

THE ROBINS REV-UP

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Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Center lands supporting role in Predator, Reaper programs

By AMANDA CREEL
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Air Force Materiel Command recently announced the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center would be designated as the System Support Manager for the MQ-1 Predator and the MQ-9 Reaper programs.

The management responsibilities will be given to a four-person team from the 560th Aircraft Sustainment Group.

"It's a big deal to be recognized as the SSM for the Predator and Reaper programs. It has been a challenge, but we are on our way to establishing the best possible sustainment program," said Cindy Scheideler, sustainment program manager for the team.

Members agreed the transition from acquisition to sustainment of the

Predator program by the WR-ALC would have not been possible without the strategic plans and programs office here.

"Without the support and efforts of strategic plans and programs, the transition to sustainment may not have been realized for years and years to come," Ms. Scheideler said.

The immediate management responsibilities will involve the sustainment of the predator system, a system of four unmanned-aerial vehicles, a ground control station, a Predator Primary Satellite Link and about 55 personnel. The system's primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets.

"Working in aircraft maintenance, it's

▶ see PREDATOR, 2A



U.S. Air Force photo

An MQ-1 Predator armed with an AGM-114 Hellfire missile flies a training mission. The MQ-1 Predator's primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Allan Widener, driver and mechanic, opens the panels of the War Wagon, which is equipped with tools, equipment and supplies to repair aircraft.

Robins 'War Wagons' bring maintenance to warfighters

By AMANDA CREEL
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When the Department of Defense has an aircraft in need of repair and the situation requires a traveling repairman, it looks to Robins Air Force Base and the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group to come to the rescue.

The group maintains a one-of-a-kind resource, two War Wagons, which deploy around the world in support of the warfighter.

The 37-foot long, tractor-trailer combinations can either drive to areas across the continental U.S. or travel as aircraft cargo on a C-17 Globemaster III or C-130 Hercules to destinations around the world such as Kadena, Japan; Hewan, Egypt; or Mildenhall, U.K.

"If you can land a C-130 there, then we can come to you," said Allan Widener, sheet metal bond mechanic, who is one of two Robins mechanics certified to drive and travel as a mechanic with the War Wagon.

The wagons were designed to bring the maintenance jobs they were doing on the production line to the field environment, said Tom Rackley, project manager and engineer for the War

Wagon.

The field maintenance is drastically different from depot maintenance, because safety precautions such as draining and purging fuel are not an option in the field, said Rich Frey, deputy director of the 574th Commodities Maintenance Squadron.

The wagons can leave at a moments notice and workers prepare cargo to meet the needs of each repair call before it departs. Some of the repairs the War Wagon can accomplish include bolted, bonded or composite repairs on any type of DOD airframe. Along with repairing DOD aircraft, the War Wagon has also done work on Foreign Military Sales aircraft. But when Air Force Special Operations Command calls, Mr. Frey says they take priority.

"For every work order, we set the War Wagon up and get it ready to complete the task," Mr. Rackley said. "Every time we go on a repair, we have to add special equipment and tools for the job. This thing never goes with an identical makeup."

The War Wagon is 100 percent self-sufficient and can sustain a six-day mission.

▶ see WAR WAGON, 3A

Robins exceeds goal in 2007 AFAF campaign

By HOLLY BIRCHFIELD
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The generosity of members of Team Robins in the 2007 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is proof that its people have no problem helping out.

The base raised \$100,296 in this year's campaign, which brought the base well above its goal of \$89,569.

Capt. Shannon Morris, workforce development manager and program management functional actions officer in the Plans and Programs Directorate who served as the campaign's installation project officer, said the fundraising effort was a resounding success.

"It has been wonderfully successful," she said. "On a percentage basis, it's about the same (as last year) because last year our goal was \$91,000 and we raised about \$102,000. This year, our goal was a little bit less at \$89,000 and we're approaching \$100,000."

Capt. Steve Hillard, an airborne intelligence officer in the 116th Air Control Wing who was the primary installation project officer in the AFAF campaign, said Robins' donations stacked up well against those from other bases.

"We're doing pretty well," he said. "We're about middle of the road. Some Air Force installations are done by percentage of active-duty and others by personnel. We actually have a lot of civilians on Robins. We actually

raised a pretty good amount of money for our ratio of civilians versus military and we also had civilians add in to the pot. So, as a team, we did really well."

Sixty-two military and civilians served as key workers base-wide in the campaign.

The captain said she is grateful for the hard work the group put into the fundraising effort.

Captain Morris said the campaign, which was initially slated to run any time between Feb. 15 and May 4, ran from March 5 through April 15 at Robins.

"While we had met our goal on April 15th Air Force-wide, we had not met our overall objective which was \$7.2 million," she said. "So, we actually received instruction to keep the campaign going as long as we could through the May 4th date."

Although the Air Force has now met its goal, Captain Morris said the base doesn't want to stop anyone who may be late making his or her contribution.

Contributions for AFAF are welcome from any military or civilian. People may give through payroll deduction, check, or cash donation, Captain Morris said.

Donations are used to help four different charities embedded in the non-profit organization, including the Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force villages, the Air Force Aid Society, and the Brig. Gen. Curtis LeMay Foundation.

The charitable organizations offer assistance to military

▶ see AFAF, 3A



Robins to save money by reducing long distance calling capabilities

By HOLLY BIRCHFIELD
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The 78th Communications Squadron did a data call several months ago during which Robins units verified the phone numbers needing direct dial long distance service.

Starting June 1, the 78th CS will turn off direct dial long distance capabilities from all phone numbers that were not identified by units as needing the service.

First Lt. Rory Tibbals, officer in charge of telephone services in the 78th CS, said the change comes as the Air Force continues to call for cuts in funding for various services.

"We are cutting back on unne-

cessary long distance calling," he said. "All units on Robins that are serviced by the 78th Communications Squadron (are being affected)."

Lieutenant Tibbals said Robins expects to reduce long distance calling capabilities from 19,500 lines to about 7,000.

In its efforts, Robins anticipates it will reduce the potential for fraud, waste and abuse, in addition to long distance calling where DSN calling is available, the lieutenant said.

Telephone control officers who have been assigned to manage their units' communications needs have been validating their units' need for long distance calling capability since



WHAT TO KNOW

To find out if a phone number in one's organization will be affected by the reduction in long distance calling capabilities, people should contact their telephone control officer. To determine who an organization's TCO is, call Anthony Crump at 222-0075.

February.

Lieutenant Tibbals said the cost savings measure is necessary.

"In the past, it had been standard procedure to give direct dial long distance capabilities with every telephone extension," he said. "However, with the availability of DSN as well as toll free to most large businesses, it's no longer necessary for every telephone to have direct dial long distance."

THINK SAFETY



To request a ride, call 222-0013, 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236. Total rides given this year: 318

Days without a DUI: 19 Last DUI: 116th Maintenance Squadron - courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section



THE TWO-MINUTE REV

Gate 5 closure
Gate 5 will be closed for construction through June 24. Use other gates during this time.

MPF closure
Due to Sports Day the 78th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight will be closed Thursday. For emergencies call

954-2774.

Team Robins Quarterly Awards

The Team Robins 1st Quarter Awards Ceremony will be held June 1 at 2 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. Support your nominees and win the spirit award.

INSIGHT



BLACK KNIGHTS: END OF AN ERA

19th ARG reflects on mission as deactivation date draws near, B1

SPORTS



TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

Staff Sgt. Mike Membrilla captures first place at Shaw Invitational, B3

ENVIRONMENT



TO CATCH A PREDATOR

Alligator is spotted in Duck Lake, officials advise caution, A2

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY	85/58	
SATURDAY	87/58	
SUNDAY	90/60	



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

By AMANDA CREEL
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Monday afternoon Bob Sargent was surprised to find a five-foot alligator, wading in Duck Lake.

Mr. Sargent, the natural resources manager for the Environmental Management Division at Robins, had visited the lake several times during the last few weeks hoping to spot the alligator, which had been reported by a Lakeside housing resident, Army Maj. Marty Butts, Army Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System group executive officer. However, the alligator had always taken cover during Mr. Sargent's visits.

It was Major Butts' children who first noticed the alligator while fishing on Duck Lake just behind their home.

"They said they saw it swim by, but I didn't believe them. I thought they had seen a turtle or something," the major said. "I have been here for almost three years and I had heard people say they had seen alligators in the base lakes, but I would have never thought there would be one in Duck Lake."

He said it was probably another week before he realized his children were right, when the five-foot alligator showed up again and gave his two dogs a scare.

Major Butts said he had let his two dogs out to get some exercise running around the lake

when he noticed the alligator following them around the lake.

"The alligator stopped about 15 feet away from us in the water and just stared. It was really brave. It was like it was in the lunge position," he said.

After spotting the alligator Monday, Mr. Sargent raced back to his office and returned to the lake equipped with a fishing pole, tremble hook, rubber bands to seal its mouth and some alligator handcuffs, or duct tape.

By the time Mr. Sargent and his reinforcements from the Environmental Management team arrived, the alligator had once again gone into hiding.

Mr. Sargent said it's common for alligators to be spotted in the summer around the base, but that the alligators are not permitted to live in any of the base lakes.

"On any given day," Mr. Sargent said, "you can find six or seven alligators on base."

Mr. Sargent said any alligators found at the base lakes are removed and the Department of Natural Resources is consulted to determine if the alligator should be relocated or disposed of. Many times the choice is made to dispose of the animals because once they have been exposed to humans, there is always a fear when they are relocated they will come in contact with humans again and possibly attack them, he said.

He said it is important for base residents and employees to

realize it is never safe to approach or feed an alligator. There is also a federal law prohibiting the feeding or harassing of alligators, he said.

"When they are afraid of people they won't come up to them, but when people feed them they can get bold," Mr. Sargent said. "By feeding the alligators, people are turning wild animals into dependent animals."

The majority of the alligators are found in base ponds and drainage ditches on the northeast side of the base near the airfield and most are about two years old and measure about two-feet long. Though there are some larger alligators residing on base, most of them are in areas where they are fenced in, such as at retention pond No. 5 on Beale Drive.

He said for many people it is a matter of curiosity when it comes to some of the young alligators, who are typically spotted on base.

"With a little animal like that it is not so frightening, but with a five or six-footer it could be dangerous," Mr. Sargent said. "Even at five feet, they are a lot stronger than a human."

Though the risk of an alligator attack may be remote, Mr. Sargent said it's important to be cautious.

If an alligator is spotted in one of the base lakes, call the Environmental Management Division at 926-9645.

PREDATOR

Continued from 1A

pretty cool to be on a program that is on the leading edge, something that is flying around unmanned, shooting things," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Rankin, an equipment specialist for the team.

The sustainment assignment means the team will be responsible for whatever items are required to keep the Predator up and going, Sergeant Rankin said.

"Our ultimate goal is to provide seamless support to the warfighter during the transition from acquisition to sustainment," said Holly Green, Predator sustainment lead.

Some tasks associated with the assignment include modifications and upgrades to the airframe, technical data or technical orders, logistics and maintenance.

The program is made up of about 250 aircraft, which means sustainment of the pro-

gram will eventually provide more work and growth to Robins, the team members said.

"We are extremely excited about the workload the program will bring to Robins. It is a very exciting and interesting program," said David Hardy, supply support manager for the sustainment program.

In July, members of the 658th Aircraft Equipment Support Group will join members of the 560th ACSG to begin the transition of the Predator program from the acquisition phase to the sustainment phase.

"It is like a kickoff meeting, if you will, to start the transition to sustainment program. It is the first step to building a solid open team between the acquisition and sustainment communities," Ms. Green said.

Along with beginning their sustainment efforts for the Predator program the center has also been assigned the responsibility of sustaining the

Reaper program when the unmanned aerial vehicle transitions from acquisition to sustainment. The Reaper is the "big brother" of the Predator, said Sergeant Rankin.

The MQ-9 is a more advanced unmanned-aerial vehicle and its primary mission is as a persistent hunter-killer against emerging targets in support of joint force commander objectives. The MQ-9's secondary mission is to act as an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance asset, employing sensors to provide real-time data to commanders and intelligence specialists at all levels.

The 560th ACSG is also responsible for the sustainment of other ISR programs including the Global Hawk and U-2S weapons systems.

The addition of the sustainment of the Predator and Reaper programs puts the Center one step closer to realizing the ISR enterprise both on the ground and in the air, Sergeant Rankin said.



U.S. Air Force photo

The MQ-9 Reaper is the Air Force's first hunter-killer unmanned aerial vehicle. The MQ-1 Predator's younger, yet larger and stronger, brother, the MQ-9 Reaper is designed to go after time-sensitive targets with precision, and destroy or disable those targets with 500-pound bombs and Hellfire missiles.

WAR WAGON

Continued from 1A

“We have enough equipment and power to work the aircraft on both sides with two mechanics on each side,” Mr. Widener said.

The equipment can also be used to repair two aircraft simultaneously because all the tools are duplicated to allow two crews to work round-the-clock to complete needed repairs. “We designed as much capability as we can into that unit,” Mr. Rackley said.

One of the biggest challenges for the traveling repair truck is timing. The truck has to arrive before the aircraft is slotted for the maintenance, because the warfighter can’t afford for the aircraft to be out of commission any longer than scheduled.

“We want to get in and get out as quick as possible for the warfighter,” Mr. Frey said.

The key to the War Wagons’ success has been the constant updating of the vehicle to make sure it has the most updated tools and equipment to complete the required maintenance and return the aircraft to its mission.

One of the most impressive things about the War Wagon is since it replaced its predecessor in 1996 the unit has not failed. The second unit was added in 1999 and both units have remained 100 percent operational since their first trip, Mr. Rackley said.

For some repairs, however, it is not cost-effective to bring a War Wagon. In cases like this, equipment and tools are stripped from a War Wagon, palletized and shipped to the location where they are used by the Depot Field Teams.

However, presently the 402 Commodities Maintenance Group is working to fill pallets for the teams without needing to strip equipment and tools from the War Wagons.

“We just never want to bring the War Wagons down. We are doing this to keep the War Wagons fully operational and ready to deploy,” Mr. Frey said.

He added, by having pallets stocked and ready to deploy the team is able to achieve more maintenance calls in support of the warfighter.

“It’s all about taking care of the warfighter, so they can take care of business,” Mr. Frey said.



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Allan Widener, who is one of two Robins mechanics certified to drive and travel as a mechanic with the War Wagon, has everything he needs for an aircraft repair at his fingertips.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

AFAF

Continued from 1A

members and their families on a life-time basis, Captain Morris said.

Captain Morris said people took their giving to heart in this year’s campaign.

“We took it to a personal level by really helping everyone on base distinguish between this campaign and the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign),” she said. “The difference between this campaign and the CFC campaign was that the CFC caters more to outside organizations, charitable contributions to your favorite charity throughout the world; whereas the Air Force Assistance Fund really gives us a chance to take care of home so to speak.”

Captain Hillard said the campaign is a worthwhile charity.

“This is the only Air Force campaign that solely relies on the return of the benefits of the donations to the Air Force family, the Air Force members, retirees, widows and widowers, and also active-duty Air Force Airmen who can’t afford to help themselves right now and just need a little boost.”

Last year, Robins used about three times more than it could donate to the campaign to meet people’s needs, which drives home the need for AFAF support, Captain Hillard said.

WHAT TO KNOW

To donate to the AFAF, contact the Air Force Personnel Center’s Air Force Voting and Fundraising Office at DSN 665-4351.

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ...

The "Put your hands together for..." feature is a monthly installment to the Robins Rev-Up. Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we just aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can. The installment runs in the last issue published each month. To have an award included in

the "Put your hands together for..." page, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may also be submitted, but space is limited.

Submissions should be sent either by e-mail or brought to the Rev-Up office, Suite 106, Building 215. Submissions that are brought to the office

should be in Microsoft Word on a disk. Photos can be e-mailed or delivered to the office too.

For more information, contact Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil or Kendahl Johnson at kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil. Either can be reached by phone at 926-2137.

► 2006 Air Force Association Awards winners

The following people have been announced as the winners of the 2006 Annual Awards for the Air Force Association, Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter 296:

19th Air Refueling Group

► Capt. Donald Landgrebe - Cargo/Tanker Aviator of the year
► Tech. Sgt. Eric Corvin - Cargo/Tanker Technician of the year

116th Air Control Wing

► 1st Lt. David Chancey - Maintenance manager/Supervisor of the year
► Senior Master Sgt. Steven Helms - C2ISR Aviator of the year
► Senior Airman Phillip Gellins - C2ISR Technician of the year

► Senior Airman Joshua Roden - Specialist/Technician of the year

5th Combat Communications Group

► Master Sgt. Keith Matthews - Human Resources Manager of the year

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Staff

► Capt. Scott Robertson - Outstanding Community Relations of the year
► Capt. Shannon Farrell - Engineer of the year

Robins NCO Academy

► Senior Airman LaShandra Cokeley - Administrative Support of the year

78th Air Base Wing

► 78 Logistics Readiness Squadron - Logistics

Achievement of the year

► Capt. Tracie Swingle - Medical Professional of the year
► Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Chan - Outstanding Mission Support of the year
► Master Sgt. Shawn Ricchuito - Civil Engineer of the year
► Sheree Evans - Support Manager/Supervisor of the year
► Kenneth Fowler - Trades and Craft Worker of the year
► Edwin Lozada - Support Contractor of the year

542nd Combat Sustainment Wing

► Edward Armijo - Outstanding Community Relations of the year
► Edith Manns - Acquisition Manager/

Supervisor of the year

402nd Maintenance Wing

► Staff Sgt. Dennis Hutchison - Fighter/Bomber Technician of the year
330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing
► Irelle Dixon - Weapon System Manager of the year

Houston County High School JROTC

► Nicholas Quenga - Outstanding JROTC Cadet of the year

Warner Robins High School JROTC

► Master Sgt. (Ret) Ron Vaughan - Teacher of the year
► James Robinson - Outstanding JROTC Cadet of the year

A&FRC worker, military spouse earns accreditation

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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A community readiness technician and military spouse at the Airman and Family Readiness Center for nearly two years, said the opportunity will enable her to give Airmen sound advice about money matters as well as give her an additional career opportunity at her husband's future assignments.

Kim Myers, wife of Tech. Sgt. Brian Myers, an airborne radar technician in the 128th Air Command and Control Squadron, was recently named as one of 200 military spouses selected from a list of 2,000 applicants to receive accreditation as a financial counselor through the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education.

Mrs. Myers, who has been a

community readiness technician with the Airman and Family Readiness Center for nearly two years, said the opportunity will enable her to give Airmen sound advice about money matters as well as give her an additional career opportunity at her husband's future assignments.

"It's a fellowship that's in association with the National Military Family Association to



Kim Myers has received accreditation as a financial counselor

provide military spouses with education to become certified financial counselors and to give back in the military community," she said.

The 29-year-old Oklahoma native said the certification will broaden the areas she's qualified to speak with Airmen and their families about.

"It will allow me to talk about things like investing, managing credit and debt, planning for college savings, loans, how to budget, personal financial planning and investing, and planning for retirement, looking at bankruptcy and what their options are, and referring them to accredited individuals if that need should arise," she said.

Mrs. Myers said by being accepted in the accreditation program for free, she has saved the Air Force \$850 that other applicants would have to pay.

The community readiness technician said she's excited about the opportunity.

"I'm very excited about it," she said. "Working in Air Force Aid here at the office, you see a lot of the young Airmen that are making mistakes with their money and it's simply because they just don't know. So, to be able to broaden within our own center the amount of people that can help, that's just more people that can be touched."

Robins master sergeant earns Joint Service Commendation Medal during deployment

By LANORRIS ASKEW
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You probably won't catch her job description on the evening news as anchors recount the events of the air and ground war in Iraq, but Master Sgt. Tamatha Ogle is definitely making a difference.

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Law Office superintendent, fresh from a four-month-long deployment to Baghdad's Camp Victory, was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal in-theater May 6 for work that stays pretty much below radar.

The Joint Service Commendation Medal, which was authorized in 1963, is awarded to members of the armed forces who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity. As noncommissioned officer in charge of the Legal Headquarters Element, Task Force 134 Detainee Operations in Baghdad, Iraq, where she worked with the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines and Army on an Army run installation, Sergeant Ogle fit the bill.

The mother of two put her organizational skills to work managing eight junior personnel from two services while orchestrating all operations of a high visibility joint office responsible for daily briefings to the Deputy Commanding General of Detainee Operations.

With the average day starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. seven days a week, part of the element's job was to track legal cases using a special data base.

"Each detainee is assigned a number and we tracked them by that number," she said. "In the Headquarters Element, we did not go into the court, but were more of the post-trial process to get the files to the general for decision."

In the deployed environment normal legal work, like non-judicial punishment and power of attorneys, was a thing of the past.

"The job was challenging in that we assisted the Iraqi government to stand on its own," she said. "We acted as the liaison between the detention facilities and the general. It was an experience of a lifetime."

Sergeant Ogle, who was surprised to receive the commendation medal, seems to be the only one.

"It's my understanding that it is rare for someone to receive a Joint Commendation Medal for only a four-month deployment," said Col. Warner Meadows, WR-ALC Staff Judge Advocate.

"It is no surprise to me, however, as Master Sgt. Ogle is that rare combination of talent, drive, work ethic and team player spirit that makes her get the job done right the first time every time."

According to Navy Capt. Bruce Mackenzie, TF-134 legal advisor who presented the medal to Sergeant Ogle, medals are evaluated and awarded on the basis of time in country, level of performance and level of responsibility.

"In all three categories, Master Sgt. Ogle's performance, professionalism and effectiveness as a leader made awarding the Joint Service Commendation Medal the obvious choice," he said. "I would say that few members of the Air Force on four-month deployment orders have received this award."

Captain Mackenzie said as the model of efficiency, work ethic and professionalism she inspired not only those sailors and Airmen entrusted to her care, but other TF-134 legal officers.

"She essentially trained three very junior company grade officers appointed as Officer In Charge, Legal Headquarters Element (one Air Force and two Navy) to become highly effective managers and leaders. All three proclaimed they could not have survived without her."

The citation accompanying the medal held a laundry list of kudos including setting up a mentorship program for incoming Air Force personnel.

"I think the part of the citation that means the most to me is that I guided junior officers and quietly mentored them during their tours in Iraq," said Sergeant Ogle. "I didn't know that my help each day impacted them that way. It is nice to know that they wanted and valued my opinion."

The sergeant said she could not have done her job alone.

"No one does a job by themselves-everyone helps to make things work, so I would say that the first thing to attribute the medal to is the senior leadership having enough faith in me to perform well," she said. "The second would have to be the group of people that I worked with. Each branch has something to contribute and it was great seeing that at work here."

While the deployment has now come to an end, the sergeant said she will be bringing home more than just the medal.

"The biggest lesson I'll bring home is that you can do anything you put your mind to," she said. "I did not know if I could learn the job or handle the responsibilities when I was appointed NCO in charge for the Headquarters Element, but I gave my best and had a lot of help. I think everyone's experience is different and the misconceptions are what you make of it. If you think it is going to be miserable, then it will be. It is all about attitude."

► 2007 Robins Black History Committee awards scholarships

The following high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by 2007 Robins Black History Observance Committee April 27: Candace 'Charley' Broome (Bleckley

County High School), Randall Raines (Crawford County High School) and Brandi Womack (Warner Robins High School.) The contestants, all children of Robins employees, submitted

essays based on the theme for this year's Black History Observance: From Slavery to Freedom – the History of Africans and the Americas. Since the applicants were stu-

dents of base employees, a blind evaluation process was used. That means the evaluation team did not know the names of the applicants; they only received a number.



Master Sgt.
Tamatha Ogle

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

DELIVERY

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Robins students sing at Braves game



Robins Elementary Chorus under the direction of Sheila Clopton sang the national anthem May 7 at the Atlanta Braves game against the San Diego Padres at Turner Field in Atlanta. Around 150 people from Robins attended the game and this is the eighth year a chorus representing Robins has sung at a Braves game.

courtesy photo

Veterans Affairs On the Job Training entitlement money

Veterans who are eligible for the GI Bill can now receive tax free money for participation in selected training programs through a Veterans Affairs program. Veterans who have GI Bill entitlement, who have been out of the military for less than 10 years and who are on a formalized training program may apply for a monthly stipend from Veterans Affairs. It's money in addition to current salary.

"The guidelines are very structured and specific" said June Bradley, one of three Robins VA certifying officials for this program. "First is the veteran's status and second in the individual's employment status on a formalized training program. The burden of proof of qualification rests on the individual; the process for applying is not difficult, just a bit tedious. As with all VA programs, a complete and accurate request for VA money is necessary."

Veterans may measure their eligibility by giving an affirmative answer to all of the following three questions:

- ▶ Have been out of the

military (separated or retired) less than 10 years?

▶ Do I have GI Bill entitlement?

▶ Am I enrolled in a formal training program which has been approved for VA payment?

The seven currently approved programs are contract specialist, equipment specialist, forward logistics specialist, industrial engineering technician, inventory management specialist, logistics management specialist and production management specialist.

VA requires submission of a detailed descriptive package of the formal training program and on-the-job training. VA measures the scope of the program to ensure the veterans can be expected to "learn skilled occupations by performing each job process described in the training outline...under the supervision of a skilled worker" as described in a Department of Veterans Affairs pamphlet VSO Form 80-IB and the VA Web site www.VAGibill.gov.

When VA approves an OJT program, the effective date of

the approval is backed up one year to provide payment of entitlement for as many veteran participants as VA rules will permit.

When approved, according to Ms. Bradley, the Veteran may apply for GI Bill entitlement. The application must be certified by one of the three VA Certifying Officials and is forwarded to VA. If the application is approved, the Veteran will receive a Certificate of Eligibility specifying dollar amounts VA will pay and may include some back pay.

"The process for getting OJT programs approved is lengthy as is the process for getting the veteran approved. But tax free money on top of civil service salary may be worth the effort," Ms. Bradley said. "It is a good way to use GI Bill entitlement for those who have no other plans for its use. Actual dollar payments are awarded based on a VA formula. The money may be an additional incentive for the Veteran to complete the OJT program."

More information is available at the VA Web site,

www.va.gov. To contact Ms. Bradley, call 222-3402. Ronald Falk and Gary Schwartz, the other two Veterans Affairs certifying officials, can be reached at 327-7305 and 327-7315 respectively.

WHAT TO KNOW

Required forms can be found at www.va.gov. Paperwork the veteran must submit include:

- ▶ VA 22-1990, application for VA Education Benefits if no VA benefits have been used previously
- ▶ VA 22-1995 if VA benefits have been used previously
- ▶ SF50, Notification of Personnel Action, showing assignment to an OJT program
- ▶ copy of the DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- ▶ letter on official stationery certifying training hours per month. (letter format is available from Ms. Bradley.)



Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing commander

Commander's Action Line

Intramural sports

I am writing to voice my concern about the state of the Robins Intramural Sports programs. I'm especially concerned since I received a notice from Kenneth Porter about some "budget cuts" and the softball season being cut short. I understand the Air Force of today is under some budget constraints, but in my opinion, there are some things you can cut and some things you should not cut, and intramural sports should be on the "should not cut list." Intramural sports provide morale and spirit builders. For example, the intramural softball league at Robins supports 30 teams, that's more than 400 players. Cutting the softball season hurts a lot of people who enjoy playing softball, getting out with friends and co-workers and enjoying the beautiful summer weather Middle Georgia has to offer. I believe there are other programs that can be cut. I know it does not cost that much to run a softball season, it has to be a mere drop in the bucket compared to the overall Robins budget. Surely there is money somewhere that can be re-directed so the fun activities Airmen enjoy to participate in cannot be cut. Usually, there's a pre-season softball tournament, this year there was none, and the season was cut to eight games, that is hardly even worth putting forth an effort. With 30 teams on base, and only playing eight games, that just doesn't seem right.

Again, I feel cutting morale building activities like intramural athletics is going to lead us down a long, dark road that will probably not be good. Many people don't have a whole lot to be excited about in today's Air Force, but often times, intramural athletics provides that joy and sense of belonging. I am pleading; please do not cut intramural athletics, beginning with softball this season.

Colonel Carter's Response:

Thank you for taking time to share your concerns about the intramural sports program. In an effort to help fund our nation's fight on the war on terrorism and meet our Air Force priorities, a number of programs across the installation have taken reductions in funding. For example, we cut nearly \$2 million from our service support contracts in civil engineering, which reduced cleaning services and grounds maintenance across the base.

Services absorbed cuts as well, and we are always very careful in balancing the needs of the community when determining where we can "take risk." When you consider what else competes for funding that is becoming scarcer in the Services arena, you'll quickly see intramural sports are an area where we can "take risk." Child care, library hours, programs dedicated to fitness and PT, mortuary services and Honor Guard are all core missions and did not take as drastic a cut. That said, we also agree that intramural sports provide a wonderful venue for friendly competition and esprit de corps, which is why we wanted to continue to offer an intramural sports program, albeit reduced in scope.

In fiscal 2006 we spent \$54,000 on intramural sports officials and fiscal 2007 has a budgeted \$34,000, which is a 37 percent reduction. As a result, every intramural sport this fiscal year has been reduced to an eight game season including basketball, volleyball and soccer. We still ensured all sports had an end of season tournament.

We've looked elsewhere for funding, but there is none available at this time. We will continue to look at alternatives to attain funds to maintain or increase activities that build morale. Thanks for your concerns and for remembering there is a mission that must be accomplished and we all have to do our part in ensuring its success, which sometimes requires sacrifices.

Air Force first sergeant asks: 'Are you fit to fight?'

Are you physically ready to meet the challenges of the Air Force?

For some this is a very easy question to answer. For others it is not.

We are now in the third year of the new fitness standards. When this program was introduced, I was not ready. Thankfully, we had a one-year grace period to get ready. The Air Force chief of staff directed new standards and gave all Airmen time to get in shape for their first official physical fitness test.

Even with a year to prepare, I only scored a 76 on my first test. I realized this was unacceptable, and I challenged myself to do something about it. I made a significant lifestyle change and as a result, my most recent test resulted in a score of 95.

If I can do it, you can too. Looking back, I realized I have had to survive several variations of fitness testing.

When I first entered active duty in 1991, the Air Force PT test was a 1.5 mile run we reluctantly did once a year.

The time to complete the run was some crazy amount of time like 15 minutes. Most Airmen could have walked and still passed the test. It gave us no accurate measurement of our Airmen's fitness level. We also had a high rate of heart attacks and other serious medical issues.

The Air Force decided to change the way we evaluated fitness. The change was to go to a cycle ergometry or "bike test." At first, the test only measured your VO2 max. Push ups or crunches were not incorporated until about seven years into the test. Because this test did not accurately reflect one's fitness level, the Air Force decided to make a drastic change.

The bike method of fitness evaluation was deemed obsolete. Higher operations tempo as a result of the war on terrorism led to the new fitness test requirements. The Air Force needed a mobile method of evaluating fitness levels to produce battle ready Airmen. And this new process had to be available at

deployed locations. Since no equipment was required, we reverted back to a 1.5 mile run. However, this time we added push-ups, crunches and a waist measurement.

Simply walking the 1.5 miles was not going to cut it anymore. In addition, you needed to ensure your core strength was effectively conditioned as well. With a year to prepare, most Airmen took the challenge to heart and prepared themselves. As noted during the first "free-bee" test, some preparation for the test was required.

To emphasize the importance of fitness, new guidance mandated commanders establish a unit PT program. A side benefit of this program included giving all assigned Airmen duty time to conduct PT.

With the PT program fully integrated into Air Force culture, we now must challenge ourselves to maintain an exceptionally fit level.

First, take advantage of the time your commander gives you for PT. In my opinion,

this doesn't always mean just playing basketball.

Second, we must train for the test. Practice makes perfect. I feel an effective cardiovascular and core fitness workout produces the best results.

Finally, a well-balanced diet is essential and effective. Fad diets generally only give you quick, short-term results. As I have found, there is no need to deny yourself your favorite snacks; just learn to have them in moderation.

As a result of our emphasis on fitness, I feel the Air Force is in the best shape we have ever been. We are ready to meet every challenge our high operations tempo can produce. And as I have personally learned, we are much better equipped to conduct joint operations with our sister services. Capitalize on the fitness opportunities you have and stay fit to fight.

— *This commentary was written by Master Sgt. Thomas McGowan, 17th Airlift Squadron first sergeant.*

Center takes aim at problems, finds innovative solutions

By LISA MATHEWS
lisa.matthews@robins.af.mil

Following the Focused Area Risk Reduction Team's evaluation of Robins, which began in 2004, the Force Training Directorate stood up to attack 750 of the 1,800 FARR findings.

"We had some breakdowns in terms of training," said Debra Singleton, deputy director of FT. "We stood up a single organization whose focus was on training.

"A large percentage of our training requirements were not adequately determined or planned and many of our organizations did not have dedicated training staff or functions," she said. "The findings indicated to us that our current (at that time) air logistics center training process was inadequate as a result of decentralization, so that led to the centralization of training here at the center."

In the one-year timeframe since the organization's stand up, the organization has been the recipient of two awards – the 2006 Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce Division) Best Practices Award and the 2007 Air Force Materiel Command Special Category of the Commander-in-Chief's

Installation Excellence Award. The organization has made several changes, some of which are now being implemented across AFMC and considered best practices.

In order to determine what needed to be done to correct the FARR findings, FT began peeling back the FARR team findings to determine what could be fixed fast. Then, by implementing Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century, or lean initiatives, the organization looked for ways to make even bigger improvements.

Some examples Ms. Singleton described include improving the course-ware development process. The lean event resulted in a course development requirements document. This document changed the way courses are developed, resulting in a significant reduction in days-to-validation from an average of 230 days to 177 days, or 76 percent.

Other improvements include conducting training workshops for subject matter experts who help with course-ware development and improvements to the annual installation training plan, which projects each organization's training needs for the coming fiscal year. Also included is

incorporation of Voluntary Protection Program training into the center's training plans.

Other problematic areas FT took on included the large amount of out-of-cycle training that was taking place. This involved bringing instructors in again and again to conduct training that was not being utilized when it was scheduled because training requirements were not being entered.

"A lot of money was being spent on repeat types of training," Ms. Singleton said. One of the major results of the event to address this issue was the realization that a course was needed to train training managers within organizations.

"Too many times we had people who were already doing other jobs being assigned training manager's duties. They also were not receiving the training on how to perform the duties required," Ms. Singleton said. "We're developing a course that teaches them how to be a training manager. This is another process we hope will become a best practice for AFMC."

Physical changes to the classrooms have been ongoing as well as changes to processes.

"We were given more than \$400,000 for upgrades," she said.

"People need to understand that environment has an impact on the success of your training."

FT is also partnering with Defense Acquisition University, in Ohio, to provide courses locally. This will reduce the number of temporary duty assignments people must go on to receive the training they need.

"DAU has sent us an administrator to set up a campus. We're talking possibly 50 courses being offered," Ms. Singleton said.

Although FT has tackled many problems in the last year, they have no intentions of resting on their laurels. Plans for the future include providing new employees with a DVD that teaches them how to do their job.

"We're going to stop giving the employees a stack of regulations to read. Our intent is to do more innovative types of things," Ms. Singleton said. "Industry is doing it, so we, as a center, ought to be walking into the 21st century in terms of those same kinds of learning.

"We went outside of the walls and we're finding, to stimulate partnering and workforce development, we have to say, 'I can't do things the way I use to; I have to do something different, and be willing to take some risks,'" she said.

Civilian discipline, adverse actions

The Air Force Civilian Discipline and Adverse Actions Program is designed to develop, correct, rehabilitate and encourage employees to accept responsibility for their actions. The circumstances of every disciplinary situation, including an employee's past disciplinary record, are taken into account when determining appropriate discipline. The purpose of this article is to ensure employees are more aware of the program and the consequences for misconduct.

The following actions occurred during January 2007 and are reflective of the types of disciplinary actions taken during that period:

- ▶ Three-day suspension for failure to properly request leave and unauthorized absence. Prior 1-day suspension.
- ▶ Reprimand for violation of tool control procedures and

careless workmanship.

- ▶ Reprimand for quarreling.
- ▶ Reprimand for unauthorized use of government travel charge card.



- ▶ Reprimand for violation of tool control procedures.

- ▶ Three-day suspension for violation of tool control procedures. Two prior one-day suspensions.

- ▶ Reprimand for failure to report for scheduled training.

- ▶ Removal for failure to properly request leave, unauthorized absence and failure to attend scheduled training. Prior reprimand, five-day and 14-day suspensions.

- ▶ One-day suspension for failure to report for scheduled training and failure to observe safety practices.

- ▶ Removal for failure to properly request leave and unauthorized absence. Prior reprimand and three-day suspension.

- ▶ 14-day suspension for unauthorized absence. Prior one-

day and five-day suspensions.

- ▶ 10-day suspension for failure to properly request leave and unauthorized absence. Prior five-day suspension.

- ▶ Five-day suspension for being at work while impaired for duty.

- ▶ Reprimand for failure to properly request leave, unauthorized absence and failure to attend scheduled training.

- ▶ Reprimand for loafing on duty.

- ▶ Reprimand for violation of tool control procedures and failure to attend scheduled training.

- ▶ Removal for misuse of government vehicle, shoplifting and fleeing the scene of a crime.

- ▶ Reprimand for violation of tool control procedures.

- ▶ One-day suspension for unauthorized absence. Prior reprimand.

- ▶ Reprimand for quarreling.

- ▶ Termination during probation/trial period for failure to properly request leave and



A whole new ballgame

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Top, Robins Elementary teachers and parents congratulate the 5th and 6th graders on their kickball 11-10 win. The game was one of several events used to celebrate the end of the school year. The school year ends for the students May 31.

Center, Robins Elementary School assistant principal, Sherry Crocker, tries to make an out against the 5th and 6th grade team during the kickball competition.

Robins Elementary held an end-of-school family day May 18 with the help of parents and some members of the 19th Air Refueling Group. The day included a kickball tournament, a yearbook signing party and a cookout.

Bottom, Sixth grade teacher, Brenda Craw, ducks from the ball as she crosses home plate during a kickball game where it was the parents and teachers against the 5th and 6th grade students.

Back in business



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Lt. Col. Kevin Coleman, 339th Flight Test Squadron assistant director of operations, does pre-flight checks prior to a test flight Monday. Robins' runway, which closed May 4 for repairs, officially reopened May 21.

Moving tips in time for summer



U.S. Air Force photo by JEN JOHNSON

Movers load boxes for Capt. Kevin Catron, Air Force Reserve Command Judge Advocate's Office, who is PCSing to Langley Air Force Base, Va.

By **TECH. SGT. CATHY DEABREAU**
Air Force Claims Service Center

For people who are preparing to move due to PCS, separation or retirement, a successful move is not a matter of chance. It is the result of planning and hard work.

Officials at the Air Force Claims Service Center say there are things servicemembers can and should do to safeguard their belongings during any move.

The government does not pay for appraisals. If the person moving has expensive items such as artwork, collectibles or heirlooms, then he or she might con-

replacement value is coming and it is. Moves this summer, however, will not yet be covered under that new program.

People preparing to move should use a video camera or digital camera to take close-up pictures to record the condition of their furniture and to show what their expensive and valuable items look like. This will allow them to show the item if it is lost or damaged during shipment. It is also a good idea to include a current newspaper in the video and pictures to show the date photographs were taken. People should carry these recordings and photos with them when they move, not pack them in the household goods.

Officials encourage people to prepare their own personal inventory. Before they move, they should make a list of the major items they own, such as furniture, electronic equipment, and art objects. List the purchase prices and dates for these items and collect the documentation to prove it: paid bills, credit card slips, canceled checks, pre-shipment appraisals, etc. They should make it a habit of saving

receipts for big purchases, officials say.

People shouldn't ship small, extremely valuable items such as stocks, bonds, jewelry, coins or coin collections and items of great sentimental value such as photo albums. They should pack them in their suitcase and hand carry them, along with any purchase receipts, pictures, video recordings and appraisals.

People should plan to be flexible when selecting a pickup date, according to officials. They should never schedule a pickup on the date they close on a house, vacate an apartment or terminate a lease. Nor should they schedule their pickup on the day a cleaning crew is to start cleaning their quarters. Scheduling the pickup on these days leaves no room to adjust to unforeseen problems. Additionally, it's a good idea to leave the phone and other utilities connected until all property has been picked up.

For more information call the Air Force Claims Service Center at DSN 986-8044; toll free at 1-877-754-1212 or visit their Web site at <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/claims>.

BLACK KNIGHTS THE END OF AN ERA



19th Air Refueling Group reflects on mission as deactivation date nears

By Amanda Creel

amanda.creel@robins.af.mil

When it comes to heritage, the 19th Air Refueling Group is always willing to celebrate the legacy of Black Knights past and present.

The realization today's Black Knights may be the last to carry the torch of the group can be disheartening. However, members of the group are choosing to celebrate the rich history and culture of the group, rather than dwelling on their impending deactivation in May 2008.

The group, which began in 1927 as the 19th Observation Group, an inactive Army Air Corp group, has served in one world war and at least 10 armed conflicts. The group was designated as a Bombardment Group in 1941 and made their mark on World War II, fighting as the Far East Air Force.

In 1953 the group was inactivated and the 19th Bombardment Wing continued its legacy.

The unit didn't arrive at Robins until 1968. In 1983, the wing's sole mission became refueling as the last B-52 Stratofortresses were transferred to other units.

In 1996, the air refueling wing was redesignated as the 19th Air Refueling Group.

The group today has two vital capabilities: KC-135 Stratotanker air refueling and airlift and C-5 Galaxy isochronal inspections and field-level maintenance in partnership with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. The group is made of three squadrons: the 19th Maintenance Squadron, the 19th Operations Support Squadron and the 99th Air Refueling Squadron. The three squadrons work together to accomplish the diverse mission.

Members of the 19th ARG are proud to serve and are always willing to talk about what it means to be a Black Knight.

Members of the group said being a part of the group is something that will last forever. "Once a Black Knight, always a Black Knight," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Prado, a lead technician for aerospace propulsion with the 19th MXS. "Just because we aren't part of the 19th anymore doesn't mean you aren't part of that heritage anymore."

It is evident the Airmen of the 19th ARG possess something that sets them apart from other Air Force units, whether they are a member of the air crew, a maintainer or an intelligence apprentice.

Maj. Paul Baker, the 99th ARS director of operations, said he hopes some of the heritage and traditions are preserved at their new venues.

One of the many things he said he hopes to see retain its glory as it moves on is Cherokee Rose, the aircraft named for the Georgia state flower and known for holding four world records, set in 1986 as a member of the Robins fleet. Today she is still a member of the 19th ARG team and is presently deployed in support of the warfighter.

Major Baker said it would be a shame for her to lose her nose art and the heritage behind it.

One thing the members are quick to point out is that even in the midst of closure, the group continues to surpass the barriers set before it.

Some of the group's most recent awards include earning an eighth consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Along with earning the outstanding unit award, the group set a record for flight hours completed without a mishap for the third consecutive year.

The group flew 9,883 hours, 214 percent of its programmed flying hours, setting this year's record with a fleet of only 12 KC-135s.

"Even still we are pressing through. We are still breaking through and doing better," said Airman 1st Class Caylon Kimball, an intelligence apprentice with the 19th Operations Support Squadron.

Members of the group say the drive to excel will stay with them even after they depart

Robins because by being part of the group, you learn to succeed.

"All of us will overcome whatever challenges we face in the future," Sergeant Prado said.

Airman 1st Class Daniel Speir, said he was thrown by the Base Realignment and Closure decision to deactivate the Black Knights.

"I didn't know such a thing happened in the military. I was confused as to why the military would shut down a group with such a rich history," he said.

He added he understands now that with change comes growth and through the deactivation the Air Force is trying to become more lean and effective.

Members of the 19th ARG know their role is essential as the U.S. continues its efforts in both Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Prado said "Knowing the work I did on engines enables aircraft to take off safely and complete mis-

sions and knowing what I did here touches other parts of the world," is what makes him proud to be a Black Knight. The group's motto is, "In Alis Vincimus" which means "on wings we conquer."

Even in more recent history the group has proved the merit behind its motto by taking to the skies to defend the American way of life on Sept. 11.

"Within five hours of the attack, we were in the air refueling, protecting our nation," Sergeant Prado said.

Major Baker, a KC-135 pilot, said he is just glad he had the opportunity to join the fight against terrorism as a Black Knight.

"This is the first time I got to deploy post 9-11. I am glad to get back into the cockpit and participate in the Global War on Terror," he said.

However, even the Black Knights departure from Robins will be a bittersweet moment in the history of the group as they celebrate their 80th anniversary in October just months before their deactivation.

However, the group is choosing to focus on the grand celebration and the opportunity it brings for generations of Black Knights to come together and celebrate a tradition of excellence, rather than dwell on what they hope will only be a short pause to a heroic legacy.

"I just hope the Air Force community and the local community remember the 80 years of rich history," said Airman Speir, a support agreement manager with the group's support staff. "That rich history is very well rooted in the culture of the 19th and that type of culture is not developed overnight."

"Once a Black Knight, always a Black Knight. Just because we aren't part of the 19th anymore doesn't mean you aren't part of that heritage anymore."

Tech. Sgt. Larry Prado
19th Maintenance Squadron
lead technician for aerospace propulsion



1 2nd Lt. Kimberly Grisson boards a KC-135 for a 19th ARG deployment to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

2 Members of the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron work beneath a KC-135.

3 Supplying and maintaining life support items, like night vision goggles, is one mission of the 19th Operations Support Squadron.

4 One of the 19th ARG's aircraft is the Cherokee Rose, named for the Georgia state flower. It is presently deployed in support of the warfighter.

5 An F-16C Fighting Falcon maneuvers into position to be refueled by one of the 19th ARG's KC-135s.

courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force file photos by
Sue Sapp

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ May 25, 2007

TODAY

The teen center will host a debate night tonight at 7 p.m. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

SUNDAY

Texas Hold 'Em is held Sundays with sign up at 1:30 p.m. and games at 2 p.m. Prizes include the following: First place \$85 gift card, second place \$55 gift card, third place \$35 gift card and fourth place \$25 gift card. The entertainment fee is \$10 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers and includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Texas Hold 'Em is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

MONDAY

Triple S Mondays with soup, salad and sandwiches has arrived at the officers' club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$5.95. Enjoy made to order sandwiches or a full course salad bar with a variety of rotating gourmet soups. New special: soup and half sandwich combo only \$5.25 and wings and nachos for \$3.50. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades.

TUESDAY

Starting in June the officers' club will no longer be open for evening dining on Tuesdays. Evening dining will be available Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call the club at 926-2670.

Lunch buffets are held every Tuesday through Friday at the officers' club. Cost is \$6.95 for hot lunch or a salad bar or \$7.95 for both hot lunch and salad bar. Club members receive a \$1 Members First discount. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Enjoy movie night on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 8 p.m. Vote for the movies you want to see by filling out a ballot at the dining facility. Complimentary popcorn will be provided. For more information call the dining facility at 926-6596.

Free tacos are available to club members Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Robins Enlisted Club at 926-7625.

WEDNESDAY

The Ninth Annual Bed Race will be held today at 11 a.m. Teams will consist of five people (four pushers and one rider) and will meet in the parking lot of Bldg. 956. Winning teams will receive first, second and third place trophies and a People's Choice award for the best looking bed. For complete details or to enter a team, call Lynne Brackett at 926-2105.

Enjoy Wednesdays at the enlisted club with M.U.G. night and Karaoke with DJ X-Man. Customers may bring their own mug and get refills (up to 30 ounces) for only \$2 from 7 p.m. to closing. Cost for entry is \$2 for nonmembers. For more information call 926-7625.

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$5 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 17 of the June Edge on Wednesdays in June. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

Enjoy pizza on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club.

UPCOMING

The 6th annual Sports Day will be held May 31. The events are open to all Robins active-duty military, retirees, DOD civilians, contractors and family members. Events include: May 30 - Pre-sports day golf will be held at 8 a.m. with a shot gun start, \$10 AGF and \$17 non-AGF; May 31 - Sports Day starting at 8 a.m. (fitness center track); Bowling, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (bowling center); One pitch softball, 8:30 a.m. (softball field 1 and 2); 3-on-3 basketball (men and women), 9:30 a.m. (fitness center); PT challenge, 10 a.m. (fitness track/PT pad); Racquetball, 10:30 a.m. (fitness center); Volleyball, 11 a.m. (football field); Swimming, 11 a.m. (enlisted club pool); Skeet shoot, 11:15 a.m. (skeet range); Horseshoes, 12:15 p.m. (Robins Park); 5-on-5 Dodgeball, 1 p.m. (fitness center tennis courts); Tug-of-war, 3 p.m. (Robins Park - sand pit); Trophy presentation, 4 p.m. (fitness center); For complete details call 926-2128 or visit www2.robins.af.mil/services.

During May Fitness Month come out and play Fitness BINGO for a chance to win prizes. Bingo is open to all authorized fitness center patrons. Bingo sheets must be completed with all contact information and completed by noon May 29 to be eligible. Need not be present to win, limit one prize per person. Drawing is not open to Services Division managers and employees or their family members. For more information contact the fitness center at

Showin' off

U.S. Air Force photo by
GEORGE JOZENS

Staff Sgt. Ronald Megginson, on right with clip board, Network 56 car show coordinator, judges a 1929 Ford. Network 56, a junior NCO organization at Robins, held a fund raising car show Saturday in the Watson Central Shopping Center. The Network 56 car show and donations drive raised \$2,795 which will be used to send care packages to deployed Airmen who are fighting the war on terror.



926-2128.

First Friday will be held in the enlisted lounge and officers' club from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. June 1. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

Watch WWE Wrestling "One Night" June 3 and "Vengeance" June 24 in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m. for both events. Cost is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

Pizza Depot's 19th birthday party and grand opening will be held June 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its new location, Bldg. 956. Sample new pizza selections and other appetizers and have some birthday cake. Look for the entry form in the June Edge to fill out and bring to the party for a chance to win prizes. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

A Big bingo "Fun on the water" will be played June 7 at 7:15 p.m. and a membership bar bingo to be held June 13 at 6 p.m. A special Father's Day bingo will be played at 2:45 p.m. June 17 with giveaways and snacks. Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games begin at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Any one with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, DOD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

"Picnic with Altitude" events will be held June 9 and July 14. Check out the current fleet, information on avionics and equipment, meet current and new instructors, talk with other pilots and explore class opportunities. Food and prizes will be available to all members and their families as well as prospective members of the Robins Aero Club. Membership is open to all active duty and reserve military, DOD civilians and retirees. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

The teen center will hold poetry nights June 15 and 29 at 7 p.m. and Keystone meetings every Friday at 5 p.m. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

A Father's Day Sunday champagne brunch will be held June 17 and is open to all ranks and grades from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club. Enjoy all-you-care-to-eat breakfast, dinner entrees, carving station, salad bar, dessert and ice cream bar and much more. Cost is \$14.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children three through 10 years old and free to children two years and younger. Club members receive a \$2 Members First plus discount. A special drawing for a \$150 gift certificate from Dick's Sporting Good will be announced. For more information call officers' club at 926-2670.

Club scholarship submissions are due June 15. Robins Officers' and Enlisted Club members and their families may apply for the Air Forces Services club membership scholarship program, sponsored by Coca Cola and Chase Bank. Air Force-wide six scholarships will be awarded: first prize, \$6,000; second, \$5,500; third, \$4,500; fourth, \$3,500; fifth, \$3,000 and sixth, \$2,500. Nominees must provide an essay of no more than 500 words.

The essay theme is commemorating 60 years of air supremacy "Why is Air Superiority Critical Today." Essays exceeding 500 words (excluding title) will be disqualified. Participant must also provide a single-page summary of their long-term career goal and accomplishments. Essays must be typed in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, and sub-one-inch margins top and bottom and one-and-one-quarter inch on left and right sides and submitted on CD or floppy disk with one hard copy of the essay. Applicants must also provide a copy of their college or university acceptance letter. Nominations are due to Services Marketing, located in Bldg. 983, by June 15. For additional information, please go to www.p.afsvf.af.mil/clubs or call 926-5492. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies in the Park at Robins Park June 15 for a presentation of "The Never Ending Story." The movie will start at dark and concessions will be on sale. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

The Missoula Children's Theater tour arrives with a script, lights, costumes, props, and make-up — everything it takes to put on the play, the all-time favorite classic, "Jack and the Beanstalk" ...everything except a cast. The community center will host this week-long program June 18 through 23. Between 50 and 60 children, from those entering the first grade to twelfth grade, may participate in open auditions at the Robins Elementary School cafeteria on June 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. Be prepared to stay the entire two hours. The selected cast will rehearse throughout the week, in daily two-hour sessions. Rehearsal schedules will be handed out to cast members after the auditions. Performance of Jack and the Beanstalk is scheduled in the school cafeteria on June 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$4 per person free for children three and younger. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Outdoor Recreation For more information on these programs and events call outdoor recreation at 926-4001

► Pool season starts May 26 at noon. Swim lessons are also available for children four to three years old for \$30; youth ages four through 14 years old for \$40 and adults for \$40. Lesson will take place at the officers' club pool Tuesdays through Friday.

► Join outdoor recreation on a trip to the World of Coca Cola June 28. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$54 for 12 years and older; \$52.50 for 55 years and older and \$49 for children one to 11 years old. Cost includes transportation to and from and entrance into the World of Coca Cola. A minimum of 10 people are required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Register by June 15 at outdoor recreation, Bldg... 914.

► A community water safety class will be held June 25 at 9 a.m. in the enlisted club pool. Cost is \$10 per person six years and older (14 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult). A minimum of 15 people are required to participate. Register at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914 by June 18.

► A CNN Studio tour will be held July 6 in Atlanta, Ga. Cost is \$53 for 12 years and older; \$51.50 for 55 years and older and \$49 for children one to 11 years old. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost includes transportation to and from and entrance into CNN Studios. A minimum of 10 people are required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Register by June 27 at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914.

► Join outdoor recreation on a white

water rafting trip in Hartford, Tenn. from June 15 through 17. Cost is \$285 for one person and one room; \$428 for two people and one room; \$572 for three people and one room and \$716 for four people and one room. A minimum of 10 people are required to participate. Please register by June 4.

ONGOING

Information, Tickets and Travel Robins Enlisted Club, Bldg... 956 has the following tickets for sale. For more information on these or other events, call 926-2945.

► Information, Tickets and Travel will hold a Falcon Fan Fest June 11. The Falcon Fan Fest will be from 1 to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of Bldg. 956. Meet the players and cheerleaders, football throws and kicks through the inflatable goal. Concessions will be on sale.

► Atlanta Falcons tickets will be on sale at the Information, Tickets and Travel office, Bldg. 956, from 6 to 9 p.m. June 11. Four tickets per person per game will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Phone or e-mail orders will not be accepted. Customers must be present when ordering their tickets. Home games are: Bengals on Aug. 27; Ravens on Aug. 31; Panthers on Sept. 23; Texans on Sept. 30; Giants on Oct. 15; 49ers on Nov. 4; Buccaneers on Nov. 18; Colts on Nov. 22; Saints on Dec. 10 and Seahawks on Dec. 30.

► The FOX Theatre presents, Dream Girls July 28 at 2 p.m., cost is \$74; Wizard of Oz on Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. or Aug. 11 at noon, cost is \$60.50; West Side Story on Aug. 25 at 2 p.m., cost is \$60.50 and Storm on Sept. 22 at 2 p.m., cost is \$57. All seats are located in the orchestra level. A limited number of tickets are available.

The bowling center has the following specials. To learn more call 926-2112.

► The Air Force Services Summer Strike Force bowling promotion takes off June 1. Patrons will receive punch cards when participating in bowling center programs for the chance to win \$500 first prize or \$250 second prize and other prizes. Summer Strike Force sponsored in part by Qubica AMF and Coca-Cola. No federal endorsement of sponsors is intended.

► All retirees receive a complimentary game of bowling when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 17 of the June Edge Tuesdays in June.

► Treat dad to bowling June 17. You bowl for the regular price and dad gets a complimentary game.

► Enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling Fridays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost 12 years and younger, \$5 and 13 years and older, \$10 and Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost is \$10 for everyone.

► Stay in form through the summer season and bowl from 11 am. to 1p.m. for only \$1 a game.

Pine Oaks Golf Course has the following specials. To learn more, call 926-4103.

► Every Monday through Thursday in June pay \$20 for green fee and cart starting at 2 p.m.

► Every Wednesday through Thursday in June pay \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 5 p.m.

► Every Monday and Tuesday in June pay only \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 3 p.m.

► Receive 10 to 50 percent off selected merchandise during the Father's Day weekend sale at the Pine Oaks Golf Course.

► Learn to play golf for kids will be held June 11 through 15 and July 23 through 27. Cost is \$60 and includes a nine-hole tourney on Fridays, lunch and trophies. Classes are from Monday through Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. for children six to eight years old; 10 to 11 a.m. for children nine to 11 years old and 11 a.m. to noon for children 12 to 15 years old. Sign up at the pro shop.

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.



FRIDAY

BLADES OF GLORY

Will Ferrell, Jon Heder
Perhaps nowhere in sports is the marriage of athleticism and grace more evident than in the arena of world champion pairs figure skating—the lifts, the jumps, the routines. It's an elegant world, a rarefied universe, a noble place populated by the crème de la crème of skating elite. Well, it used to be. When the macho, swaggering Chazz Michael Michaels takes to the rink, he is the rock of the arena, leaving a trail of thrashed ice and shrieking female fans in his wake. (crude and sexual humor, language, a comic violent image and some drug references) Rated PG-13. 93 minutes.

SATURDAY

PERFECT STRANGER

Halle Berry, Bruce Willis
As she goes undercover to crack the case of her friend's murder, a woman gets caught up in the world of obsessive love online. (sexual content, nudity, some disturbing violent images and language) Rated R. 119 minutes

UPCOMING

300

Gerard Butler, Lena Heady
Set in the midst of the Persian-Greco war during the Battle of Thermopylae, where Spartan king Leonidas led his army of 300 soldiers into battle against the invading Persian army. According to legend, their valor and sacrifice inspired all of Greece to unite against their Persian foe, leading to the origins of democracy. (graphic battle sequences throughout, some sexuality and nudity) Rated R. 117 minutes.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jum'ah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. featuring hymns, anthems, congregational prayers and readings. Contemporary service meets at 11 a.m. in the Base Theater, singing the latest praise and worship music. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel, praising God with inspirational music. Religious education meets in Building 905 at 9:30 a.m.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Lanorris Askeaw at lanorris.askeaw@robins.af.mil.

Submissions run for two weeks. The following people have been approved as leave recipients: **Christen Matthews**, HQ/AFRC, POC is Robert Thompson, 327-1750 and **James Hamrick**, 402ndSMXG/MXDO, POC is Brian Daniel, 926-8870.

Teams catch a thousand fish in Robins-sponsored tourney

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Inclement weather nearly made the 17th Annual Military Team Bass Fishing Tournament a wash out.

But, 132 teams from 31 states managed to catch a break and even a few fish at the tournament on Lake Barkley Marina in Cadiz, Ky., May 6-11. Nearly 30 participants from Georgia competed and 27 teams received awards in the tournament.

Senior Master Sgt. Gary Perrine, Support Flight superintendent in the 367th Recruiting Group, was one of the enthusiastic fishermen from Robins who cast his rod in hopes of bringing in the catch of the day.

"The military tournament is just a great experience," he said. "It's a lot of fun."

The 46-year-old Yardville, N.J., native, along with his fishing partner, Senior Master Sgt. Jason Kenney, 337th Recruiting Squadron superintendent at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., took 26th place for catching 29.47 pounds of fish over the three-day tournament.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Clark, NCO in charge of the Environmental Spill Team in the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron at Robins, who was enjoying the fishing competition for the first time, learned that bragging isn't always a right to claim when his oppo-

nents found his team's winning fishing spot.

"We got on top of a good fishing area on the very first day and we pulled a lot of good fish out and people saw us," he said. "We were out of the first flight the first day and then we had probably close to 100 people who got to go out on the second and third day before us. When we got to our



spot, people were already there and they took our spot from us."

The 33-year-old South Charleston, Ohio, native said he and his partner searched a radius of about 75 miles before they found a spot that was just as good. But his team netted only 13 fish, weighing in at 23.09 pounds for the three-day tournament.

"It was a great experience," Sergeant Clark said. "I've been part of a lot of fishing tournaments outside of the Department of Defense) and this one was well organized."

The tournament was the fourth for Sergeant Perrine.

"The staff does a super job," he said. "I've fished quite a few tournaments and they are just the happiest people at four o'clock in the morning that you'd ever want to meet. We're out there way before daylight and they're working all of those long hours. My hat goes off to them. They do a great job."

Lynne Brackett, director of the Smith Community Center who coordinated the fishing tournament, said the sporting event, co-sponsored by Robins and BMAR, was a great opportunity for people to bond doing the sport they love.

"This fishing tournament gives our active-duty (military), retirees, and those who support the military a chance to compete, get together to tell fish stories and build camaraderie and esprit de corps."

More than 1,000 fish were caught in the tournament. According to Mrs. Brackett, the largest fish caught weighed 6.73 pounds.

Mrs. Brackett said the tournament is held at a different lake each year, spanning several states since its beginning. She said the location of the 18th Annual Military Team Bass Fishing Tournament will become available on the tournament's Web site at www.militarybass.com on Oct. 1.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Staff Sgt. Mike Membrila, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, scored a four-round total of 278 (68-68-69-73) to notch a one-stroke win in the Shaw Invitational May 7-11. He entered the final round with a three-stroke lead and held on for the victory.

Sergeant Membrila said he liked his chances heading into the tournament because of a strong showing at last year's event.

"It was a really exciting," he said. "I started the tournament real well with three good rounds and it ended up being a lot closer than it should have been. I sunk a 20-foot putt on the last hole to secure the win."

The Robins team of Sergeant Membrila, Master Sgt. Mark Schwab, Tech. Sgt. Chris McIlwain and Tech. Sgt. Mark Bajala finished in second place overall, the best finish ever from a non-Shaw team.



Courtesy photo

INTRAMURAL BOWLING CHAMPIONS: The team from the 5th Combat Communications Group won the 2006-07 base intramural bowling roll-offs. The team swept through the tournament bracket competing with seven other teams to win the crown. All members contributed to the team's effort but Larry Harper bowled a spectacular series in the final match against the AFRC team. Harper bowled 255-197-248, for his first 700 series.

Pictured are the members who bowled during the roll-offs: (left to right) Troy Taylor, Kevin Young, Larry Harper and Houston Ezell. Other members of the team included David Johnson, Joseph Fassbender, Kenneth Brown, Diane Harper and Andy Lethco.

► IN BRIEF

RCG SCHOLARSHIP

Robins Chiefs Group is accepting applications for 2007 enlisted scholarship awards. The scholarship awards are designed to recognize and assist eligible applicants participating in undergraduate or post-secondary school vocational training programs. An applicant must be: on active duty (includes active-duty reserve component members), in the grade of E-1 through E-8 and assigned to Robins or be the dependent of an active-duty member meeting the preceding criteria. Each scholarship awarded will be for no less than \$250. The number of scholarships presented varies and depends on the number of applicants. The deadline to apply is May 31. For more information and an application packet, contact your unit's chief master sergeant, first sergeant or the Robins Education Office. You can also contact Chief Master Sgt. Judy Turner, 327-7998, or Chief Master Sgt. Roy Lapioli, 327-4407, or send an e-mail to info@robinschiefs-group.org.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 19th Air Refueling Group's Heritage Group will sponsor a fishing tournament fundraiser June 17 at Little River Park (Lake Sinclair) from safe-light to 3 p.m.. It is a 5-fish limit (catch and release only). The cost is \$50 per two-person team with a 70 percent payback. A safety brief and review of the rules will precede the event. For more information call Jeff Wade at 951-0741 or Mark Denney at 213-0466.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 19th Air Refueling Group's Heritage Group will sponsor a golf tournament fundraiser June 18 at Waterford Golf Club in Bonaire. It is a 4-Person Scramble (Best Ball Format) with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Individuals or teams are welcome and the cost is \$50 per person. All participants receive a sleeve of balls and golf tool pack. There will be prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and trophies for the Top three teams. For more information call Deb Ilgenfritz at 919-921-6419.

PALACE CHASE

Active-duty members, are you interested in applying for an early separation? The Palace Chase program allows eligible members to apply to separate early, and continue their partici-

pation on a part-time basis. All Air Force Specialty Codes and ranks are eligible to apply. Refer to AFI 36-3205, or contact Tech. Sgt. Deserie Jackson, In-Service recruiter, at 327-7367, or deserie.jackson@robins.af.mil for requirements and questions on this program.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SKILLS PROGRAM

This on-base youth volunteer program is funded by the Air Force Aid Society. Dependents, in grades 9 through 12, of active-duty Air Force members assigned to or living on Robins may apply. The program affords eligible teens an opportunity to learn valuable work skills while having a positive impact on their communities. Program participation incentives are in the form of dollar credits for grant funding. Students "bank" volunteer dollar credits toward their post-secondary education at a rate of \$4 per hour volunteered. Participants may accumulate as much as 250 hours for a \$1,000 scholarship over all four years of high school combined. For more information call Marvin Hawkins program coordinator at 926-5601.

TOASTMASTERS WEEK

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue recently signed a proclamation declaring May 21 - 27, as Toastmasters Week in Georgia. The mission of a toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

The following daytime clubs meet on Robins:

Aerospace Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in Bldg. 300 (PK Conference Room) at 11:30 a.m., point of contact is Brenda Smith at 222-1774.

Procurement Toastmasters meets the first and third Thursday of each month in Bldg. 300 (PK Conference Room) at noon; point of contact is Bruce Gaynor at 327-1647.

Ravens Toastmasters meets the first and third Wednesday of each month in Bldg. 300 (LU Conference Room) at 11:15 a.m., point of contact is Altry James at 222-2245.

A list of other area toastmasters clubs may be found at www.toastmasters.org. Click on "Find A Club" and enter your zip code in the zip code search section.

READ THE REV-UP ONLINE !

<http://www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp>

Airman and Family Readiness Center classes, workshops

Airman and Family Readiness Center sponsored classes, workshops and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel and their eligible family members.

Absences from duty sections to attend these offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his or her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.

A&FRC is located in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the enlisted club. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

Interview basics and preparation class

An Interview Basics and Preparation class will be held May 30, 9 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Interviews are the most important aspect of the job search process but often the scariest. This covers types of interviews; the purpose of each and what to expect from them.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia will host a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop May 31, 1 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 794.

A comprehensive workbook and information on credit man-

agement, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented. Assistance will be provided in developing spending and savings plans to realize financial goals. Workshop is open to all of Team Robins.

TAP workshop

A three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshop will be held June 4 through 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., each day, Bldg. 794. Personnel leaving the military within the next 12 months need to sign up as soon as possible. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Workshop topics include: job search skills, resume and cover letters, interviewing skills, career planning, veterans benefits, disabled veterans issues and more.

Reservations are taken on first-come, first-served basis within the appropriate separation or retirement dates. If you register for a session and find you cannot attend, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center to cancel your reservation---there is a waiting list.

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered twice weekly by the A&FRC Readiness Team. Briefings are conducted at 9 a.m., Monday and Friday in Bldg. 794. Call 926-1256 for details.

Security Forces, area police officers remember sacrifices during National Police Week



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Airman Dustin James, Airman 1st Class Desmond Brooks and Airman 1st Class Norman Charlton retire the colors at the Peace Officers' Memorial Day retreat ceremony May 15 at Robins.

At right, A local SWAT Team member looks at the photos of fellow law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty this year during a candlelight vigil May 18.

Below, Derrick Lewis II and his sister Noelle meet McGruff, the crime dog, at the National Police Week exhibit Saturday at the Watson Boulevard Kmart parking lot. The event is held to enhance public awareness of law enforcement duties and programs with numerous displays of military and civilian law enforcement vehicles and equipment.



U.S. Air Force photo by ERIC PALMER

WHAT TO KNOW

President John F. Kennedy established National Police Week in October 1962 when he designated May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor the federal, state, and municipal officers who die or are disabled in the line of duty. Additionally, he designated the week in which Peace Officers Memorial Day falls as Police Week.

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
hollybirchfield@robins.af.mil

Police and security forces officers give their all to defend their nation and ensure security.

During the week of May 15-21, Robins joined state and local police officers to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice so many of their fallen friends and loved ones have made in the line of duty.

About 50 people from the base and local community took part in a retreat ceremony May 15 at the flag pole just outside Bldg. 215.

Tech. Sgt. Lisa Gonzalez, NCO in charge of installation security in the 78th Security Forces Squadron, said the ceremony marked the loss of those in the career field, both Air Force and community-wide.

"It's just a great way to honor those who've given their lives, men and women who've put themselves in harms way every day," she said. "I just feel like everyone's like a brother or a sister to me, especially in this career field. As close as we get, we treat everybody as family."

Additionally, local police held National Police Week exhibits with military and civilian law enforcement information and McGruff the crime dog on hand May 19.

The week also included numerous competitions.

Activities included bowling, golf and a firearms competition where security forces and civilian police officers went weapon-to-weapon and toe-to-toe all in the name of good old fashion competition.

Maj. Greg Anderson, 78th SFS commander, said the competitions were a nice break.

"It's always nice to get with our civilian counterparts and share stories along with experiences and maybe some helpful tips as well," he said. "It's good to have a little camaraderie, a lit-

tle good team work and also some good competition to foster that healthy relationship with our civilian counterparts."

A crowd of civilian and military friends and loved ones shared a more serious moment in the Robins Base Chapel during a candlelight vigil May 18, to memorialize 12 civilian and military police officers who've fallen in the line of duty this year.

Tech. Sgt. Stephanie McCleskey, 78th SFS NCOIC of police services and vigil organizer, said this year's service held a special place in her heart.

"It was the best one that we've had to date," she said. "There was a lot of participation with volunteers and there was a very large turnout of people who wanted to come and honor those that had fallen. There were also quite a few family members and friends and also police officers that worked with those who had fallen that attended and that's what made it very special."

For Sergeant McCleskey, the service was very personal.

"It's always kind of an emotional roller coaster for me every year because when I'm pulling this together, I'm talking to the departments and the family members who lost people who are special to them," she said. "I have the privilege and honor to be able to be a part of that."

Major Anderson said the candlelight vigil was a time to reflect.

"It gives us an opportunity as the law enforcement community to remember our fallen officers and show our gratitude and support for their family members and other survivors," he said. "Given the hectic pace we all live, it's nice to pause and reflect and remember folks who have given the ultimate sacrifice."

Deputy Daniel Glass of the Houston County Sheriff's Office said the week's events remind people to never forget that sacrifice.