

US Air Force Public Affairs Release
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Vance Air Force Base Strike Update

WASHINGTON -- The flying training mission of the 71st Flying Training Wing at Vance Air Force Base, OK, remains idle for the fifth consecutive day, as a strike by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 898 against CSC Applied Technologies LLC has stopped work on aircraft maintenance and other mission-critical services across the base. The strike against CSC and its three sub-contractors, PRI/DJI, DenMar, and M1 Support Service, resulted from an inability of the sides to reach a collective bargaining agreement, and has halted all flying activities and many basic services supporting the base population.

In order to keep Air Force pilot production at Vance AFB on schedule for Air Force, Navy, Marine and allied pilots, Air Education and Training Command will temporarily transfer 33 students and instructor pilots to Randolph and Laughlin Air Force Bases in Texas on Monday to resume flying training.

"I take this issue very seriously and urge all parties to quickly resolve this dispute, as it is impacting our ability to produce pilots in a time of war," said Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz.

General Stephen Lorenz, AETC Commander added, "Air Education and Training Command is concerned about the loss of flying training at Vance Air Force Base and the well-being of everyone affected by this strike. We are neutral concerning the dispute between the contractor and the union, but our Nation and our Joint Force Commanders need combat-ready pilots -- it is important that we resume pilot training at Vance AFB quickly."