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Vol. 42, Issue 7

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

February 23, 2018

Weather

Friday

Foggy

High 79°F Low 63°F

Saturday

Rain

High 78°F Low 62°F

Sunday

Thunderstorms

High 70°F Low 64°F

Monday

Rain

High 67°F Low 53°F

Forecast provided by the 14th OSS Weather Flight

News Briefs

Wing Newcomers Orientation

A Wing Newcomers Orientation is scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 6, at the Columbus Club for newly arrived active duty and civilian personnel.

SUPT Class 18-06 Graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-06 graduates 10 a.m. March 9, at the Kaye Auditorium. The highlighted squadron for SUPT Class 18-06 is the 14th Comptroller Squadron.

Enlisted Dorm Dinner

A Dorm Dinner for enlisted Airmen living in the dorms is scheduled for 5 p.m., March 2 at the Montgomery Village.

Inside

Feature 8

L3 Technologies is highlighted in this week's feature.

Scanlan instructs pilots to lead Airmen, not aircraft



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Maj. Gen. James P. Scanlan, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida, spoke at Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-05's graduation Feb. 16, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Scanlan talked to the 20 new pilots about their role as not just a pilot, but officer and a leader in the Air Force.

Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. James P. Scanlan, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Florida, spoke to graduates during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-05's graduation Feb. 16 at the Kaye Auditorium here.

Scanlan talked to the Air Force's 20 newest aviators about their role as not just a pilot, but as an officer and leader in the Air Force.

“When you are out there in your flying units, the focus will be on you [not just as pilots],” Scanlan said. “Our Airmen will look to you as leaders. Why? Because you are pilots.”

Scanlan said that the new pilots have already demonstrated skills of leaders. He said that the pilots are resourceful, they are problem-solvers and when faced with challenges they pick the best course of action and execute it.

Scanlan then gave an example about the caliber of enlisted Airmen the pilots will be leading.

The story was about a mission to rescue American citizens with three CV-22 Ospreys in South Sudan. Scanlan said aboard the lead aircraft was Tech. Sgt. Christopher Nin, a CV-22 Osprey special missions aviator.

The three Ospreys approached the landing zone and started taking effective surface-to-air fire. All three aircraft were critically damaged, leaving the lead Osprey with the most damage having three ruptured fuel tanks, the main hydraulic system lost and multiple casualties aboard, including three critically injured Navy SEALs. Nin was juggling between manually extending the refueling probe and aiding the medic aboard the plane.

On the ground in Entebbe, Uganda, a C-17 Globemaster III was preparing to take off. Aboard the C-17 was Senior Airman Cody Nuñez, a loadmaster with the 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, who had only been in country for two weeks.

The C-17 crew was told to stop takeoff and dump some of its cargo to make room for the critically injured SEALs. The crew could see the three Ospreys flying in with smoke trailing their path.

See SCANLAN, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE															
PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (18-15)	-2.24 days	-0.93 days	Mar. 30	48th (18-06)	-0.80 days	2.43 days	Mar. 9	49th (18-EBC)	-4.42 days	-1.61 days	Mar. 2	T-6	1,827	0	10,235
41st (18-14)	-5.48 days	-1.91 days	Mar. 7	50th (18-06)	-1.13 days	-1.15 days	Mar. 9					T-1	635	536	3,212
* Mission numbers provided by 14 FTW Wing Scheduling.												T-38	714	656	4,532
Retired Col. Caryle “Smitty” Harris, Vietnam Prisoner of War, is the guest speaker for the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-06 graduation at 10 a.m. March 9 in the Kaye Auditorium.												IFF	249	279	1,714

14TH FLYING
TRAINING
WING DEPLOYED



As of press time, 18 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

Hunt Housing tip of the week

Hunt Housing has recently asked residents to begin complying with the current resident guidelines that restrict the use of fire pits and chimineas. Hunt will begin enforcing this restriction on March 30, 2018. 14th Flying Training Wing leadership is utilizing the Dispute Resolution process with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center and Hunt Corporation in an attempt to allow outdoor fire pits and chimineas. If we cannot reach a resolution by March 30, 2018, residents are asked to comply with the current resident guidelines that prohibit the use of fire pits and chimineas and allow the resolution process additional time to work a solution favorable for both residents and Hunt. If you have any questions please contact Tina Durrah, government Housing Manager, at 434-7276 or Kay Quinlan, government Housing Program Manager, at 434-3474.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
26	27	28 Enlisted Promotions, 3 p.m. @ Club	1	2 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Montgomery Village	3/4	Mar. 17: CGOC Beer Garden Mar. 22: Hearts Apart Mar. 23: SUPT Class 18-07's Assignment Night Mar. 24: Easter Egg Hunt and Youth Craft Show Mar. 26: Happy Irby Golf Tournament Mar. 27: Wing Newcomers Mar. 30: Enlisted Promotions Apr. 5-14: Columbus Pilgrimage
5	6 Wing Newcomers	7	8 Daedalian's Meeting	9 Sen. Cochran Staffer Visit SUPT Class 18-06 Graduation	10/11	

Tax Center Hours

The Columbus Air Force Base Tax Center will be open Feb. 13-April 6 in building 926 to prepare taxes for retirees, active-duty military, and their dependents. Hours are from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

The following are issues that fall outside of the scope of our tax center:

- Net operating loss (current year or carryforward)
- Self-employment income not shown on Form 1099
- Self-employment expenses in the form of payments to employees/independent contractors
- Home office expenses
- Airbnb income
- Extensive investment income
- Health savings accounts
- Returns for 2016 or amended returns

To schedule an appointment, please call the Columbus AFB legal office at Comm. 662-434-7030.

Volunteers needed for tax season

The 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office is seeking volunteers for 2017 tax season, starting in February 2018. Accounting experience is a plus, but is not a requirement. Childcare fees may be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Capt. Casey Keppler or Senior Airman Anna Miller at 742-7030 for more information or with any questions.

Silver Wings

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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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NEWS AROUND TOWN

Feb. 23

Fairview Baptist Church is scheduled to host a Wild Game Feast with guest speaker, Clay Dyer, to share his inspirational story of hope and determination. The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. and Dyer will speak at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (6th grade and under) and must be purchased in advance of the event. Tickets and information available from Fairview Baptist Church, 127 Airline Rd., or by calling (662) 328-2924.

March 2-3

Cabela's Crappie USA 2018 Tournament Trail runs through Columbus as anglers compete for cash and prizes! Anglers may fish Aberdeen, Columbus, and Aliceville Lakes on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway on Saturday, March 3, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weigh-in takes place at the Columbus East Boat Ramp on Wilkins-Wise Rd. Those not in line by 4 p.m. will be disqualified. Late sign-in is Friday, March 2, 5-7 p.m., at the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau Office, 117 3rd St. S. Seminar Begins at 7 p.m. Seminar is open to the public.

BARGAIN LINE

The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@us.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Transportation

For sale: 1994 Nissan pick-up truck for sale. Has a tool box, bed liner, new windshield and was recently repainted. Asking price is \$2,700. For more information please contact 662-356-4292.

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SCANLAN

(Continued from page 1)

An Army Special Forces captain gave Nuñez two choices which were both against regulations. Nuñez politely declined and told the captain that he and his team could figure it out.

Within minutes Nuñez and his team re-situated the cargo and were able to accommodate the wounded and the C-17 took off. While in the air, one of the SEALs flatlined and Nuñez provided aid with direction from the in-flight medics.

“Those three SEALs survived because of

the professionalism and dedication of those two Airmen, Airmen you will lead,” Scanlan said. “Airmen will place their trust and confidence in you as leaders.”

Scanlan began to wrap up his speech by sharing a couple of his thoughts about how to be a successful leader. His first point was the pilot’s must earn the trust of those they’ll be working with. Another point he mentioned was “it is ok that you may not always have the answer.

“As a leader you have to remain confident but humble,” Scanlan said. “Realize that you are a part of something bigger than yourself.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Beaux Hebert
Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 18-05 stand while being congratulated for earning their wings Feb. 16, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Upon their graduation, pilots receive their first set of wings that they break for good luck.

Commander's Action Line

434-1414

The Commander's Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander's Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.



AETC Level Awards

Congratulations to the following 14th Operations Support Squadron Airmen for earning 2017 AETC Airfield Operations annual awards:

Col. Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year: Capt. Christian Barnes
Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the Year: Staff Sgt. Kevin Davidson
Radar, Airfield and Weather Systems Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Jacob Hoeltje
Airfield Management Contracting Representative of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Jordan L. Boothe
Airfield Operations System Specialist of the Year: Modesto Cedano

Army's "The Golden Knights" to be at Columbus AFB

The U.S. Army Parachute Team, “The Golden Knights,” inspire audiences of all ages with their patriotism and exciting maneuvers. Formed in 1959, the Golden Knights are the Army’s official demonstration team. Members are drawn from U.S. Army paratroopers who have demonstrated excellence in parachuting skills. They’ll thrill Columbus Air Force Base’s guests and spectators with their intricate canopy work, along with skydiving formations and landings that require extreme precision. They have a combined experience of over 13,000 freefall and static line jumps, and nearly 100 years of cumulative skydiving experience. Each team member has been pulled from all corners the Army, and their diverse background and experiences enhances their skills and recruiting efforts to all future Army warriors.

Freefall parachuting was invented at Old McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio. Army Lt. Harold R. Harris became the first person to parachute out of a malfunctioning airplane on Oct. 28, 1922. For many years, Wright Field, now Area B of Wright-Patterson AFB, was a main location for parachute technology research and development for

the military. The Golden Knights are based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. These U.S. Army ambassadors represent the skill and professionalism of U.S. Soldiers serving all over the world. The 16-member team will travel to Columbus Air Force Base in their Fokker C-31A Troopship, which will also serve as their skydiving aircraft. Their arrival and demonstrations are only two months away! Their demonstrations will consist of two primary parachuting formations: the show-line spread and the mass exit. The show-line spread is the grandest of entrances. It is the perfect beginning of opening ceremony of Wings Over Columbus. The Golden Knights will dive from nearly 10,000 feet above the ground in sequence and formation, flying their bodies and parachutes in a precise path that ends in a single-file line that’s parallel with the show-line. A true testament to the skills and precision of the Golden Knights.

Please join us April 21st-22nd as the U.S. Army Golden Knights inspire another generation of service-men and women during Wings Over Columbus 2018 at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.



Share the road. Watch for motorcyclists.

Koritz Clinic lab puts patients first, increases efficiency

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

The Koritz Clinic Laboratory Services Flight performs tests to give doctors conclusive evidence to properly diagnose individuals as well giving accurate diagnosis to confidently clear or retract a pilot's ability to fly. The lab operating under the 14th Medical Support Squadron and their mission is essential to keeping Airmen at Columbus Air Force Base healthy and safe.

Blood testing is common method to help diagnose issues within the human body and is a process not all individuals feel comfortable with. Passing out is seemingly unavoidable for some people and the laboratory services Airmen felt that there was a way to fix that issue.

"For the size of the clinic, our workload is a lot more than I thought it would be because of the smaller size of the base," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hall, 14th MDSS NCO in charge of laboratory shipping.

With the consistent blood drawings and the issue it presented the team decided to look at ways to find a solution.

"We wanted to do our research to see how many people were passing out and if we could find a way to prevent that as much as possible," said 1st Lt. Daniel Wilson, laboratory services flight commander. "What we found out was the World Health Organization standard was about 1 percent of patients pass out, and with our amount of monthly patients we were within that standard, but we still wanted to be better and we wanted to bring that number down."

The flight found predetermining factors that would increase a patient's risk of passing out such as a history of passing from a previous blood draw, not eating prior to giving blood or working out two hours prior to drawing blood.

"We created a questionnaire to screen for those risk factors, and if they say yes to any of the questions we will take steps to prevent them from passing out," Wilson said. "One of the steps was we purchased a reclining phlebotomy chair. The chair elevates the individual's legs so their legs are above their heart, and what that does is keeps the blood from pooling in their legs, which helps prevent the physiological effect of passing out."



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hall, 14th Medical Support Squadron NCO in charge of laboratory shipping, receives a urine sample Feb. 20, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Blood and urine tests are common for the laboratory on Columbus AFB, providing doctors with the information they need to diagnose patients for a range of diseases and conditions.

"For the size of the clinic, our workload is a lot more than I thought it would be because of the smaller size of the base," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hall, 14th MDSS NCO in charge of laboratory shipping.

They also provide ice and water for patients before their blood is taken on a case by case basis as another way to prevent some people from passing out.

After making these changes, from August 2017 to January 2018 no patients have passed out during a blood draw, and the laboratory team has executed their goal above and beyond the standard 1 percent in that timeframe.

Although that achievement is a step in the right direction, there are many other things the laboratory services work on to develop their skills; improving urine sample testing times by 20 minutes per sample, earning a high score on a recent College of American Pathologists two-year reaccreditation, and recently completing a bio-safety risk assessment testing for how well equipped the lab is to handle different diseases such as Ebola, they are constantly challenging themselves to be the best they can be, Wilson said.

As the Laboratory Services Flight commander, Wilson is in charge of managing the equipment and more importantly the Airmen in the lab. He works with them to keep operations running smoothly with proper manning and quality equipment, thereby ensuring the results are as accurate as possible.

"Each month we take turns leading a volunteer event with our flight," Wilson said. "It's a way for us to get out and work on team building as well as helping the community. Another thing we do monthly is professional development, we each rotate teaching a class within the flight on something that can be found useful such as financial management, communication barriers, and public speaking. It's a way to develop the Airmen and help us all learn something."

Wilson and his flight are continuing to better their shop by working on bringing in a rapid flu testing system to bring the results out within 30 minutes instead of the current 48 hour turnaround time.



Tony Givens, 14th Medical Support Squadron laboratory services technical supervisor, inspects a test sample Feb. 20, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. From August to January no patients have fainted during blood draws, and the lab continues to strive toward minimizing the risk of patients passing out during the blood drawing process.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hall, 14th Medical Support Squadron NCO in charge of laboratory shipping, pulls out a blood sample Feb. 20, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The 14th Medical Support Squadron laboratory services conduct tests to give doctor's conclusive evidence to properly diagnose individuals as well giving accurate diagnosis to confidently clear or retract a pilot's ability to fly.

SECAF: This is about lethality and mission effectiveness

Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson spoke about the importance of innovation and research and development during her State of the Air Force speech at the Air Force Association Innovation: The Warfighter's Edge conference Feb. 22, 2018, in Orlando, Florida.

"This is about lethality and mission effectiveness," said Wilson. "Innovation has to be part of the way the Air Force just does business."

The Air Force leverages new and existing technologies to provide rapid and affordable solutions. To that end, Wilson said, new science should be pursued relentlessly and applied quickly to support airpower.

To aid in that support Wilson explained the Air Force will empower program managers, strip away bureaucratic approval steps and move quickly.

"In a world where far more innovation



Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson speaks about innovation during the Air Force Association Innovation: The Warfighter's Edge conference in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 22, 2018.

is happening outside the government than inside of it, connecting to that broader sci-

entific enterprise is absolutely vital to our future," she said.

National Children's Dental Health Month

14th Medical Group Dental Flight

National Children's Dental Health Month is an observance held annually in February: during this time, educators and dental professionals promote oral health and proper dental hygiene for children.

This year's American Dental Association NCDHM campaign slogan is "Brush with fluoride toothpaste and clean between your teeth for a healthy smile."

This February, members of the 14th Medical Group Dental Flight will visit the Child Development Center and Youth Center. We will stress the importance of proper brushing and flossing techniques, good nutrition habits, and use of fluoridated toothpaste during these visits. What children eat and when they eat it may affect not only their general health, but also their oral health. Finally, we will be informing youth and adults about how choosing fluoridated toothpaste and tap water can guard against tooth decay.

Fluoride helps prevent tooth decay in children and adults and helps strengthen tooth enamel in several ways.

First, when a child's teeth are beginning to form and emerge, fluoride helps develop enamel so it can become hard enough to resist cavities. Once teeth are present in

the mouth, fluoridated toothpaste, tap water, and mouthwash can be used to maintain hardness of the enamel and continue to fight off decay. This is important, because bacteria that naturally occur in the mouth, use sugar we eat or drink for energy, creating acid as a by-product. The acid produced can break down tooth structure, leading to cavities. Fluoride can re-mineralize teeth and help strengthen weakened areas in early stages of enamel breakdown by acids. For children younger than three years of age, begin brushing their teeth when they appear using a dab of fluoride toothpaste no larger than a grain of rice. Children from age three to six, should use no more than a pea-sized amount. These are recommendations, but be sure to consult your dentist or physician, and always supervise your child to ensure the right amount is being used and to have them spit out most of the toothpaste after brushing. Along with using fluoride toothpaste, the American Dental Association recommends cleaning between the teeth once a day, primarily using string floss, dental picks, or if needed tiny brushes. Using floss allows for the disruption and removal of plaque between the teeth and along the gum line where a toothbrush cannot reach. Whether you are using floss or any other interdental cleaner, it is important to use proper technique for each of these tools to

be effective.

Here are some ways to reduce your children's risk of tooth decay

- If consumed, sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals to help neutralize acid produced by bacterial plaque and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Monitor beverage consumption. Instead of soft drinks children should choose water and low-fat milk.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods, such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, smoothies made with natural ingredients, etc.
- If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless. Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid. Look for gums with "xylitol" listed as an ingredient. Xylitol is a sweetener that reduces levels of S. mutans, the bacteria responsible for tooth decay, in the mouth.
- Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits.
- Schedule regular dental visits.

Remember, don't take your teeth for granted. Eat nutritiously, brush and floss daily, and have regular dental checkups.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff to Congress: Help us win any fight at any time

Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson testified before the Readiness and Management Senate Subcommittee concerning the Air Force's current readiness Feb. 14, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

"Today, our chief competitors are moving ahead with a speed and scale unseen in recent history," Wilson said. "We must counter that with sustained, urgent action."

To move at "the speed of relevance," he asked for the subcommittee's continued support in the following areas: support for competitive personnel policies to attract and retain talent, risk-taking

innovation, and national research efforts in science and technology to expand the country's competitive space. In order to address the concerns, budget stability and a return to fiscal order are needed, Wilson said.

"Collectively, these efforts will help build a more lethal and ready force," Wilson said.

To attract and retain talent, the Air Force plans to increase its end strength by 4,700 total force Airmen in 2019. Leaders are supporting innovation by investing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the workforce. Currently more than 25,000 Airmen have STEM degrees and the Air Force plans for additional recruitment, retention and development of this vital area, he said.

Air Force leaders are also promoting pilot production and training to address pilot shortfalls, he said. Additional training and weapon systems sustainment funding will establish a strong foundation for improved aircraft availability and higher flying hour execution rates. This increases peacetime operational training and readiness, supporting retention, innovation, and promoting technological advancement.

"With your help, we can accelerate to building a more lethal force, ready to defeat terrorists and to win any fight, anywhere," Wilson said.



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson speaks to the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, D.C., Feb. 14, 2018. Wilson and other members of the panel discussed the readiness of the Armed Forces.

The Air Force will also invest in jam-resistant satellites, purchase more F-35A Lightning II fighters and KC-46 Pegasus tankers, and continue the development of the B-21 Raider bomber, expanding competitive space in science and

technology.

"With your help, we can accelerate to building a more lethal force, ready to defeat terrorists and to win any fight, anywhere," Wilson said.



Medical Corner

Let's review: Myths and facts on smoking

There have been many myths that have arisen regarding smoking. Since 1996, big tobacco has been on the receiving end of lawsuit after lawsuit. You would think that even after the billions of dollars that tobacco companies have had to dish out for medical and health injury lawsuits related to tobacco, people would get the message. But it's hard to change a culture and mindset that has been around for several hundred years: tobacco equals money. You hear it time and time again, "smoking is bad for you!" But do you know why? Here are a few myths on tobacco and tobacco related products to include vaping and electronic cigarettes and the data behind the reason why smoking is not as harmless as you may think.

MYTH #1: People have free choice whether or not to smoke

Fact: Cigarettes are addictive We would like to think that we are creatures of free will. However, free will in the case of tobacco is subverted by advertising and addiction. In 2015 the CDC reported that the tobacco industry spent \$8.2 billion dollars in the United States on advertising, marketing and promotion. This was an increase from 2014 of \$8.0 billion as the popularity of e-cigarettes began to gain ground.

Hidden within cigarettes is an addictive drug - nicotine — and both regular cigarettes and electronic cigarettes are referred to as "nicotine delivery devices." Nicotine affects the body and brain upon entering the blood by immediately stimulating the adrenal glands to release the hormone epinephrine (adrenaline). This release of Epinephrine stimulates the central nervous system and increases blood pressure, breathing, and heart rate. As with drugs such as cocaine and heroin, nicotine increases levels of the chemical messenger dopamine, which affects the part of the brain that control reward and pleasure. For many who use tobacco, long-term brain changes brought on by continued nicotine exposure result in addiction.

MYTH #2: It's easy to stop smoking; if people want to quit, they will

Fact: Quitting is not easy, but is possible Everyone has their own reason for quitting smoking. Maybe they want to be healthier, save some money, or keep their family safe. While some smokers are able to stop on their own, many find it hard to quit. The tobacco industry has admitted in independent reports that nicotine has addictive properties similar to opium and is comparable to heroin, cocaine, and alcohol in addiction potential.



There are many health benefits from quitting tobacco and more than half of all adult smokers (5 out of 10, 55.4%) who attempt to quit eventually succeed.

MYTH #3: E-cigarettes are safer than regular cigarettes

Fact: E-cigarettes are unregulated tobacco products Nearly 500 brands and 7,700 flavors of e-cigarettes are on the market and none of them have been evaluated by the FDA. We don't know for sure what's in them. Studies have found toxic chemicals, including an ingredient used in antifreeze and formaldehyde in e-cigarettes. Because the FDA doesn't regulate these products, there aren't requirements around ingredient disclosure, warning labels or youth access restrictions.

MYTH #4: E-cigarettes are not marketed to kids

FACT: E-cigarette use among middle and high school students more than tripled from 2013 to 2015 With aggressive industry tactics such as cartoon characters and candy flavors including bubble gum, fruit loops, chocolate and strawberry, it's no surprise studies show a dramatic increase in kids using e-cigarettes. For the first time ever, teens are smoking e-cigarettes more than traditional cigarettes.

MYTH #5: The tobacco problem is already solved

FACT: More than 1 in 5 adults and 3 in 10 teens and young adults smoke or have experimented with tobacco and e-cigarettes The public health and personal health problems caused by the use of tobacco is far from solved. Although there has been a decline in tobacco use over the past decade and a half, the health problems associated with tobacco use is not going away anytime soon. More than 1 billion people worldwide will die from a tobacco-related disease unless actions are taken to spread the message to not start.



A personal message from your health promotion Health Myth Busting Team

Dear Health Myth Busters,

I have always been warned that smoking cigarettes on a regular basis can lead to lung cancer and other serious health conditions so it begs to ask the question, can smoking an occasional cigarette really do that much damage to my health? Sometimes I see my co-workers step outside for a smoke break and return appearing less stressed and more relaxed. Not saying I am giving into peer pressure or anything, but I got to admit, their improved moods after lighting one up is making me contemplate smoking a cigarette when I start feeling really stressed. What's the harm in having a smoke every now and then?

Sincerely,
Tentative Smoker

Dear Tentative Smoker,

Smoking, even just one cigarette, is NEVER a safe thing to do. Smoking doesn't just cause diseases for heavy smokers or longtime smokers, it can also affect occasional or "social" smokers. Studies done by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) showed that "there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke." Even relatively small amounts can damage your blood vessels and make your blood more likely to clot. There are many toxins and chemicals found in tobacco and tobacco related products that can cause irreversible damage and may lead to serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, and even sudden death. Smoking up to four or even as little as one cigarette a day doubles your risk of dying from heart disease!

Keep this in mind as you contemplate smoking a cigarette — every cigarette contains 1 to 2 milligrams of nicotine, an addictive drug, and reaches your brain in 8 to 10 seconds. Not to mention the more than 4,000 chemicals and poisons, 50 of which cause cancer that you are inhaling. Each time you inhale you are sucking nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide, cyanide, arsenic, formaldehyde, ammonia, and benzene into your lungs and body. Because addiction to nicotine can happen quickly, even smoking just one cigarette may seem like no big deal at the time, but there is enough nicotine in every cigarette to keep you addicted.

Recognize the signs your body is telling you in response to stress, such as difficulty sleeping, increased alcohol consumption, being easily angered, feeling depressed, and having low energy. Getting exercise every day, even just 30 minutes can boost your mood and reduce stress. The next time you feel stressed and see your buddies or co-workers going on their smoke breaks, walk out with them but keep going past the local smoke-break area and walk around your building or to somewhere close by. Plan regular walking breaks throughout the day to help de-stress and invite your co-workers so everyone benefits!

Sincerely,
Health Myth Busters



Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.



BLAZE Hangar Tails: MC-12

Mission

The MC-12W is a medium- to low-altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft. The primary mission is providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, support directly to ground forces. The MC-12W is a joint forces air component commander asset in support of the joint force commander.

Features

The MC-12W is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system. The aircraft are military versions of the Hawker Beechcraft Super King Air 350 and Super King 350ER. A fully operational system consists of a modified aircraft with sensors, a ground exploitation cell, line-of-sight and satellite communications datalinks, along with a robust voice communications suite.

The aircraft is equipped with an electro-optical infrared sensor and other sensors as the mission requires. The EO/IR sensor also includes a laser illuminator and designator in a single sensor package. The MC-12 system is capable of world-wide operations.

Background

The “M” is the Department of Defense designation for a multi-role version of the well-known C-12 series. In April 2008, the Secretary of Defense established a DOD-wide ISR Task Force to identify and recommend solutions for increased ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. On July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense tasked the Air Force to acquire 37 “C-12” class aircraft to augment unmanned systems. Of note, it was less than eight months from funding approval to delivery in the theater.

The MC-12 capability supports all aspects of the Air Force Irregular Warfare mission (counter insurgency, foreign internal defense and building partnership capacity). Medium- to low-altitude ISR is a core mission for the Air Force.

The first MC-12 arrived at Key Field in Meridian, Mississippi, April 28, 2009. The first MC-12W flew its first combat support sortie on June 12, 2009.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

Contractor: L-3 Communications

Power plant: Pratt & Whitney PT6A-60A

Wingspan: 57 feet, 11 inches (17.65 meters)

Length: 46 feet, 8 inches (14.22 meters)

Height: 14 feet, 4 inches (4.37 meters)

Weight: 12,500 pounds empty (5,669 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 350, 15,000 pounds; 350ER, 16,500 pounds

Fuel capacity: 350, 3,611 pounds (1,638 kilograms); 350ER, 5,192 pounds (2,355 kilograms)

Speed: 312 knots

Range: 350, 1,500 nautical miles; 350ER, approximately 2,400 nautical miles

Ceiling: 35,000 feet (10,668 meters)

Armament: none

Crew: Two pilots and two sensor operators

Initial operating capability: June 2009

Unit cost: \$17 million (aircraft and all communications equipment modifications)

Inventory: Active force, 42; Reserve, 0; ANG, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ramon A. Adelan
Capt. Sam, 427th Reconnaissance Squadron MC-12W Liberty pilot, inspects the aircraft before takeoff Sept. 16, 2015, at Beale Air Force Base, California. Sam and other Beale Airmen conducted the aircraft's final flight with Air Combat Command. The MC-12W is a medium- to low-altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft, which provides intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support directly to ground forces.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca
The first MC-12 aircraft in theater lands after its first combat sortie June 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Air Force's newest intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform, the MC-12, is a medium-altitude, manned, special-mission turbo prop aircraft that supports coalition and joint ground forces.

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.)

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2790 for more information.

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

These briefings are mandatory for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link will be held on 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. May 23, 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.

Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be held on 5-7 p.m. March 22, in the A&FRC. 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.

Transition Assistance Program GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) Workshop

This workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 26-March 2, at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshop has seminars on: transition, military occupational code cross-walk, financial planning, health benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Department of Labor (TAP portion). Preseparation counseling is required before attending. Recommend attendance eight to 12 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register, call 434-2631.

Career Technical Training Track Workshop

The next Career Technical Training Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 5-6 in the

Green Dot: Train the trainer



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keith Holcomb
Team BLAZE members attend Green Dot training Feb. 22, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Green Dot helps organizations like the Air Force implement a violence prevention strategy that reduces power-based interpersonal violence, which includes sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse and bullying.

A&FRC. This workshop covers the importance and how to go about obtaining skills required to make better decisions about your technical goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief will be from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. March 6 at the Columbus Club. The orientation is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 434-2790.

Military Life Cycle

The next Military Life Cycle is from 1-2 p.m. March 6. VA contractors explain to service members (whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran) what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Federal USAJobs Workshop

This workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. March 7. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications and job search, using USAJobs. Call 434-2790 to register.

Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop is scheduled for 10-11 a.m. March 13, in the A&FRC. This monthly venue provides information for relocating members and families. Here you'll learn what to expect before you move from agencies

such as Traffic Management Office (TMO), Housing, Military Pay, Lodging, Tri-Care, School Liaison Officer and A&FRC. To register or for more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop is scheduled for 1-3:30 p.m. May 17, 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 four-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.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

This workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. May 10-11. The entrepreneurship workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register and more information call 434-2790.

Linked-In Workshop

The Linked-In workshop is from 2-5 p.m. May. 14-15. This workshop will teach you how to establish and use a Linked-In account. To register and more information, please call 434-2790.

Bundles of Joy

The next Bundles of Joy workshop is scheduled for 1-3:30 p.m. May 17, at 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.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This program provides military families and DOD civilian member's individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

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:

3:45 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex) Start date TBA
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass
Fellowship Dinner after Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month

Tuesdays:

11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass

Wednesdays:

11:30-12:30 p.m. – Adoration

Protestant Community

Sundays:

9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

Wednesdays:

4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal

Thursdays:

5:30 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)

Eccumenical services

Wednesdays:

6 p.m. – AWANA, a religious education program for children ages three years old to 6th grade
6 p.m. – Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John
6 p.m. – Youth Group

2018 Lent and Easter Guide

Stations of the cross & soup fellowship are scheduled to be held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 23, and March 2, 9, 16, 23.

Palm Sunday 5 p.m. March 25

Holy Thursday 7 p.m. March 29

Good Friday 7 p.m. March 30

Easter Sunday 5 p.m. April 1

Visit us online! www.columbus.af.mil

Follow us on Twitter! www.twitter.com/Columbus_AFB

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 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.

Lunch Buffets at the Overrun
Buffets are back! Enjoy daily lunch buffets Tuesday thru Friday at the Columbus Club. Daily buffets include: Tuesday–taco and nacho \$9, Wednesday–chicken wings and pasta \$11, Thursday–southern style \$11 and Friday-fried catfish \$11. Club members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, contact 434-2489.

BLAZE Teen Book Club
Stop by the Base Library and pick up “The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes” by Marlane Kennedy. Book discussion will be held at 4 p.m. March 21. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Mardi Gras at the Columbus Club
Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Columbus Club from 7 p.m.-midnight Feb. 24. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Menu includes red beans and rice, gumbo with rice and king cake. Must be 18 years old to attend. Drink specials available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Baseball, Tee Ball and Girls Softball Registration
Registration begins Feb. 26 for youth 3–18 years of age. The cost is \$35 for ages 3–4 years and \$40 for ages 5–18 years. Register by March 2 and save \$5 per registration. Volunteer coaches needed. Sports physical required. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Tennis Registration
Registration begins Feb. 26 for youth 8–18 years of age. The cost is \$40 per participant. Register by March 2 and save \$5 per registration. Volunteer coaches needed. Sports physical required. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Peanut Butter Lovers Day
The Columbus Club is celebrating Peanut Butter Lovers Day from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. March 1. Enjoy a hand packed peanut butter & jelly fusion burger, French fries and choice of peanut butter cookies or Reese’s peanut butter pie. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration
Celebrate Dr. Seuss with the Base Library! Create Dr. Seuss crafts and read his books from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 2 and 8 a.m.-noon. March 3. Bring your family and friends and watch “The Lorax” movie at 10 a.m. March 3. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Glow in the Dark 5K Run/Walk
The Youth Center is offering a Glow in the Dark 5K Run/Walk at 5:30 p.m. March 3 at the Youth Center parking lot. This is a free event and open to all ages and fitness levels. Sign up no later than Feb. 28 at the Youth Center. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Free Breakfast for Club Members
The Columbus Club is offering free breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. March 6, for club members; \$8 for non-members. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Youth Center Open Recreation
The Youth Center’s open recreation area will be open from



MARDI GRAS
at the Columbus Club

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
7pm until Midnight

Red Beans and Rice
Gumbo and Rice
King Cake

Ages 18 and above only
\$8 for Members and \$10 for Non-Members
Food will be served from 7:30pm until 10pm

Drink specials available for purchase
Mask contest winners will be crowned the Mardi Gras King and Queen
DJ Hustle 8pm until Midnight

For more information call 434-2489.

1-6 p.m. March 12-16. The following open recreation trips will be offered: March 13 at Skate Zone, March 14 at Malco Columbus Cinema and March 15 at Applebee’s. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Youth Center Spring Break Camp
The Youth Center is offering Spring Break Camp from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. March 12-16 for grades kindergarten-sixth grade. Fees are based on annual family income. Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, fitness, S.T.E.M., cooking and more. Current immunization records required. Register at the Youth Center no later than March 7. For more information, contact 434-2504.

St. Patrick’s Day 5K Fitness Run
The Fitness Center is offering a St. Patrick’s Day 5K run at 7 a.m. March 16. Free hats to participants while supplies last. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Wine and Cheese Tasting
Look, swirl, taste. The Columbus Club is offering a wine and cheese tasting at 7 p.m. March 16. Non-alcoholic fruit cocktails will be available. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Kick Butts Health Fair
Stand up, speak out and seize control of tobacco. Stop by the Youth Center from 4-5 p.m. March 21 and learn more about tobacco cessation. For more information, contact 434-2504.

March Madness Lunchtime three-on-three Basketball Tournament

Are you ready to shoot some hoops? Sign up by March 22 at the Fitness Center for a lunchtime three-on-three basketball tournament. The tournament begins at 1 p.m. on March 26. Games will be played in the Fitness Center gymnasium. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Spring Fling and Egg Hunt
The 14th Force Support Squadron is offering a Spring Fling and Egg Hunt from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 24 at the Café at Whispering Pines. Activities include egg hunt, dessert contest, spoon races, sack races, petting zoo, bouncy houses, create a craft tent, music by a DJ and much more. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Game Night at the Library
The Base Library is offering a free game night at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. For more information, contact 434-2934.

Horse Boarding Available
The Columbus Air Force Base 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 twenty-four 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 Open Friday Nights
The Overrun is open Fridays 4:30 p.m. until midnight. For more information, contact 434-2419.

Library Hours of Operation
The Base Library hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact 434-2934.

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.

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.

1st Qtr Dorm Dinner!!



Come out for A Night by the Fire Pit & A BBQ Dinner

What: Dorm Dinner by the Fire Pit
Enjoy pulled pork, mac and cheese, baked beans, S’mores and other desserts, provided by MSG & WSA

When: March 2, 2017 at 5 p.m.

Where: Montgomery Village
(dorm dayroom)

This will be a fun and relaxed event for ALL!!!



You're Invited!

78th Annual
Columbus, Mississippi
April 5 – 14
SPRING PILGRIMAGE

Please join us for cake and coffee as we register to host these lovely homes exclusively for Columbus Air Force Base Volunteers.
The coffee will take place Friday morning, February 23, 10 am – 12 pm at the Visit Columbus office located at 117 3rd Street South.
We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to Claudia Denham.
claudiamargaret@gmail.com

Visit COLUMBUS MISSISSIPPI
The Columbus Legends Convention and Visitors Bureau

VIEWPOINT

Military Court-Martial: 101

A court-martial is a criminal trial conducted by a branch of the U.S. military. Military members, no matter where they are stationed in the world, can be tried at a court-martial for criminal violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the military’s criminal code. In every court-martial, the accused member is entitled to a free military defense counsel regardless of the member’s income or rank; the accused can elect to retain civilian counsel at his/her own expense. There are three types of military courts-martial; summary, special and general.

A summary court-martial is the least severe. It is more administrative in nature in that a conviction at a summary court-martial will not appear on a member’s criminal record. However, if the accused is convicted at a summary court-martial, he/she could face a maximum sentence (depending on grade) of up to 30 days confinement, reduction in rank, and restriction to base. Only enlisted members can be tried at a

summary court-martial.

A conviction at a special and general court-martial will result in a criminal record outside of the military. These courts are presided over by a military judge and a jury. A special court-martial is akin to civilian misdemeanor courts. There must be a minimum of three jury members, unless the accused request trial by a judge alone. The maximum punishment a member can be sentenced to is forfeiture of two thirds basic pay for one year and/or restriction to base. Additionally, only enlisted members can received up to one year confinement and a bad conduct discharge. An officer convicted at a special court-martial cannot be discharged from service or confined, so officers often face a general court-martial even for misdemeanor-level offenses.

A general court-martial is akin to a civilian felony court. There must be a minimum of five jury members (10 members for capital cases). The maximum punishment is dependent

on what is allowable for each individual offense, but may include death, life in prison, and a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge for enlisted members or a dismissal for officers (which is equivalent to a dishonorable discharge). Before proceeding to trial, a preliminary hearing must be conducted for the purpose of determining whether there is probable cause to believe the accused committed the alleged offense(s). This process mirrors civilian and federal courts.

The burden of proof at all courts-martial falls on the government (prosecution) to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused member committed the alleged offense(s). Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves the jury members firmly convinced of the accused’s guilt. It does not require absolute mathematical certainty, nor does it mean that the evidence must be free from all conflict. It is the highest standard of evidentiary proof required in the military justice system, and it is the same standard used in civilian and federal courts. If found guilty at a court-martial, the member has the right to appeal his/her case, potentially all the way up to the Supreme Court.

L3 maintains pilot production one aircraft at a time

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

The L3 Technologies, a Mississippi aerospace and defense company, provides contracted maintenance to Columbus Air Force Base, ensuring the pilots have the aircraft they need to train at their peak performance every day.

L3 Technologies aircraft maintenance, although it is contracted out, must follow Air Force instruction and safety requirements on top of the requirements set by the company itself.

“These guys and gals ... they’re the backbone, they’re the lifeblood of the operations here,” said Paul Archer, T-38C Talon foreman. “I believe they are an essential part of the mission.”

In a managerial role over the T-38 maintenance teams, Archer manages scheduling, briefs incoming shifts, and works to ensure the airframes under his supervision are ready to fly and meeting the L3 contractual obligations to pilot training.

With over 450 L3 members and above 230 aircraft on Columbus AFB the maintainers work day and night to prepare, recover, inspect, and launch the 47 T-1A Jayhawk’s, 99



T-6A Texan II’s and the 87 T-38’s.

The crews need to be able to taxi in aircraft, park them and preform a through flight inspection, Archer said. “A through flight inspection is making sure the aircraft is not leaking, the tires are serviceable, and there’s no breaks on the airframe, stuff like that ... On night shifts and when aircraft break the mechanics become absolutely essential. That’s when the aircraft are towed into the hangers in order to repair the airplane and that’s done to meet our turnaround times.”

The pilot training mission demands aircraft be ready at all times and it’s not easy to keep that pace up, said Archer, but it must be completed to train more than 300 pilots every year.

“We have a flying schedule we go by, constantly launching and recovering aircraft, then we inspect them to ensure the aircraft to fly again and that’s pretty much a day for the flight line crews,” said William Kokoruda, T-38 lead maintainer. “It gets tight sometimes, we have to get them fueled and inspect them and now you have to look at your next launch time, you really have to watch your timeframe.”

With each airframe being inspected and repaired as fast as pilots can sit in and take off, the constant care and attention to detail is crucial.

Some of the men and women working under L3 have prior military service or are currently in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserves. The community and work

“We have a flying schedule we go by, constantly launching and recovering aircraft, then we inspect them to ensure the aircraft to fly again and that’s pretty much a day for the flight line crews,” said William Kokoruda, T-38 lead maintainer. “It gets tight sometimes, we have to get them fueled and inspect them and now you have to look at your next launch time, you really have to watch your timeframe.”

the L3 provide for pilot production is fast, efficient and has been part of the 14th Flying Training Wing for over 20 years.

“I do enjoy what I do and in the aircraft career field you learn something everyday,” Kokoruda said, “and we do the best we can and try to give the customer the best product we can at the end of the day. That’s what we do here.”



Raymond Beauregard, L3 Technologies senior aircraft maintainer, tightens screws after repairing the rotating beacon on a T-38C Talon Feb. 15, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Routine maintenance can be completed on the flight line, and is essential for quickly getting aircraft back into the air. Larger fixes are towed to one of the many hangers on Columbus AFB and are repaired day and night until completed.



Steve Henderson, L3 Technologies T-38C Talon maintainer, finishes switching the stability augmentation system on a T-38 Feb. 14, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. Maintainers must take the outside hull of the aircraft apart, similar to a shell, to reach pieces such as the engine to complete some of their maintenance.



Roy Norman, L3 Technologies T-38C Talon egress mechanic installs a survival kit onto a T-38 ejection seat, Feb. 14, 2018, on Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. After the final inspection of each T-38 seat the survival kit is reinstalled, this process ensures the seat is up to date and ready to be used in case of an emergency.

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