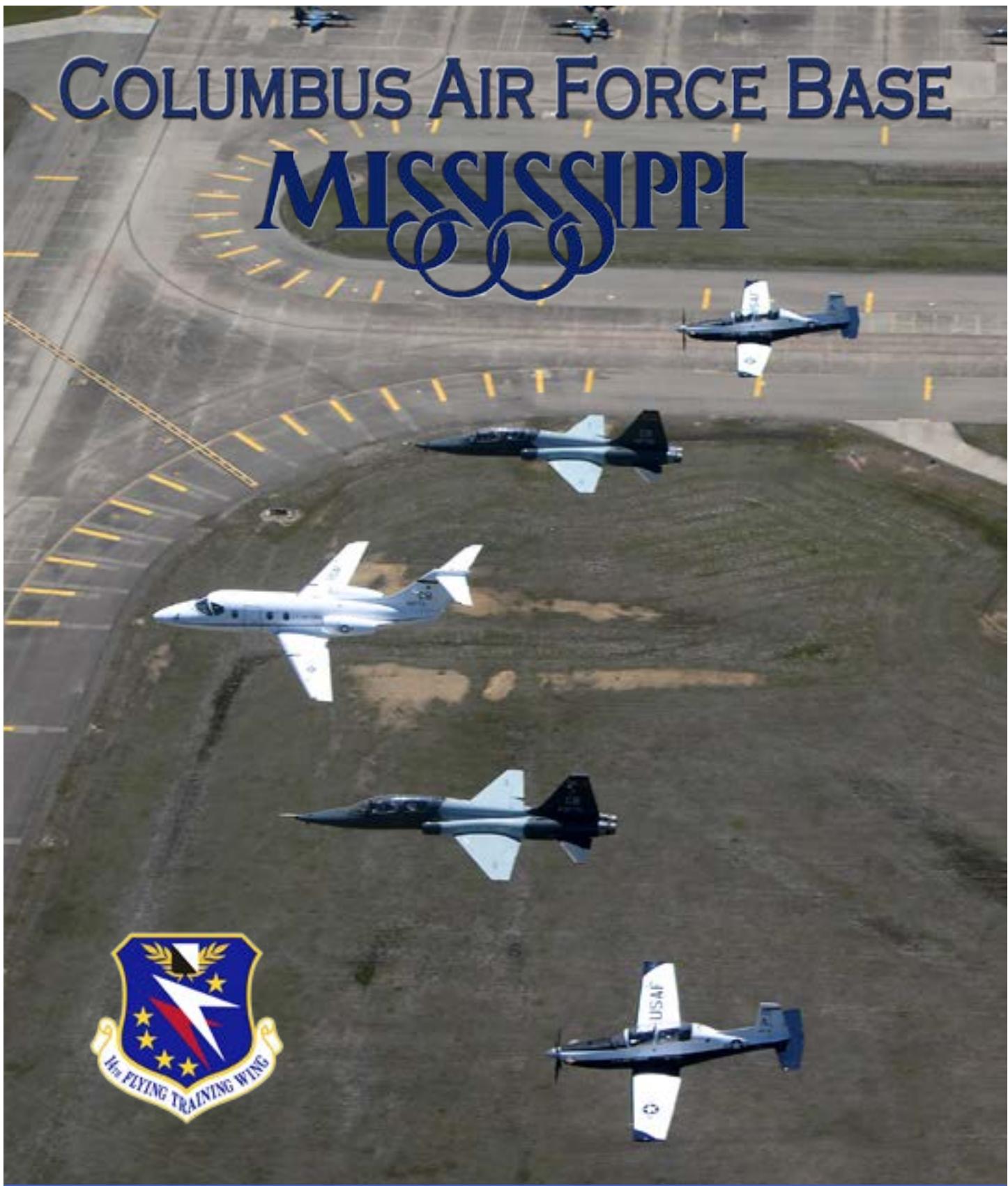


# 2017 Economic Impact Report



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

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NOTE: The 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, 2017 and 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 of 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

Over four decades ago the first 14 FTW Commander, Colonel Robert Tanguy, gave 21 civic leaders a unique opportunity to experience the Air Force's mission by touring multiple Air Force training bases. This trip gave those leaders a first-hand look at military operations and how they were similar to other industries in our nation. It provided a new perspective on the tremendous contributions that bases provide to local economies in addition to contributing to the security of our nation, both at home and abroad.

Since then, the relationship between the 14 FTW and the local community has been engrained in our base identity. This Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Economic Impact Report continues to provide interested citizens, as well as state and local leaders that same perspective on the Columbus Air Force Base (AFB) mission, history and financial impact on the local economy.

Our mission requires us to **cultivate Airmen** professionally, personally, physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. By investing in our Airmen's growth, we directly impact the readiness and lethality of the Air Force. Our successes are demonstrated by the numerous AETC-level and higher awards earned by members of Team BLAZE during FY17 including one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, MSgt Josh Matias; MSgt Anthony Dunn, 2017 International Affairs Excellence Award; and Captain Dana Volesky, the 2017 Juanita Redmond Award for Nursing.

The second tenant of our mission is to **create pilots**, this is accomplished through Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) where students fly the T-6A Texan II, the T-1A Jayhawk and the T-38C Talon aircraft at the United States Air Force's busiest airfield. In order to earn the coveted silver wings of an Air Force pilot, each student undertakes an incredibly intense 54 week program comprised of rigorous academics, simulator training and aircraft flights.

In addition to the SUPT program, the 14 FTW trains approximately 100 students per year in the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) course, an intense 20-sortie program in the T-38C that prepares SUPT graduates for their follow-on assignments in fighter aircraft. Columbus AFB is the only SUPT base where IFF is also conducted, adding to the complex flying operations.

Another unique aspect to our flying operations, is the 81st Fighter Squadron, a geographically separated unit located at Moody AFB, GA, where we train Afghan Air Force pilots and aircraft maintainers on the A-29 Super Tucano.

The third, but perhaps most important tenant of our mission, is for us to **CONNECT**. We need to connect with our fellow Airmen, across Air Force Specialty Codes (jobs) to instill the Air Force's wingman concept. We also need to connect with our mission partners (contractors) who provide capability, capacity, and incredible levels of expertise. Just as important, we need our families to be connected to our mission to retain them as well as retain our Airmen. Finally, we need to connect with our community; the support the Friendly City provides is invaluable to our mission.

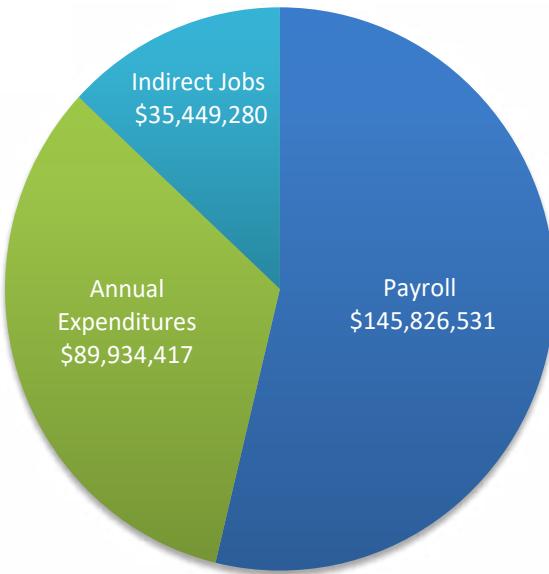
The 1,382 military and 1,383 civilian employees of Columbus AFB proudly deliver unmatched training, maintenance and support to your Air Force and to the 5,774 retired military members that live in the Columbus area. In FY17, the base generated \$271.2 million in economic activity and provided 926 indirect jobs. This represents \$145.8 million in payroll, \$89.9 million on annual expenditures and \$35.4 million generated by indirect jobs. These figures do not include local retired military pay totaling \$109.8 million.

This past year was one of tremendous accomplishment for Team BLAZE as we trained 418 pilots and hosted international students from 25 different nations, accounting for over one-third of new Air Force pilots. The demand for pilots is increasing and we are looking ahead to the future of pilot training. Through cooperation with other bases and AETC, the 14 FTW is focused on accomplishing our mission through innovative ideas and embracing new technologies to improve effectiveness and efficiency.



SAMANTHA A. WEEKS, Col, USAF  
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing  
BLAZE 1

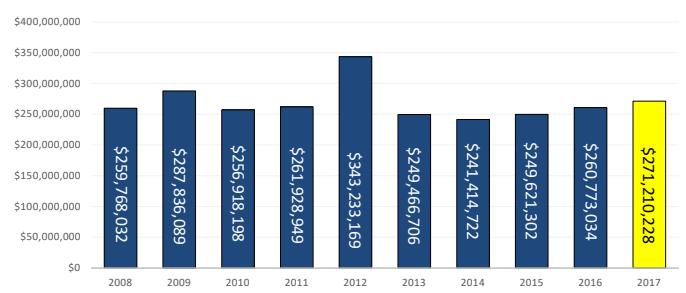
# CAFB ECONOMIC IMPACT



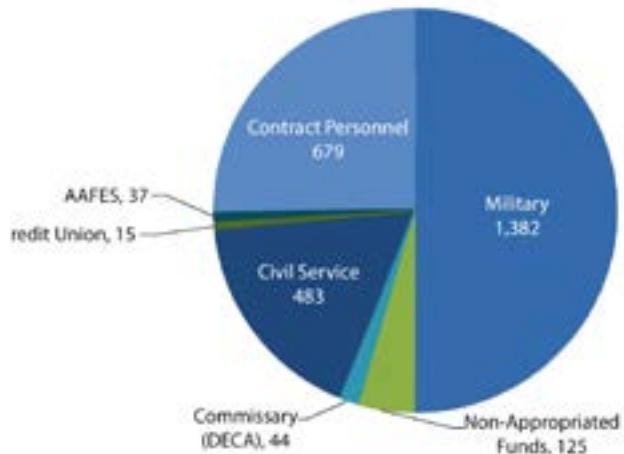
## FY17: \$271.2 Million

Fiscal Year 2017 saw an increase of \$10.4M in Columbus AFB's total economic impact compared with Fiscal Year 2016. The Economic Impact is measured in three categories: Personnel & Payroll, Indirect Jobs, and Annual Expenditures.

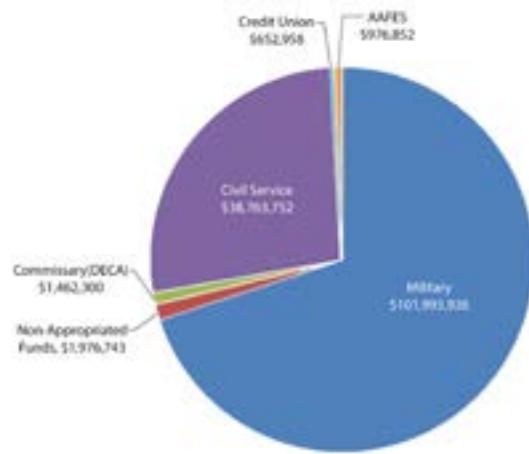
The chart at right shows the economic impact of Columbus AFB for the ten most recent fiscal years. Historical trend data shows that a range of \$241M to \$271M is a consistent economic impact for Columbus AFB. The spike in FY12 was due to the awarding of several major construction contracts.



# PERSONNEL & PAYROLL



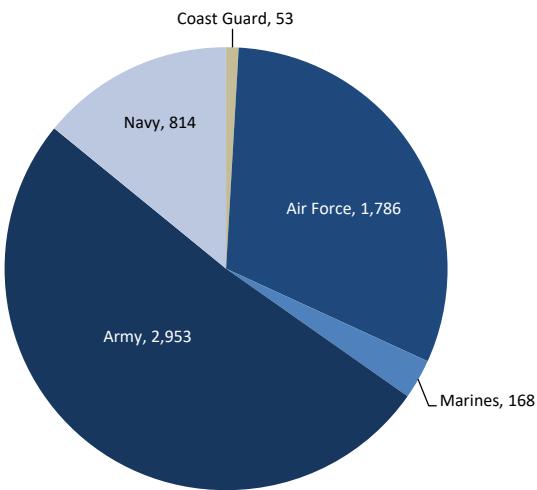
Personnel



Payroll

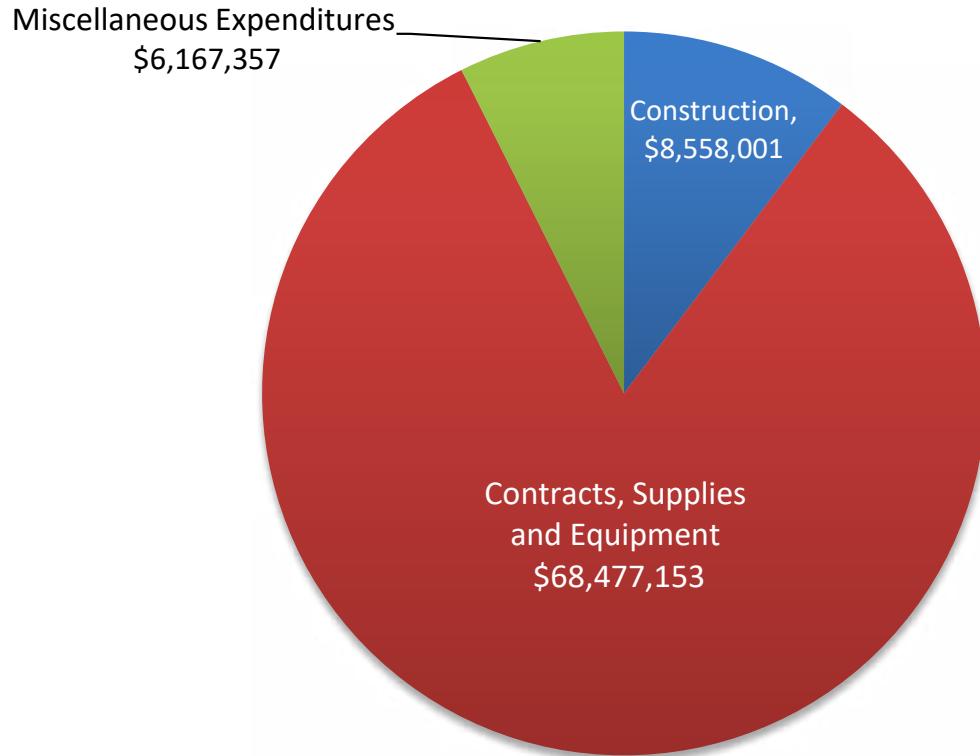
## FY17: 145.8 Million

In FY17, Columbus AFB saw an increase of \$1.3M in payroll from FY16. This can be attributed to an increase in the number of military members assigned to Columbus AFB as well as the pay increases accompanying our Columbus AFB Airmen's promotions. 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 926 indirect jobs totaling \$35.4M.



Local Area Retirees: 5,774 local area military retirees contributed over \$109.8 million to the local economy in FY17. Note: This amount is not included in the base's economic impact of \$271.2 million. The information is provided because the payroll local retirees receive contributes to the local economy.

# ANNUAL EXPENDITURES



## FY17: \$89.9 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

Construction  
(O&M), \$8,558,001

## FY17: \$8.5 Million

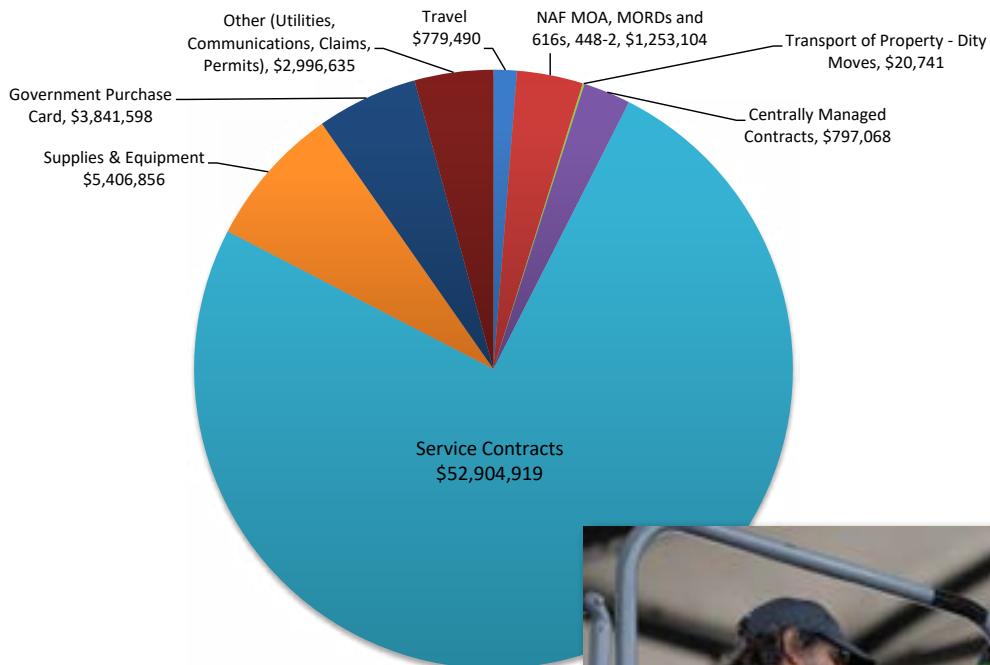
Construction is primarily made up of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contracts used for a multitude of projects executed on Columbus AFB. The largest construction projects include the replacement of the Munitions fence and lighting upgrades, the renovation of the Ground to Air Radar (GTAR) towers, and the renovation of Hangar 456. Additionally, this amount includes the awarding of contracts to repaint the water tanks for the Hangar Fire Suppression System, the construction of the new Blaze Fitness Trail workout stations, and the repair of the 50th Flying Training Squadron's roof.



# CONTRACTS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

## FY17: \$75.1 Million

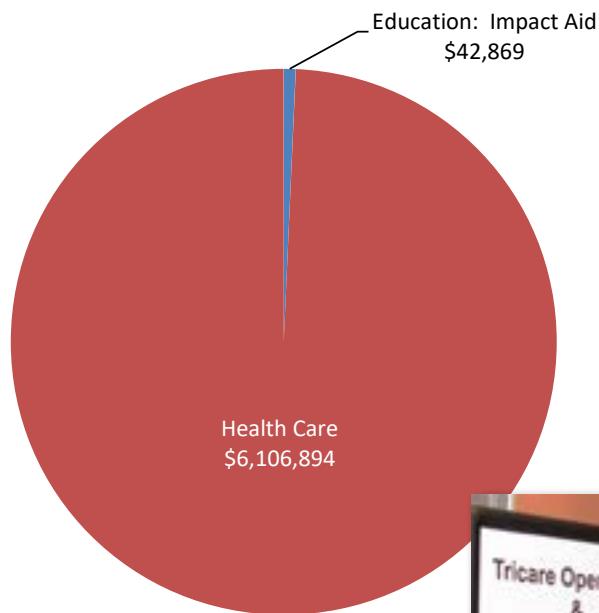
In FY 17, Contracts, Supplies and Equipment increased by \$6.6M from FY16. Most categories that fall under this umbrella saw a modest growth. Service contracts accounted for 70% of contracts, supplies and equipment. These service contracts include the aircraft maintenance contract, custodial services, grounds maintenance, sun shelter replacement, as well as a physician assistant and many others.



# MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES

## FY17: \$6.2 Million

Approximately 99% of miscellaneous expenditures was attributed to health care. This section highlights the support Columbus AFB received 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 AFB's economic impact analysis.



# AIRCRAFT INVENTORY



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 99 Texans in the inventory.

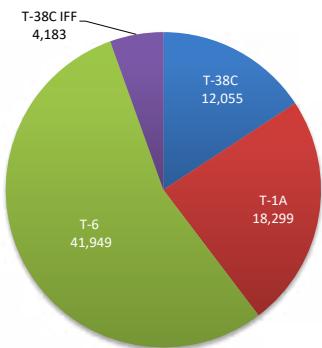


The T-1A Jayhawk is a medium range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of SUPT for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. The swept-wing T-1A is a military version of the Beech 400A. The T-1A differs from its commercial counterpart with structural enhancements that provide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

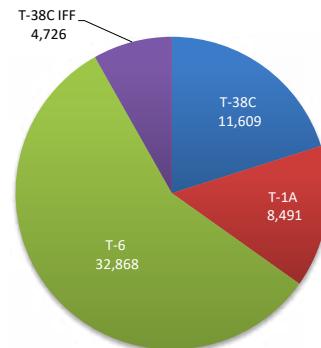


The T-38C Talon is a twin-engine, high altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. The T-38C features upgraded avionics and support systems, making it closer to what pilots will fly in their follow-on aircraft. Columbus AFB has 62 Talons assigned to SUPT and 29 assigned to IFF.

**Aircraft Hours Flown: 76,509**



**Aircraft Sorties Flown: 57,770**



# COLUMBUS AFB HISTORY

Columbus AFB 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 (ATC) relinquished command of Columbus AFB to SAC in April 1955. In 1958, Columbus AFB became home to a B-52 bomber squadron and a KC-135 tanker refueling squadron.



B-52 sitting on the SAC ramp

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 January 1993, the newly designated Air Education and Training Command transitioned Undergraduate Pilot Training to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. The new program consists of three phases

and three specialized tracks for the third phase of training. At the end of the second phase of training, students track either helicopters, with training at Fort Rucker, Alabama; the T-1A "Jayhawk" for the airlift/tanker track; or T-38C "Talon" for the fighter/bomber track. On 10 October 2006, Columbus received the first T-6A "Texan II," which is used for phase two of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. The T-6A eventually replaced the T-37 "Tweet." The T-37 formally retired on 2 April 2008.

Today, Columbus Air Force Base continues to be the Air Force's premier pilot training wing and community developing the best Airmen in the world's greatest Air Force.



Water tower on base

**CULTIVATE  
AIRMEN**



**CREATE  
PILOTS**



**CONNECT**