

*The premier pilot training wing and community developing the world's best Airmen.*

# COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

## 2013 Economic Impact Report





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NOTE: This economic impact analysis (EIA) was prepared by the 14th Comptroller Squadron, Financial Analysis Flight to provide unclassified key information about the resources and economic impact of Columbus Air Force Base on surrounding communities. It generally is limited to those counties that fall within a 50-mile radius of the base. However, it may also include other counties where a material number of base personnel reside, or it may be less than 50 miles due to natural barriers. (All information contained herein is current as of September 30, 2013) The EIA for fiscal year 2013 was produced using the same methodology used by the Office of the Secretary of Defense during the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) studies. The methodology is consistent among all Air Force installations. Users of the EIA should note that any calculations on the impact of spending would differ depending upon the type of model used. Questions or comments concerning this report should be directed to 14 CPTS/FMA, 495 Harpe Blvd., Suite 251B, Columbus AFB, MS 39710-1006, (662) 434-2696. All requests for additional information or copies to this report should be directed to the 14 FTW/PA (Public Affairs) at (662) 434-7068. This report is also available at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil).

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This *Fiscal Year 2013 Economic Impact Report* provides state and local leaders and interested citizens an overview of Columbus Air Force Base's mission, history and financial impact on the local economy.

Columbus AFB is the home of the 14th Flying Training Wing of Air Education and Training Command (AETC). The wing's mission is to *Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, Feed the Fight*.

Our primary mission to *Produce Pilots* is done through Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) in the T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon aircraft. Each day, the wing flies approximately 207 sorties, making Columbus AFB one of the busiest flying wings in the United States Air Force. To earn the coveted silver wings of an Air Force pilot, each student flies nearly 200 hours during a 54-week program. In conjunction with flying training, students complete 300 hours of flight-related academics.

My guidance to each supervisor, director and commander has been to personally, professionally, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially *Advance Airmen* entrusted to their care and to inspire their Airmen to leave our base better than they found it.

Columbus AFB not only trains the world's best military pilots, we also *Feed the Fight* by developing unrivaled leaders and warriors in all career fields to support overseas contingency operations and other tasking as part of Air Expeditionary Forces. Our highly trained and ready Airmen worldwide.

The **BLAZE** logo is a unifying theme that appears throughout Columbus AFB and an acronym for **B**uilding **L**eaders, **A**dvancing Integrity, **S**ervice Before Self and **E**xcellence in All We Do. It is our Team's cornerstone and encapsulates our Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do, as well as the importance and focus we place on developing and empowering leaders at all levels.

The 1,430 military and 1,325 civilian employees of Columbus AFB proudly deliver unmatched training, maintenance and support to your Air Force and to 5,748 retired military that live in the Columbus area. In fiscal year 2013, the base generated \$249.5 million in economic activity and provided 899 indirect jobs. This represents \$134.4 million in payroll, \$66.3 million spent on base equipment, supplies and contracts, and \$33.5 million in indirect jobs. These figures do not include local retired military pay totaling \$108 million.

This past year was one of tremendous accomplishment for Team BLAZE. In 2013 we completed construction on our new 12000-ft center runway in only 6 months, a \$34M construction project that will serve as the primary instrument runway for one third of all future Air Force combat pilots. We also completed a new aircraft maintenance blasting facility that will serve to strip old paint from our aircraft to reduce weight and prevent corrosion, a process that will save \$150,000 annually in maintenance costs. Finally, the 14 FTW began construction on our new Medical Group facility; it is on track for completion in the summer of 2015 and will enable our medical team to continue providing outstanding care for our Airmen and their families.

In total, we trained 297 new Air Force pilots for our great nation in FY 13 and hosted an additional 35 international students who participated in SUPT in one of two unique international flying training programs. These numbers account for one-third of the new pilots that graduate from Air Force pilot training each year.

I extend my gratitude to every Team BLAZE member, to their families and to the Golden Triangle Region for their award-winning service, hospitality and support to Columbus AFB.



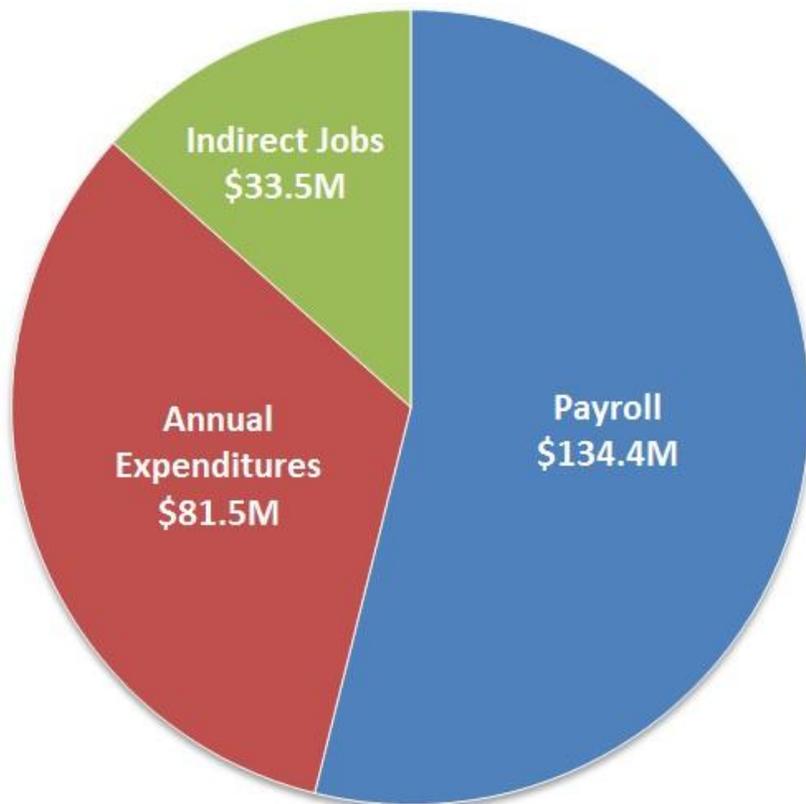
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Nichols".

JOHN J. NICHOLS, Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing

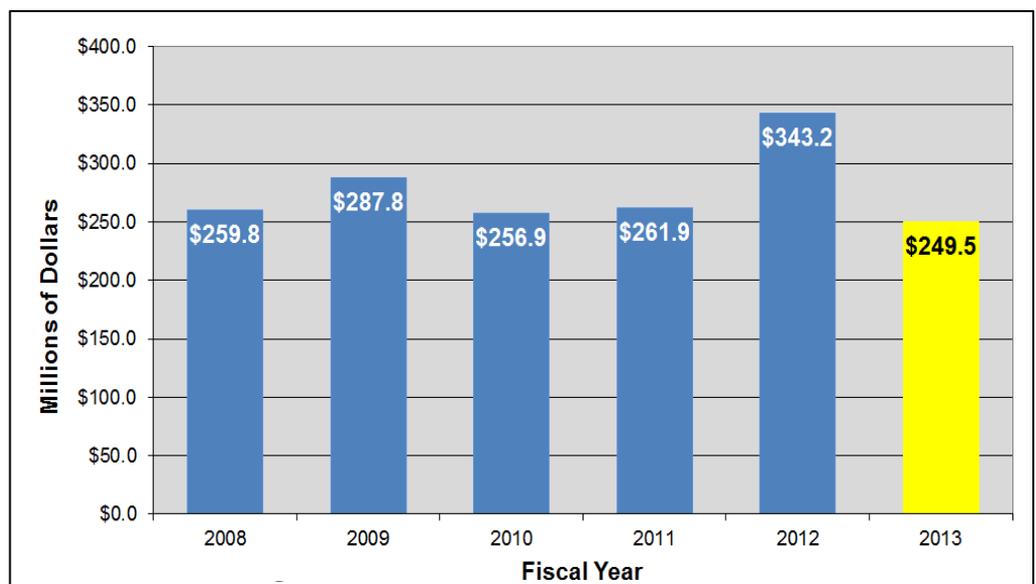
# COLUMBUS AFB ECONOMIC IMPACT

## FY13: \$249.5 Million

Columbus AFB's economic impact decreased \$93.7 million from FY12. This decrease was largely a result of the fact that FY12's value was unusually high due to the awarding of major construction contracts including the center runway rebuild and medical clinic renovation. An additional cause of this decrease is due in part to federal budget sequestration. Economic Impact is measured in three categories: Personnel & Payroll, Indirect Jobs, and Annual Expenditures.

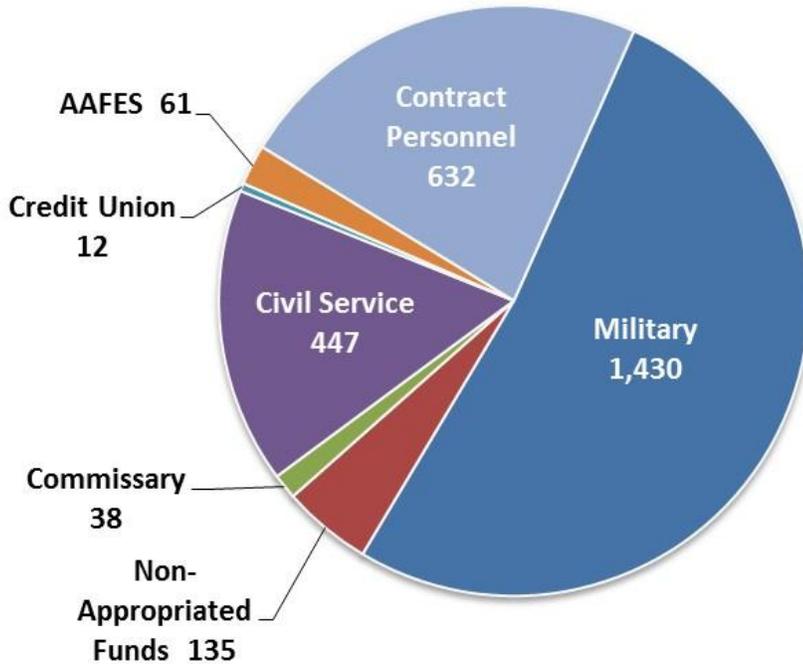


The chart at right shows the economic impact of CAFB for the six most recent fiscal years. Though FY13's impact decreased considerably from FY12, it is more consistent with recent historical trends.



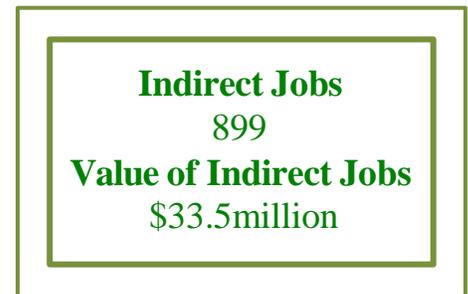
# PERSONNEL & PAYROLL

## FY13 Payroll: \$134.4 Million



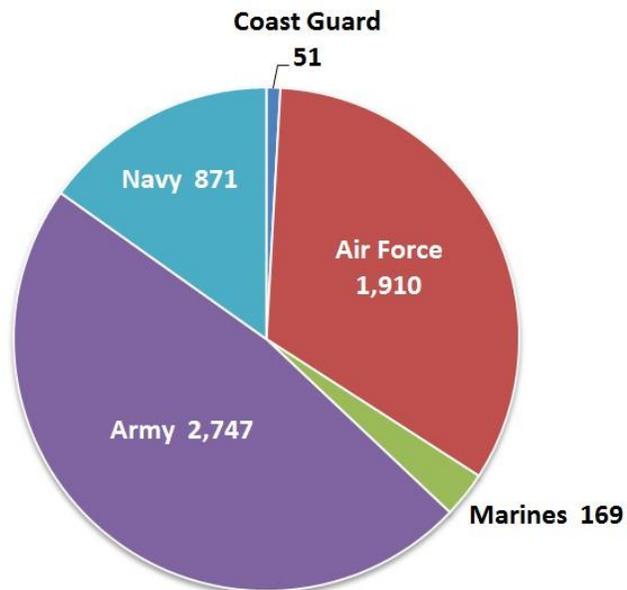
## Columbus AFB Personnel: 2,755

In FY13, Columbus AFB saw a decrease of \$9.4 million in payroll from 2012, corresponding with a 51% decrease in the number of contract personnel. In addition to the contribution of payroll to the local economy, the base's requirements and personnel also energize the local economy and spark the creation of indirect jobs.



## Local Area Retirees: 5,748

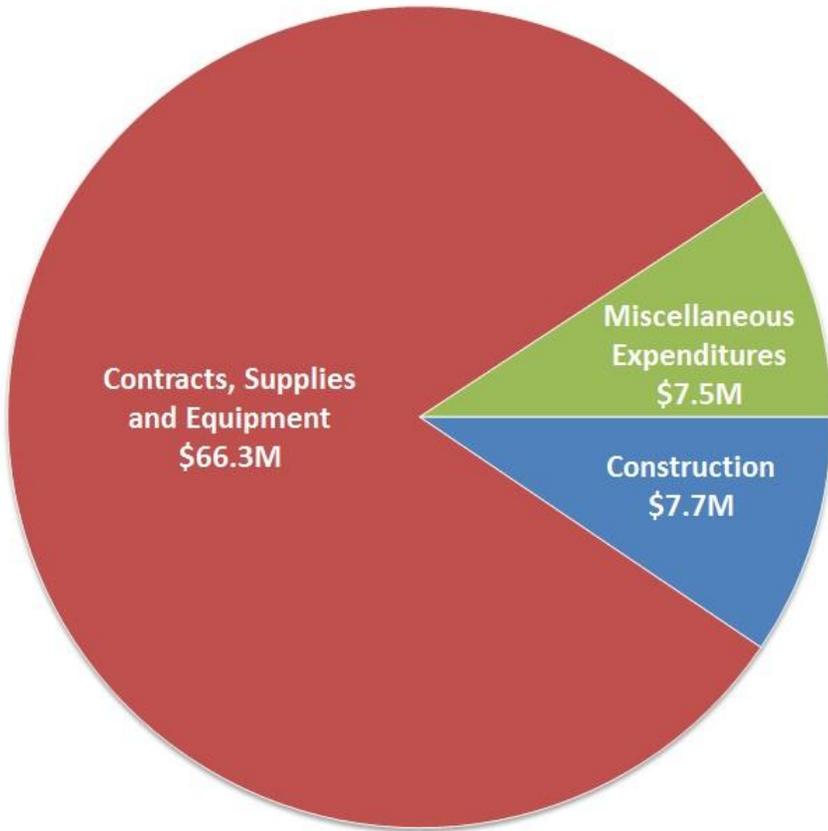
Local area military retirees contributed over \$108 million to the local economy in FY13. Note: this amount is not included in the base's economic impact. The information is provided because the payroll local retirees receive contributes to the local economy.



# ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

**FY13:**

**\$81.5 Million**



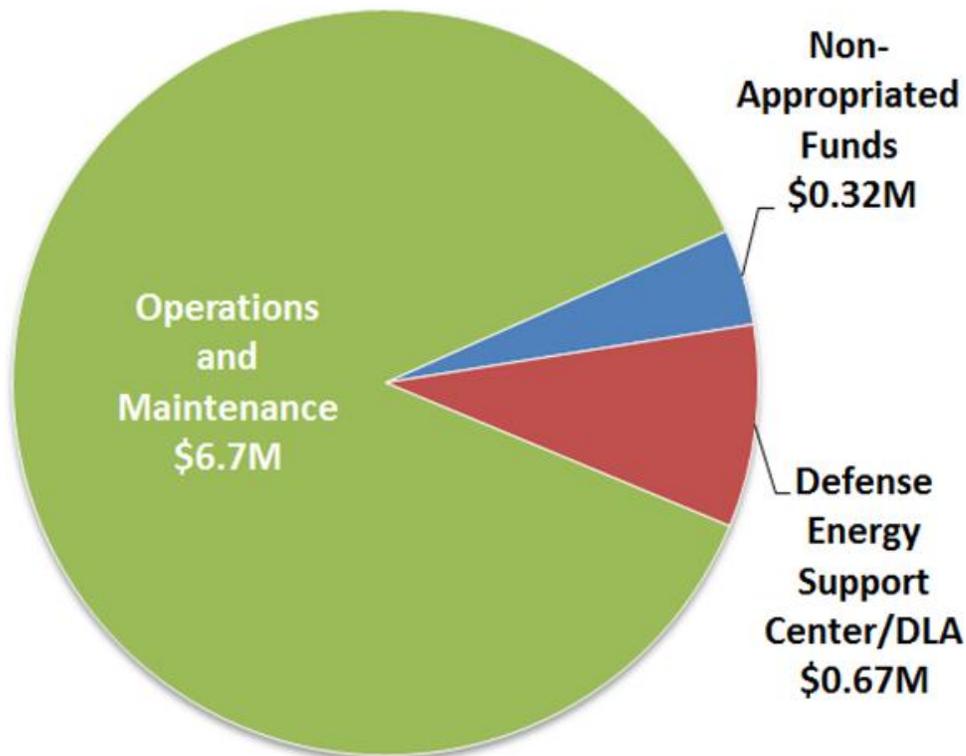
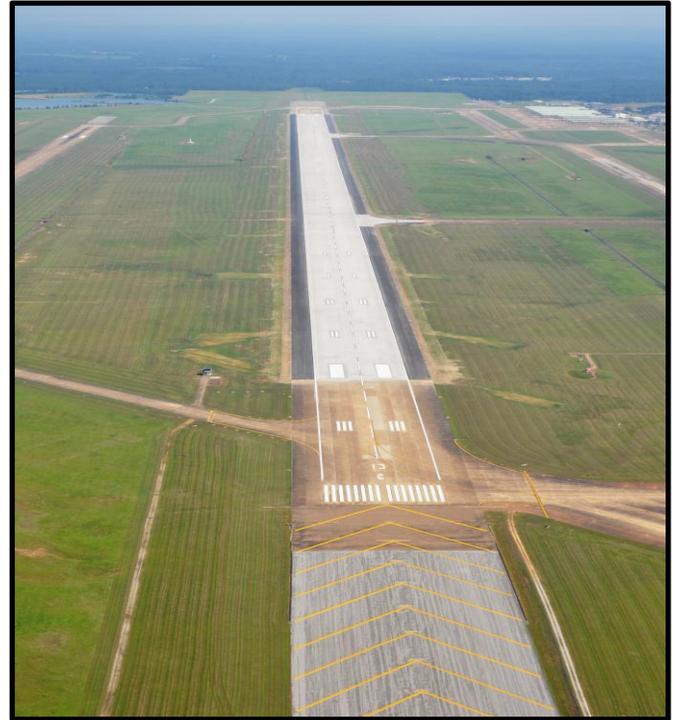
Annual Expenditures reflects what Columbus AFB spends apart from payroll. It is broken up into three categories: Construction; Contracts, Supplies and Equipment; and Miscellaneous Expenditures. See the following three pages for detailed breakdowns of each category.



# CONSTRUCTION

## FY13: \$7.7 Million

Construction is broken down into the different categories used for the multitude of projects executed on Columbus AFB. From 2012 to 2013, the amount spent on construction projects decreased \$59.5 million. This decrease was due to an unusually large jump in construction spending in 2012 when contracts were awarded for the center runway rebuild and medical clinic renovation. While the runway is now complete, work on the medical clinic will continue into the new year.

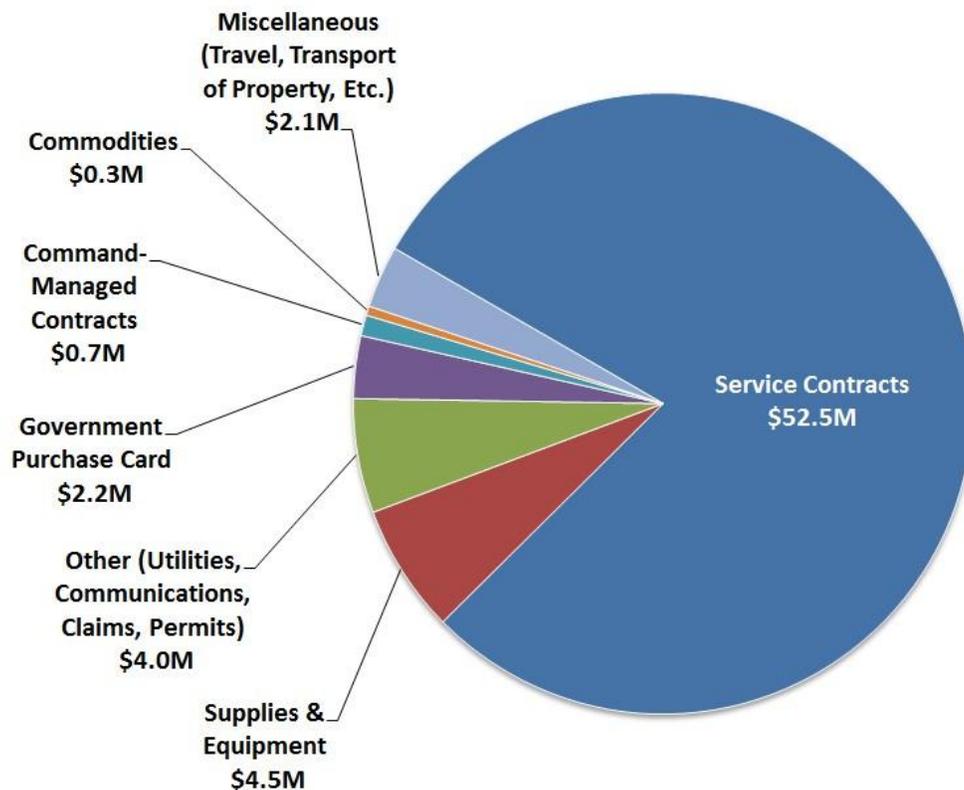


# CONTRACTS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT



## FY13: \$66.3 Million

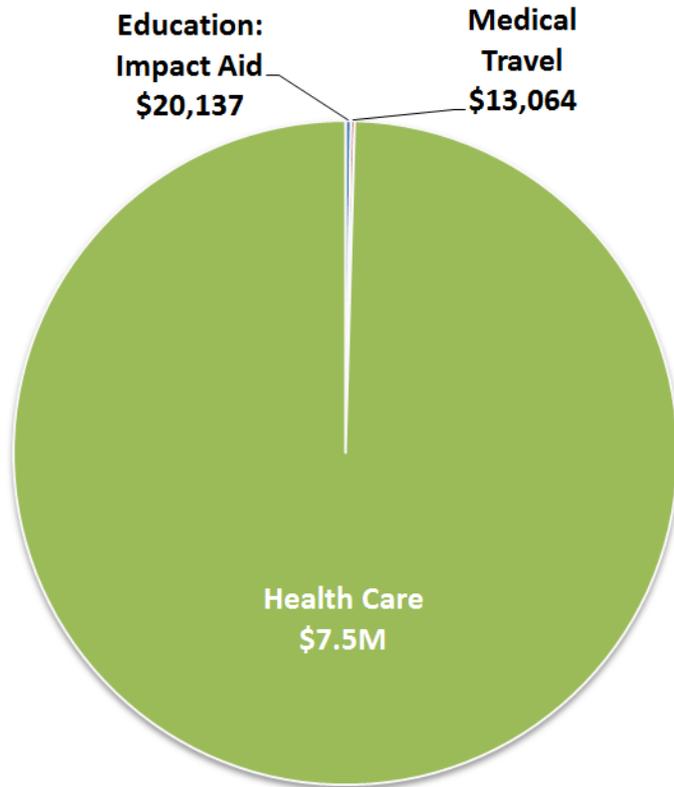
In FY13, Contracts, Supplies and Equipment decreased \$9.1 million from FY12. There was a significant decrease from the previous year because of an overall decrease in the funding allocated to Columbus AFB. 79 percent of what was spent on this category went to fund service contracts. These service contracts include the aircraft maintenance contract, custodial services, grounds maintenance, as well as a physician assistant, choir directors, a Catholic priest, and many others.



# MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES

## FY13: \$7.53 Million

Approximately 99 percent of miscellaneous expenditures was attributed to health care. This section highlights the support Columbus AFB receives from regional area hospitals and medical services via the TriCare contract. TriCare is the health care program serving uniformed service members, retirees, and their families. TriCare funding is managed by command; however, it directly impacts the local economy, so it is included in Columbus' economic impact analysis.



# FY13 AIRCRAFT INVENTORY



The T-38C Talon is a twin-engine, high altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. The T-38C is an upgraded T-38A aircraft and is sometimes called the “glass cockpit” variant because of its improved avionics and support systems, making it closer to what pilots will fly in their follow-on training. Columbus AFB has 58 Talons assigned to SUPT and 29 assigned to IFF.

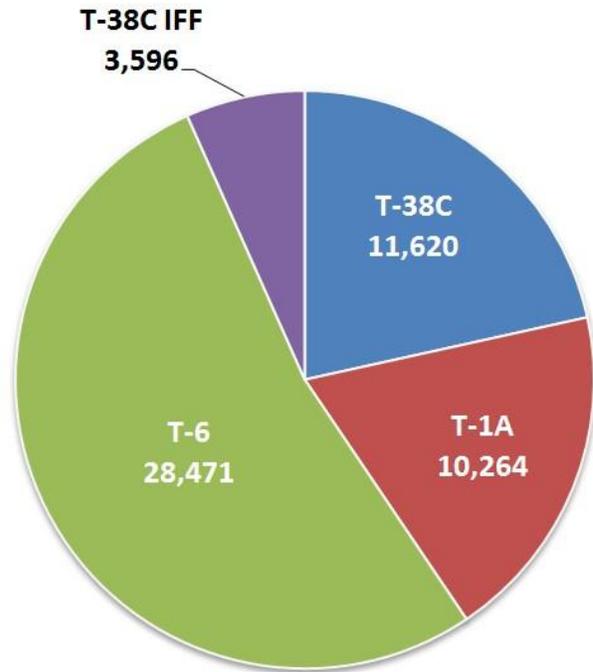


The T-1A Jayhawk is a medium range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of SUPT for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. The swept-wing T-1A is a military version of the Beech 400A. The T-1A differs from its commercial counterpart with structural enhancements that provide for a large number of landings per flight hour, increased bird strike resistance and an additional fuselage fuel tank. Columbus AFB has 47 Jayhawks.

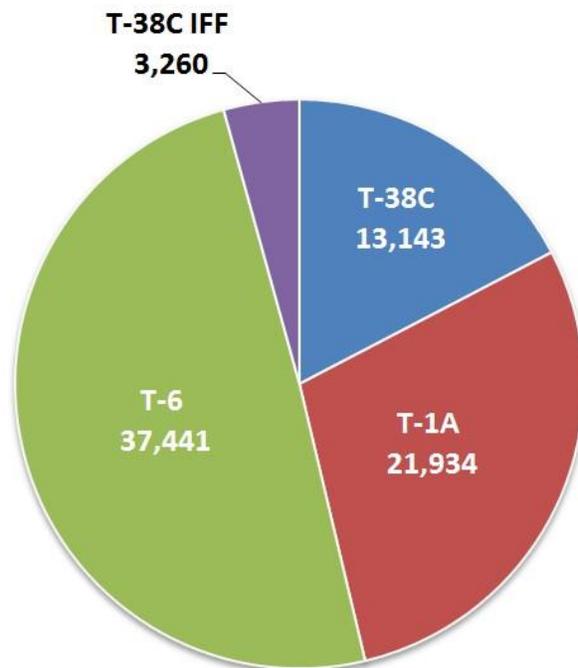


The T-6A Texan II is a single engine, two-seat primary trainer designed to train students in basic flying skills common to USAF pilots. Produced by Raytheon Aircraft, the T-6A Texan II is a military trainer version of Raytheon’s Beech/Pilatus Mk II. Columbus AFB received its first T-6 in October 2006 and now has 100 Texans in inventory.

## Sorties flown 53,951



## Hours flown 75,778



# COLUMBUS AFB HISTORY

Columbus Air Force Base opened as an advanced flying school prior to World War II. On June 26, 1941, the War Department announced Columbus' selection as the site for an Army Air Corps pilot training school.

Both instrument training and flying standardization boards got their start at Columbus Army Flying School, earning national recognition in Time magazine and the New York Times. By the war's end, the base, then known as Columbus Army Air Field, had become one of the largest in the Southeast, with four runways and eight auxiliary fields and more than 7,700 students having received their pilot wings.

The base closed in 1945 and remained inactive until the start of the Korean War. To meet the demands of war, the nation's pilot production goal more than doubled, to 10,000 annually, necessitating more training bases. This crisis impelled the Air Force to turn to contract pilot training, which could expand capacity quickly and inexpensively. Columbus AFB reopened in 1951 as a contract flying school operated by California Eastern Airways. The 3301st Pilot Training Squadron oversaw the contract flight instruction of about 3,000 pilots in PA-18 Piper Cubs and AT-6s.

With the Korean War at an end, the decision was made to close the contract flying school at Columbus. As the Air Force's pilot training requirements were decreasing, its strategic air arm was expanding. During the 1950s, as the Soviet Union threat grew more pronounced, Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases became increasingly vulnerable targets.

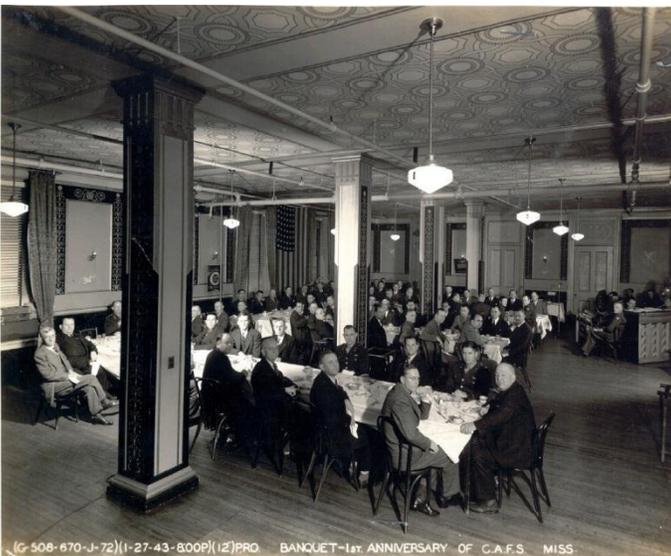
By providing more bases from which the aircraft could be launched, the enemy's targeting problem would be compounded. It was decided to break up the large concentrations of aircraft and disperse them among other bases. Air Training Command relinquished command of Columbus AFB to SAC in April 1955.

In 1958, Columbus became home to a B-52 bomber squadron and a KC-135 tanker refueling squadron. Beginning in 1965, the same year it won the coveted Fairchild Trophy as "Best in SAC," Columbus' 454th Bombardment Wing deployed to the western Pacific to support military operations in Vietnam. More than 100 missions were flown without losing a single bomber to enemy fire.

After 14 years as a SAC base, Columbus rejoined ATC on July 1, 1969, and resumed the mission for which it was originally activated. In 1993, the base transitioned to specialized under-graduate pilot training, which consisted of three phases and four specialized tracks. At that time, the T-1A was added to training to support the tanker/transport track. Columbus AFB is also an alternate landing site for the space shuttle on its return trip from California to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In addition, the base routinely deploys personnel both stateside and abroad to support overseas contingency operations.



Water tower on base.



(G-508-670-J-72)(1-27-43-800P)(12)PRO BANQUET-1st ANNIVERSARY OF C.A.F.S. MISS.

Banquet for the 1st Anniversary of CAFS, MS

# ***PRODUCE PILOTS***



# ***ADVANCE AIRMEN***

# ***FEED THE FIGHT***

