had six surgeries over five years and it takes up a big part of our life and our days, but he takes it like a champ and he deals with everything in stride," Taylor said. "He is extremely crazy, a high energy kind of person, but he is really affectionate. He really gets along with a lot of kids and likes to play with a lot of kids. He's fun to be around."

For Torres, it's enjoyable to see the kid's smile and happy attitude that makes the whole day worthwhile.

"It's the personal satisfaction that I get out of seeing the child's face light up, they get to put on the flight suit, when they see their name on the side of the plane," Torres said. "We got to show them an awesome time ... They interacted with pilots, officers and enlisted Airmen on base who really care about what the child is doing and are willing to brighten that child's day."



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

Tobias Taylor, Pilot for a Day, points to his name on a T-6 Texan II on the flight line, Dec. 6, 2018, at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. While unable to actually fly in an aircraft, Tobias and his family enjoyed many aspects of Columbus AFB including displays of all three 14th Flying Training Wing training aircraft, a personalized tour of the fire department, time in the T-6 flight simulator, and more.



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Doublin

Tobias Taylor, Pilot for a Day, and his family pose with members of Team BLAZE and local business leaders Dec. 6, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Pilot for a Day is a program where medically disabled youth get a "red carpet day" custom-tailored to their desires and capabilities.

Who is the National Guard?

What is the birthday of the Army National Guard?

The official birth date of the Army National Guard as a reserve component of the Army is December 13, 1636. On this date, the Massachusetts colonial legislature directed that the colony's existing militia companies be organized into three regiments. This date is recognized based upon the Department of Defense's practice of adopting the dates of initial authorizing legislation for organized units as the birthdates of the active and reserve components of the armed services.

What is the oldest Army National Guard Unit?

The oldest Army National Guard units are the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery Regiment, the 181st Infantry Regiment, and the 182nd Infantry Regiment, all of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. These four units are the descendants of the original three militia regiments organized by colonial Massachusetts legislation on December 13, 1636, and share the distinction of being the oldest units in the U.S. military.

How can the Army National Guard be older than the Army?

Our ability to recognize December 13, 1636, as the organization date of the oldest Army National Guard units is based in law. The Militia Act of May 8, 1792, permitted militia units organized before the May 8, 1792, to retain their "customary privileges." This provision of the militia act was perpetuated by the Militia Act of 1903, the National Defense Act of 1916, and by subsequent law.

What is the birthday of the Air National Guard?

The official birth date of the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force is September 18, 1947. On this date, the first Secretary of the Air Force was sworn in to office per provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, the au-

thorizing legislation for the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. Soon afterwards, National Guard Army Air Forces units began to be transferred to the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force.

How can Air National Guard units be older than the Air Force?

They're not. The Air National Guard became the Reserve Component of the United States Air Force on September 18, 1947, when the Air Force broke from the U.S. Army to become a separate military service. Before 1947, the National Guard aviation units were part of the U.S. Army Air Forces. Some National Guard units trace their lineage before World War One. The original 29 National Guard aviation units were formally reorganized and activated beginning in 1921 to become part of the U.S. Army Air Corps and later the U.S. Army Air Forces which served in World War Two with great distinction. At the time when the Air Force was created in September, 1947 as a separate service, there were 59 aviation units in the National Guard, to include the original 29 observation squadrons which were mobilized in 1940. These units were all transferred from the Army Air Forces to the new Air Force effective April 27, 1948.

What is the oldest Air National Guard unit?

The oldest Air National Guard unit is the 102nd Rescue Squadron of the New York Air National Guard. This unit was originally organized in accordance with existing law, and authorized in the New York National Guard as the Aero Company, Signal Corps, on November 22, 1915. The oldest Air National Guard unit in continuous existence since its organization is the 109th Airlift Squadron of the Minnesota Air National Guard, which was organized and federally recognized as the 109th Observation Squadron, on January 17, 1921.

14th CS brings forward new programs, software for pilot training

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

Whether someone is picking up their 10th phone call in the morning, sifting through the past week's emails or going online to check if their ribbon rack is up to date, there's nothing connected on base without the 14th Communications Squadron.

With hundreds of issues fixed every year and new software and programs put on each government issued computer, the 14th CS has been working with innovating and modernizing how pilot training is completed.

After the Windows 10 update and a new SharePoint site being released, the squadron's goal this year is to put every record from a piece of paper into secured digital storage and bringing the efficiency of SharePoint 2013 to the flying training world.

"Lately, our biggest collaboration tool is the new SharePoint," said Staff Sgt. Jason Rodriguez, 14th CS NCO in-charge of knowledge management. "It helps everyone, especially those in pilot training squadrons, communicate and share information. That is one of the biggest ways our Airmen impact the mission here."

The communications squadron's mission is directly tied to the connection piece of the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission statement.

"Our biggest focus is that connecting side of the wing mission," Rodriguez said. "I like that focus, it gives me the motivation to keep moving forward and making this a career. I enjoy the lifestyle and the ability to help everyone communicate effectively to complete the bigger mission."

The Air Force recently outlined a new records management plan, changing the way the 14th CS will archive and store the 14th FTW's records. It is the new way forward for filing records across the wing and the squadron's first goal is to leave physical records in the past and push to the digital era of records management.

"Currently we are working on transferring hundreds of thousands of records to the digital platform,"

Rodriguez said. "It's going to take a lot of time and effort, but in the end, it's going to be a better way to move into the digital age of communication."

Rodriguez mentioned how squadron leadership and every Airman is working together toward the mission and said he couldn't get this done without all the help he has received.

Airman 1st Class Amad Qureshi, 14th CS communications technician, is the Airman who's leading the SharePoint switch and is considered in the office as 'the SharePoint master'.

"We moved from the 2010 to the 2013 version of SharePoint," Qureshi said. "It's reliable, consistent and easy to use. A lot of people are used to the old SharePoint that was buggy and difficult to use, but this new website is much more effective. It's essentially a big playground that you can explore and do practically anything you need."

His role in the communications squadron is essential, he helps teach and fix SharePoint issues across the wing. Qureshi's knowledge and teaching ability is a great asset to have and he's taught Airmen from the ground up almost everything he knows about the website with enthusiasm.

"When I first joined I didn't like being in the military a whole lot, because I didn't think I was making a difference," Qureshi said. "Now that I'm in and know the job and have seen what I'm capable of, I'm starting to enjoy it a lot. I always wanted to work with people and in communications it's exactly that. It feels good to go to work and help someone else, or brighten a customer's day while solving a problem."

Overall, the 14th CS provides essential communications and information systems along with information management to support the flying training mission here.

They utilize a 47-person military, civilian and contractor work force with a \$1.5 million annual budget.

The Airmen plan, acquire, coordinate and integrate upgrades to communications and information infrastructure, as well as provide combat-ready personnel for mobility taskings



Be responsible this holiday season. Don't drink and drive.



Stressing about the holidays? How it affects sleep

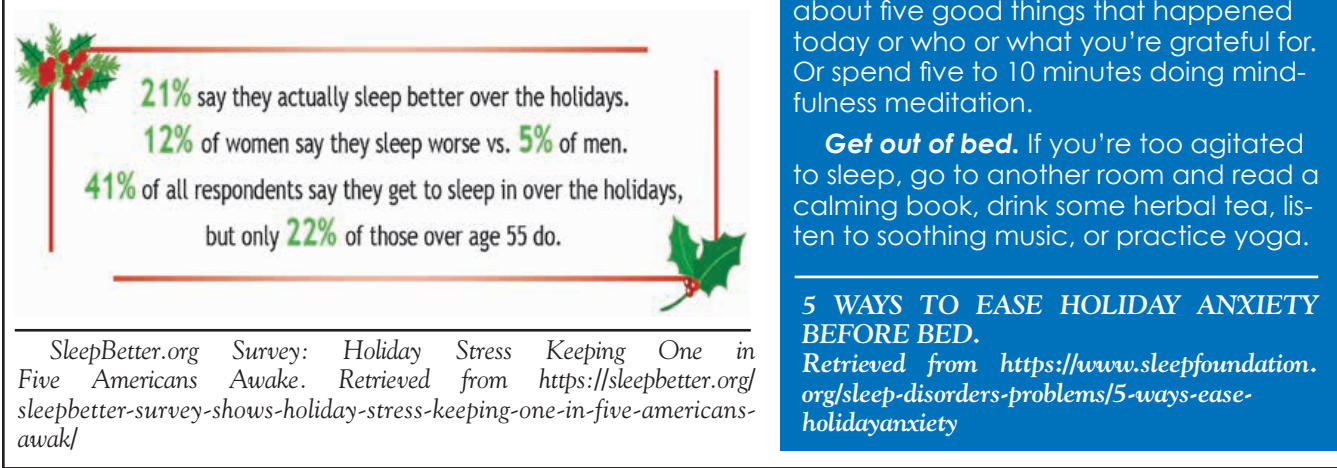
Twenty percent of Americans say they expect to lose sleep over the coming weeks due to holiday stress. Seasonally-induced insomnia is even higher for mothers and fathers (27 percent).

Compounding that anxiety, if not the source of it, are concerns over seasonal expenses. Forty two percent of parents say they are stressing over being able to pay holiday bills this year.

And perhaps the biggest cause of insufficient sleep? That would be staying up late the night before gift-giving. One in two parents (52 percent) say they will likely get six or fewer hours of sleep that night – despite those "easy-to-assemble" assurances on the box.

"Kids may have visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads over the holidays, but for many adults, the season can be a time in which some year-end anxiety can climb down the proverbial chimney," said Dan Schecter, vice president of consumer products at Carpenter Co., and creator of SleepBetter.org. "The combination of excitement and stress can play havoc with our sleep patterns, and so what starts out as a season of great joy can often end up as a season of great exhaustion. That's why 'get to bed earlier' often finds itself on many people's list of New Year's resolutions."

For many Americans, however, the holidays are a time to catch up on their shut-eye. Two in five survey respondents (41 percent) say they typically get a chance to sleep in over the holidays, with 23 percent finding time for a nap. For a small percentage of the population (5 percent), "sleep and rest" is what they look forward to most over the holidays. "Being with family" was the most popular response at 79 percent.



A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team



Dear Health Myth Busters,
I work in a high tempo maintenance shop with staff shortages due to recent turnover. Not only is my job stressful, but I am also having periodic bouts of insomnia. Could there be a connection between the two?

Sincerely,
Too Stressed to Sleep

Dear Too Stressed to Sleep,

There may be a connection between the insomnia you're experiencing and the stress caused by your job. Not all insomnia is due to stress, but people who are under considerable stress can have insomnia. In the case of insomnia related to stress, alleviating the stress should alleviate the insomnia. Stress causes insomnia by making it difficult to fall asleep and stay asleep, and affecting the quality of your sleep. Stress causes hyperarousal, which can upset the balance between sleep and wakefulness. However, many people under stress do not have insomnia.

As with any symptom, an important question to ask is "when did it start?" Does the sleep problem come and go with the occurrence and disappearance of stress or does it persist through all the changes of one's life? That is, is it situational? Also it is helpful to clarify what one means by stress. For example, are you frequently anxious whether or not you are under unusual stress? Is it hard for you to "wind down" at the end of the day? Once you've answered these questions, there are solutions you can consider to help overcome insomnia caused by stress.

Insomnia caused by various stress factors can be prevented and managed by managing everyday life habits. The management of day-to-day lifestyle in physical aspect includes regular and balanced meals, balanced physical activity by incorporating moderate intensity aerobic physical activity for about 30 minutes, 3-4 times a week into your routine, and induced body rest and relaxation.

Most of all, goal-setting, continuing to make constant efforts toward the goals, accepting the fact that no one is perfect, and doing one's best can help overcome insomnia caused by stress. Talk to your provider or schedule an appointment with the sleep clinic to discuss your insomnia if the problem persists.

Sincerely,
Health Myth Busters

5 Ways to Ease Holiday Anxiety Before Bed

When holiday stress and anxiety mount during the holidays, it can be hard to fall or stay asleep. But good-quality shuteye can calm frazzled nerves. Use these five stress-easing strategies to decompress before you go to bed.

Clear your worries from your mind. At least an hour before bed, make a list of your holiday concerns. Then, put those worries out of your mind before you climb into bed.

Breathe away your anxieties. Spend a few minutes doing deep breathing exercises to release stress and reduce tension.

Use aromatherapy. The scents of lavender, chamomile, bergamot, and sandalwood can help relieve anxiety and stress. You can harness this effect by giving your pillow a light spritz with a linen spray or placing a drop or two of one of these essential oils on a cloth on your nightstand.

Put yourself in a positive frame of mind. Spend a few minutes thinking about five good things that happened today or who or what you're grateful for. Or spend five to 10 minutes doing mindfulness meditation.

Get out of bed. If you're too agitated to sleep, go to another room and read a calming book, drink some herbal tea, listen to soothing music, or practice yoga.

5 WAYS TO EASE HOLIDAY ANXIETY BEFORE BED.
Retrieved from <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/sleep-disorders-problems/5-ways-ease-holidayanxiety>

BLAZE Hangar Tails: RQ-4 Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

Mission

The RQ-4 Global Hawk is a high-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft with an integrated sensor suite that provides global all-weather, day or night intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability. Global Hawk's mission is to provide a broad spectrum of ISR collection capability to support joint combatant forces in worldwide peacetime, contingency and wartime operations. The Global Hawk provides persistent near-real-time coverage using imagery intelligence, signals intelligence and moving target indicator sensors.

Features

Global Hawk is currently fielded in three distinct blocks and is flown by a Launch and Recovery Element and a Mission Control Element. The LRE is located at the aircraft base and functions to launch and recover the aircraft while en route to and from the target area. The MCE controls the Global Hawk for the bulk of the ISR mission. Like the LRE, the MCE is manned by one pilot, but adds a sensor operator to the crew.

Command and control data links enable complete dynamic control of the aircraft. The pilot workstations in the MCE and LRE are the control and display interface providing aircraft health and status, sensors status and a

means to alter the navigational track of the aircraft. From this station, the pilot also communicates with outside entities to coordinate the mission such as air traffic control, airborne controllers, ground controllers, and other ISR assets.

The sensor operator workstation provides capability to task the sensor, dynamically update the collection plan in real time, initiate sensor calibration and monitor sensor status. The sensor operator also assists the exploitation node with image quality control, target deck prioritization and scene tracking to ensure fluid operations.

Background

Global Hawk began as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration in 1995. The system was determined to have military utility and provide warfighters with an evolutionary high-altitude, long-endurance ISR capability. The Global Hawk has been deployed operationally to support overseas contingency operations since November 2001.

In the RQ-4 name, the "R" is the Department of Defense designation for reconnaissance and "Q" means unmanned aircraft system. The "4" refers to the series of purpose-built remotely piloted aircraft systems. The "E" in EQ-4 delineates the communication configuration of the BACN equipped aircraft.

General Characteristics

Primary function: high-altitude, long-endurance ISR
Contractor: Northrop Grumman (Prime), Raytheon, L3 Comm

Power Plant: Rolls Royce-North American F137-RR-100 turbofan engine

Thrust: 7,600 pounds

Wingspan: 130.9 feet (39.8 meters)

Length: 47.6 feet (14.5 meters)

Height: 15.3 feet (4.7 meters)

Weight: 14,950 pounds (6,781 kilograms)

Maximum takeoff weight: 32,250 pounds (14,628 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 17,300 pounds (7,847 kilograms)

Payload: 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms)

Speed: 310 knots (357 mph)

Range: 12,300 nautical miles

Endurance: more than 34 hours

Ceiling: 60,000 feet (18,288 meters)

Armament: None

Crew (remote): three (LRE pilot, MCE pilot, and sensor operator)

Initial operating capability: 2011 (Block 30); 2015 (Block 40)

Inventory: active force, 33 (three more Block 30s purchased, to be fielded in 2017)



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ramon A. Adelan
Members from the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron prepare to launch an RQ-4 Global Hawk Oct. 24, 2018, at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. The 7th RS acts as a service station, which performs maintenance and launch and recovery operations to supply airborne Global Hawks to pilots at Beale Air force Base, California.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Tristan D. Viglianco
A team of 12th Aircraft Maintenance Unit Airmen walk beside an RQ-4 Global Hawk while it's being towed during Red Flag Alaska 18-3, Aug. 16, 2018, at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. This marks the first time an RQ-4 has landed in Alaska during a simulated combat training exercise.

Team BLAZE wraps gifts for local youth

Airman Hannah Bean

14th Flying Training Wing

Public Affairs

Members of Team BLAZE participated in wrapping over 350 gifts during the Happy Fund Shop and Wrap at the Club, Dec. 12, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Monetary donations to the Happy Fund were used to buy gifts for local underprivileged children for the holiday season. The presents were delivered to local schools in the Columbus, Mississippi, and Lowndes County areas, and were distributed by Airmen to designated children, chosen by the teachers. The program was established by the late George "Happy" Irby, long-term staff member at the Columbus Club.

"A great number of volunteers that we see every year at Columbus AFB — families, even members of the service — all come down and help us wrap these packages for the kids in the county and the city," said Bruce Hanson, Happy Fund board member. "The Happy Fund brings more support and awareness of the community that this is an event that people can contribute funds to help needy kids in our community."

The program was created to provide the children with

wrapped presents containing basic necessities such as clothing. Children are nominated by teachers from schools in and around the Columbus Lowndes County area to receive these gift boxes.

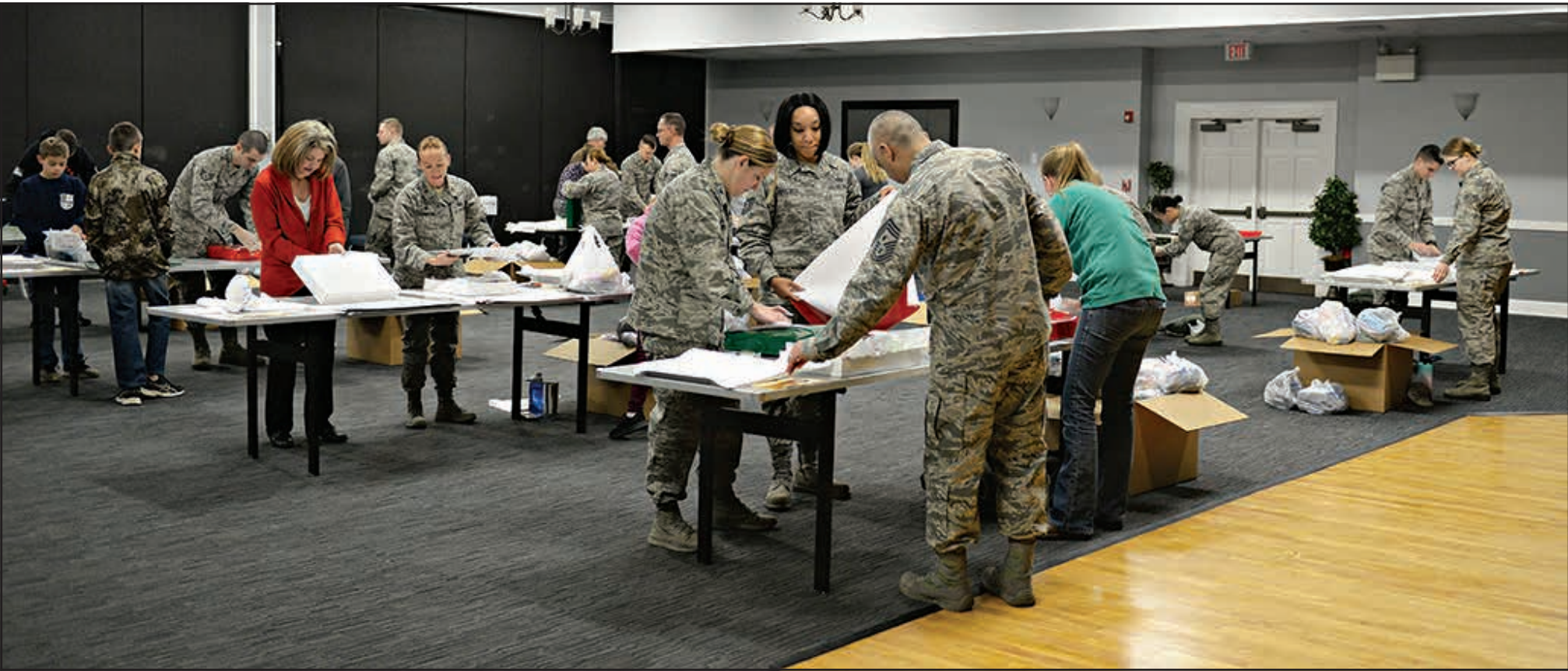
The event began in the morning at a local business-es where volunteers shopped for the presents that were to be wrapped for the students. From there, the presents were brought to the Columbus Air Force Base Club to be wrapped by more volunteers.

"The biggest thing that Columbus AFB gets out of this is the ability to connect with our community and give back," said Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. "We, in the military, serve our country and we're proud to serve and this is just another capacity where we can serve our community and our people. This (event) allows us to understand what's going on in the community, connect with children, and give back because ultimately we are fortunate to be in the U.S. military as servicemen and servicewomen."

George "Happy" Irby started the Happy Fund Shop and Wrap in 1958 with tip money he earned working in the Columbus Club.



An Airman attaches an address label to a present during the Happy Irby Fund Shop and Wrap Happy Irby Christmas Wrap at the Club, Dec. 12, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The Happy Irby Shop and Wrap provides underprivileged children with wrapped presents containing clothing, school supplies, outfits and other basic necessities The Happy Irby Shop and Wrap provides underprivileged children with wrapped presents containing basic necessities such as clothing.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Hannah Bean
Members of Team BLAZE wrap gifts during the Happy Irby Fund Shop and Wrap Happy Irby Christmas Wrap at the Club, Dec. 12, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Over 350 gifts were filled, wrapped and sent to local schools in the Lowndes County area.

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

SUPT Class 19-03 earns silver wings



Capt. Hayder Mahdi
F-16



Capt. Richard Scherl
C-130J



Capt. Felicity Van Meter
A-10C



2nd Lt. Evan Bauer
C-130J

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

Students from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-03 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium. Maj. Gen. Scott L. Pleus, the Director of Plans, Programs, and Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, will be the guest speaker.

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

2nd Lt. Benjamin Lynch, 2nd Lt. Caleb Heaton and 2nd Lt. Benjamin Burmester 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 2nd Lt. Travis Edwards, Heaton and Burmester. 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.

Second Lt. Andrew Butler, Heaton and Burmester were named the distinguished graduates of SUPT Class 19-03.

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

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

Each class is partnered with business or civic organizations during their year of training. This program is designed to foster closer ties between the community and Columbus AFB. Today, each student will be given a set of pilot wings with their names engraved on the back as a token of good luck from their partners. SUPT Class 19-03 pilot partners are the Hyatt Place and Callaway Orthodontics.



2nd Lt. Benjamin Burmester
T-6



2nd Lt. Andrew Butler
C-17



2nd Lt. Travis Edwards
MC-130J



2nd Lt. Amy Ferguson
KC-135



2nd Lt. Benjamin Lynch
C-17



2nd Lt. Anna Meiusi
HC-130J



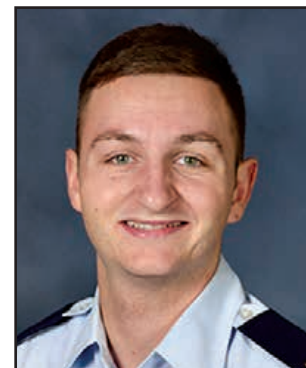
2nd Lt. Seth Melnick
KC-135



2nd Lt. Austin Merz
B-52



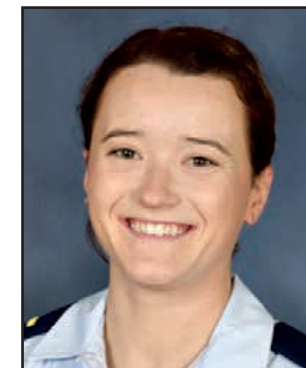
2nd Lt. Kaleb Nypaver
F-16



2nd Lt. Gabriel Perez
KC-10



2nd Lt. Kevin Pollard
KC-10



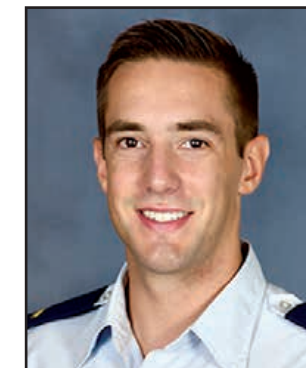
2nd Lt. Kelsey Shane
B-1B



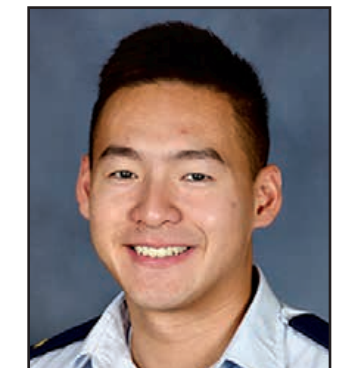
2nd Lt. Andrew Smiththisier
KC-135



2nd Lt. Stephen Smith-Johnson
C-130J



2nd Lt. Maximillian Wienke
B-52



2nd Lt. Sean Yeoh
B-52



2nd Lt. Chase Bockstruck
F-16



2nd Lt. Kyle Bragg
F-16



2nd Lt. Jeffery Breagh
C-130J



2nd Lt. Katherine Brechbuhl
T-1



2nd Lt. Jordan Harriott
F-15E



2nd Lt. Caleb Heaton
F-15E



2nd Lt. Eric Holm
F-16



2nd Lt. Taylor Lopez
C-17