



2015 Economic Impact Report

COLUMBUS

AIR FORCE BASE

A photograph showing a group of military personnel in uniform saluting. They are in front of a large, classical-style building with columns. An American flag is prominently displayed in the center. Other flags are visible in the background.

MISSISSIPPI

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

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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, 2015) The EIA for fiscal year 2015 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.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This Fiscal Year 2015 Economic Impact Report provides interested citizens, state and local leaders 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, Air Education and Training Command (AETC). The wing's mission is to Produce Pilots, Advance Airmen, and 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 280 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. The 14th FTW trains 15 SUPT classes per year with a class starting and graduating every three weeks. Additionally, the wing trains approximately 100 students per year through the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals course, an intense 20-sortie program in the T-38C that prepares fighter-bound SUPT graduates for their follow-on F-15, F-16, A-10, F-22 and F-35 training. Lastly, the 81st Fighter Squadron, a 14 FTW geographically separated unit, will train 33 pilots and 90 aircraft maintainers on the A-29 Super Tucano at Moody AFB, Georgia.

Each supervisor, director and commander is tasked to personally, professionally, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially Advance Airmen entrusted to their care. By investing in our Airmen's growth we invest in the future of our service, through initiatives such as Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), Airman Leadership School (ALS) and demonstrated by the 30 AETC-level or higher awards earned by members of Team BLAZE during FY15.

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 taskings as part of the USAF Air Expeditionary Forces. Our highly trained Airmen are ready to deploy worldwide at a moment's notice.

The 1,436 military and 1,313 civilian employees of Columbus AFB proudly deliver unmatched training, maintenance and support to your Air Force and to 5,837 retired military that live in the Columbus area. In FY15, the base generated \$249.6 million in economic activity and provided 887 indirect jobs. This represents \$134.2 million in payroll, \$82.8 million on Annual Expenditures and \$32.6 million generate with indirect jobs. These figures do not include local retired military pay totaling \$112 million.

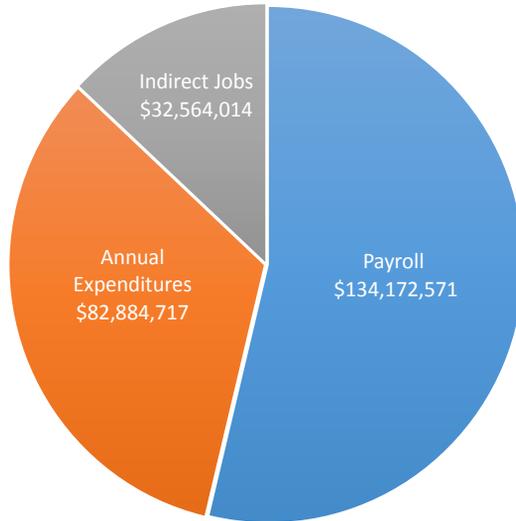
This past year was one of tremendous accomplishment for Team BLAZE. In 2015 we completed the total renovation of our Events Center, three months early. The community also completed a new joint-use shooting range that is shared by city, county, state, federal and Air Force law enforcement personnel. Finally, the 14th FTW completed the full renovation of our medical facility, enabling our medical team to continue providing outstanding care for Airmen and their families.

In total, we trained 303 new Air Force pilots in FY 15 and hosted international students from 27 different nations who participated in pilot training through one of two unique international flying training programs. These graduates 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. Airpower begins here!

BLAZE-1

CAFB ECONOMIC IMPACT

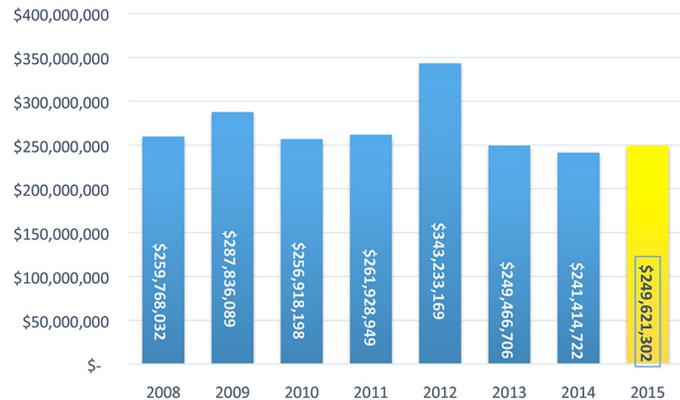


FY15: \$249.6 Million

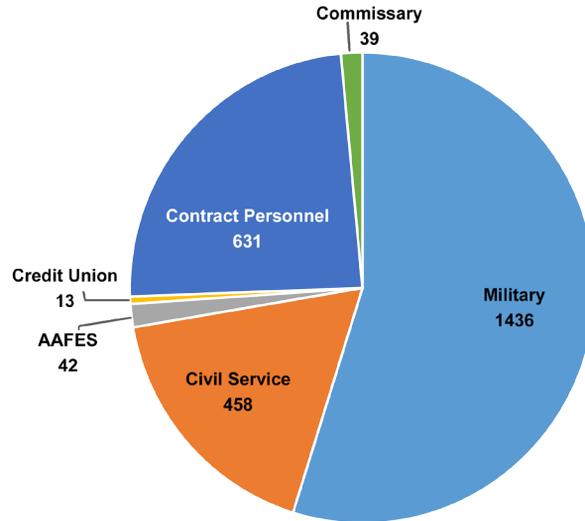
Fiscal Year 15 saw an increase of \$8.2M in Columbus Air Force Base's total economic impact compared with Fiscal Year 14. This impact is in line with FY13's levels, and falls within the historical trend average for Columbus AFB. Economic Impact is measured in three categories: Personnel & Payroll, Indirect Jobs, and Annual Expenditures.

Economic Impact Trends Over Time

The chart at right shows the economic impact of CAFB for the six most recent fiscal years. Historical trend data shows an average of \$249M to \$260M to be a consistent average for CAFB's impact. The spike in FY 12 is due to the awarding of several major construction contracts.

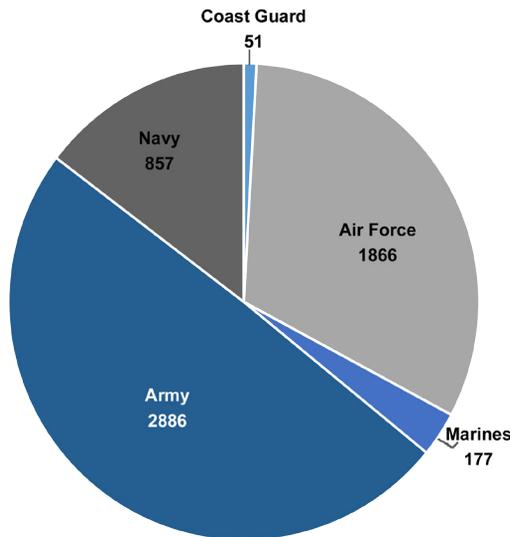


PERSONNEL & PAYROLL



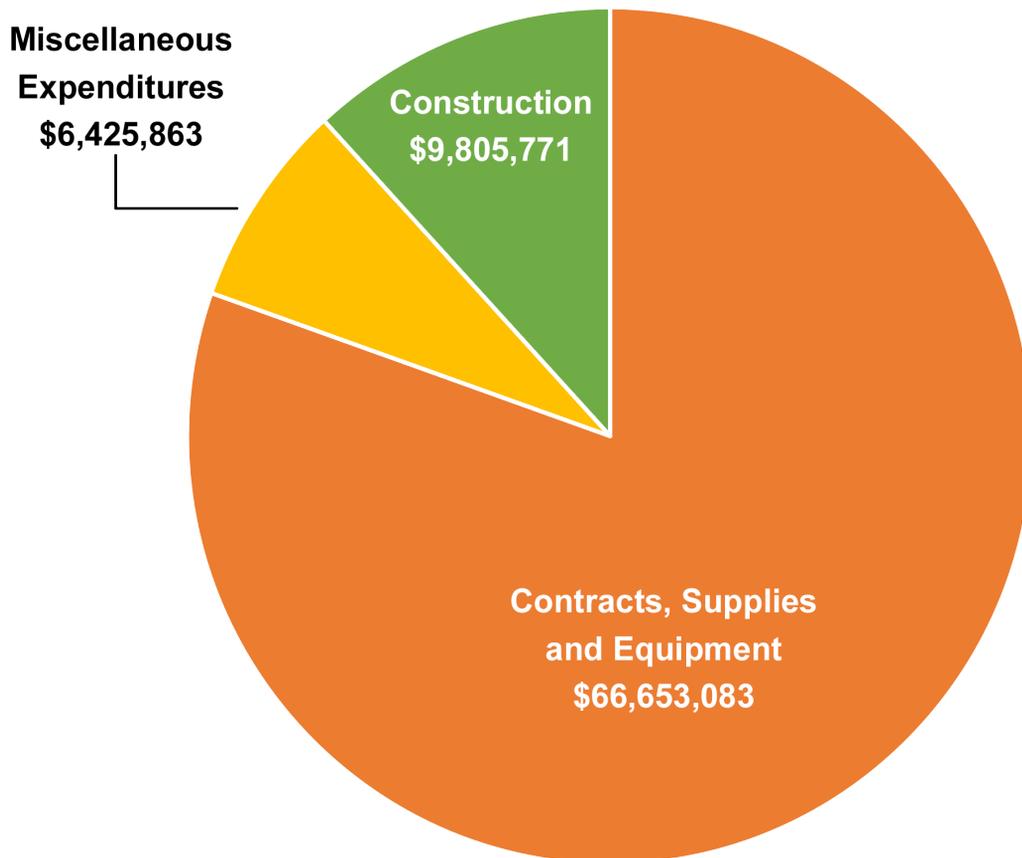
FY15 Payroll: 134.2 Million

In FY 15, CAFB saw a decrease of \$.2M in payroll from FY14. While military personnel remained level, civilian personnel saw a modest increase from the previous year. 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: Local area military retirees contributed over \$111 million to the local economy in FY15. 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.

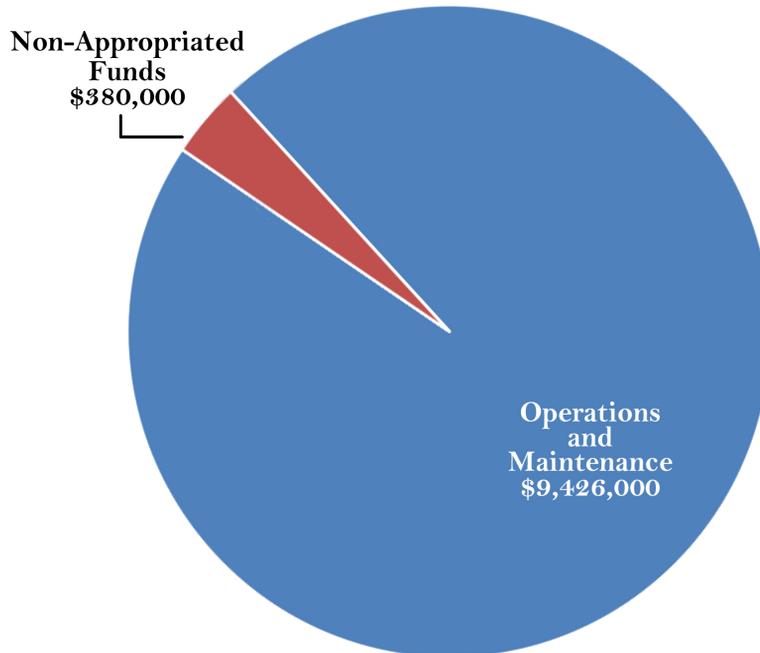
ANNUAL EXPENDITURES



FY15: \$82.9 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



FY15: \$9.8 Million

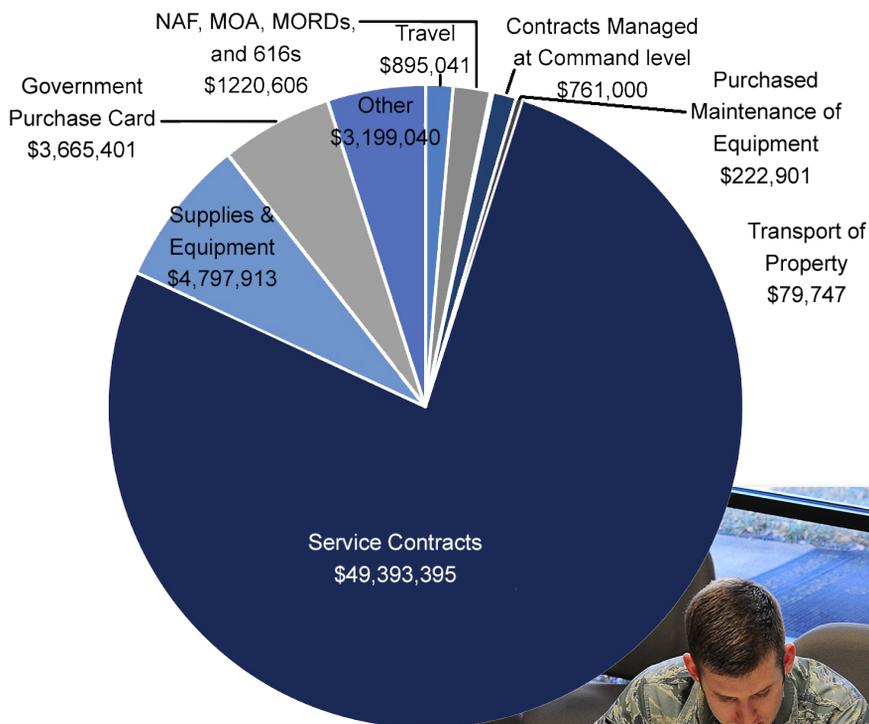
Construction is broken down into the different categories used for the multitude of projects executed on Columbus AFB. From 2014 to 2015 the amount spent on construction projects more than doubled from \$4.7M in FY14 to FY15's \$9.8M. The largest construction projects were the T-6 maintenance hangar alteration, renovations to the base library, and air traffic control tower repairs.



CONTRACTS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

FY15: \$66.7 Million

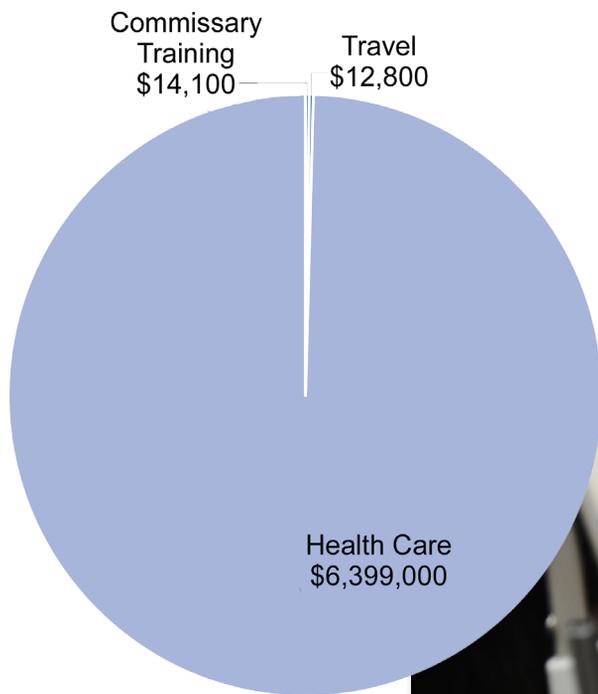
In FY15, Contracts, Supplies, and Equipment increased \$3.4M from FY14. Most categories that fall under this umbrella saw a modest growth. 74 percent of what was spent on this category went to fund service contracts. These service contracts include the aircraft maintenance contract, custodial services, grounds maintenance, as well as a physician assistant, choir directors, a Catholic priest, and many others.



MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES

FY15: \$6.4 Million

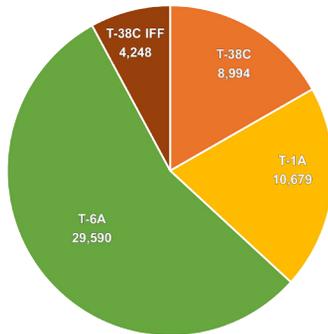
Miscellaneous Expenditures fell from FY14 levels by \$.1M from FY14. Approximately 99 percent of miscellaneous expenditures was attributed to health care. This section highlights the support Columbus AFB receives from regional area hospitals and medical services via the TriCare contract. TriCare is the 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.



AIRCRAFT INVENTORY



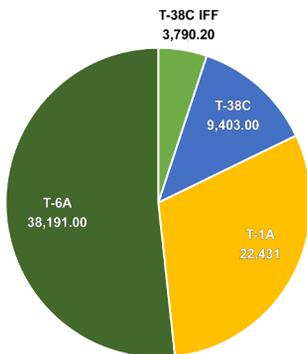
The T-38C Talon is a twin-engine, high altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. The T-38C is an upgraded T-38A aircraft, sometimes called the “glass cockpit” variant because 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.



Aircraft Sorties Flown: 53,511



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.



Aircraft Hours Flown: 73,815



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.

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



Water tower on base

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,



Banquet for the 1st Anniversary of CAFS, MS

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 undergraduate pilot training, which consisted of three phases and four specialized training 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.

PRODUCE PILOTS



ADVANCE AIRMEN



FEED THE FIGHT

