

71st STUS Flock Resource Packet



Welcome to our Flock!



Welcome to the 71st Student Squadron, known as the "STUS" at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma. Not only is the STUS made up of nearly 650 student pilots, thirty instructor pilots, civilians, a First Sergeant, and 85 simulator instructors, you and your family are important members of the STUCAN flock. The STUS is here to support you and your family during your time at Vance because we know the ability to take flight depends on the good health of the entire flock.

Pilot training is one of the most challenging and rewarding years you both will experience. Seventeen years ago in the span of one month we celebrated commissioning, two graduations from Kansas State, our wedding, and our first move to Vance for pilot training. Consequently, our introduction to the Air Force world at twenty-two was swift and often confusing. Although we cannot empathize with every situation, we have anxiously awaited news of the next assignment, struggled with career decisions, adapted to constantly changing plans, and moved away from friends and family.

However, despite all of the challenges, this Air Force life creates unique and amazing opportunities and lifelong friendships not found elsewhere. Looking back at our first year of marriage where stress was high and pilots look at cockpits more than partners, we realize it could have been a stumbling block for our young relationship. Fortunately, what kept us strong and positive was the amazing support system of friends and seasoned Air Force families who eased anxiety about upcoming changes, taught about Air Force life, comforted us when the Air Force threw curveballs, and celebrated achievements, opportunities, and milestones with us.

During your pilot's time in training we want you to know that we are here to help support you and your family. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or seek guidance. While we certainly do not have all the answers, we promise to connect you with someone who does. We have been at the receiving end of that support and know its value. Whether your spouse or significant other is casual status, learning to fly, graduating next week, awaiting orders, or permanent party, we welcome you to our flock!

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Get Connected- We hold informational and social events every month. Please join us on Facebook by searching for *Vance Newcomers (Student Spouses)*. If you are not on Facebook, please send an email to 71sturonspouses@gmail.com and we will add you to our email distribution.

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Section I: 71st Student Squadron

Welcome to the STUS! We want to extend a heartfelt welcome to you from the 71st Squadron spouses and significant others(SO), also known as the "STUCAN Flock." We think you will discover that the community here is very supportive – both the Air Force leadership and Enid residents. Even though moving here – and for many of you, starting Air Force life – may seem overwhelming, there are many resources and people to assist you.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance getting started - whether it is Air Force related or not. We are here to help! You can contact us on Facebook, via phone, or by email. We look forward to meeting you and helping you during your new adventure. We hope this resource packet gives you an overview of what to expect while at Vance. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming STUS Flock events!

*-Rose Calandro, Welcome Coordinator
-Laura Wilson, Key Spouse
-Meg Hewes, Key Spouse Mentor*

Initial Checklist

This packet was designed to answer the most important and common questions you may have during your time at Vance.

- ☐ Do you have housing (888-366-1238)?
- ☐ Do you have medical care (580-213-7416) set up?
- ☐ Do you know how to contact the STUS flock for assistance? [Section I](#)
- ☐ Are you connected to the STUCAN Flock via Facebook or email? [Section I](#)
- ☐ Do you know what social opportunities exist through the STUS and on base? [Section I](#)
- ☐ Do you know what resources are available to you at Vance? [Section II](#)
- ☐ Do you know about resources available in the Enid community? [Section III](#)
- ☐ Do you know what websites and pages will keep you up-to-date on happenings? [Section IV](#)
- ☐ Do you have a general understanding of your spouse/SO's program? [Section V](#)
- ☐ Are you a new Air Force spouse/SO who wants to learn the basics of rank, protocol, and military life? [Section VI](#)

*"The mission of the 71st Student Squadron is to sharpen leaders, train undergraduate pilots, and
SUPPORT FAMILIES."*

STUS Contact Information

STUS Key Spouse Mentor: Meg Hewes, (253) 229-6528, stucanspouses@gmail.com

Key Spouse: Laura Wilson, (214) 417-2079, 71sturonkeyspouse@gmail.com

Welcome Coordinator, Rose Calandro, (417) 214-9205, 71sturonspouses@gmail.com

71st STUS Commander: Lt Col Daniel Hewes, W:(580)213-5203, C:(253)229-6527, daniel.hewes@us.af.mil

71st First Shirt: MSgt Timothy Smith, W:(580)213-6271, C:(580)478-4985, timothy.smith.63@us.af.mil

Flight Commander Contact Information

Please ask your spouse/SO to help you fill out this information based on which flight he or she is assigned. This can be used in case of emergency or if you need support.

Student Squadron Phase II (8th or 33rd) Flight Commander

_____ Phone: _____

Student STUS Flight Commander

_____ Phone: _____

Student SRO*

_____ Phone: _____

*Each class will have their own Student SRO (Senior Ranking Officer-i.e. the student who has the most seniority) and Flight Commanders. Your student spouse/SO should have this information within the first few weeks of class. You will also be able to attain this information at the Flock Brief.

In case of an emergency

- If you or someone in your family has a personal emergency, the STUS Flight Commander is the first person contacted after necessary family and medical personnel. For medical emergencies involving life, limb, or eyesight, call 911 immediately.
- If you do not feel comfortable contacting your spouse/SO's flight commander(s), please contact the STUS command spouse, a Key Spouse, or STUS leadership.




Who is this toucan?

In 2015, the 71st Student Squadron voted on a new mascot, the STUCAN toucan. This also led to a new patch for the squadron designed by a student spouse.

Communication with the Flock



- **Facebook-** The 71st STUS spouse/SO group is on Facebook, so please feel free to join us! To find us, search for "Vance Newcomers (Student Spouses)," and request to join. This group is a "dummy page" because the real Facebook page uses the secret privacy setting. We will contact you through the dummy page and then add you to the real group ("STUCAN Flock"). Please feel free to use the Facebook group to ask any questions you may have. Questions get posted for all reasons – explanations of a certain phase in UPT, how to deal with repairs/ issues in housing, best places to shop or salons to use, finding someone to watch a pet, etc. Don't worry that your question would seem odd; there is always someone willing to lend advice or a helping hand! For legal reasons, however, members of the group are not allowed to post any business-related information. (You can find other Facebook groups for this purpose, like the VAFB Business Networking)
- **E-mail-** If you do not have Facebook, please email 71sturonspouses@gmail.com, and we will add you to our email distribution list.
- **Text Messaging-** We will send reminders for events via text messaging. We use  to prevent anyone from "replying to all" or seeing everyone's information. Send a text to 81010 with the message @71717171 to sign-up. You will then be asked a few questions. Answer "student" and your name and birthday when prompted. You do not need to download the app to receive messages. They will go directly to your text messages. While you can reply to the message, it will only go to owners of the class.
- **The Chirping STUCAN-** At the beginning of each month the lead spouse and highlighted flock member post a review of monthly happenings in the STUS. A summary of the information in calendar form will also be shared.

Leadership Roles in the Flock

- **STUCAN Flock Board-** There is a STUS spouse/SO board that welcomes newcomers, organizes socials and education opportunities, helps with communication, and allows the Flock group to flourish. If you are interested in a position, please contact [Meg Hewes](#).
- **Key Spouse-** The key spouse program is a formal commander's initiated program. Key Spouses are trained to provide information and support to families navigating the military lifestyle. They are valuable resources so do not hesitate to ask them questions or ask for support.

STUCAN FLOCK

Social & Educational Opportunities

Flock Socials

- Monthly
- Activity for everyone to interact and have fun.
- Location varies.

Newcomers Nest Brief

- Monthly
- Informational event for people who just arrived at Vance.
- Vance Club
- First Monday of the month at 9am

T-6 Flock Brief

- Monthly
- For flock members whose pilot just started flying the T-6
- Tour of Squadron and airplane
- 8th or 33rd Sq.

Migration Grad Brief

- Bi-Monthly
- For flock members whose pilot is nearing graduation.
- Learn about graduation.
- Happy Hour at Vance Club

Flying the Coop PCS Brief

- Bi-Monthly
- For flock members who are about to move.
- Learn about PCSing.
- Lunch & Learn at Vance Club

Plane Panel

- Bi-annually
- For any flock member who wants to learn about different airframes from the spouses' perspective
- Learn about ops tempo, locations etc.
- Location & Time TBD

Flock Info Fair

- Bi-annually
- For any flock member who wants to learn about base and local resources, opportunities programs, and events
- Over 20 agencies
- August & January

Flock Sub-Groups

- There are a variety of subgroups within our spouses' flock.
- Little STUEYS (playgroup)
- Bunco
- Book Club
- Dog Flock



STUS Flock Opportunities

Section II: Vance Air Force Base

Base Essential Phone Numbers

Airman and Family Readiness Center (A&FRC)
(580) 213-6330

Chaplain Service
(580) 213-7211

Cherokee Lodge
(580) 213-7358

Child Development Center (CDC)
(580) 213-7310

Command Post
(580) 213-7384

EFMP (Ginel Kennedy)
(580) 213-7399

Employment Assistance (Stephanie Holets)
(580) 213-7087

Equipment Rentals
(580) 213-7348

Finance Assistance (Angel Dominquez)
(580) 213-7873

Housing and Maintenance
(580) 234-0658

Legal Office
(580) 213-7404

Library
(580) 213-7368

Medical Clinic Appointment Line
(580) 213-7416

Medical Clinic After-Hours Appointment Line
(580) 249-4471

Medical Clinic Referral Line
(580) 213-7367

Mental Health & Family Advocacy
(580)-213-7419

MFLAC Military Family Life Consultant
(580) 478-3446

Pharmacy Refill Line (Allow 2-3 days for refill)
(508)213-7292

School-Aged Programs
(580) 213-7474

School Liaison
(580) 213-6285

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
Office (580)213-5598
24/7 Cell (580) 541-7095

Ticket Travel & Information Office
(580) 213-6268

Veterinary Clinic (Visits twice monthly)
(405) 734-5780

Visitor Control Center (Hairston Main Gate)
(580) 213-5528

Youth Center
(580) 213-7474



Hours of Base Agencies and Services

Base Exchange

M–Th 9 am–7 pm

F–Sat 9 am–8 pm

Sunday 10 am–6 pm

Commissary

M Closed

T–F 9 am–7 pm

Sat 9 am–6 pm

Sun 10am–5pm

*It is closed the Tuesday after a Monday holiday.

Fitness Center Clinic

M–Th 5 am–11 pm

F 5 am–9 pm

Sa–Sun 8 am–8 pm

Family Housing Office Holidays

M–F 8 am–5 pm

Legal Office

POA/Notary: M–Th 8:30am–4pm, Fri: 8:30 -- 11:30 a.m., 1:30 -- 4 p.m.

Legal assistance hours by appointment: Mon -- Fri: 8:30 a.m. -- 3 p.m.

TriCare Office

M–F 7:30am–4:30pm

MPF Customer Service

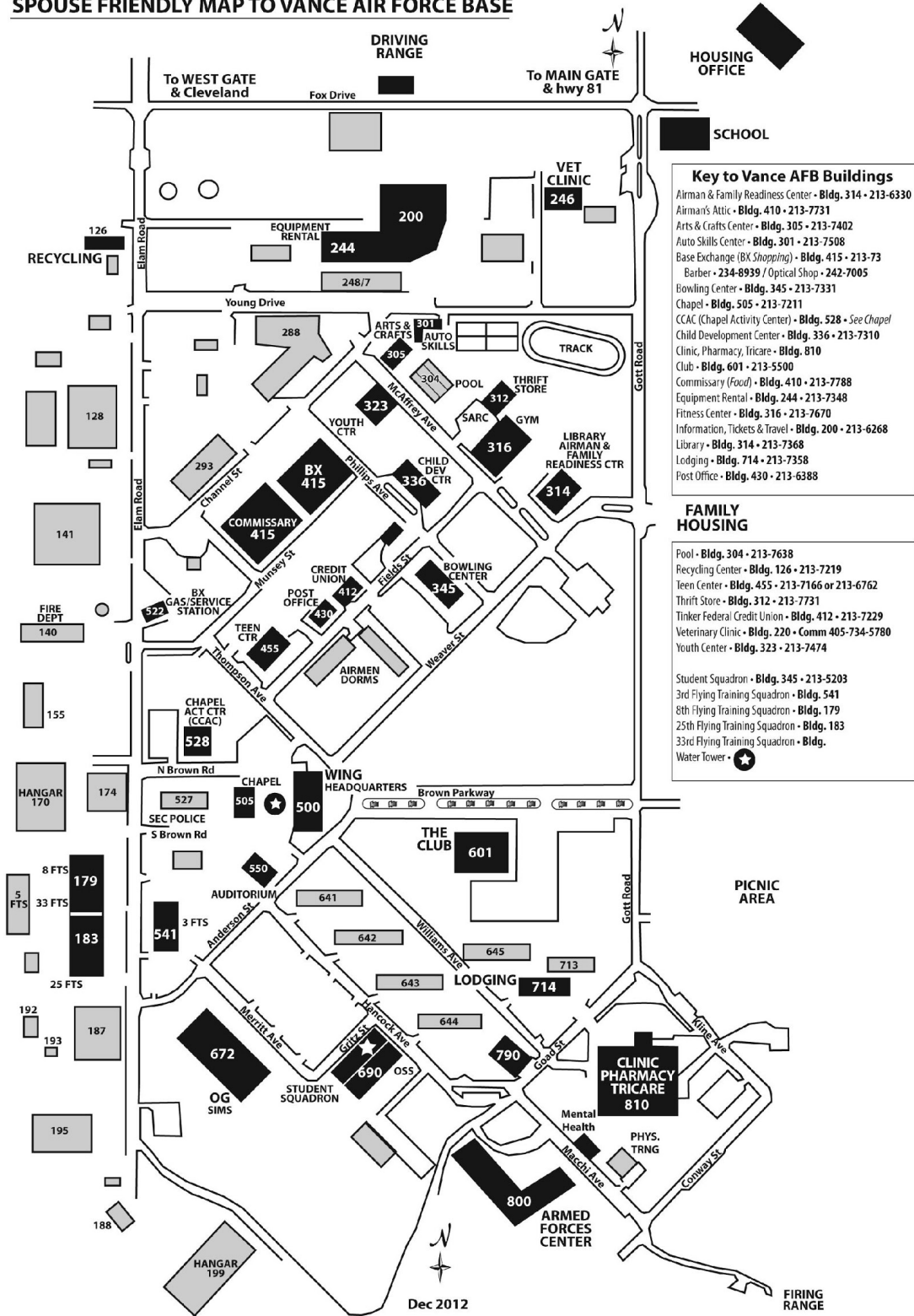
M–F 8 am–4 pm

Pharmacy

M–F 7:30am–12:30pm, 1:30pm–4:30pm

Base Map

SPOUSE FRIENDLY MAP TO VANCE AIR FORCE BASE



Chain of Command

Wing Commander: Col Jay Johnson
Ops Group Commander: Col Erick Turasz
71st STUS Commander: Lt Col Daniel Hewes

VANCE AFB WING COMMAND

As your spouse begins JSUPT, you might hear him or her refer to various parts of the command structure, such as the Wing, Group, Squadron, or Flight. This bracket will show you the command hierarchy from the wing (all of Vance) all the way down to the Operations Group's flights (there are two flights per class). Although not shown, the Medical Group and Mission Support Group command squadrons and flights of their own.



Base Resources & Tips

Airman & Family Readiness (A&FRC)

- The Airman & Family Readiness Center is located next to the fitness center and in the same building as the library, building 314. We HIGHLY encourage you to check out their resources!
- Employment Support- They have dedicated employees who help spouses obtain quality jobs.
- Relocation assistance
- Childcare and local school information
- OBGYN orientations for expectant mothers volunteer opportunities
- Family life consultants and counseling
- Babysitting training
- Newcomer's programs
- Leadership Pathways & Resiliency Training
- Free Tax Help- they complete a list of tax volunteers updated yearly.
- Financial Counseling services
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) support

Vance AFB Commissary

- Closed Mondays
- Baggers work for tips only. Tip amount will vary with your comfort level and amount of groceries purchased. Baggers will bag your groceries and take them to your vehicle to load. It is appropriate to tip after they have loaded your goods.

Base Logistical Tips

- You cannot walk/run around base with headphones or earbuds because it is a safety hazard. You can only use them on the track.
- After dark, you should wear a reflective belt when walking outside.
- When riding a bicycle on base a helmet must be worn at all times.
- The speed limit in base housing is 15mph. Exceeding the speed limit by 7mph will result in license suspension for 30 days.
- There is a dog park. Help keep the privilege and follow the posted rules. The dog park is located on the north side of Woodring Pkwy between Lehr St. and Parker St.
- There are species and breed restrictions on pets in base housing. Contact the housing office for current information.
- You may have up to 3 pets on base.
- Park on the correct side of the street and look for the signs.
- Reservists- Base housing cannot take the allotment from your paycheck as it does for active duty. Instead, you will need to go in and pay rent monthly.

Reveille, Retreat, & TAPS

- Every day there is reveille in the morning when the flag is raised, retreat at 5 pm when the flag is lowered, and taps in the evening to show respect to those who paid the ultimate price. These are played on the loudspeakers on base. During reveille and retreat if you are outside you must face the flag, and if you are driving, you must stop your car.

Vance Spouses Club

- This group is open to all spouses on base and is a great way to meet fellow spouses.
- They hold monthly socials and fundraise for charity and scholarships.

Vance Force Support Squadron (FSS)

- Make sure to check out their web page or Facebook page. They are always organizing great events for Vance families.
- They are in charge of the gym, arts and crafts center, equipment rentals, and youth center.

School Liaison Officer

- If you have school-aged children, contact them to find out all of your schooling options. They are highly knowledgeable and a great resource.

The Bradley Fitness Center & Health and Wellness Center

- Offers free fitness, group, and health education classes
- Open 24 hours with an approved access card. See gym front desk for details.

Air Force Aid Society 20hrs Free PCS Child Care

- The AFAS will provide you with a Signed Certificate of Eligibility to take with you to the Child Development Center and/or School-Aged Program for twenty hours of drop-in care, on a space-available basis. This service is available on both ends of your move (20 hours childcare/per child when you depart a base and 20 more hours at your receiving base).
- You must contact the CDC & School-Aged Programs in advance for availability and documents to bring: Copy of PCS Orders & Parent military ID card.

Library

- 3D printer available
- Lots of resources: grab-and-go crafts, storytime, summer reading programs, and much more.

Visitors

- Vance AFB Visitors Center is located near the static plane displays on the left just before the gate.
- Guests must have a sponsor with a military ID to enter Vance AFB.
- All guests must have some form of picture ID with them to enter Vance AFB and must register at the visitors' center for a pass before gaining base access.
- If the guests are entering Vance AFB in their own vehicle, without a military ID in the vehicle, then a visitor's pass must be obtained. They will need driver's licenses, car registration, proof of insurance, and a sponsor to obtain a pass. Once they have a pass (that must be carried at all times on base) they can enter and leave base as desired as long as the pass is valid.
- The Visitors Center issues visitor passes during normal operating hours. When the Visitors center is closed, the Hairston main gate can issue visitor passes.
- Visiting foreign nationals must have extra processing time to be issued a pass. Contact the Visitors Center at least four weeks before arrival to ensure proper processing.



Medical Information

VANCE AFB Clinic

- Location: 527 Gott Road or Building #810 · Hours of Operation Monday – Friday 0730-1630 · Clinic Appointment Line (580) 213-7416
- Clinic Pharmacy (580) 213-7783
- Clinic Pharmacy – Prescription Refill* (580) 213-7292 or 1-800-453-0387
- Clinic Referral Line (580) 213-7367

TriCare

- TriCare Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-874-2273, Option 1
 - If it's after hours or you are not sure if you need to see a doctor, call TRICARE'S Nurse Advice Line – 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. You can talk to a registered nurse who can:
 - Answer your urgent care questions
 - Give you health care advice
 - Help you find a doctor
 - Schedule next-day appointment at military hospitals and clinics
- Humana Military/TriCare East Region: 1-800-444-5445
- Appointment Referral when you are out of the East Region area: 1-800-444-5445, www.tricare.mil, www.tricareonline.com

A Note About Your Benefits

- Military dependents qualify for the TriCare Prime benefits package at no cost. Vance AFB is located in TriCare's s East region. This medical and vision insurance program is an HMO. That means that all off-base doctors' visits (except for mental health services) require a referral from the base clinic beforehand.
- Spouses and families can also enroll in the United Concordia dental program, which is automatically deducted from their paycheck. Your spouse should receive a briefing on this option during their medical in-processing which spouses are encouraged to attend. The dental clinic at Vance AFB is for military members only; families will need to use an off-base dentist.
- When visiting an off-base doctor's office, your insurance policy ID# is your spouse's Social Security Number. If you or a family member need to go to the Emergency Room after business hours, you need to call TriCare within 24 hours after the visit.
- You can upgrade your insurance policy to the PPO option, called TriCare Standard, which does not require pre-approved referrals
- An annual eye appointment does not require a clinic referral. An annual gynecologist checkup does not require but is highly encouraged to receive, a pre-approval referral. However, you must still choose an in-network doctor.

Section III: Enid Resources & Information

Enid is the ninth-largest city in Oklahoma. It is the county seat of Garfield County. As of the 2010 census, the population was 49,379. Enid was founded during the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in the Land Run of 1893 and is named after Enid, a character in Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*. Enid holds the nickname of "Queen Wheat City" and "Wheat Capital" of Oklahoma and the United States for its immense grain storage capacity and has the third-largest grain storage capacity in the world. Enid's weather conditions are characterized by hot summers, cold, occasionally snowy winters, and thunderstorms in the spring. (wikipedia) Although Enid may have less to do than larger cities, the small-town charm helps make up for it. You may even find yourself wanting to stay here longer or come back for another assignment.

Important information about Enid

- Area Code (580)
- Zipcodes 73701, 73702, 73703, 73705 (Base offices)
- Garfield County
- Weather alert station 162.475 MHz

Emergency Information

- To receive text message alerts from Enid and Garfield County Office of Emergency Management text your zip code to 888777
- The Enid & Garfield County Office of Emergency Management is on Facebook. Check for up-to-date announcements primarily regarding weather.
- Keep a weather radio in your home set to weather alert mode for alerts channels are: 103.1 - KOFM; 960 - KGWA - AM; 107.1 – KNID; 95.7 KXLS - FM; 1390 - KCRC - AM
- When on base, listen for alerts over the big-voice system. Off-base, listen for sirens.
- For information on how to prepare for emergencies visit www.ready.gov
- Living in "tornado alley" may be concerning, but if you are prepared and know what to do in case of severe weather, you will be fine. Have a plan on where to go if there is a "tornado warning." Note that a "tornado watch" means be alert, but it is not necessary to seek shelter. However, a "tornado warning" may warrant moving to a tornado shelter, interior room without windows, or basement. Also, be prepared for possible hail by securing your possessions and vehicles.
- Contact the Vance Emergency Management Office (580)213-7579 for tips.

Activities

- Gaslight Theatre
- Enid Symphony
- Leonardo's Children's Museum
- David Allen Memorial Ballpark
- Concerts & Events at the Stride Bank Center
- Mainstreet Enid Events including First Friday Downtown
- Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center
- Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park
- Red Bird Farms
- Meadowlake Park, train, carousel, and ferris wheel
- Autry Tech's hobby classes (ex cooking, beekeeping)
- Hoover & Champion Splash Pads



Section IV: Digital Resources

Useful websites

- Vance AFB Official Website www.vance.af.mil
- Vance AFB Services <https://www.vanceafb71fss.com/>
- Enid Buzz www.enidbuzz.com
- Oklahoma Tourism Department www.travelok.com
- Enid www.visitenid.org, www.enid.org
- Vance Family Housing www.vancefamilyhousing.com
- Military One Source www.militaryonesource.mil
- Automated Housing Referral Network www.ahrn.com
- Military By Owner www.militarybyowner.com
- Armed Forces Vacation Club www.afvclub.com
- Emergency Preparedness www.ready.gov

Relevant Facebook Pages:

- 71st STUCAN Flock Group- [Vance Newcomers \(Student Spouses\)](#)
- [Little Stueys](#)
- [STUS Flock Bunco](#)
- [STUS Dog Flock](#)
- [STUS Flock Book Club](#)
- [Vance AFB](#)
- [Vance Library](#)
- [Vance Spouses' Club](#)
- [Vance Business Network](#)
- [Vance Job Link](#)
- [Vance AFB Bradley Fitness and Sports Center](#)
- [AFMS - Vance - 71st Medical Group](#)
- [Vance AFB Force Support Squadron](#)
- [SARC Vance Air Force Base](#)
- [Vance AFB Family Connection](#)
- [Vance AFB Airman & Family Readiness Center](#)
- [Falcon's Nest Bowling Center Vance AFB](#)
- [Vance Airscoop](#)
- [Vance AFB Airman's Attic](#)
- [Vance AFB Thrift Shop](#)
- [Vance AFB UPT Graduation](#)
- [Vance Youth Programs](#)
- [Vance ArtsCrafts](#)
- [Enid Buzz](#)
- [Main Street Enid, Inc.](#)
- [Enid Chamber of Commerce](#)

Section V: Pilot Training

Training Timeline & Schedule

Vance is currently transitioning UPT 2.5 that will dramatically change the training schedule. Depending on the specific program your pilot is in, the training timeline will vary drastically. Expect twelve-hour days and lots of studying.

Pre-Flight Phase: Academics and Aerospace Physiology

Primary Phase:

T-6A at Vance: 8th or 33rd Flying Training Squadrons

Advanced Phase:

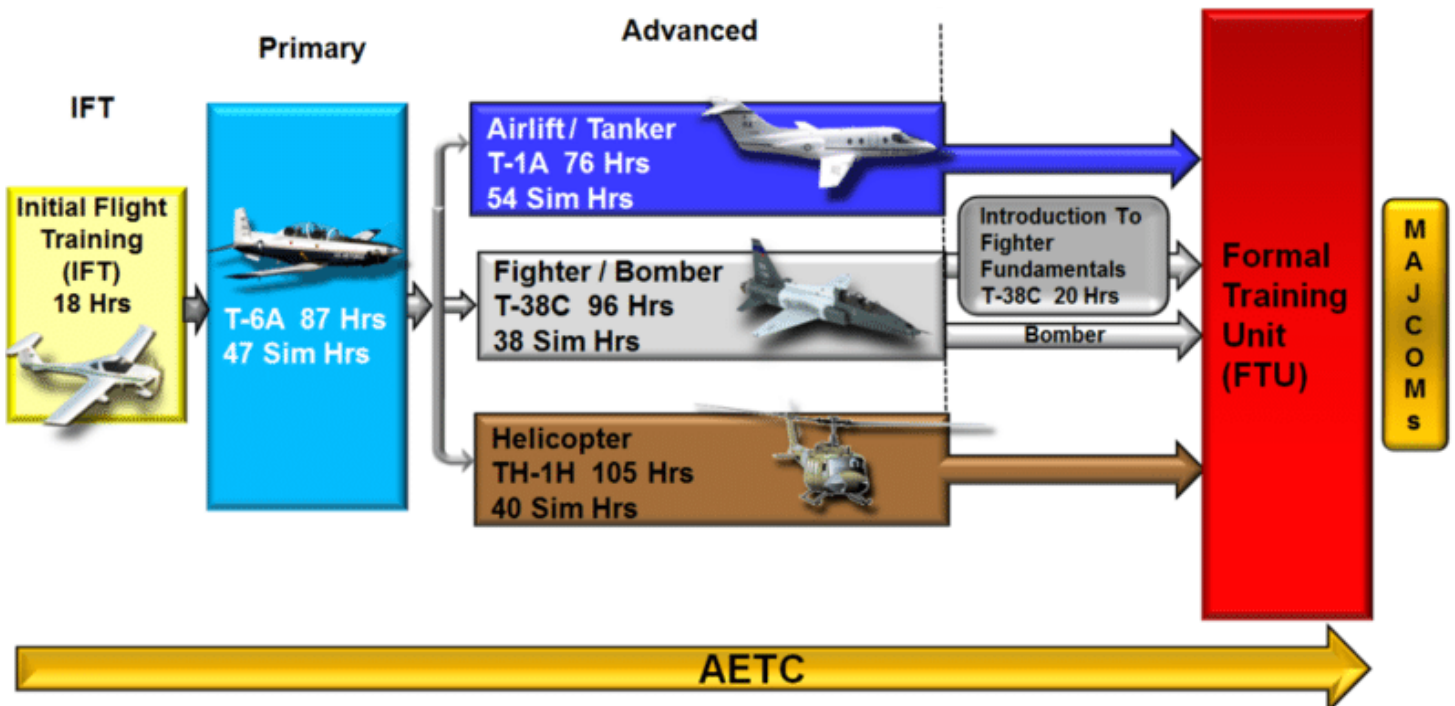
T-1A at Vance: 3rd Flying Training Squadron

OR

T-38C at Vance: 25th Flying Training Squadron

Assignment Possibilities

- T-38C Possible Assignments: B-1, B-52, A10, F-22, E-3, B-2, F-15C, F-15E, F-16
The T-38 is universally assignable. In addition to the above airframes, see the T-1 list below for other possible assignments.
- T-1 Possible Assignments: C-130, C-17, C-5, KC-10, KC-135, E-3, E-8, C-21, C-146, CV-22



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-Traditional-Pilot-Pipeline_fig2_326497784

Pilot Training (SUPT)

T-6 Solo Flight

- What is it? It is your spouse/SO's first flight without an instructor in a T-6 Primary Phase. It is preceded by a flight with an instructor before students are sent out by themselves. Solo flights may last up to one hour. After the solo flight, your spouse/SO will be thrown in the traditional "dunk tank" to celebrate his or her first flight.
- When and where is it? You will meet one of your spouse/SO's flight mates to sponsor you during the solo flight. You must obtain a pass from Base OPS before you are allowed on the flight line. You may not leave your sponsor at any time. You must remain behind the yellow line to prevent interruption.
- Who is invited? Spouses/SOs are welcome to attend to take pictures.
- What is the dress code? This is a casual event. You will be standing along the flight line, so consider the weather. Enid is breezy on the best of days so loose clothing may fly away.

Track Select

- What is it? It is the end of the Primary Phase of pilot training. The students "track" into the Advanced Phase of training into helicopters, T-1s, or T-38s.
- When and where is it? This is class-dependent and will look different for each class.
- Who is invited? Anyone connected to or in support of that class.
- What is the dress code? It is uniform of the day, and casual for spouses/SOs

Assignment Night

- What is it? Your class, both T-1s and T-38s, will likely meet at the Vance Club for the presentations of the Class Patch and Class Video to the base. This is followed by a humorous, yet meaningful presentation of the student assignments (what airframe and base everyone gets). They will start with the SRO (senior ranking officer) and proceed alphabetically. Food and beverage items (these may vary from class to class) may be served, while the supply lasts, to the attendees of the assignment night.
- When and where is it? Assignment Night usually takes place inside the Vance Club
- Who is invited? Students are welcome to bring their families. However, the bar will be open throughout the event; activities/language is not monitored to be "kid-friendly."
- What is the dress code? Assignment night is an informal event. The students will be in flight suits. Feel free to wear jeans to this event.

Graduation Morning

**UPT 2.5 and Covid have significantly impacted graduation events. They may vary from what is written below.*

- What is it? This is the ceremony when each student pilot receives his or her wings. There is also a DV (distinguished visitor) who will speak and awards will be presented.
 - Pictures during the ceremony: The front row is intentionally left empty to allow family to come forward and take pictures during their student's time upfront. Once they are done getting pictures they are to return to their seats. The auditorium will also be left unlocked and lighted to allow for additional time after the ceremony for pictures.
 - Please note that most students may borrow a pair of magnetic wings to use during the pinning ceremony. It aids in the overall timing of the event.
- When and where is it? It is held in the base auditorium. Many families arrive early to obtain good seats. The ceremony lasts approximately 50 minutes.

- Who is invited? Any family or friends the student wishes to invite are welcome.
- What is the dress code? Students will be in their dress blues. The dress code is business casual.' Nice pants and a collared shirt are appropriate for men, and a sundress or nice pants outfit is appropriate for ladies. Jeans are inappropriate for this occasion. The floor is slanted downwards, so be aware of this when choosing your shoes.

Graduation Evening

- Unfortunately, due to COVID and UPT 2.5 changes, this event is constantly evolving. We will keep the flock updated during routine "migration briefs."

Traveling during UPT

- You (a civilian) can go where you want when you want; however, your spouse/SO does not have the same freedoms.
- Your spouse/SO must get all overnight travel approved. If they do not spend the night in their own bed, then their flight commander needs to know about it.
- Generally, there is no time during pilot training to take leave. The schedule is very busy and does not allow for vacation time. However, students will get federal holidays and family days off.
- Your spouse/SO's schedule following graduation will vary depending on follow-on training. It is not wise to plan a vacation right after graduation until your spouse/SO knows his/her orders.
- If there are important upcoming events that your spouse/SO needs to be present for (i.e. your own wedding celebration or birth) it is possible that he/she can be there. However, his/her flight commander must be made aware of the situation as soon as possible so arrangements can be made. There is no guarantee that training will allow for time off for the event.
- There are geographical restrictions on where your spouse/SO can travel. Check with your spouse/SO before booking any vacations to make sure they meet the requirements for travel.

Additional Training Before & After SUPT

IFT (Initial Flight Training)

IFT is a program at Pueblo Municipal Airport in Pueblo, CO with 22 training days. All OAPTs (Officer Awaiting Pilot Training) attend IFT for initial flight training that includes basic ground school and 12-18 hours of flying before returning to Vance AFB to begin pilot training. Potential students who have previous flight experience may have this portion of training waived.

Land and Water Survival Training (SERE)

Water survival lasts approximately one week at NAS Pensacola, FL for fighter, bomber, and trainer aircraft and at Fairchild AFB, WA for heavy aircraft. Land survival (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) is one month and takes place at Fairchild AFB, WA for all aircraft. Air Force Academy graduates who have completed the survival portion of the training will only go for one week to complete the resistance portion of the training.

IFF (Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals)

IFF is a six to eight-week course in the AT-38C at Sheppard AFB, TX, Columbus AFB, MS, and Randolph AFB, TX. This is where T-38 graduates with fighter follow-ons learn basic fighter tactics before going on to their specific fighter aircraft.

Formal Training Unit (FTU)

After your time in Vance, you likely will not go straight to the base you were assigned; rather, you will attend follow-on training at another base. Fighter pilots will attend IFF before aircraft-specific training. Generally, everyone else will attend aircraft-specific training at a training base before moving to the base they were assigned. For example, C-17, KC-135, and KC-46 pilots will attend training on that aircraft in Altus, Oklahoma before going to their assigned base. Locations of training bases vary widely.

FAIP (First Assignment Instructor Pilot)

If your spouse/SO is chosen to become a First Assignment Instructor Pilot, you will stay at Vance for approximately three years while he/she instructs students. Your spouse/SO will have to attend instructor training (PIT) at Randolph AFB in San Antonio before instructing students at Vance.

Section VI: Air Force Spouse/SO Newbie Guide

Making the Most of a New Base

How you and your family approach living on or near a base will in large part determine your quality of life as a military family. If you look at life in the military community as an adventure — full of exciting new opportunities and friends to cherish for the rest of your life — you will learn, grow, and enjoy yourself, too. Here are some ways to make installation life the best possible experience:

"Take charge" of your life on the installation. A positive attitude is everything! While there are many programs and facilities available at Vance Air Force Base, it's up to you to take advantage of them. When you're invited to that first "coffee" or another event for spouses/SOs, be sure to accept — this is where you can get many of your first questions answered by people who are familiar with military life. Be sure to attend any welcome events. You are likely to meet other newcomers who are looking for friendship.

Take advantage of programs available to spouses/SO new to the community. Inquire about spouse/SO education programs, on-base life, "Spouse Connect Tour" briefings, and social events.

If you have children, get them involved in base activities. Whether it's scouting, piano, baseball, or soccer, your child is sure to find an activity of his or her liking. Vance's youth center and teen center offer various classes and activities.

Get to know your neighbors. Practically everyone at Vance AFB is in a situation similar to yours — in a new town, away from family, and surrounded by unfamiliar faces. Other military families seek the same things you do, including a sense of community and wholesome family activities. Reach out to these families for friendship, education about military life, and a general sense of belonging. Remember it is important to have respect for and be gracious to all military members and their families, regardless of rank.

Get to know your base and the local community. Be sure to: Read [The Air Scoop](#), Vance AFB's weekly newspaper. It comes out on Fridays and can be picked up at the Commissary, Airman & Family Readiness, the gym & more. For base resources, contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Attend Vance AFB City Hall meetings when offered and check out the local newspaper [Enid News & Eagle](#) or [Enid Buzz](#) online. These will allow you to learn accurate information about policies, changes, or events that affect life at Vance AFB and in the Enid community. Participate in your military community activities. You can usually find out about these activities through advertisements and announcements on the squadron Facebook page, in the monthly magazine, [What's Happening App](#), on marquees, and flyers distributed throughout the installation.

Learn about your new military culture. Classes for spouses/SOs explaining rank, structure, history, and protocol may be offered through base programs, spouse organizations, or by the service member's command. Talk to your Key Spouses. Adapted From: www.militaryonesource.com

OPSEC

Here are some things to consider in our increasingly digital world. As a military spouse/SO these issues are even more important. Please be cautious with your online presence and use appropriate etiquette on our STUS page.

What Is OPSEC?

Operations Security, or OPSEC, keeps potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. Our adversaries want our information, and they don't concentrate on only military members to get it. They want you, the family member. As a family member of our military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved one's safety. You can protect your family and friends by protecting what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. That's OPSEC.

Protecting Critical Information

Even though information may not be "classified", it can be what we call "critical information." Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations, or activities. By being a member of the military family, you will often know some bits of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially not over the telephone or internet.

Examples of Critical Information

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details on locations and times of deployments (or homecomings).
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (Examples: pay information, powers of attorney, wills, deployment information).
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems.
- References to illness, injury, or death that has occurred.
- Details concerning security procedures.

Tips For Military Families

- Keep information vague. Avoid sharing information about the current location of you or your family. NEVER post specific information about your spouse/SO's travels.
- Make your security settings restrictive. Check the settings on your devices and social networking sites to ensure only approved friends can view your profile and information about you.
- Be sure to double-check your settings each time you load photos. Often, strangers can still see the photos you post through friends of friends, even if security settings are restrictive.
- Disable Geotag on your phone to avoid specific locations being attached to photos and posts.
- Stay current. Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online.
- Post only about others as you would have them post about you.

Adapted From: www.armymedicine.army.mil & www.staysafeonline.com

Intro to Protocol and Etiquette

Many times during the Air Force member's career you will be invited to attend all sorts of ceremonies, from promotions and changes of command to formal dinners and retirement functions. Knowing a little about Protocol can make you feel more comfortable and confident. Protocol is nothing to be afraid of or worried about. To quote from the Protocol Primer, "Protocol is an adherence to customs, tempered with a touch of common sense, good manners, and a concern for others."

Dress code

The invitation will indicate the type of attire. When in doubt, call the host of the event and ask what the appropriate dress will be. What the military member is required to wear to an event can also be a good indication of what sort of civilian clothing would be appropriate.

- Very Casual- Corresponds with the type of function (BBQ, hayride, sporting event, etc.). Usually jeans or shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. For this type of event, the member will also probably wear civilian clothing.
- Casual - Corresponds to what would ordinarily be worn to work on a day-to-day basis. Ladies - slacks, simple dress, skirt, and blouse. Men - open collar shirt, khakis. Air Force members wear the "duty uniform."
- Sport Coat and Tie- Ladies - church dress or dressy slacks outfit. Men - sports jacket, slacks, and tie. When the invitation specifies "sport coat and tie," the Air Force member would typically wear civilian clothing instead of uniform.
- Business Suit/Informal- Most closely corresponds to "informal." Ladies - business suit, or dressy, street-length or Sunday dress (very similar to the Sport Coat and Tie dress code). Men - dark (subdued) suit and tie. Air Force member's "business suit" is the Service Dress Blues. Service Dress is most often worn to the promotion and retirement ceremonies, changes of command, parades, pass and reviews, and official visits of VIPs and dignitaries.
- Semi-Formal- A slight step down from formal attire. Ladies - cocktail dress (knee length or tea length) or dressy cocktail pants outfit. Men - dark distinguished business suit. Mess Dress uniform for Air Force members.
- Formal- Known as "black tie." For the Air Force member, this is the Mess Dress equivalent and is appropriate attire for functions like the Dining-In/Out, Graduations, annual award dinners, military weddings (as a participant), and various civilian "black tie" affairs, like charity galas or holiday balls. Civilian equivalent to the Mess Dress uniform for men is a black tuxedo with a black bow tie. Ladies - long or short evening dress. Keep in mind that anything shorter than 2 inches above the knee is never appropriate.

Ceremonies and Events

- Awards and Decorations- The Air Force presents many levels of awards in recognition of service or achievement. The Commander's timely presentation of the appropriate decoration at a "public" ceremony greatly enhances the value of the award to the recipient and is a plus for the entire unit. Award/Decoration ceremonies range from formal reviews to presentations at Commander's Call and much smaller informal office ceremonies, depending largely on the recipient's desires. The basic elements of this ceremony include the reading of the official orders and the presentation of the award or decoration. Dress for these events ranges from casual to business suit/informal. Spouses/SOs and family members are invited and encouraged to attend.

- Formal Military Dinners- Formal military dinners are a tradition in all branches of the Armed Forces. A Dining-In or Dining-Out is designed so that Air Force members can celebrate formally as a unit but also enjoy frivolity with various forms of skits and entertainment interspersed.
 - o The Dining-In is a formal dinner for Air Force members of a wing or a squadron. The "Combat Dining-In" is far less formal because of the dress requirements and more informal atmosphere.
 - o The Dining-Out is a formal dinner similar to the Dining-In but includes spouses/SOs and guests, as does the "Combat Dining-Out."
- Promotions- The promotion ceremony is important to the fabric of the Air Force, as it recognizes Air Force members for their selection to serve in the next higher rank/grade and, with that, to accept the increased responsibility that goes with that exciting achievement. The basic elements of this ceremony are similar to that of the Awards and Decorations, with the reading of the official orders and the pinning of the new rank/insignia. Dress for these events ranges from casual to business suit/informal. Spouses/SO and family members are invited to participate in the promotion ceremony with the "pin-on." Dress for these events ranges from casual to business suit/informal.
- Changes of Command- The change of command ceremony is a clear, legal, and symbolic passing of authority and responsibility from one Commander to the next. After the ceremony, the new Commander and spouse will typically host a reception immediately afterward, which may include a receiving line. By tradition, the outgoing Commander and spouse seldom attend this reception as a courtesy.

Honors to the Flag

- During the National Anthem, face the flag or music and put your right hand over your heart.
- Retreat is usually sounded with the National Anthem at the end of the duty day. Civilians should face the flag or in the direction of the flag and place their right hand over the heart. If driving a vehicle, come to a complete stop with your flashers on until the playing of the National Anthem is complete and the flag is lowered and secured.

The Air Force Song- Always stand (and sing!) for the Air Force song, which is typically played after an official function.

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;

Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!












Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
(Give 'em the gun! Hey!)

We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Adapted from <https://www.usafservices.com/Home/SpouseSupport.aspx>














A Quick Guide to Air Force Rank

Officer Ranks

O-1	2 nd Lt	Second Lieutenant	
O-2	1 st Lt	First Lieutenant	
O-3	Capt	Captain	
O-4	Maj	Major	
O-5	Lt Col	Lieutenant Colonel	
O-6	Col	Colonel	
O-7	Brig Gen	Brigadier General	
O-8	Maj Gen	Major General	
O-9	Lt Gen	Lieutenant General	
O-10	Gen	General	
Special	GAF	General of the Air Force	

Adapted from: <http://servingtogetherproject.org/resources/military-rank-structure>

Enlisted Officer Ranks

E-1	AB	Airman Basic	No Insignia
E-2	Amn	Airman	
E-3	A1C	Airman First Class	
E-4	SrA	Senior Airman	
E-5	SSgt	Staff Sergeant	
E-6	Tsgt	Technical Sergeant	
E-7	MSgt	Master Sergeant	
E-7	-	First Sergeant (with diamond)	
E-8	SMSgt	Senior Master Sergeant	
E-8	-	First Sergeant (with diamond)	
E-9	CMSgt	Chief Master Sergeant	
E-9	-	First Sergeant (with diamond)	
E-9	CCM	Command Chief Master Sergeant	
E-9 Special	CMSAF	Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force	

Section VII: Glossary of Air Force Acronyms & Flight Training Terms

- AD- Active Duty
- AFSC- Air Force Specialty Code. This designates a service member's "job" in the Air Force.
- Altitude Chamber: A large walk-in tank-like structure capable of seating more than a dozen individuals. Once the door is sealed, the air within can be pumped out, creating a low-pressure environment that simulates high altitudes.
- Assignment Night: A festive ceremony when advanced students find out the aircraft and location assignments they have earned.
- BAH- Basic Allowance for Housing. What the military pays each month if you do not live on base. Calculated by rank and zip code.
- BAS- Basic Allowances for Subsistence. What the military pays each month for a service member's food if they will not generally eat at the chow hall/mess hall.
- Base Operations (Ops): A facility found at every military airfield where the pilot can check the weather, and file a flight plan.
- Boldface: A set of checklist items that have been determined to be "critical action" procedures. Critical action procedures must be committed to and applied from memory (verbatim) when a situation warrants. Most military aircraft have a set of boldface procedures and pilots are periodically tested to see if they can write the boldface from memory.
- Bust: See "Hook"
- BX- Base Exchange. A non-grocery store on an Air Force base.
- CAI: Computer-Aided Instruction
- Casual Duty: Status of active-duty students who are given various duties around the base to keep them from being idle and to maximize personnel resources throughout the wing. At Vance AFB, "Causal" officers are referred to as OAPters (Officers Awaiting Pilot Training).
- CBT: Computer-based training
- CDC- Child Development Center. On-base daycare at affordable rates.
- Checklist: A technical publication supplement to the Dash 1 that is required to be carried and used in the cockpit. Pilots are required to reference the checklist during various stages of flight and ground operation to ensure no steps are missed.
- Commander's Awareness Program (CAP): A supervisory tool used by the Squadron Commander to monitor students who have difficulty with training. It involves counseling and arrangements to provide the student with tighter instructor continuity and a limited flying schedule.
- Commander's Review: A formal process in which the wing commander determines a student's future when they are eligible for elimination from pilot training. After considering the student's motivation, past performance, and potential to complete his or her training, the Operations Group

Commander will submit a recommendation affirming or overturning the elimination to the Wing Commander, who makes the final decision.

- CONUS- (pronounced cone-us) The Continental United States
- Crew duty: The period of time a pilot is on duty. The maximum duty period is 12 hours, or as defined locally. Maximum duty is 10 hours when "night flying."
- Crew rest: A required off-duty rest period between periods of flight duty.
- Cross Country: A navigation training mission involving two or more flying sorties with refueling stops at other airfields. The term implies remaining overnight at one or more locations.
- CTS: Course Training Standards. The syllabus-derived performance measures by which students are graded during simulators and aircraft sorties.
- Dash 1: The "owner's manual" for the aircraft flown. Every USAF aircraft type has its own Dash 1 flight manual which is the technical publication that provides all the pilot needs to know to safely operate the aircraft.
- DEERS- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. This lists the dependent spouse and children of a service member and allows them to receive Tricare benefits.
- DFAS- (pronounced dee-fas) Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The source of military paychecks.
- DiY Move- (pronounced Ditty) Do it Yourself Move. When the service member packs and moves their own belongings to a new duty station, instead of having the military moving company do it. Now referred to as PPM (Personally Procured Move).
- DNIF: Duties Not Involving Flying; another word for being grounded, usually for medical reasons.
- Dollar Ride: The student's first aircraft training sortie. The student uses this sortie to get acquainted with the aircraft and the flying environment as well as getting motivated for the large amount of training ahead.
- Double Turn: When a pilot flies twice on the same day.
- Elimination Checkride (EC): A check-ride given to students who have previously undergone a Progress Checkride and performed below the course training standards of the respective syllabus. Failure of the EC will result in being considered for elimination from training (see "Commander's Review).
- EPQ: Emergency Procedures Quiz
- FACT: Fighter Aircrew Conditioning Test. A test consisting of a series of weight-lifting exercises to assess one's ability to resist the effect of high-G environment.
- FAIP: First Assignment Instructor Pilot
- Flight Doc/Surgeon: A military physician specializing in aerospace medicine.
- Formal Brief: A mandatory formation held at the beginning of the day for all line instructors and students in a flight. It consists of announcements, the weather brief, standup, and any other required briefs, usually in T-6 and T-38 flights.
- Formal Release: A mandatory formation held at the end of the day for all students after the day's training has been completed.
- Flight Lead: The formation leader of a two, three, or four-ship formation.

- G-Strain: A method used during high-G maneuvers in which the individual strains upper & lower muscles, and employs a special breathing cycle to help combat the effects of high G forces.
- HHG– Household Goods. Your furniture, clothes, and belongings are packed up and then delivered to the next location during a military move.
- Hook: Another name for the letter “U”, or “Unsatisfactory.” Also called “Bust” or “Taco.” Students “hook” a sortie (flight) when they perform below course training standards or in a dangerous manner.
- HQ- Headquarters
- IFF: Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals. This is a post-graduation training course for students who tracked T-38s.
- Informal Release: The status of a class when the formal release requirement has been waived by the Flight Commander.
- Initial Solo: Getting to fly alone without an instructor for the first time.
- ITT– Information, Tickets, and Tours. Discounted entertainment services available to military families.
- LES– Leave and Earnings Statement. A 1-page paper that can be printed from the MyPay website, showing all the pay, benefits, taxes, and deductions from the paycheck for the next month.
- MP– Military Police
- NCO– Non-Commissioned Officer. An enlisted person of the rank E-4 through E-6 (depending on branch). A Staff Non-Commissioned Officer is SNCO.
- OCONUS- (pronounced oh-cone-us) Outside the Continental United States. These overseas locations include Hawaii and Alaska.
- OPR– Officer Performance Report
- OPSEC- (pronounced opp-seck) Operational Security. This means protecting information about the unit and troop movements. I.e., don’t announce the Homecoming date on social media.
- Permanent Change of Station (PCS): When you move from one base to another after receiving orders.
- PFT– Physical Readiness Test or Physical Fitness Test.
- PoA- Power of Attorney. The paperwork allows a service member to delegate authority to a spouse/SO or family member to handle their finances and legal matters while they are away.
- Progress Checkride: A check-ride given to students who fail a syllabus check ride, perform unsatisfactorily, or have poor general knowledge based on failed emergency procedure (EP) tests.
- Pubs: Publications used for academic instruction.
- SERE: Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape. A formal training program after graduation.
- SGLI– Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance. Service members are automatically enrolled, but they can adjust their rates and add family members
- SIE: Self-Initiated Elimination. Refers to a student who states that he or she no longer wants to continue training.
- Solo Tank: A tradition in which a student who solos for the first time is thrown into a shallow tank of water by his or her classmates.
- SRO: Senior Ranking Officer, normally the highest-ranking student in the flight.
- Sortie: A military aircraft mission/flight.

- Standup: An exercise during a formal brief in which randomly selected students are given an in-flight scenario that involves a serious malfunction. The students, while standing at attention, will explain in detail how they will maintain aircraft control, analyze the situation, take the proper action, and land as soon as conditions permit.
- TDY: Temporary Duty. Implies being relocated to another location or base temporarily.
- Taco: See "Hook."
- Wash-back: Students who are held back and re-assigned to a class that is junior to the one the student was previously in. This may occur if the student falls behind on the training timeline excessively for any reason (i.e. illness, CR re-installment).

Adapted From: "Unofficial Guide to SUPT" by Tsyuoshi Tung and The Military Wife and Mom's Basic Guide to Acronyms by Lauren Tamm



We hope this packet was informational and helpful! Please contact us with additional questions! We are excited you are part of the STUS Flock!

