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## Weather

<b>Friday</b>  Cloudy High 60°F Low 50°F	<b>Saturday</b>  Partly Cloudy High 62°F Low 55°F
<b>Sunday</b>  Rain High 65°F Low 60°F	<b>Monday</b>  Partly Cloudy High 47°F Low 34°F

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

## News Briefs

### SUPT Class 19-07 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-07 graduates at 10 a.m. March 15 at the Kaye Auditorium.

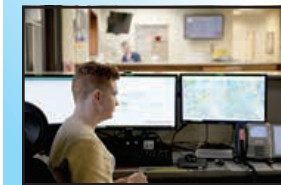
### ALS Class 19-3 Burger Burn

ALS Class 19-3 will host a burger burn 11:30 a.m. March 16 at the Stennis Lock and Dam in Columbus. The event celebrates the accomplishments of the class as they progress through their training.

### Wing Newcomers Orientation

All new active-duty service members are required to attend the Wing Newcomers Orientation starting at 8 a.m. March 19 in the Columbus Club. The Wing Newcomers Brief is a great way to learn all the different organizations on base and get a feel for how Columbus operates. Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

## Inside



### Feature 8

The 14th OSS Weather Flight is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Hannah Bean

Chaplain (Col.) Doug Slater, Air Education and Training Command chaplain, from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, preaches to attendees during service at the BLAZE Chapel Feb. 24, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Slater was invited by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Richardson, 14th Flying Training Wing Chaplain, to preach his fini-sermon at Columbus AFB chapel, ending his nearly 30-year career back in the pulpit.

# AETC Chaplain delivers final military sermon at Columbus AFB

### Airman Hannah Bean

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Chaplain (Col.) Doug Slater, Air Education and Training Command chaplain, from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, delivered his final sermon of his Air Force career Feb. 24 to attendees at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The visit was initiated by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Richardson, 14th Flying Training Wing chaplain, inviting Slater to preach his fini-sermon, his last sermon as a chaplain, at Columbus AFB Chapel, ending his nearly 30-year career.

“It's the last worship service I'll perform as an Air Force chaplain.”

See CHAPLAIN, 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 (19-22)	Mar. 11	48th (19-07)	Mar. 15	49th (19-EBC)	Mar. 4	T-6	1,640	1,890	10,625
41st (19-23)	Mar. 25	50th (19-07)	Mar. 15			T-1	774	612	3,641
						T-38	900	729	4,254
						IFF	341	325	1,719

Brig. Gen. James Sears, Air Education and Training Command director of plans, programs and requirements, will be the guest speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 19-07's graduation at 10 a.m. March 15 in the Kaye Auditorium.

\* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.





**14TH  
FLYING  
TRAINING  
WING  
DEPLOYED**

As of press time, 51 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.*

### 12 promoted at February Enlisted Promotions



U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Dublin

**Twelve enlisted Airmen were promoted throughout the month of February. Along with an extra stripe, these Airmen will also have more responsibility.**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
4 IFF Class 19EBC Graduation	5	6	7	8 Spark Cell meeting, noon @ Spark Cell	9/10	March 18-21: National Prayer Breakfast with retired Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Cecil Richardson March 19: Wing Newcomers March 28: ALS Class 19-3 Graduation March 28: Spring Pilgrimage Kickoff Party March 29: Spark Cell Meeting March 29: Enlisted Promotions March 29-31: Boy Scouts Camporee April 2: IFF Class 19FBC Graduation April 5: Gold Star Wives Day April 5: SUPT Class 19-08/09 Assignment Night
11	12	13	14	15 SUPT Class 19-07 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	16/17 16th: ALS Burger Burn, 10 a.m. @ Stennis Lock and Dam 16th: MUW Softball Military Appreciation Game, 2 p.m. @ MUW Softball Field	

### 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

Kristina Conwill  
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

Senior Airman Beaux Hebert  
Editor

Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb  
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.

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

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

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.

# Innovation, scalability & data the focus as PTN 2.0 begins

**1st Lt. Geneva Gaiamo**  
Air Education and Training  
Command Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas – The second class of students participating in Pilot Training Next at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Austin, Texas, began Jan. 17.

During the program, student pilots will learn to fly the T-6A, leveraging off-the-shelf training aids and virtual reality simulators. The instruction in this second version is shaped from the success of and lessons learned from the first PTN program, where 13 officers graduated in June 2018 and progressed to advanced training across multiple platforms.

This class is comprised of 26 students, including 16 active duty officer students (six of whom are participating in a remotely-piloted aircraft only track), two Air National Guard officers, two U.S. Navy officers, one Royal Air Force officer, and five enlisted Airmen.

Instructor pilots from across AETC were selected to train the new students based on their skills and fit with the goals of the PTN team.

“Innovation and change are necessary,” said Capt. Calogero San Filippo, PTN instructor pilot. “The freedom of movement in this program offers us the opportunity to really explore different avenues, and that is exciting. We are going to do the best we can as instructors to make sure our training is beneficial down the road.”

The five enlisted Airmen are participating



U.S. Air Force photo by Sean M. Worrell

**2nd Lt. Seth Murphy-Sweet, Pilot Training Next student, takes a 3D vision test prior to virtual reality flying training at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, Texas, Feb. 5, 2019. Like the first version of PTN, the second iteration is working in a strong collaboration with AFWERX's Austin hub at the Capital Factory, gaining conduits into industry that help the PTN team work solutions to issues they encounter as they develop the program.**

in the class, similar to the first iteration, are part of the effort to understand how people from non-traditional talent pools perform in this environment.

AETC senior leadership has challenged Airmen at the squadron level to take a deep

look at their current curriculums and procedures to find the best way to inspire and develop Mach-21 Airmen. The PTN cadre has played a major role in this effort, studying both how students learn and how to effectively teach flying training.

“We have three focus areas for our team during this iteration of training,” said Lt. Col. Paul Vicars, PTN director. “First, we must empower our instructors and Airmen to be able to innovate by providing them the resources and authority to fail fast and learn. Second, we need to capitalize on that learning by scaling as rapidly as we can. Finally, we need to collect, analyze, understand, and use the data to build a process of continual improvement.”

Like the first version of PTN, the second iteration is working collaboratively with AFWERX, building connections with industry to help them work solutions to issues they encounter as they develop the program.

“AFWERX hosted a pitch competition where we were able to look at available commercial solutions to some of our technology needs,” Vicars said. “They also supported us with two small business innovation research programs. The connection with AFWERX has been essential to our ability to rapidly advance.”

During his welcome to the new pilot students and cadre, Vicars highlighted the incredible amount of talent in cadre and student class and charged the whole PTN program to further innovate and refine how we teach and learn.

“What you decide this will look like, it will look like,” said Vicars. “You are building the foundations for what flying training will look like long into the future.”



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## NEWS AROUND TOWN

**Luke Combs Concert**  
Luke Combs, American Country Music singer, will perform at 7 p.m. March 8 at the BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tickets available online.

**Mumford and Sons Concert**  
Mumford and Sons, British Alternative Rock band, will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 23 at the Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Alabama. Tickets available online.

## To advertise in Silver Wings, call 328-2424



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

**St. Patrick’s Day North Alabama Picnic Wine Trail**  
Let the shenanigans begin! Join us on March 16 as we take you on a three winery tour. Meet at the BX parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and arrive at Jules Berta vineyards, then move through two other wineries for food, wine and perhaps you’ll also find your Pot O’ Gold. \$40 per person, must sign up by March 9th at 4 p.m. Must be 21 and older to participate, event takes place rain or shine. No refunds. No cancellations. For more information, contact 434-7861.

**UFC Fight Night**  
Join us at the Overrun in the Event Center for UFC 235 Jones vs. Smith on Saturday, March 2, doors open at 6:30 p.m. Food and drink specials. Club members receive a \$5 food voucher! Call 434-2489 for more information.

**Theme Thursdays at the Overrun**  
Join us every Thursday in February for our Travel the World Edition of Theme Thursday! Featuring \$0.45 wings on Thursdays at the Overrun, drink specials and sports games on TV’s and DJ Memo on the turntables. Call 434-2489 for more information.

**Assignment Night Transportation**  
Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact 434-7861.


**Martial Arts**  
Martial Arts classes are available at the Youth Center every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:30- 6:30 p.m. Receive two free introductory classes, contact the Youth Center for more information at 434-2504.

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**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 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 ages birth – 2 years. For more information, contact 434-2934.

**FSS Gift Cards**  
Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Café at Whispering Pines, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

**Horse Boarding Available**  
The CAFB 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 is Open Friday Nights**  
The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until midnight, excluding graduation nights. For more information, contact 434-2489.

**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.

**Wood Shop is OPEN!**  
The Wood Shop is back in business! They are open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m., call 4347836 for more information

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Laser Bowling**  
The Strike Zone offers laser bowling every Friday and Saturday night starting at 5 p.m., stop in for a great time! Call 434-3426 for more information.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Hannah Bean  
**Chaplain (Col.) Doug Slater, Air Education and Training Command chaplain, from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, reads a section of the bible to attendees during service at the BLAZE Chapel Feb. 24, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. During the sermon, Chaplain Slater spoke to the audience about God’s love and reminisced about his time as a teenager learning about God and how one small event initiated a chain reaction that led him to become who he is today.**

### CHAPLAIN

(Continued from page 1)

lain and I wanted to conclude how I started,” Wilson said. “It’s important to me personally. I’m thankful to be here and be able to see the community and their relationship here.”

Most chaplains serve several years as a civilian pastor before they apply to be a military chaplain. They then receive an endorsement from a religious denomination or major faith group to provide ministry to men and women in uniform.

“I’m delighted we can honor this man of God who has dedicated so many years to serving Airmen and their families,” Richardson said. “It goes to the core of who we are as chaplains, and it reminds us that our first calling is to God.”

During the sermon, Slater spoke to the congregation about God’s love and reminisced about his time as a child learning about God and how one small event initiated a chain reaction that lead his life to where he is today.

He referenced the song “Somebody to Love” by Queen and asked the audience to focus on the lyrics and see the meaning behind those words. He went on to ask people to find somebody to love and to demonstrate

God’s love through small tasks.

“Think back to that one person or that one event that influenced you and helped you become the person you are today,” Slater told the crowd. “How did you get here? How are you helping others along their journey to God’s will?”

He talked about when he was young and wanted to do a sleepover at his friend’s house. When they asked his friend’s mother, she agreed on the condition that they be up and ready to attend church the next morning. He loved the service so much that he asked his dad to take him to church, leading to his father and family connecting with God.

At the time he didn’t think much of it. Later in life, he connected that response from the friend’s mom as the activating event sparking his love for God today and his decision to become a minister and a chaplain.

Slater expressed that everyone has a connection to someone or something that influenced them to be the person they became today. It takes only one small action from someone who cares to change a life.

**Editor’s note:** The U.S. Air Force does not endorse any particular religion. The Air Force highly values each person’s right to observe the tenets of his or her respective religion or to observe no religion at all.



### Department of Defense 2019 Women’s History Month Poster

**Poster Description:** The Department of Defense 2019 Women’s History Month poster depicts a distressed grey-white background.

Centered at the top in capitalized text is the observance’s title, “Women’s History Month” in orange letters.

Stretching upward in the bottom center are four outstretched hands in orange color reaching up the middle of the poster. A white dove is just above the fingertips flying upwards to the poster’s left, as if released from the hands. The right wing of the dove slightly covers the “O” in the word “Month.”

At the bottom center of the poster in white text and capital letters is the first part of the observance theme, “Visionary Women:” Centered immediately below the introductory text is the remainder of the theme in slightly larger font and black, capitalized text, “Champions of Peace & Nonviolence.”

At the bottom left corner is the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) seal, a quick response code, and in smaller text the words, “Designed by DEOMI – Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.” At the bottom right corner are the Service seals for the Army, Marines, Navy, USAF, Coast Guard, and Department of Defense in consecutive order.



# McGinnis named 2018 Air Force Emergency Manager of the Year

Senior Airman Beaux Hebert  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Kevin McGinnis, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management flight superintendent, was recently awarded the 2018 Air Force Emergency Manager of the Year in the military category.

On Feb. 5, McGinnis had just finished up his work for the day and was on his way out the door when Lt. Col. Peter Joo, 14th CES commander, delivered the news.

“When I found out, I was really excited because it’s an Air Force level award so it’s a pretty big deal,” McGinnis said. “I was especially happy to win this award at Columbus.”

McGinnis and his team are responsible for the base’s emergency planning for natural disasters; chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear attacks; certain aircraft mishaps; and other incidents. They are responsible for protecting Airmen, their families and the base’s multi-million dollars’ worth of equipment and infrastructure. They also ensure all personnel are fully trained to minimize casualties and damage in the event of a disaster or attack.

McGinnis’ flight commander, 2nd Lt. Riley Quinlan, recognized his hard work throughout the year and nominated him for the award.

“McGinnis is a very focused and driven individual,” Quinlan said. “He is a very high energy and motivational guy and, in my opinion, if he did not win the award, I’d say the system is flawed.”

*“McGinnis is a very focused and driven individual,” Quinlan said. “He is a very high energy and motivational guy and, in my opinion, if he did not win the award, I’d say the system is flawed.”*

McGinnis said some of his achievements that he felt contributed the most included his deployment to Syria in 2017. He was assigned to a two-man team who helped various units, including explosive ordnance disposal teams, safely navigate and work in their respected areas of operations.

McGinnis also had major involvement in the 2018 Wings Over Columbus Air and Space Show. He and his team were responsible for the safety of over 21,000 attendees if a disaster, natural or man-made, was to happen. Although it wasn’t utilized during the air show, his team was in charge of directing the emergency operations center.

McGinnis said the final catalyst on his package was the T-38C Talon mishap in May of 2018. He and his team directed emergency personnel to rescue the pilots, find their ejection seats and help contain the incident.

“We had a really ‘good’ year,” McGinnis said. “When your job involves disasters, it’s never really good to have a busy year, but it’s good for the experience.”

McGinnis is no stranger to winning awards. He won the same award twice at the major command level; the first in the Air Force Special Operations Command in 2014 and the second in Air Education and Training Command in 2017.

McGinnis, like all enlisted Airmen, started his career at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland AFB, Texas, in November 2001. He said after high school, he floated around and didn’t really have any aspirations in life. Then, his mom told him she needed him to drive to a medical appointment. Little did he know, she was taking him to the Air Force recruiter.

From there, he went to basic and technical training and was assigned to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, where he spent his first five years as an emergency manager. While at Barksdale, he said he had some unique opportunities dealing with hurricanes and even responded to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

Twelve years and numerous duty stations later, McGinnis plans on serving for a few more years to see his children graduate high school then he will retire.

McGinnis said the key to having a successful career is to not focus on the awards, instead focus on doing your job to the best of your ability and the awards then acknowledge-ment will come.

“Do the right things for the right reasons,” McGinnis said. “If you genuinely try and put forth effort, it will pay off.”

## 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 is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. March 4-8 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 12-24 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.

### Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

A Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) will be providing assistance from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 7; 8 a.m.-noon Feb. 8; and noon-5 p.m. March 6 at the A&FRC. The Recovery Coordination Program (RCP) streamlines and improves the way care and support is delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a RCC who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury, (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time, (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Career Exploration & Planning Track Workshop

The next Career Exploration & Planning Track workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 11-12 in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. March 13. 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 is from 8 a.m.-noon March 19. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel, and spouses are encouraged to

## Columbus High School Junior ROTC visit 14th FTW



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

**Columbus High School Junior ROTC cadets take turns spinning in the Aerospace and Operational Physiology Flight’s barany chair Feb. 28, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The cadets were able to visit many units and learn about the wing’s mission from Airmen firsthand across the base.**

attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club. To register or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

### Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart is from 5-7 p.m. March 28. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Heart Link

The next Heart Link is from 8:30 a.m.-noon April 11 in the A&FRC. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active-duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 9-10. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is

from 1-3:30 p.m. May 16 in the A&FRC. This program is designed for active duty Air Force members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

### Personal Financial Readiness

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

### Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a commander’s program. The commander establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresh-er KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-3323.

### Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Of-

fice (VAO) which is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) 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.

## 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)



Master Sgt. Kevin McGinnis, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight superintendent, stands in a training hazardous material suit Feb. 26, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The emergency management career field deals with chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear materials during incidents and mishaps across the globe.



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Beaux Hebert

Master Sgt. Kevin McGinnis, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight superintendent, and Senior Airman Brett Jones, 14th CES Readiness and Emergency Management Flight journeyman, show how to properly put on hazardous material gear Feb. 26, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. McGinnis and his team responsible for the base’s emergency planning during natural disasters, chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear attacks, certain aircraft mishaps, and other incidents.





# Medical Corner



## HEART HEALTH

### Heart disease and smoking: What's the connection?



Heart disease is a cardiovascular (heart and blood vessel) disease (CVD) and includes several types of heart conditions. The most common type in the United States is coronary heart disease (also known as coronary artery disease), which is narrowing of the blood vessels that carry blood to the heart. This can cause chest pain, heart attack, heart failure or arrhythmia. Smoking is a major cause of CVD and causes one of every three deaths from CVD.

**Smoking can:**


- Raise triglycerides (a type of fat in your blood)
- Lower “good” cholesterol (HDL)
- Make blood sticky and more likely to clot, which can block blood flow to the heart and brain
- Damage cells that line the blood vessels
- Increase the buildup of plaque (fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances) in blood vessels
- Cause thickening and narrowing of blood vessels

#### Secondhand Smoke - Know the facts

- Secondhand smoke causes nearly 34,000 early deaths from coronary heart disease each year in the United States among nonsmokers.
- Nonsmokers who breathe secondhand smoke at home or at work increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25–30%.
- Secondhand smoke increases the risk for stroke by 20–30%.
- Each year, secondhand smoke exposure causes more than 8,000 deaths from stroke.
- Breathing secondhand smoke interferes with the normal functioning of the heart, blood, and vascular systems in ways that increase your risk of having a heart attack.
- Even briefly breathing secondhand smoke can damage the lining of blood vessels and cause your blood to become stickier. These changes can cause a deadly heart attack.

*Heart Disease and Stroke. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/health\\_effects/heart\\_disease/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/health_effects/heart_disease/index.htm)*

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



*Dear Health Myth Busters,  
I wish nonsmokers would give us a break once in a while! Everyone wants to give me their opinion about why and how I should quit. This is heart month! Can't people just focus on giving out valentines this month? What does your heart have to do with smoking?*

*Sincerely,  
Have a Heart*

Dear Have a Heart,  
Since you mention heart month, maybe the effect of smoking on the heart is something to think about. Not just the effect on your blood pressure, arteries and veins, but also other effects on your heart. For instance, did you know that smoking can cause your gums to be irritated and inflamed. This can cause gum infections and disease which may increase your risks for heart disease and stroke.

The good news is that you can halt or even reverse some of these effects by quitting tobacco. Talk with your healthcare provider about nicotine replacement therapy and possible medications to help you.

Here are some resources to get you started:  
Learn what counseling services, tobacco cessation products and other resources are available to help you quit. Visit <https://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/Tobacco>.  
Get the support, tips, tools and expert advice you need to quit smoking long-term. Visit <https://smokefree.gov/>.  
Learn more about tobacco and its health effects, and find resources to help you quit. Visit <https://betobaccofree.hhs.gov/>.  
Call to connect directly to your state's quit line. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) or visit <http://map.naquitline.org/> for more information on state quit lines.  
Call 1-844-426-3733 or visit <https://www.freedom-quitline.org/> to see if you are eligible as a TRICARE beneficiary to get smoking cessation counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy.

*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.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.jbsa.afmsa.mbx.hpo@mail.mil). Make sure to include in the subject line “Health Myth Buster.” For more online health tips visit the Air Force Health Promotion webpage <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Resources/Health-Promotion/>*

# Team BLAZE assists with storm clean up



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Morgan Eckert

Second Lts. Edison Millan (yellow shirt) and Luke Cvancara, 14th Student Squadron student pilots, help remove a tree from the road and away from power lines Feb. 24, 2019, in Columbus, Mississippi. A tornado hit the eastern side of Columbus Feb. 23, leaving many without power and damaged homes.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Morgan Eckert

Airmen from Columbus Air Force Base carry boxes of water bottles and gallon jugs to the victims of the tornado Feb. 24, 2019, in Columbus, Mississippi. A tornado hit the eastern part of Columbus, resulting in two deaths, approximately 23 injured and 250 structures damaged.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Brandon Patton

Second Lt. Noah Dart, 14th Student Squadron assistant executive officer, and Maj. Paul Redmond, 14th Operations Group Stan/Eval T-38C branch chief, help clean up debris Feb. 24, 2019, in Columbus Mississippi. The storm that hit the north-eastern part of Mississippi damaged more than 650 structures and 400 roads.



# Weatherington visits Columbus AFB

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

Maj. Gen. Mark Weatherington, deputy commander of Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, spoke to Airmen from across Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Feb. 20, 2019, about wing, group, squadron, and individual unit performance and some of their hurdles.

One of his first stops was with Maj. Ryan Brewer, 14th FTW director of innovation, and a team of innovation leaders. The Spark Cell teams explained the bird's-eye view of their current projects and answered questions Weatherington had on the spot.

Weatherington listened to Spark Cell team leads speak about their involvement in a human performance lab focused on improving Airman's readiness and work performance, Queep Bot (an editing tool for performance reports), a new scheduling application for flying operations, and more.

"This new generation learns differently," Weatherington said. "We need to adapt a little quicker to keep this the world's greatest Air Force."

Following the Spark Cell he went to the fitness center. He saw how the center is organized and was told the future projects the center is hopeful for to increase the Airmen's quality of life. He saw some of the 14th Force Support Squadron's concerns of the allotted space and was able to see the Alpha Warrior course while learning about the goals for the new hangar style fitness area.

During his visit to the 'Fit Trail' and Whispering Pines, Lt. Col. Peter Joo, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, spoke to Weatherington about the lighting system they are hopeful to implement and a possible child and parent fitness building in place of the Whispering Pines dining area.

After a stop at the Unaccompanied Officer's Quarters and talking more with 14th Mission Support Group Airmen about dorm management and civil engineer hurdles, Weatherington visited the 14th Operations Group.

The 48th Flying Training Squadron and 14th Operations Support Squadron were able to talk about different programs, initiatives and innovations they are looking to continue growing in the next few years. They described their plans to expand the squadron, create a virtual reality training room similar to the T-6 Texan II squadrons, and integrate more mobile training devices into students training.

Creating pilots is a major piece of the 14th FTW mission and everything that was brought to Weatherington's atten-



14th Flying Training Wing Airmen stand with Maj. Gen. Mark Weatherington, deputy commander of Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, Feb. 20, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Weatherington spoke to Airmen from across Columbus AFB about wing, group, squadron, and individual unit performance and some of their hurdles.

tion is a piece of the pilot training puzzle. The 14th Logistics Readiness Squadron showed Weatherington their great strides in their inventory management, helping track items and making maintainers job's much faster.

"I think what you are doing here is great," Weatherington told the 14th LRS. "Keep up the great work, we need everyone here to keep this mission going. Thank you for what you do."

The 14th Medical Group showed their innovation in 'visual training' techniques to improve reaction times, and explained how optometry is now being proactive in correcting eyesight. Airman also discussed the dental clinic's continuing

strides in proactive dental work, and spoke about possible changes to Aerospace and Operational Physiology training.

Closing out his visit, 14th Security Forces Squadron Airmen talked about the challenges of firearms training at different ranges across Mississippi. They proposed an indoor modular range, allowing Airmen to train and qualify for various weapons training without leaving the base for hours at a time.

It's nice to go out to bases and see the nuanced differences between them, Weatherington said. A lot of these hurdles are unique things everyone will have to work through together. He noted he was glad to have visited Columbus AFB and been able to connect with Airmen across the base.

# 14th OSS Weather Flight: Holding an umbrella over the base and its Airmen

**Steven Vasko**

14th Operation Support Squadron Weather Flight

Lighting within 25 miles...10...5....Operations suspended until further notice. Satellite, radar, observations, and forecasts are what consumes the mind of an Air Force Weather Technician.

The weather never stops and neither do we. Every second of every day of the year someone is on duty keeping watch to verify the protection of life and property is maintained. Every sortie that is accomplished requires an accurate and precise weather briefing to outline several atmospheric phenomenon such as ceiling, visibility, temperatures, pressure, and most importantly, any areas of potential icing, turbulence, and thunderstorms.

We are responsible to provide the base leadership with advanced notice of numerous weather conditions from the heavy precipitation warning and wind chill advisories up to severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and tornadoes.

This past week the heavy burden our job carries was made

even more real with the tornado that struck East Columbus. While the weekend was in full bloom for most, the weather shop was full of anxious yet determined forecasters carefully analyzing radar and interrogating each individual storm cell searching for any trace of rotation. The rotation that is the unsettling proof the storm was powerful enough to produce tornadic activity.

The diligent searching paid off as we were able to sound the alarm for a tornado warning a full 17 minutes before one touched down just eight miles away. That's 17 precious minutes to make last minute preparations, to take shelter, and to make sure the ones you love most in this world are protected and safe.

The stress of scanning each storm cell paid off and we were able to accomplish our job and our mission: to provide advance notice of any hazardous conditions so we can protect the assets of the Air Force and more importantly, the men and women who call Columbus AFB home and their families.

In the weather career field, "normal duty hours" is a

non-existent term. At 3 a.m. we are open and available to answer questions and to produce high quality products that our aviators can depend on to allow them to safely and effectively complete their mission. The high tempo operations we comply with delivers a fair amount of stress for each airman that works in the weather shop, but it is a challenge that we gladly meet head on.

We operate flawlessly as a team and watch out for each other. We make sure that when weather conditions allow, we give everyone time to go to the gym and burn the stress off and on occasion, send someone on a food run with six orders so everyone can get some good food. We ask how each other are doing, not out of obligation, but out of true sincerity.

The job is not easy and can be exceedingly challenging at times, but each one of us knows the mission and knows how critical the information we provide is. We are proud to serve Columbus AFB and to provide the most accurate meteorological products possible and most of all, we are proud to do our part to Cultivate, Create, and Connect.

# Cooper's Closet



Semi-Annual Children's Consignment Sale & Marketplace

The Golden Triangle's ORIGINAL and LARGEST Children's Consignment Event

## March 7th - 9th

### Gateway Shopping Center


(former Dirt Cheap building)

201 V Alabama Street - Columbus, MS

[www.cooperscloset.com](http://www.cooperscloset.com)  
[www.facebook.com/cooperscloset](http://www.facebook.com/cooperscloset)  
[instagram.com/cooperscloset](https://www.instagram.com/cooperscloset)  
[coopersclosetcolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:coopersclosetcolumbus@gmail.com)



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





# A&FRC offers many services, resources to Airmen

Greetings Team Blaze,  
My name is Karen Amos, I am the flight chief for the 14th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Center. I am delighted to be a part of Team Blaze again. I say again, because I started my Air Force career here at Columbus Air Force Base in 1998, at the Child Development Center, as a non-appropriated Fund Flex employee. My career has taken me to various installations, in various positions. Now I am back home with my family in Shuqualak, Mississippi and doing what I love to do and that is helping Airmen, their families and people in general is a blessing!

My vision for AFRC is to be able to collaborate with other helping agencies on the installation to bridge ideas and gaps to be able to bring a larger, more creative, environment of resources and activities for members, their families, Defense Department civilians, retirees, etc. We held our first open house to market our services and to hear from you, ideas and ways we could better service you and your families on Jan. 30, 2019. The event was well attended and we received great feedback.

Below please find a small bio on each staff here at the AFRC and what services we have to offer you.

Jamey Coleman, 14th FSS, Exceptional Family Member Program family support coordinator has been at the AFRC for 17 years. He arrived in 2002 as the Family Readiness NCO, retired from the Air Force and entered Civil Service in 2008. There he served as a community readiness technician for two years and was then selected to the position of casualty assistance and survivor benefits counselor until May of 2017. He then moved back to the community readiness technician position until he was selected to serve as family support coordinator in December 2018.

The EFMP is designed to provide support to military family members with special needs and is offered by all branches of the military. This program connects Airmen and family members with support services for special needs, advocacy assistance and helps provide a continuum of care to facilitate a seamless transition from installation to installation. EFMP family support coordinator works in partnership with all involved providing exceptional service to exceptional families. We have the following camps scheduled for the year, please watch our Facebook site, Columbus living and base app for dates: two horse-back riding events at R.I.D.E.S. in Caledonia,



Courtesy photo

Mississippi, one child and one adult art class and a trip to Shark Tooth Creek in Alabama.

Renee Johnson, the newest member to the Columbus AFB, AFRC. She has over 35 years of combined experience working with and for active-duty military, families, and veterans. As the Work Life specialist, Johnson provides support to many Columbus AFB families.

Johnson provides monthly and quarterly training to nominated Key Spouses and Key Spouse mentors to ensure they have the necessary tools, information and resources to become effective unit representatives. Additionally, quarterly, she coordinates two workshops, Heart Link welcome and Bundles for Babies. The Heart Link is for military spouses who are new to Columbus AFB as well as the local area. Bundles for Babies offers helpful information and resources to expecting parents or parents of children four months or less. Ms. Johnson is also both the Columbus AFB volunteer coordinator and alternate voting assistance representative.

Master Sgt. Rolan Allen has been the Columbus AFB Readiness NCO and Air Force Aid Society officer since December 2018. He went to Basic Military Training in March 1998 followed by technical school at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for aircraft structural maintenance. He has served in many different capacities within flight-line maintenance, to include shop/flight chief and production superintendent.

The Readiness NCO supports the AFRC overall functional mission to ensure programs and services are responsive to the needs of service members, DoD civilians and their families. They develop and provide plan-

ning, education, and training to alleviate the stressors associated with pre-deployment, deployment/sustainment, redeployment/reintegration and post-deployment education and consultation to Airmen and their families. Hearts Apart is a monthly social event for family members whose sponsor is deployed, remote, or on extended TDY of 30 days or more. The AFRC hosts monthly gatherings to assist in connecting families with others in similar circumstances, along with key leaders and helping agencies. It also gives families the opportunity to network and gain strategies to help cope with deployments while their loved ones are away.

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force. The society supports the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance to Airmen and their eligible family members, sponsoring educational assistance programs and offering an array of base community enhancement programs. AFAS emergency assistance is provided to meet immediate needs in an emergency. They can provide interest-free loans and grants based on the individual situation. Whether the emergency is a death in the family, a car repair, or basic living expense, AFAS is here to help in your time of need. The society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program provides need-based education grants to eligible spouses and dependent children of Air Force members. AFAS typically awards 3,000 grants of \$2,000 annually. AFAS also sponsors programs for expecting parents, spouses, families of deployed members, and childcare.

Jefferson "Jeff" Ellis, Mississippi raised, graduate of Mississippi State University. Twenty-two years active-duty Army, 5 years Mississippi Army National Guard totaling 27 years of military service. Twelve years of AFRC experience. Transition, employment assistance, and certified personal financial counselor.

The Transition Assistance Program provides information and training to ensure service members transitioning from active-duty are prepared for their next step in life, whether pursuing additional education, finding a job in the public or private sector or starting their own business. TAP is a cohesive, modular, outcome-based program that bolsters and standardizes the opportunities, services and training that service members receive to better prepare them to pursue their post-military career goals.

Provide employment assistance with weekly local employment workshop held each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the AFRC. Topics include resume review, on-base and off-base employment opportunities, and federal job applications. Monthly resume writing classes available.

Personal financial readiness provides basic education, information, counseling, on investing, budgeting, credit management and financial planning. Financial educational services provided to first duty station personnel, transitioning personnel, all military personnel, dependents and retirees.

Mary Chambers, the casualty assistance representative. I retired from Air Force Reserves in 2013 with over 20 years of active and reserve service. I am a member of Light-house Baptist Church in Columbus. I have resided in Columbus since July 2014.

As the casualty assistance/survivor benefit representative, I have the honor of assisting families of fallen service members to apply for benefits. I also brief retiring members and their spouses on the Survivor Benefit Program where a military member can insure that a designated beneficiary can receive a portion of retirement pay after the retiree's death.

We also have Michelle Bruce, who does personal financial counseling and Kim Mullins, military family counselor. Both offer free, confidential service.

As you can see AFRC has some highly educated and experienced staff just waiting to assist you with anything you need! We are located at 166C Circle Bldg. 1114 (across from clinic parking lot). Our office hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. We look forward to servicing you and your families!

# BLAZE Hangar Tails: B-1B Lancer

## Mission

Carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory, the multi-mission B-1B Lancer is the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time.

## Features

The B-1B's blended wing/body configuration, variable-geometry wings and turbofan afterburning engines, combine to provide long range, maneuverability and high speed while enhancing survivability. Forward wing settings are used for takeoff, landings, air refueling and in some high-altitude weapons employment scenarios. Aft wing sweep settings - the main combat configuration -- are typically used during high subsonic and supersonic flight, enhancing the B-1B's maneuverability in the low- and high-altitude regimes. The B-1B's speed and superior handling characteristics allow it to seamlessly integrate in mixed force packages. These capabilities, when combined with its substantial payload, excellent radar targeting system, long loiter time and survivability, make the B-1B a key element of any joint/composite strike force.

## Background

The first production B-1 flew in October 1984, and the first B-1B was delivered to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in June 1985. Initial operational capability was achieved on

Oct. 1, 1986. The final B-1B was delivered May 2, 1988.

The B-1B holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range, and time of climb in its class. The National Aeronautic Association recognized the B-1B for completing one of the 10 most memorable record flights for 1994. The most recent records were made official in 2004.

The B-1B was first used in combat in support of operations against Iraq during Operation Desert Fox in December 1998. In 1999, six B-1s were used in Operation Allied Force, delivering more than 20 percent of the total ordnance while flying less than 2 percent of the combat sorties.

During the first six months of Operation Enduring Freedom, eight B-1s dropped nearly 40 percent of the total tonnage delivered by coalition air forces. This included nearly 3,900 JDAMs, or 67 percent of the total. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, the aircraft has flown less 1 percent of the combat missions while delivering 43 percent of the JDAMs used. The B-1 continues to be deployed today, flying missions daily in support of continuing operations.

## General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Long-range, multi-role, heavy bomber  
**Contractor:** Boeing, North America (formerly Rockwell International, North American Aircraft); Offensive avionics, Boeing Military Airplane; defensive avionics, EDO Corporation  
**Power plant:** Four General Electric F101-GE-102 turbofan engine with afterburner



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Reff

**A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer, assigned to the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, flies over the East China Sea, Jan. 9, 2018. The Lancer serves as premier platform for America's long-range bomber force, carrying the largest conventional payload of guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory.**

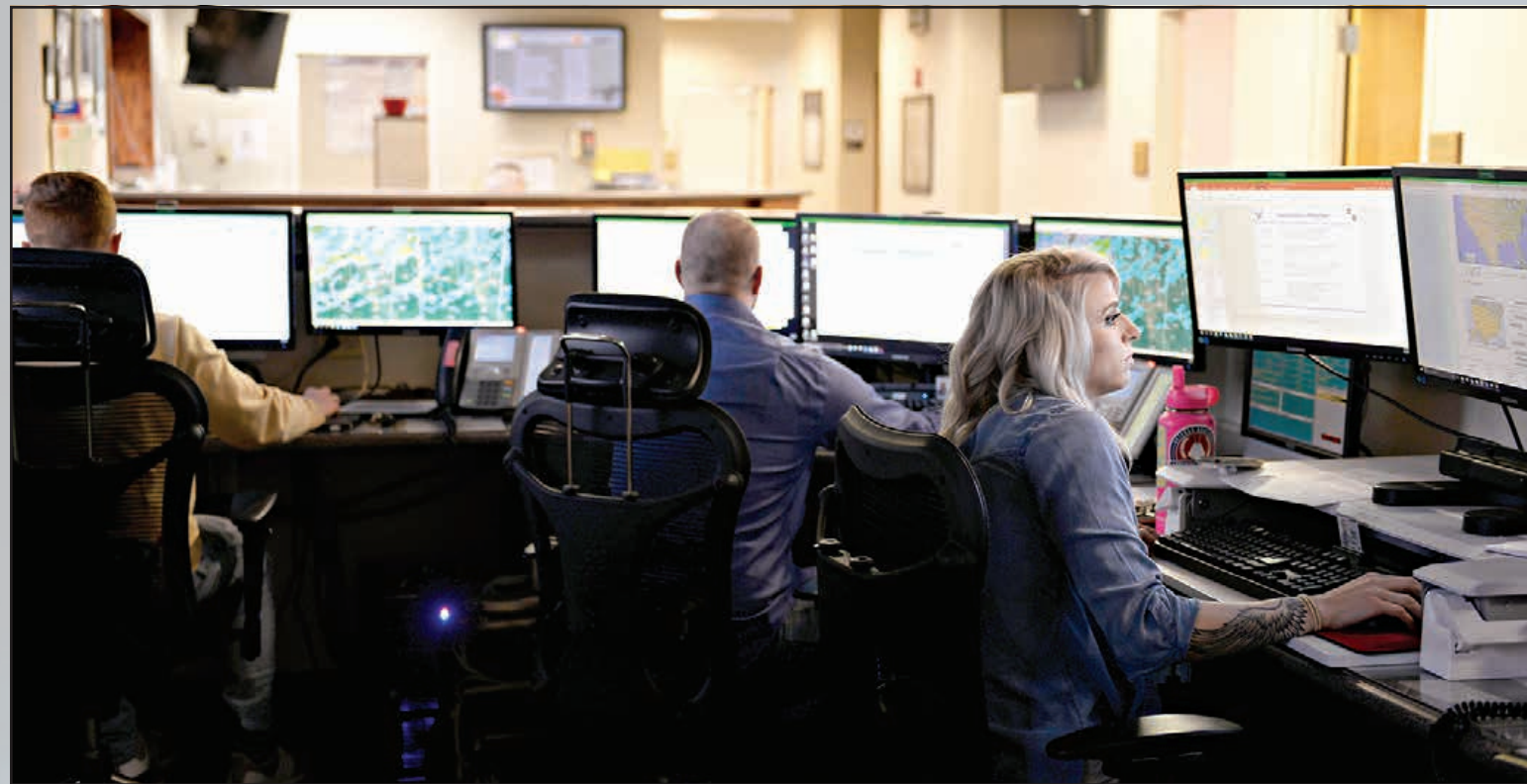


U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Emily Copeland

**A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer assigned to the 345th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron takes off in support of Exercise Baltic Operations at RAF Fairford, England, June 2, 2018. Two B-1Bs from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, dropped 12 inert Mark 62 Quickstrike mines while participating in BALTOPS. The inclusion of bombers in the exercise provides an opportunity for bomber crews to integrate and train with other U.S. European Command components, while exercising the United States' key bomber capabilities.**

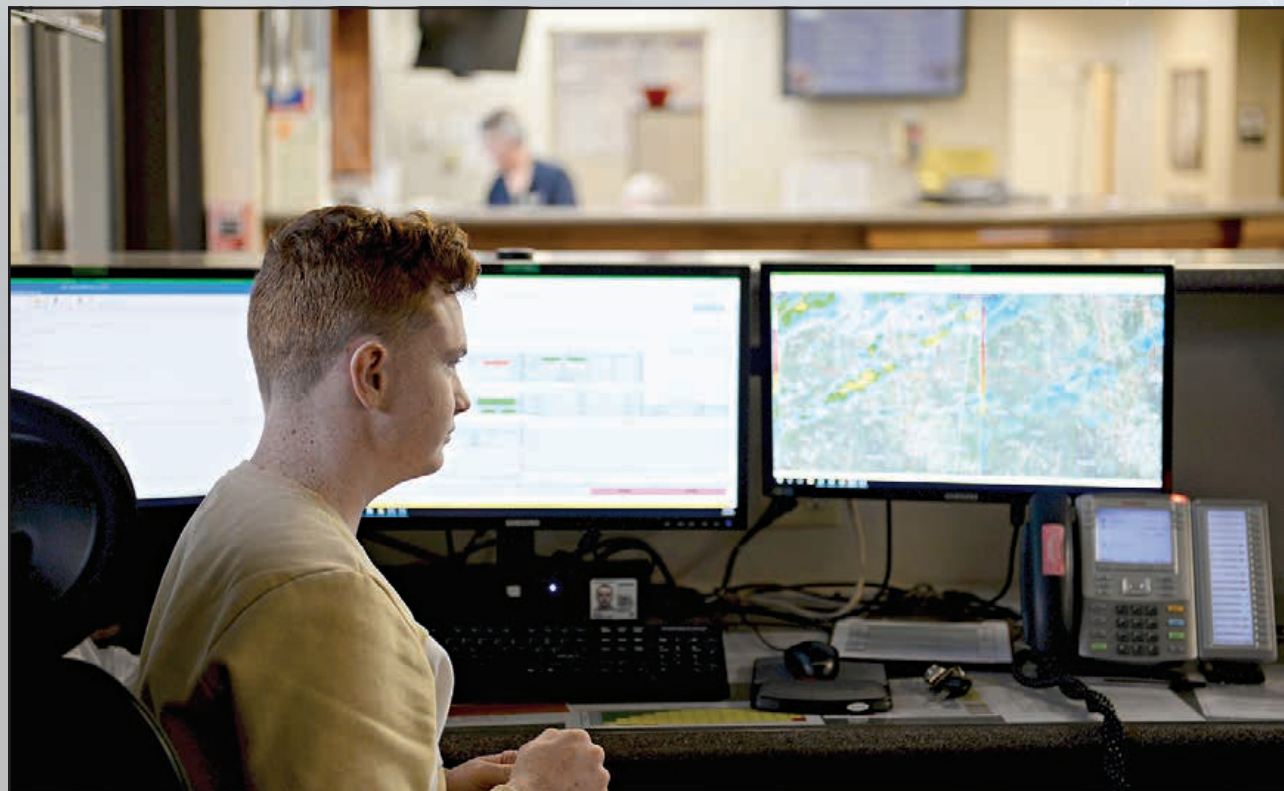
**Thrust:** 30,000-plus pounds with afterburner, per engine  
**Wingspan:** 137 feet (41.8 meters) extended forward, 79 feet (24.1 meters) swept aft  
**Length:** 146 feet (44.5 meters)  
**Height:** 34 feet (10.4 meters)  
**Weight:** approximately 190,000 pounds (86,183 kilograms)  
**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 477,000 pounds (216,634 kilograms)  
**Fuel Capacity:** 265,274 pounds (120,326 kilograms)  
**Payload:** 75,000 pounds ( 34,019 kilograms)  
**Speed:** 900-plus mph (Mach 1.2 at sea level)  
**Range:** Intercontinental  
**Ceiling:** More than 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)  
**Armament:** 84 500-pound Mk-82 or 24 2,000-pound Mk-84 general purpose bombs; up to 84 500-pound Mk-62 or 8 2,000-pound Mk-65 Quick Strike naval mines; 30 cluster munitions (CBU-87, -89, -97) or 30 Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispensers (CBU-103, -104, -105); up to 24 2,000-pound GBU-31 or 15 500-pound GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions; up to 24 AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles; GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition  
**Crew:** Four (aircraft commander, copilot, and two weapon systems officers)  
**Unit Cost:** \$283.1 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)  
**Initial operating capability:** October 1986  
**Inventory:** Active force, 66 (test, 2); ANG, 0; Reserve, 0





Airmen from the 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight update and distribute weather information Feb. 22, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Mississippi weather is known to have spontaneous or odd weather patterns that gives weather flight challenges to overcome.

RIGHT: Airman Robert Gray, 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight apprentice, looks at weather patterns Feb. 22, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Weather forecasters are able to properly brief pilots and squadrons on their ability to fly hours or days ahead with consistent monitoring of the radar, through accurate forecasting and recognition of patterns.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman Hannah Bean

# Day or night: Weather flight keeps Airmen safe

**Airman Hannah Bean**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Mississippi weather is known to have spontaneous or seemingly odd weather patterns that gives the 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight challenges to overcome.

After close coordination with the 26th Operational Weather Squadron, the weather flight was able to provide quick, detailed information to base residents and kept watch over a severe weather threat Feb. 23, covering a large part of the Lowndes County area.

Days ahead, the weather flight utilized numerical models to determine favorable conditions for severe weather potential for the Columbus area and collaborated with the 26th OWS on the threat via teleconference. On the typical day preceding severe weather potential, the standby forecaster normally activates the Severe Weather

Action Team while continually keeping eyes on the radar.

On Feb. 23, there were three personnel that came in due to the threat level increasing. While on shift, they issued weather warnings, watches, and advisories and ensured notifications were disseminated out via Joint Environmental Toolkit (JET) software.

Responsibilities were split up; one would answer telephone calls, one would issue, cancel or extend any watch warning or advisory as needed, and lastly one individual would constantly monitor radar, interrogating for any tornadic or severe thunderstorm generation. As a cohesive weather team, severe weather information was passed to the base through the command post to keep Airmen and their families safe and prepared.

Jeremiah Story, 14th OSS lead meteorological technician said the weather flights briefings and products are in-

tended to support the 14 FTW's flying mission by providing timely and accurate forecasts by creating and publishing their Mission Weather Product.

"They can do better mission planning based off of our forecasts," Story said. "We're constantly monitoring for any inclement weather that will impact not only the flying mission, but for base resource protection as well."

Story said his weather flight collaborates with the 26th OWS on their terminal forecast, as well as when we have been identified in a threat area for severe weather to ensure they get out an accurate depiction of threats that may be coming.

The 26th OWS from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, is responsible for producing and disseminating mission planning and execution weather analyses and hazard charts, Terminal Area Forecasts (TAFs), and briefings for various locations in their region.

With persistent monitoring of the radar and accurate forecasting of weather patterns, the weather flight is able to accurately brief pilots and squadrons on their ability to fly hours or days ahead. They also provide all base agencies weather forecasts as requested.

In addition, the weather flight provides resource protection with warnings or watches on severe weather threatening the base.

With the weather constantly changing day to day, the challenges enhance the Airmen's ability in providing accurate forecasts in a timely fashion.

"I like the up tempo aspect of it," said Airman 1st Class Lauren Rodgers, 14th OSS weather apprentice. "I enjoy the people I get to work with and learning about the science behind weather and the impacts it has on pilots. It's exciting, it's different, and it's never boring."

Weather is an unpredictable force of nature, however, with accurate critical weather analysis, these Airmen are able to aid in creating pilots and protecting Team BLAZE.



Steven Vasko, 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight meteorological technician, shows Airman 1st Class Lauren Rodgers, 14th OSS Weather Flight apprentice how to use a laser range finder Feb. 27, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Weather is an unpredictable force of nature, however, with accurate critical weather analysis, Airmen will be able to continue to aid pilots and commanders complete any task effectively and safely.



Airman 1st Class Lauren Rodgers, 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight apprentice, gauges the wind with an anemometer Feb. 27, 2019, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Anemometer are used to measure wind speed.