2016 Economic Impact Report **Columbus Air Force Base** Where the Future is Flying



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, 2016) The EIA for Fiscal Year 2016 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 2016 Economic Impact Report provides interested citizens, state and local leaders an overview of Columbus Air Force Base's (AFB) mission, history and financial impact on the local economy.

Columbus AFB is the home of the 14th Flying Training Wing (FTW), 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 accomplished through Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) in the T-6A Texan II, T-1A Jayhawk 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 400 hours of flight-related academics and 100 simulator flights. The 14 FTW trains 15 SUPT classes per year, averaging 25 students, with a class starting and graduating every three weeks. Additionally, the wing graduates 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 Afghan Air Force pilots and 90 aircraft maintainers along with 6 Lebanese Air Force pilots, 22 maintainers and 3 aircrew flight equipment technicians 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 numerous AETC-level or higher awards earned by members of Team BLAZE during FY16. 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.

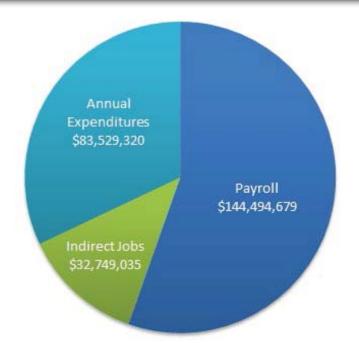
The 1,303 military and 1,322 civilian employees of Columbus AFB proudly deliver unmatched training, maintenance and support to your Air Force and to 5,804 retired military that live in the Columbus area. In FY16, the base generated \$260.8 million in economic activity and provided 879 indirect jobs. This represents \$144.5 million in payroll, \$83.5 million on Annual Expenditures and \$32.7 million generated by indirect jobs. These figures do not include local retired military pay totaling \$110.4 million.

This past year was one of tremendous accomplishment for Team BLAZE. We awarded numerous contracts to include the multiple base infrastructure improvements such as a much needed Fitness Center and aircraft sun shelter update. Additionally, we were able to build and resurface a majority of the perimeter and Independence Road. Along with this, we teamed with our community partners to install the new Highway 45 sign welcoming all to Columbus AFB.

In total, we trained 309 new Air Force pilots in FY16 and hosted international students from 36 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 starts here!

BLAZE-1

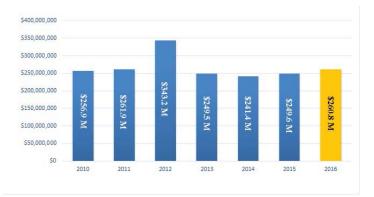
CAFB ECONOMIC IMPACT



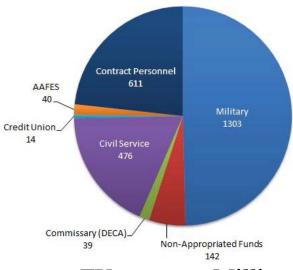
FY16: \$260.8 Million

Fiscal Year 2016 saw an increase of \$11.2M in Columbus AFB's total economic impact compared with Fiscal Year 2015. 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 seven most recent fiscal years. Historical trend data shows that a range of \$249M to \$261M is a consistent economic impact for Columbus AFB. The spike in FY12 was due to the awarding of several major construction contracts.

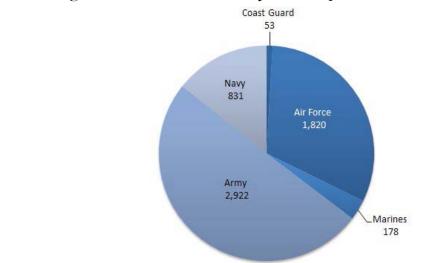


PERSONNEL & PAYROLL



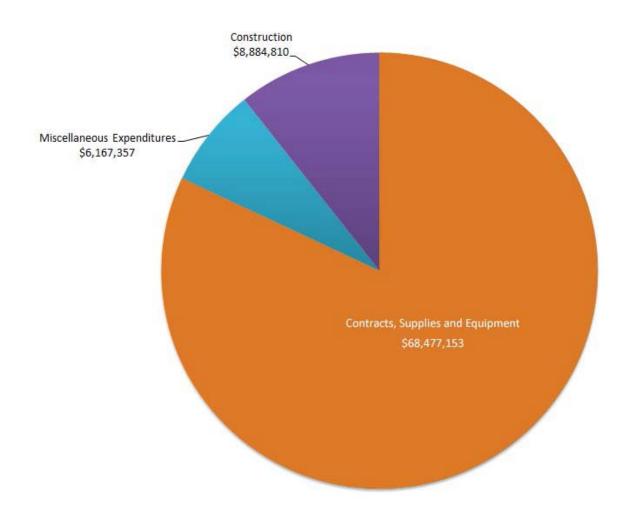
FY16: 144.5 Million

In FY16, Columbus AFB saw an increase of \$10.3M in payroll from FY15. This can be attributed to an increase in Civil Service employees as well as the pay increases accompanying our Columbus AFB Airmen's many rank 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 indirect jobs.



<u>Local Area Retirees</u>: 5,804 local area military retirees contributed over \$110.4 million to the local economy in FY16. Note: This amount is not included in the base's economic impact of \$260.8 million. The information is provided because the payroll local retirees receive contributes to the local economy.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES



FY16: \$83.5 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



FY16: \$8.9 Million

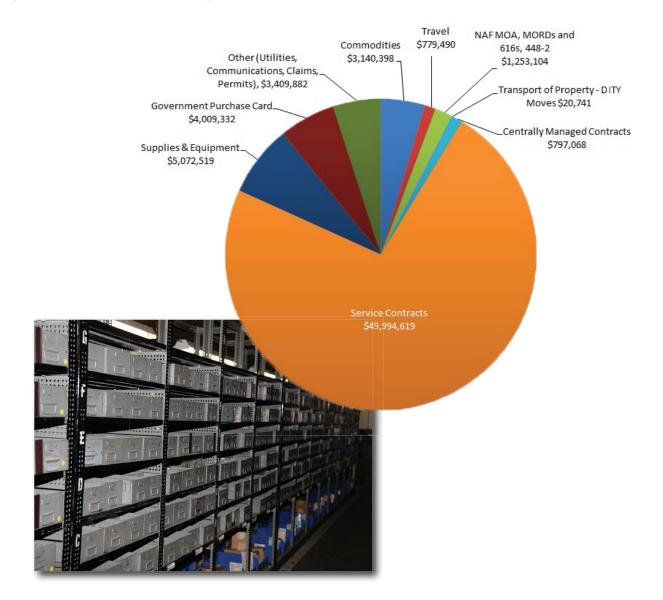
Construction is broken down into different categories used for a multitude of projects executed on Columbus AFB. The largest construction projects include the Independence Avenue and Perimeter Road paving, the improvements to drainage at our Auxiliary Field in Shuqualak, Mississippi and the repair and replacement project of the base's clay pipes and manhole covers. Additionally, this amount includes the awarding of contracts to reconstruct both T-6 Squadron restrooms, the vehicle operations control fence, and the continued improvements to the Fitness Center.



CONTRACTS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

FY16: \$68.5 Million

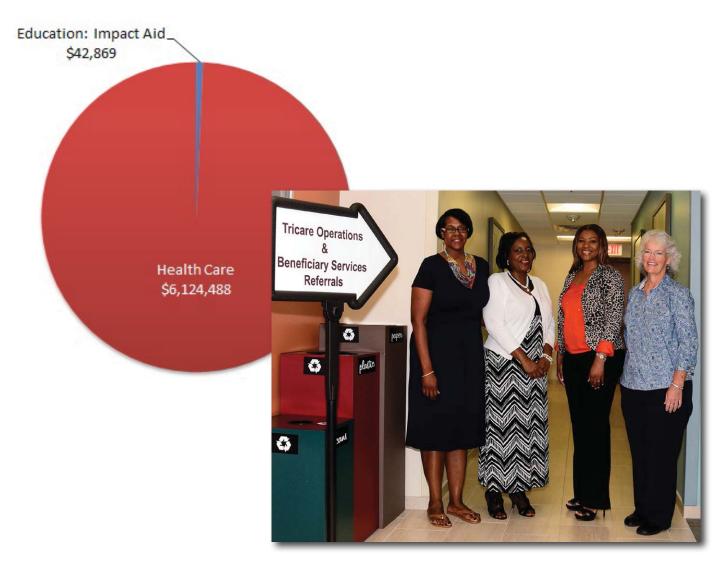
In FY 16, Contracts, Supplies and Equipment increased by \$1.8M from FY15. Most categories that fall under this umbrella saw a modest growth. Service contracts accounted for 73% of contracts, supplies and equipment. These service contracts include the aircraft maintenance contract, custodial services, grounds maintenance, sun shelter replacement, as well as a physician assistant and many others.



MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES

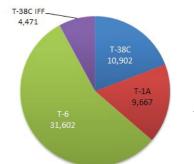
FY16: \$6.2 Million

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



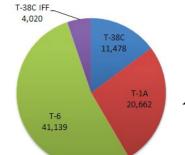


The T-38C Talon is a twin-engine, high altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. The T-38C is an upgraded T-38A aircraft, sometimes called the "glass cockpit" variant because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

Aircraft Sorties Flown: 56,642



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: 77,299



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.

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



Water tower on base

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



Banquet for the 1st Anniversary of CAFS, MS

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 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 Puelon Alabama the T 1A "January" for the sin lift (toplen tracks)

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.



ADVANCE AIRMEN







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