

# THE R BINS REV-UP

February 14, 2008 Vol. 53 No.6

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

Happy Valentine's Day!

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander.

## Countdown to HQ AFMC LSET visit

BY MAJ. GEN. TOM OWEN  
WR-ALC Commander

I have great confidence in our preparedness for the return of the HQ AFMC LSET! Dr. Steven Butler, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center executive director, and I remain engaged with your wing and group commanders; they emphasize the incredible progress everyone has made since September 2007. The team will arrive at Robins Feb. 21. Forty inspectors will begin evaluating the Center on Feb. 25 and finish Feb. 28. It is time to put the finishing touches and like the old saying goes "polish the brass" in our work areas. One thing I learned early on in my career is that first per-

ceptions can make or break a unit inspection. Now is the time to show the team we have the "right stuff."

As you know, to excel in any inspection we must concentrate and focus on each task. The September 2007 LSET inspection highlighted areas that required improvement in safety, accountability, documentation and procedures. In order to put fixes in place permanently, we needed to change our culture and the way we do business. I commend you on meeting each challenge head on and all the hard work you have put into preparation thus far. Immediately after the team departed, you established corrective action teams, began to refine processes and incorporated new policies. I feel confident each

of you have embraced these changes and leaned forward to ensure we are a better and safer workforce.

This is readily apparent to me by our day-to-day successes and the strides you have made in the Repair Enterprise 21, Air Force Smart Operations 21 and the Voluntary Protection Program areas to name a few. I am especially proud that we continue to out-perform the Air Force and Air Force Materiel Command standards in quality aircraft and on-time delivery to the warfighter.

I am counting on each one of you to do your very best and finalize Center preparations for the LSET. We need everyone focused and ready on day one to ensure a successful outcome. Now is our time!

## AF official visits Robins, talks alternative energy

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON  
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil

The Air Force is on the forefront in the country's efforts to reduce reliance on foreign oil, a top ranking official said in a visit to Robins Feb. 8.

During a two-day visit to Robins, William Anderson, Air Force assistant secretary for installations, environment and logistics, briefed media and leaders on the Air Force's energy strategy and shared thoughts on the Air Force's efforts in pushing energy alternatives.

"Our mission is to fly, fight and win and to maintain sovereign options for this nation and our global interests," Mr. Anderson said in a press conference. "We believe we can do this in a way that reduces our demand on energy, reduce the environmental impact of our mission and maintain the high environmental stewardship standards the Air Force has had for many decades."

He said the Air Force, from top leadership down, has really embraced the energy message, and is working to decrease demand, as well as working to find new sources of domestically-sourced, clean energy.

"We are working to change the culture of every Airman, from the day they walk into basic training to the most senior ranks of the Air Force, that they make energy considerations in everything they do," Mr. Anderson said. "I am encouraged by how much the Air Force has understood its role in this process."

Importing such a large percentage of our liquid fuel creates a financial and strategic risk and so the Air Force has moved in earnest to develop a comprehensive strategy and move ahead on specific projects. Mr. Anderson said Robins specifically has taken seriously the call from the president "to wean



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
William Anderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics, gets a look at some of the alternative fuel vehicles at Robins Feb. 8.

## Robins Distance Learning Center gets upgrades to better serve students

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

Robins Air Force Base's Distance Learning Center has made upgrades to its classrooms to make getting educated a better experience.

New computers, monitors and visual aid equipment for the center's two classrooms are some of the main changes to come about at the center, which is located in Room C17 in Bldg. 301 West Wing's Bay C.

Ergonomic chairs were also included in the center's updates to make learning more comfortable for students.

The changes came about in September and October of 2007.

Gary Schwartz, a budget analyst in the Training and Professional Development Division of the Directorate of Personnel, said the nearly \$60,000 in upgrades were funded by the center to replace its obsolete resources.

Chad Langford, an administrator in the DLC, said the upgrades make the center a state of the art facility.

"We did the push-to-talk microphones for the students to be able to talk back and forth when students are on the satellite courses," he said. "We provided new tables, new chairs, a new projector and a new speaker system."

► see UPGRADES, 2A

## VPP pledge for a safer work place



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Around 175 employees from 11 areas of C-5 production signed a VPP pledge Feb. 11 to commit to having a safer work environment.

At right, Brig. Gen. Mark Atkinson, 402nd Maintenance Wing commander, speaks to C-5 employees about the importance of a safe working area Feb. 11.



## Robins Team Lean challenge set to kick-off Feb. 29

The 2nd Annual Air Force Materiel Command Team Lean Challenge will take place from March 3 to June 13.

The first Robins TLC Kick-Off Expo will be Feb. 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Fitness Center Annex. The next expo will be March 7 from 12 to 3 p.m. in the old gym of the Fitness Center. Teams may sign-up together at the expos and attendees will be able to collect information on upcoming classes and events to help

promote health and wellness.

Last year, Robins participants collectively lost more than 1,000 pounds during its campaign.

Kelley Denney, Civilian Health Promotion Service coordinator and registered nurse who worked with the Health and Wellness Center in managing the 2007 Team Lean Challenge, said Robins' participants lost 1,187 pounds and 2.2 percent body fat in last year's challenge.

— staff reports



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP  
For more information on the Team Lean Challenge or how to participate visit [www.afmcwellness.com](http://www.afmcwellness.com)

**THINK SAFETY**



To request a ride, call 222-0013, 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

Total rides given this year: 60

Days without a DUI-5  
Last DUI-16th AMXS — courtesy  
78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

**THE TWO-MINUTEREV**

**78th ABW annual awards**  
The 78th Air Base Wing will honor its shining stars during its annual awards ceremony Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Base Theater. All Air Base Wing personnel are strongly encouraged to attend to support their nominees.


**WR-ALC annual awards**  
The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center will honor its top Airmen during the Annual Awards Luncheon March 7 at 11 a.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar.

**INSIGHT**



**Tuskegee Airman visits Robins**  
Original Tuskegee Airman visits Robins, shares history, 1B

**SPORTS**



**The Sweet Science**  
116th Airman to represent Air Force at nationals, 3B

**READINESS**



**ORI in focus series**  
Robins ensures Airmen are ready to deploy with a mission ready status, 5A

**WEATHER FORECAST**

THURSDAY 62/28 

FRIDAY 67/33 

SATURDAY 65/39 

## UPGRADES

Continued from 1A

Having the most up to date technology gives the center what it needs to provide satellite capabilities for up to 40 college and other work-related courses the facility offers at any given time, Mr. Langford said.

"We used to have a lot of problems with the audio system that we had in our (classroom) because it was old," he said. "We had to swap out the boxes a lot, but it seems like the new system we have, with it being more up to date, is going to be a more reliable system so we won't have so many problems coming out of

the system."

Mr. Langford said about a year ago, new computers were placed in the classrooms for instructors to conduct web-based seminars.

The new equipment has enabled the center to accommodate groups up to 24 people for teleconferences, Mr. Langford said.

Shannon Lewis, a training technician in the division, said the updates aren't the last for the DLC.

The center's staff plans to modernize its video library.

"Right now, we have about 1,200 taped courses (at the center) and they're on VHS tapes," Mr. Langford said. "It's older

material and outdated. We have books and courseware that go along with the tapes."

Mr. Langford said the center plans to get better materials to offer students.

Ms. Lewis said a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in the near future to celebrate the center's new features.

### WHAT TO KNOW

The Robins Distance Learning Center can accommodate teleconferences with up to 24 people. To schedule a teleconference at the Robins Distance Learning Center, call Chad Langford, an administrator in the DLC at 926-3528, at least one day in advance.

## 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.

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.

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.

### Uniformed thrift saving plan

The A&FRC Financial Management program is offering a briefing on the Uniformed Thrift Saving Plan today, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Bldg. 794.

In 2008 you may contribute up to \$15,000 to the TSP program. A major advantage of the TSP is that you pay no taxes on contributions or earnings until you withdraw from your account. Additionally, you can choose among the six invest-

ment funds in consideration of your personal risk tolerance: Government Securities Investment Fund, Fixed Income Index Investment Fund, Common Stock Index Investment Fund, Small Capitalization Stock Investment Fund, International Stock Index Investment Fund, and the Lifecycle Investment Fund.

To educate individuals, the web site [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) has the "Summary of the TSP", forms, and a question and answer section to assist you, in addition to this class.

### Airman's attic

The Airmen's Attic program supports junior enlisted members that are establishing a household. E-4s and below are encouraged to screen and use items in the attic to help defray the cost of setting up an apartment or home. Items usually available include kitchenware, small appliances, and decorative items. The attic also receives and provides children's clothing, toys, and military uniforms.

### AFAS information

The Air Force Aid Society is how Air Force personnel help each other. Through contribu-

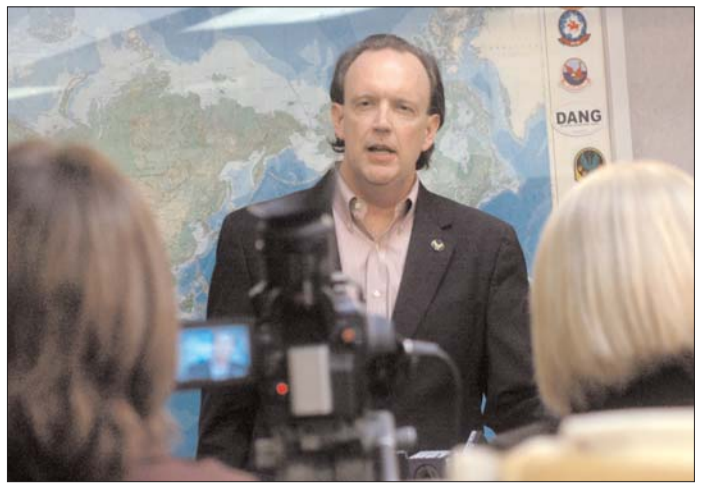
tions to the Air Force Assistance Fund, monies are available for all ranks of airmen who are experiencing temporary financial hardships. Hardships are defined as difficulties in paying for basic living expenses, emergency situations, car repair, and other unusual circumstances.

If you or someone you know needs Air Force Aid Assistance, please get an application form from the A&FRC, 926-1256 or at <http://www.afas.org>, complete and schedule an appointment with an Air Force Aid representative.

### Relocation assistance

Relocation Assistance at the Airman and Family Readiness Center has a Military Home Front Service <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/> that has information on all military installations worldwide. Informational site for all personnel, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). From simple questions to complex issues, you can use Military One Source 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you don't have a computer you can call 1-800-342-9647, and for conversation en Espanol, llame al: 1-877-888-0727.

For more information call 926-1256.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

William Anderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics, speaks to media Feb. 8.

## FUEL

Continued from 1A

itself of its addiction to foreign oil."

He cited several initiatives, including testing and certifying the use of synthetic fuels by Air Force aircraft, some of which is done here by the Advanced Power Technology Office. He noted that the use of synthetic fuels could also expand beyond aircraft, and that APTO is working to certify the use of fuel in ground vehicles.

"The team (at Robins) is doing some exciting stuff to help the Air Force move

toward a single battlefield fuel," Mr. Anderson said.

Other energy-saving initiatives include the possibility of a coal-to-liquids project at Mahlstrom AFB, Mont., a photovoltaic array at Nellis AFB, Nev., a 1.3 megawatt wind farm at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and a small package nuclear project at a yet undetermined base.

Because the strategy for the Air Force is to use underutilized land on Air Force bases to host energy initiatives that make sense for a particular area, the best option for Robins may be using woody biomass as feedstock for electricity generation.

"I would expect the base and the community around here will start generating some ideas in a relatively short time," he said.

Mr. Anderson said the energy projects are not being funded by taxpayer dollars, but are commercial operations, run by commercial entities and financed by the private sector investment community.

"We're looking for projects that can make a profit, that the commercial world wants to do and that makes sense in terms of the environment," he said. "So far, every idea we've put out to the market place has received considerable interest."

### Below is a list of abandoned or impounded vehicles waiting to be claimed

- 1) 1972 Chevrolet Nova, vehicle license number: KS 6374, Illinois
- 2) 1981 Dodge Ram D-150, vehicle license number: 6895 RB, Georgia
- 3) 1990 Lincoln Town Car, vehicle license number: 4008 AGR, Georgia
- 4) 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis, vin number: 2MECM74WXNX659736
- 5) 1992 Jeep Grand Cherokee, vehicle license number: AKR 0927, Georgia
- 6) Nissan 200sx, vin number: JN1V52659HW022014

— 78th Security Forces Squadron

# SISTERS IN SERVICE

## Two Air Force colonels retire at Robins together after following in their family's military footsteps

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

It was Colonel Nidia Carrero who talked her sister, Colonel Yolanda Cruz, into joining the Air Force.

Now, Colonel Carrero, director of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and chief of Information Operations at Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command, and Colonel Cruz, a communications officer, currently the chief of the J-6 Director's Action Group on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, are getting set to bid farewell to their military careers in a dual-retirement ceremony at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hanger on March 5.

Leslie Kenne, a retired Air Force lieutenant general for whom both colonels worked during their careers, will preside over the ceremony.

Colonel Carrero was commissioned as an Air Force officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, Detachment 755 at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras on August 28, 1977, and entered active-duty on November 9, 1977.

Colonel Carrero was the first in her family to be commissioned as an officer in the Air Force.

The Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, native's family has touched several branches of the Armed Forces though. Her father, Francisco Rivera Negrón was a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam and Korean wars.

"We were a military family, and we had traveled all over the world with my father," she said. "I also got to see firsthand what he went through in his work. He was an intelligence officer and we didn't know very much about what he did, but we knew that he loved it."

Her brother, Francisco Rivera Jr., was a commissioned captain and a communications officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years before leaving the service due to injury.

Their mother, Rosalinda Ortiz de Rivera, was a homemaker.

With her family's military roots, it was no surprise that Colonel Carrero would join military service.

"Back then, it was duty, honor, country, and so that sort of played a part in my decision to join (the military)," she said. "Also, I liked the Air Force. I liked the flying and the concept of supporting our flyers from an intelligence perspective, so I chose intelligence like my father (did)."

Soon after she joined, Colonel Cruz decided to take her sister's advice and enroll in the same R.O.T.C program Colonel Carrero graduated from at the University of Puerto Rico.

Colonel Cruz was commissioned as an officer in June 1981 and entered active-duty service on Oct. 25 of that year.

Over the years since, the sisters' career paths crossed a few times.

The sisters are two of seven children in their family. Their relationship is very close.

Throughout their time in service, the officers always knew they could turn to each other professionally as they did personally.

"Although our paths don't necessarily cross on a day-to-day basis, if there is a question that I have about something in her field of expertise, I will call her to get her professional opinion," Colonel Carrero said.

Colonel Carrero left Air Force active-duty in 1992 due to family needs. Three years later, she joined the Air Force Reserve as an individual mobilization augmentee in Stuttgart, Germany, and became a collection manager in the J-2 Staff.

The break gave Colonel Cruz just enough time to catch up to her sister's time in service, allowing the two to retire together.

Colonel Cruz said being able to retire with her sister makes the occasion even more special.

"It's a very emotional thing for me," she said. "I'm having

the honor and the privilege to retire with a sister that, in my opinion, influenced completely my decision to check this R.O.T.C program out. Throughout my career, when I've had professional challenges, she has been the one I've gone to for advice and mentoring because she's got four years on me in terms of experience, so she has been a sounding board."

Colonel Cruz said her sister is her hero.

"When Nidia said, 'Hey, why don't we do a dual retirement ceremony,' (I thought) of mom," she said. "What better way to end 26 and a half years of service to the Air Force than with the very member of my family that influenced my decision to try this out."

Brig. Gen. Ric Severson, assistant vice commander of Headquarters AFRC, said he wishes the sisters well as they close this chapter in life and embrace their futures.

"As they approach retirement, I salute the sister team of Colonel Nidia Carrero and Colonel Yolanda Cruz for their courage, dedication, and love of country as demonstrated by their combined service of more than 56 years," he said. "What an incredible commitment by one family and what tremendous role models they have been over the course of their careers. Both have served the Air Force with great pride. Their personal character, selfless service, and patriotism are certainly worthy of recognition on this special occasion."



Col. Nidia Carrero



Col. Yolanda Cruz

## 78th Services Division announces President's Day hours

### Open

- ▶Bowling Center, open Monday from 1 to 7 p.m.
- ▶Fitness Center, open Monday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶Flight Line Kitchen, normal hours
- ▶Golf Course, normal hours and tee times (hotdogs, cold sandwiches and beverages available at Pro Shop)
- ▶Lodging, normal hours
- ▶Wynn Dining Facility, normal hours

### Closed

- ▶Aero Club, administration and sales
- ▶Arts & Crafts Center
- ▶Auto Hobby Shop, closed Wednesday
- ▶Base Library
- ▶Base Restaurant

- ▶CDC East & West
- ▶Community Center
- ▶Equipment Rental Center
- ▶Family Child Care
- ▶Fitness Center Annex
- ▶Flight Line Dining Facility
- ▶Food Service office
- ▶Heritage Club
- ▶Honor Guard/Mortuary Affairs/Readiness Office
- ▶Horizons
- ▶Human Resource office
- ▶Information, Tickets and Travel
- ▶Marketing
- ▶Pizza Depot
- ▶Resource Management office
- ▶Skeet Range
- ▶Teen Center
- ▶US Veterinarian Services
- ▶Wood Hobby shop, closed Monday and Tuesday
- ▶Youth Center



<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>6-2821</b>	<b>A&amp;FRC</b>	<b>6-1256</b>
<b>Life Skills</b>	<b>7-8398</b>	<b>Occupational Health</b>	<b>7-7590</b>
<b>SARC</b>	<b>6-2946</b>	<b>CHPS</b>	<b>7-8031</b>
<b>HAWC</b>	<b>7-8480</b>	<b>Family Advocacy</b>	<b>7-8398</b>
<b>Medical Clinic</b>	<b>7-7850</b>	<b>AADD</b>	<b>2-0013</b>

### Personal Wingman:

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER**

"Our Airmen - Officers, Enlisted and Civilians - have been engaged in continuous combat for more than 17 years. From Operations Desert Storm and Northern Watch beginning in 1991, to today's fight on the ground and in the skies of Afghanistan and Iraq with Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Airmen are answering our nation's call."

— Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Robins Office of Public Affairs  
620 Ninth Street., Bldg. 905  
Robins AFB, GA 31098  
(478) 926-2137 DSN 468-2137  
Fax (478) 926-9597

## EDITORIAL STAFF

COMMANDER  
Col. Warren Berry

PA DIRECTOR  
Lt. Col. John Bryan

CHIEF OF INTERNAL INFORMATION  
1st Lt. Sequoia Lawson  
sequoia.lawson@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0802

EDITOR  
Kendahl Johnson  
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0804

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Lanorris Askew  
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0806

STAFF WRITERS  
Amanda Creel  
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0807

Holly L. Birchfield  
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0810

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sue Sapp  
sue.sapp@robins.af.mil  
(478) 222-0805

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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

The Robins Rev-Up is published 50 times a year on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter part of the week and the first and last Fridays of the year. To report delivery issues, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

## ADVERTISING

For advertising information, call The Telegraph advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

## ONLINE

To read articles online, visit [www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp](http://www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp)

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air Force Base, Ga., of the Air Force Materiel Command. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

*Editor's Note: The Rev-Up will print an AFSO21 question-and-answer series the third Friday of every month. Questions may be e-mailed to the WR-ALC/XP workflow with subject line marked AFSO21 question. Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, will respond to AFSO21 questions.*

**Q:** Will the standup of the Global Logistics Support Center slow the momentum of "leaning" the supply chain?

**A:** The stand up of the Global Logistics Support Center is actually the result of Air Force Smart Operations of the 21st Century in action. I view GLSC as the smart evolution of the supply chain which will "anticipate responses" and, ultimately, provide enterprise planning and execution. We will be able to use "predictive management" to effectively and efficiently manage the Air Force supply chain. The GLSC will be the supply chain enterprise view/single SCM owner with little to no duplication of effort which differs significantly from the supply chain planning that occurs currently at Air Force Materiel Command, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Ogden ALC, Oklahoma

City ALC and Defense Logistics Agency. The vision is to become the single point of contact and best option for the warfighter. Here at Robins we will fully support the GLSC's AFSO21 efforts through the use of resources - where needed - and exchange of ideas to support the overall Air Force mission. The GLSC stand up will capitalize on our momentum to a much higher "enterprise level" than one center could accomplish independently.

**Q:** What is Develop and Sustain War Fighting Systems and how is it tied to Air Force Smart Operations of the 21st Century?

**A:** The objective of D&SWS is to develop a seamless enterprise process for developing and sustaining warfighting systems that efficiently and effectively give warfighters the resources necessary



Maj. Gen. Tom Owen  
WR-ALC commander



Col. Warren Berry  
78th Air Base Wing  
commander

## Commander's Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

To contact the Action Line, call 222-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List.

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use [action.line@robins.af.mil](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil). Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

### Three officers and three gentlemen

My mother and I were passing through Warner Robins Feb. 1 as I drove her to Florida.

There were three officers from Robins Air Force Base whom we met by chance that evening and although we don't have their names we want to commend you and them for their gentlemanly behavior.

We left Michigan Jan. 29 and arrived in Warner Robins Feb. 1. We selected your town because we wanted decent accommodations and my mother wanted dinner at an Outback restaurant.

We arrived at Outback around 7:15 p.m. and were told the wait was about 45 minutes. We went into the very crowded bar to wait and two people vacated their seats as our drinks arrived.

Three clean cut young gentlemen - whom we suspected to be military, but didn't know for certain - had been waiting for the two chairs but they graciously declined to take the one my mother sat in stating "I couldn't take a chair from a lady." When a couple at a nearby table started to leave these three gentlemen quickly helped us to be next in line for the available table.

My father was a 1956 graduate of the Naval Academy and was a "lifer" having served during both the Korean and Vietnam wars and my husband is an Army vet having served front line in Vietnam during the Tet offensive. Because of our background my mother and I strongly suspected that these three impressive gentlemen were part of our U.S. armed forces.

We spoke briefly with your three officers after our dinner because we were compelled to thank them - and all of their fellow servicemen - for all they do for us.

While we wish we could provide their names these three officers are a major, captain and lieutenant all of whom were first class representatives of the Air Force. Congratulations to these three officers, your base and the Air Force for providing our country with officers and gentlemen of this caliber.

We feel as though we are in good hands with these young men guarding our country and we are so proud young men such as these are representing us.

On behalf of all Americans we thank you all for your service. God bless you and may you all come home safely.

## A job weld done



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN JULIANNE SHOWALTER

Staff Sgt. Jacob Schargus welds an air compressor unit door with a gas metal arc weld Jan. 27 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The door had a series of cracks along the rim, and instead of ordering a new door, a machinist can fix it and have it back in working order within a day.

## WR-ALC Voluntary Protection Program status update

It started in March 2006 when the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander was notified by Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command that the Center had been selected as one of nine initial Air Force sites for participation and implementation of Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program. True to our tradition, our core values, our commitment to continuous improvement and our desire to have a culture that embraces personal responsibility and accountability for safety and health, the Center stepped up to that challenge.

We set our sights initially on learning more about VPP, what it was, why the Department of Defense had embraced it, how was the US Air Force, AFMC and WR-ALC going to implement it, and what was expected of us? We have learned, accomplished a lot to date and have tried to keep you involved and informed along the way. By now we are comfortable suggesting that the majority of WR-ALC employees have heard about VPP through commander's calls, education, awareness and training, briefings and/or through direct participation. The level of understanding on how VPP impacts your organization, the role you play and what is in it for all of WR-ALC will continue to mature over time. Just like Air Force Smart Operations for

the 21st Century and wingman initiatives your willingness to get involved are key to success.

Keep in mind the big picture; USAF's goal is for Robins Air Force Base to be an OSHA VPP Star-recognized site. To that end management, labor and OSHA have been working together to lay a solid foundation to that goal. VPP promotes effective work site safety and health. VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health at their worksite. Together we have always worked hard every day to provide you a safe and healthy work environment and send you home safely to your family and friends. We know we have good safety and health management systems in place; VPP challenges us to go beyond good and become one of the best, a model for others.

Currently the VPP focus at Robins is on the ALC. Eventually Air Force Reserve Command and all associate and tenant units will also be participating. For WR-ALC some of the key milestones achieved to date include:

- Initial center level VPP gap analysis completed in May 2006

- VPP steering group and wing level VPP core teams stood up and chartered between October 2006 and January 2007

- VPP mentor partnership established with Washington Savannah River Site in March 2007.

- Management and union commitment to VPP signed in May 2007.

- Commander's Safe Site Challenge extended in October 2007 as a way to break down the VPP challenge to the shop/office floor level.

- In December 2007 we received approval for the OSHA Regional IV VPP office they had accepted our approach to submit nine separate applications for VPP Star recognition to cover the whole ALC. These nine applications areas break down as follows:

- 78th ABW
- 330th ASW
- 542nd CSW
- WR-ALC Staff
- 402nd MXW -AMXG
- 402nd MXW -CMXG
- 402nd MXW -EMXG
- 402nd MXW -MXSG
- 402nd MXW -SMXG

What does this mean in a nutshell?  
Each of these nine areas will individually submit an application through the center VPP office to OSHA for VPP recognition. The process consists of the application and an on-site visit by OSHA. But before application each area must ensure it meets and/or exceeds safety and health management requirements laid out in the CSP 03-01-002 [TED 8.4] - Voluntary Protection Programs: Policies and Procedures Manual. This

document covers the basic elements of VPP and other requirements:

- Management Commitment and Employee Involvement
- Work Site Analysis
- Hazard Prevention and Control
- Safety and Health Training

Injury and illness rates must be below Bureau of Labor Statistics industry standards. Once an application is accepted by OSHA they will schedule an on-site visit to review the programs, processes and procedures we have said we have in place. They will walk and talk with managers, supervisors and employees. This is where the real rubber meets the road and where you come in! It will be our opportunity to show them what a world-class work force we have, how committed we all are to each other's safety and health, how together we identify hazards, quickly respond, manage and correct them. WR-ALC has become the benchmark in AFSO21 there is no doubt we can become the benchmark for AFMC and USAF in safety and health with your commitment and involvement in VPP.

— Courtesy VPP Office





## Robins ensures Airmen are ready to deploy with a mission ready status

### ORI in focus

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

When deployment calls, Airmen must be ready.

A unit's initial response to a deployment tasking involves not only making sure Airmen are present and accounted for, but that their equipment and any other cargo is mission ready.

Maj. Devin Statham, 78th Mission Support Squadron commander, said his unit ensures Airmen deploy with a mission-ready status.

"The 78th MSS runs the personnel deployment function or PDF, and we take people as the squadrons assemble them and run them through a last chance out processing at the base," he said.

The line helps Airmen have everything ironed out before they go.

"Most everything we do is something that should already be done by the (military) member and be maintained in the mission-ready status," Major Statham said. "We run the processing line just to make sure that everything is current and that nothing gets dropped along the way."

Major Statham said his people first check Airmen's eligibility to deploy. This involves ensuring Airmen's enlistments are current and won't expire at the deployed location, and ensuring there's no reason Airmen can't deploy.

Major Statham said his unit also ensures Airmen's Virtual Record of Emergency Data and Servicemember's Group Life Insurance forms are current.

While recalls are a unit com-

mander-driven process, Major Statham said it's 78th MSS' Personnel Readiness Function's job to account for those recalled.

"If the base commander recalls people, we first follow that recall ourselves and then we make sure all of the units are reporting according to the commander's orders," he said.

Major Statham said units' accountability is rating fairly well.

"Everything keeps improving," he said. "People keep getting better information to us in a timelier manner, in a more accurate format. We just continually raise the bar by checking more things, being more stringent."

Major Statham said Airmen need to ensure their squadrons' recall roster information is correct and cell phones are in working order, as well as ensure their dog tags and ID cards are good to go and all necessary forms are correctly completed.

Once deployment assignments have come down and all personnel aspects are in check, Airmen must determine what equipment to take and how Airmen and cargo will be sent.

Major Scott Hall, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, said during initial response, Airmen learn the particulars of transporting people and equipment.

"We have to produce this huge schedule," he said. "(It's) like an orchestra that we have to conduct to get all the people moved from their unit down to Bldg. 127 to our Deployment Processing Center and onto the aircraft."

Major Hall said there are a

lot of moving parts in the initial response phase.

"It goes back on the individuals, on those unit deployment managers, and on the unit commanders to ensure we have a successful process," he said.

Melissa Chubner, a UDM in the 78th MSS who serves Airmen in her squadron, the 78th Air Base Wing and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's staff offices, said Airmen under her care are looking good for April's Operational Readiness Inspection.

"With all of the exercises we've been having, we're improving with each one, so we should be ready for the ORI," she said.

Ms. Chubner said people need to stay ready and keep the ORI in focus.

"Keep your bags ready to go," she said. "Make sure your training is up to par and just be ready to go."

### Airman's Manual Test

- Which of the following is NOT a requirement of the Law of Armed Conflict?
  - Use the amount of force required to complete a mission.
  - Fight hostile combatants and pull the trigger when required.
  - Do not harm enemy personnel who surrender or attack noncombatants.
  - Kill or torture enemy prisoners of war if necessary to gain mission-critical intelligence.
- Which of the following is NOT a factor to consider regarding the role of the media in relation to military operations?
  - Military members should avoid the press.
  - Public opinion of a military operation is fragile.
  - Media reports can shape public opinion.
  - News stories shape the public agenda on issues.
- When dealing with members of the media, Air Force members should speak "off the

- record" as much as possible and answer "no comment" if asked about classified information.
- True.
  - False.
- When serving in foreign countries, Air Force members may be required to adhere to which of the following legal guidelines?
    - The Uniform Code of Military Justice.
    - Government regulations and US laws.
    - Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and Host Nation Laws.
    - All of the above.
  - The term that describes progressive levels of terrorist threats and initiates pre-planned defensive or mitigation actions is known as:
    - Threat Conditions (THREATCONS).
    - Terrorist Threat Levels (TTLs).
    - Force Protection Conditions (FPCONS).
    - Protection Levels (PLs).

### Answers:

- ANSWER:   D    
(Reference Page 13 / Section 2 / Deploy)
- ANSWER:   A    
(Reference Page 15 / Section 2 / Deploy)
- ANSWER:   B    
(Reference Page 17 / Section 2 / Deploy)
- ANSWER:   D    
(Reference Page 18 / Section 2 / Deploy)
- ANSWER:   C    
(Reference Page 19 / Section 2 / Deploy)

### WINGMEN WANTED

ASIST - 926-2821; 327-8480  
EAP - 327-7683; 926-9516  
AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING  
- 335-5218; 335-5236; 335-5238

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## Department of Defense to get new government travel charge card Nov. 30

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

Department of Defense employees who go on temporary duty assignments will have a new government travel charge card to meet their financial needs on the go before the year's end.

The new official government travel credit card, which is issued by Citibank, will activate on Nov. 30. The change will affect about 7,000 government travel credit cardholders at Robins.

DOD chose Citibank for its ability to better meet government employees' travel expense needs.

Delayna Mumford, an account manager in the 78th Comptroller Squadron and travel card manager for Robins, said the new GTC will be mailed to users before the November implementation date.

Ms. Mumford said people will activate their new cards the same way they did with their previous GTCs.

DOD currently has 1.2 million cardholders who accounted for 61 percent of total government-wide travel spending in 2006.

The estimated value of the DOD travel card task order over a 10-year period is \$40 billion, based on projected travel card spending.

DOD changed its travel

credit card provider due to changes in Bank of America's business goals and type of accounts it provides, Ms. Mumford said.

Cheryl McNeil-Jordan, Financial Services Flight chief in the 78th CPTS, said people will do business with the government travel credit card as they always have.

"They use it for official temporary duty," she said. "They can use it for gas, food, or whatever expenses they incur while TDY."

Ms. Mumford said the Citibank-issued card offers similar benefits as those provided by the Bank of America GTC.

The mandatory travel charge card provides travelers with no interest charges, delayed late fees, and insurance benefits.

The Defense Management Office was established in 2006 to serve as the focal point of contact for commercial travel within the DOD. The DTMO establishes strategic direction and centrally manages commercial travel programs, including the travel card program.

The DTMO will work closely with the current vendor, the Bank of America, and Citibank to minimize any unforeseen interruption in travel card services leading up to the new card activation. Prior to the transition, cardholders

will receive frequent communications about what to expect and individual requirements.

Col. Kalwant Smagh, 78th CPTS commander, said his squadron will do all it can to help Robins' GTC holders through the change.

"We are anticipating additional guidance that will help us transition the base from Bank of America to Citibank and pass that information on to our cardholders as we receive it," he said. "I'm looking forward to continuing a healthy government travel card program at Robins that meets the needs of our warfighters."

Ms. Mumford said people need to update their personal information to make getting their new card easier.

"(If you're) a current cardholder, make sure (your) address and everything is correct because the new card will be sent to the address Bank of America has on file," she said.

People can update their information through their organization's government travel card monitor.

Ms. Mumford said people who have closed GTC accounts who want to have a new GTC must either reopen their account or reapply for a card.

Ms. McNeil-Jordan said people should go ahead and renew their GTC under the current system to avoid problems in the future.

## Jim Wells — Aero Club manager

### Personality Profile



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

#### NAME and TITLE:

Jim Wells, Aero Club manager

#### BACKGROUND:

Retired Air Force, former heavy aircraft mechanic and flight engineer

#### CLUB GOALS:

To increase membership, training, club flying and camaraderie amongst members

#### BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER:

"The cost of flying out here is quite a bit less than in the local community. Our training is approved by the Veteran's Administration. GI Bill benefits can be used for advanced training. The enlisted active-duty can use tuition assistance to pay for the ground school. We have faster airplanes and more expensive airplanes. We also have seven airplanes which makes them readily available. If you want to take one out for the weekend, you probably won't interfere with someone else's training."

For more information on the Aero Club, call 926-4867

## Postal Service offers first-time military discount

BY DEBORAH PREITKIS

U.S. Postal Service

Planning to send a care package to a military service member serving abroad? Send it after March 3 to take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the Postal Service that is 50 percent larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address — \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

"This is the first time the Postal Service has offered a special price for our armed forces serving overseas," said Postmaster Gen. John Potter. "We're proud that family and friends will be able to use this new larger-sized box to send much appreciated packages from home to our dedicated troops overseas."

The new priority mail large flat-rate box (12" x 12" x 5-1/2"

or 800 cubic inches) will be available in post offices nationwide beginning March 3, but customers can begin ordering them Feb. 20 at [usps.com/supplies](http://usps.com/supplies) or by calling 800-610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of "America Supports You," which is a Department of Defense program that connects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

"It's terrific that the Postal Service continues to think of ways to help Americans support our troops and their families. Postage is always a concern when shipping care packages, and this new flat-rate box means our home front groups and supportive citizens can do more with their resources," said Allison Barber, the deputy assistant secretary of defense. "We're especially pleased that

some of the boxes will bear the America Supports You logo reminding our service members that they have our nation's support."

The \$2 discount is applied when the priority mail large flat-rate boxes are shipped to an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11-7/8" x 3-3/8" x 13-5/8" and 11" x 8-1/2" x 5-1/2"), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount. All flat-rate boxes can be used for international shipping.

The new flat-rate boxes will be available in Post Offices starting March 3. The America Supports You branded box will be available online, at select post offices near military bases, or by calling 800-610-8734.

For more information, visit [usps.com](http://usps.com).



WATSON CABLE  
Channel 15

COX CABLE  
Channel 99

For more information, call 222-0804

## ► IN BRIEF

### TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center Friday, from 10 to 11 a.m. to take questions about the cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense that provides referral and placement assistance to men and women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and who are seeking a second career as teachers in public schools. He will also discuss the Spouses to Teachers program.

For more information on the programs, visit [www.spouses-toteachers.com](http://www.spouses-toteachers.com).

The briefing will be held in Bldg. 905, room 141, no reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Andrea Harris at 327-7312, or Mr. Kirkland at [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com).

### MPE SECTION CLOSURE

The Military Personnel Element ID Card section will be closed Feb. 22-25 for a mandatory upgrade to the ID Card system. All ID card systems will be down. Please plan accordingly.

All other functions of the MPE will be open for customer support. Emergency ID card replacement functions will be available at the 116th and 622nd Mission Support Flights. If you have any questions, contact Capt. Demetria Johnson at 327-3429, Senior Master Sgt. Ken Ceaser at 327-7337, Capt. Stephen Kidd at 327-7346 or Master Sgt. Tobias Dillard at 327-7340.

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF

#### THE AIR FORCE 2008 APRIL

#### CLASS CUTOFF

The cutoff date for the April 2008 CCAF class is Feb. 29. To be considered in the April

class, contact the Robins Education and Training Office at 327-7304 to set up an appointment with a counselor to make sure all requirements are met. All official transcripts must be submitted to CCAF/DFR, 130 West Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6613 for updates.

### TURNING STRIPES INTO GOLD SEMINAR

Major Douglas Lomsdalen, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies, at the University of Georgia, will host a commissioning seminar titled "Turning Stripes into Gold" March 14, in Bldg. 905, room 137 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Major Lomsdalen will discuss various opportunities available to enlisted members in programs such as Airman Education and Commissioning Program, Scholarships for Outstanding Airman to ROTC, and Professional Officer Course-Early Release Program.

No reservations are necessary, and interested enlisted Airmen are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the Base Education counselors, Andrea Harris, 327-7312 or Larrinecia Parker, 327-7324.

### WAPS TESTING

Due to increased noise levels caused by renovations in Bldg. 905, the testing room no longer complies with requirements as outlined in the AFL. As a result, the 78th Military Personnel Element must relocate all military testing, to include WAPS testing for the current E6/E7 testing cycle. Testing began in the new facility Feb. 1.

The location for testing is now the Professional Development Center, Bldg. 941. The times for testing have not changed and all WAPS testing is scheduled to begin at 9

a.m. Below are directions to the new testing facility.

#### Directions from Bldg. 905:

Turn right onto Ninth Street. Go past the Heritage Club to Warner Robins Street. Turn right onto Warner Robins Street. Proceed approximately 50 yards and Bldg 941 is on the right side

When you enter the building, turn left down the hallway and the room is directly in front of you. Directional signs will be posted.

For more information, call 222-0168 or 222-0177.

### AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Air Force Sergeants Association, the Airmen Memorial Foundation and the Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force join together annually to conduct a scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible, dependent children of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command enlisted members, and Air Force Sergeants Association members in active, retired, or veteran status.

Dependent youth who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and a minimum combined SAT score of 1650 or minimum combined ACT score of 24 are encouraged to submit an application. More criteria and application package information is available at [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org). All completed applications packets must be received at AFSA Headquarters no later than March 31. Incomplete packages are ineligible for the competition.

The Air Force Sergeants Association promotes enlisted concerns to enhance their quality of life, assures the preservation of entitlements earned through service and sacrifice, and maintains a vigilant presence on Capitol Hill. AFSA is a partner in enlisted members'

careers and their lives.

### ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT AWARDS

The Engineering and Technical Management awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of scientists, engineers and technical teams to the mission of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and to aerospace power. This year's awards will be presented at a luncheon Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. in the Heritage Club Ballroom. Col (Ret.) David Nakayama, Center Director of Staff, will be the guest speaker. The theme of the luncheon is "Wise Crack Engineering — Distinguishing Data from Disaster."

The Center has nominated 60 of its best technical people for the awards in 14 categories. Local winners will be submitted to Air Force Materiel Command for competition across the command and the Air Force. AFMC winners will be announced and recognized by senior leadership during a banquet in the spring.

Event tickets are \$12 and may be purchased by contacting Urania McCormick at 327-4031 or Angela Pitts at 327-4026 by Monday.

### BLACK HERITAGE OBSERVANCE EVENTS

The Black Heritage Observance Luncheon will be held Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Heritage Club. The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Gary McCoy. For more information call Frank Rivers at 926-7021 or Envy Powell 222-3148.

The Black Heritage Observance Gospel Program will be Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. at the Base Chapel. The program will include selections by a community mass choir and spiritual praise dances. For more information call Hildred Jones at 926-3939.

# Walking, talking history lesson

Original Tuskegee Airman visits Robins, shares history with youth



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP  
George Watson, Sr., a retired US Air Force technical sergeant, answers questions during his visit to Robins Feb. 8.

BY 1ST LT. SEQUIOYA LAWSON  
sequoia.lawson@robins.af.mil

The Robins Air Force Base community experienced living history as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen made a special visit Feb. 8.

"He's a part of history and an icon for African-Americans in the military," said Mark Robinson of the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron. "Tuskegee Airmen served such a great purpose and it's an honor to actually be able to touch the man himself."

George Watson, Sr. was in town for a speaking engagement at Fort Valley State University, but said he couldn't come through the area without visiting the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit at the Museum of Aviation.

The retired technical sergeant spoke of a visit to Balad Air Base, Iraq, home of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, named in honor of the 332nd Fighter Group which the Tuskegee Airmen belonged to during World War II.

"I go overseas a lot and I was amazed when I saw people from all nationalities there," said Mr. Watson. "I started thinking back to when I was in the service and they didn't want (blacks) to go — but we have talent, all nationalities have talent to help out in the war and I'm so proud now."

Mr. Watson said that when he gets into the cockpit of an airplane and he hardly sees anyone who looks like him he gets upset sometimes. "There were probably more black pilots in World War II than there are in the Air Force today," he said.

However, as a whole Mr. Watson is pleased with the strides all branches of the armed forces have made to diversify their corps.

"I always tell everyone I meet to never give up. Period," Mr. Watson said.

"Also, when you go through life and meet people treat them the best you can because you never know when you'll cross paths again."

Those words rang true the very day of his visit.

"You can't get this experience out of history books," said Chief Master Sgt Carol Smits. Chief Smits had an opportunity almost 12 years earlier to speak with Mr. Watson and his peers in Montgomery, Ala. and couldn't pass up a second chance to shake his hand.

"We need to do the same thing for young women that are making amazing steps in our Air Force today," said the chief, who served as the first female senior enlisted advisor for the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command more than 13 years ago. "Not to necessarily compare the two, but I truly respect his time and frame and also respect the strides we're making now."

"It's not about being first, it's about breaking that glass ceiling that so many think is impossible to do," said Chief Smits. "He's a credit to why we're on a much more even playing field today."

"When you meet a person face to face it gives you a chance to connect to what they did," said Mr. Robinson, who retired as a technical sergeant after serving 26 years in the Air Force. "That's why I wanted to have a picture with him so I can pass that on to my kids."

Passing the message through the generations is exactly what Mr. Watson wants to continue, not just through his words but through those that will live to tell the Tuskegee Airmen story for years to come.

"A lot of people tell me 'George you're up in age now, why are you going all over the world?'" he said. "I say, the Air Force and the Tuskegee Airmen are my heart; that was my life and still is."

"So many of my buddies



George Watson, Sr., a retired US Air Force technical sergeant, poses next to a tribute to Booker T. Washington during a tour of the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit at the Museum of Aviation Feb. 8.

have passed away and as long as I'm able, I'm going to tell people the story and I'm going to do my part," said the vibrant 87-year-old veteran.

On March 29, 2007, Mr. Watson attended a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, where he and the other surviving veterans of the Tuskegee Airmen and the widows of their deceased comrades were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service. Mr. Watson

accepted the honor from President Bush on behalf of the enlisted corps at the presentation. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's most distinguished civilian award. The Tuskegee Airmen are the largest group to ever receive the award.

Mr. Watson joined the Army in 1942 and served 26 years in the U.S. Army and Air Force. Soon after enlisting, he was selected for training in Tuskegee, Ala. in the first group of recruits to make up the

original Tuskegee Airmen. He was a technical supply sergeant for the 96th Maintenance Group, which offered ground support to the 332nd Fighter Group.

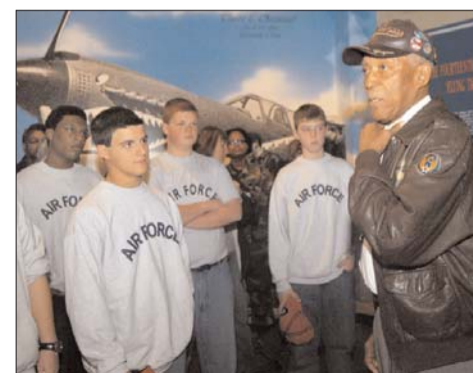
Mr. Watson is married to Louise and has three children George Watson Jr. (deceased) Tina Watson and Maurice Watson. He also has three grandchildren one of which is George Watson III, a United Airlines pilot. He currently lives in Lakewood, N. J.



Above left, George Watson, Sr., a retired Air Force technical sergeant and original Tuskegee Airman, said he was impressed with the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit at the Museum of Aviation.

Above center, Mr. Watson autographs a copy of one of his books for a fan.

Above right, The retired U.S. Air Force technical sergeant and Tuskegee Airman, shares some of his experiences with a group of Air Force ROTC students from Morgan County.



## THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

During World War II there was an ill-conceived notion by U.S. military officials that African-Americans lacked brainpower and coordination needed to pilot airplanes. Eventually, blacks were allowed to be trained in a segregated environment at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama with identical training standards as their white counterparts. By the end of the war, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a U.S. bomber to enemy fighters when they escorted them. They completed 15,500 missions, destroyed more than 260 enemy aircraft, sank an enemy destroyer and demolished numerous enemy installations. Even after all their accomplishments they returned to the United States and still faced racism and segregation at home for years to come.

For more information about the Tuskegee Airmen, visit [www.tuskegeearmen.org](http://www.tuskegeearmen.org).



2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ February 14, 2008

## THURSDAY

**A "Be my Valentine" bingo will be held today at the Heritage Club** with door prizes, snacks and more money games. No bingo will be held Monday in honor of Presidents' Day. A Membership bar bingo will be held Feb. 20.

**A Sweetheart Valentine's dinner special for two will be held today** from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Horizons. Gourmet entree includes filet of beef tenderloin stuffed with crab meat topped with a homemade burgundy wine sauce accompanied with a panache of vegetables and duchess potatoes. Cost is \$65 per member couple and \$70 for non-member couple. Open to all ranks and grades but reservations are recommended. Guests may also order from the menu. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

**Every Thursday night is Karaoke night with DJ Rockmaster "D"** at the Heritage Club from 8 p.m. to closing. For more information call Horizons 926-2670.

## SUNDAY

**Watch "No Way Out" today in the Heritage Club**, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m. Cost is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call the Horizons at 926-2670.

**Texas Hold 'Em returns to Sundays.** Sign ups will be taken at 1:30 p.m. and games begin 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 Heritage Club, located in Bldg. 956, at 926-7625.

## TUESDAY

**Free tacos and draft specials are available to club members at the Heritage Club** on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

## WEDNESDAY

**Enjoy M.U. G. night at the Heritage Club every Wednesday** from 7 p.m. to closing. Customers may bring their own mug and get refills (up to 20 ounces) for only \$2.00. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

## UPCOMING

**The fitness center and the health and wellness center** will hold a Healthy Heart Walk starting at 11 a.m. on the outside track Feb. 21. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

**Letters of intent for six-a-side soccer are due Feb. 25** at the fitness center. A coaches meeting will be held in the golf course conference room on Feb. 29 at 1 p.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

**Casino Night will be held Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. at Horizons** and is open to all ranks and grades. Cost is \$20 per person for club members and \$23 per person for nonmembers. Tickets will be sold at the door and includes: \$300 in play chips, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and prize auction. Featured games include craps, blackjack, roulette and Texas Hold 'Em. Volunteer training classes will be held Feb. 24 at noon or Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. For information call Horizons at 926-2670.

**A Gourmet Night will be held March 21 in the Georgia Room at Horizons.** An exquisite five-course menu paired with hand-picked wines from around the world. Menu is created by Chef Douglas Goodridge. Cost is \$56.95 for club members and \$59.95 for nonmembers and tickets will go on sale March 3 at the officers' club cashier's office. Tickets will be available to the first 60 club members. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

**For more information on the following community center events and activities** call 926-2105.

► **A Mystery Theater/Dinner "The Wedding Mystery"** will be featured in the ballroom Feb. 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$23 per club member and \$25 for guests, which includes theater and dinner. Menu includes house salad, turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, tea, water and choice of chocolate, lemon or pecan pie. Meet the cast at 5:30 p.m. in the Heritage Club. Purchase tickets in advance at Horizons or community center starting Feb. 1. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

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

# Five Men On A Stool

U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Melvin Miller serenades the crowd during the Five Men On A Stool performance Feb. 1 at the Museum of Aviation. The performance was a part of the grand kick off of the Robins Black Heritage Month Observance.



► **Join outdoor recreation on a horseback riding trip to Rancho Loma Linda in Cochran, Ga. March 22.** Meet at outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. with a departure of 9 a.m. Cost is \$90 per person. Package includes travel, two-hour guided horseback ride and lunch. Age requirement is 10 years and older. Long pants and closed toed shoes are required. Deadline to sign up is March 6. A minimum of 10 people is required for outdoor recreation to host the trip.

► **Outdoor Adventure** invites you to a walking/running Volkssport March 8 at the Silver Comet Trail located in Atlanta, Ga. This paved trail accommodates hikers and strollers. Cost is \$35 per person and includes transportation and entry fee. Bus will depart outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Please sign up by Feb. 29. A minimum of 6 people is required for the trip.

► **A bike trip is slated for May 3 at Red Top Mountain** located in Atlanta, Ga. Cost is \$25 per person and includes transportation, guide and water. Arrive at outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. and depart at 9 a.m. Must have 10 people to make trip. Registration deadline is April 5.

**Arts & Crafts Center** For more information, on the following, call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

► **Advanced Digital Photography** Feb. 28 - April 3 from 6 to 7 p.m., cost \$65 for the six weeks

► **Scroll saw** Feb. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$12

► **Sewing** Feb. 15, 22 and 29 from noon to 2 p.m., cost \$15

► **Watercolor painting** Feb. 14, 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m., cost \$12

► **Kids acrylic painting (Robin)** Feb. 19 and 26 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., cost \$7 kids/\$10 adults

► **Acrylic painting** Feb. 14, 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon, cost \$12

► **Mosaic** now - March 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., cost \$60

► **Drawing in Ink** Feb. 15, 22 and 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., cost \$7 kids/\$10 adults

► **Cherish scrapbook** Feb. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m., cost \$15

► **Lathe class (woodshop)** Feb. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$45 for 4 weeks

► **Wood shop safety classes** are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Auto shop safety and orientation classes are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge. Registration is not required.

► **Do-it-yourself framing** is available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do-it-yourself framing, during the evening and Saturdays, is by appointment only.

Advance registration and payment is required for all classes. Classes are subject to change without notice. All classes are open to active duty, reserve and retired military and family members and DOD civilians.

## ONGOING

**Robins Youth Center** has the following activities available. To learn more call 926-2110.

► **Robins Youth Center** will be conducting baseball, softball and T-ball for ages 5 to 17 years old Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$55. Registration is conducted Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full. Also, start smart T-ball for children three - four years old will also be held on Feb. 15 for \$45.

► **Robins Youth Center soccer** registration for ages 5 to 17 years old will be held Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full. Cost for returning players \$30. Any new players cost is \$55. Also, sign up for start smart soccer for children 3 to 4 years old will be held Monday through

Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full for \$25 for returning players and \$35 for new players.

**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.

► **Tickets** are available for the Atlanta Thrashers and Atlanta Hawks home games. Prices vary based by ticket location.

► **The FOX Theatre** presents, "The Lion King" April 5 for \$68.50 and April 26 for \$71.00 at 2 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available.

► **Atlanta Motor Speedway Sprint/Nextel Cup Series 2-day package** March 8 and 9 - \$80 3-day package March 7, 8 and 9 - \$100

► **8th Annual Travel & Recreation Trade Show** March 20 from 10:30am to 1:30pm to be held in the Heritage Club Ballroom

► **Atlanta Hawks vs. Orlando Magic**, March 22nd \$50 seats for \$30 and \$65 seats for \$45

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

► **A special Valentine's Thunder Alley** will be held Feb. 15. Pay regular price and your date is half price.

► **A pee wee bumper league** will start Feb. 23 - April 26. Cost is \$23 per child for 10 weeks, one game per week. Register Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

► **A 9-pin no-tap tournament** will be held Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. All games are scratch. Entry fee is \$15.

► **The bowling center** will be open Feb. 18 from 1 to 7 p.m. during Presidents' Day. Wear red, white and blue and bowl for \$1.50 per game. Get a strike with a red head pin and receive that game free.

► **On Spot Café** February special is a BBQ sandwich, fries and medium drink for \$4.45. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

► **Every Monday - Friday** in February bowl for \$1 a game from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

► **All retirees** receive one free game of bowling with one paid game when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 3 of the February Edge during the month of February.

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

► **Play golf on weekends (Saturday and Sunday)** in February and pay only \$22 for green fee and cart or pay \$20 after 1 p.m.

► **Every Monday through Thursday** in February pay only \$17 for green fee and cart starting at 2 p.m.

► **Now is the time to book a tournament** in February and receive a special rate of \$17. Price includes golf, cart and range balls. Lunch can be provided for \$5.

► **Purchase a meal at the Fairways Grille** Feb. 22 using a \$1 bill for payment and also receive an entry form to win a movie package.

► **A two-person dogfight** is scheduled for Feb. 23 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The event package includes golf cart, range balls, lunch and prizes. Cost is \$25 per person AGFP and \$30 for guests. Sign up by Feb. 21 at the Pine Oaks pro shop or call 926-4103.

► **In February enjoy several weekly specials** at the Fairways Grille for only \$5.95 (includes drink): Feb. 11 - 15: chili cheese wrap with side; Feb. 19 - 22: fish sandwich and fries; Feb. 25 - 29: roast beef and cheddar sandwich and onion rings Lunch is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 923-1717.

**Joint Forces Bingo** is located in the east wing of the Heritage 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 Heritage Club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

**The Community Center** will be coordinating the **Congressional Award**, a noncompetitive program recognizing young people's achievements. The Award is open to all young people 14 - 23 years old. Those who complete the program are presented with bronze, silver or gold awards from Senators and Members of Congress during local, state and national ceremonies. Individuals who are registered in the program set and achieve challenging goals in four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expeditions/explorations activities. To earn awards, individuals will work with an advisor to set individual goals and plan activities to reach these goals. For more information call the community center director, Ruby Wasway at 926-2105.

**Pizza Depot** is offering a sausage sub, fries and drink or chicken filet, fries and small drink or soup and half sub for only \$6.50 each. You may also purchase eight butterfly shrimp and fries for \$5.95 in February. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

**All retirees get a free fountain drink** or iced tea with a \$4 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 3 of the February Edge in February. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

**The Robins Chapel** will host **AWANA** each **Wednesday** night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Children ages 3 through high school are invited. The program will provide Christian teaching, active games and a chance to socialize with other children. For more information call Kiley Glass at 327-3780.

**The Airmen Against Drunk Driving program** provides rides free of charge to all Robins DOD card holders. Coverage is from Perry to Macon. For a free, anonymous ride, call 222-0013.

**The 78th Services Division** offers designated driver programs at the Heritage Club, Horizons and Pizza Depot to assist in reducing alcohol related incidents. For groups of two or more, please identify yourself as the designated driver to the operations assistant on duty. They will provide fountain drinks, fruit juices or non-alcoholic frozen drinks during your visit free of charge. To learn more about Services Designated Drivers programs, call 926-2670.

**The 78th Services Division** has a new Internet address. Go to www.robinservices.com for all the information you need regarding Services.

**Have the latest 78th Services Division information electronically delivered to you.** Subscribe to the Services Cutting Edge electronic newsletter by going to www.robinservices.com and clicking on the subscribe icon at the top of the home page. From there click on the Services newsletter link and complete the questionnaire. Subscribe to the overall Services newsletter and receive all information or to only those activities that are of interest to you - the choice is yours.

## NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$4; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.

## FRIDAY

### THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIE TALES MOVIE

Phil Vischer, Mike Nawrock Working at the "Pieces of Ate" Dinner Theater is less than exciting when you're a busboy. For three moping misfits—Elliot, Sedgewick and George (Larry the Cucumber, Mr. Lunt and Pa Grape)—all they dream of is the day when they can ditch their dish rags and take stage to star in the big pirate show. But with Elliot's timidity, Sedgewick's laziness and George's lack of self-confidence, it seems as if the day to prove who they really are will never come. Things are about to change when a mysterious ball drops from the sky and lands at the unlikely seafarers' feet. A "Helpseeker" sent from the past in search of heroes, the artifact sets in motion a series of events that drags the friends back to the 17th century—and into the belly of certain danger. "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" must each face their fears—becoming unlikely heroes in a battle to rescue a royal family from an evil tyrant, and themselves from living the life of common couch potatoes. Rated G.

## SATURDAY

### THE GREAT DEBATERS

Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker

A brilliant but volatile debate team coach who uses the power of words to shape a group of underdog students from a small African American college in the deep south into a historically elite debate team. A controversial figure, Professor Tolson challenged the social mores of the time and was under constant fire for his unconventional and ferocious teaching methods as well as his radical political views. Rated PG-13.

## 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 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 6 p.m. in the Chapel Sanctuary, 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 Bldg. 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 infor-

mation to Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks. The following person has been approved as a leave recipient: Robert Methaway, HQ AFRC, POC is Lt. Col. Randy Wyatt, 327-1539.

# The 'sweet science'

## Boxer from 116th CSO competes in Armed Forces championships

By SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL ROSS  
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

Troops around the Air Force are outfitted with different equipment that is essential to their occupations.

Pilots wear flight suits, civil engineering troops don steel-toed boots and Staff Sgt. Thomas Jacobs laces up his boxing gloves.

The 116th Computer Systems Operations technician has been studying the "sweet science" for the past few years. He represented the Air Force at the Armed Forces championships Feb. 3-8 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Although the fighter lost his bout, falling by decision to Army Specialist Zacchaeus Hardrick, he will continue to train and prepare for nationals, which will be March 8-16 at Colorado Springs, Colo.

"This is my third year with the team," Jacobs said. "I didn't get cut the first two years, but this is the first year I earned the number one spot."

The middleweight fighter has been exposed to the sport since he was young but only recently really started to focus on it. Part of the reason for his interest was his older sibling.

"My older brother was a boxer," Jacobs said. "Every little boy wants to be like his older brother."

The Milwaukee native doesn't consider himself a "knock-out artist" even though he has tallied-up six knockouts and a 17-4 record.

"I hope to add a few more wins at the...upcoming nationals, but I definitely have my work cut out for me," Jacobs said.

When looking for a fighter's style to emulate he chose brains over brawn.

"Bernard Hopkins would probably be the one because of his intelligence



Staff Sgt. Thomas Jacobs  
116th Computer Systems Operations

in the ring," Jacobs said. "Roy Jones and other boxers were great in their time because they had speed, but once they got a little older and their speed faded, so did their careers. Despite Hopkins's age, he can still beat anyone out there because of his ring intelligence and how he always sticks to the fundamentals."

In order to earn a spot on the Air Force team, Jacobs participated in tryouts at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The tryouts lasted three weeks and ended with a "box-off" Jan. 18-19.

"The trials are tough," Jacobs said. "You hit the ground running and it's definitely not for the weak hearted."

Tech. Sgt. Edward Rivas, head coach of the Air Force boxing team, has witnessed a big improvement in Jacobs over the past couple years.

"Jacobs has been coming to us for the past three years," Rivas said. "This year he came in at a higher weight class so he was stronger, not having to struggle with making weight."

Jacobs sums up the type of fighter

coach Rivas looks for when evaluating talent.

"I look for fighters who are dedicated and who have the desire to compete," said Rivas. "(Jacobs) is a workhorse. His greatest asset is his mental toughness — something you can't teach. He also brings a lighter side to training with his jokes, great attitude and demeanor."

The workout regimen for the team is rigid. A typical day at camp starts off at 4:45 a.m. with a run. The run varies daily from distance to intervals and sprints. After the run the fighters will have plyometric training or a strength and conditioning workout.

Following that is usually skills and drills where the fighters practice different techniques and do bag work. The last workout of the day is usually sparring or more bag drills. The fighters normally work out four times a day, six and sometimes seven days a week.

"(Training) is pretty taxing on your mind and body," Jacobs said. "You put yourself through hell and misery hoping it will pay off when you're face-to-face with a guy that wants to take your head off. The guy with the most heart is going to win. You can teach someone how to punch and move and slip punches, but you can't teach someone how to have heart. Either you have it or you don't."

Another difficulty is on a social level; boxers at camp develop friendships with each other only to have to face-off in the ring.

"You train and make friends with the people who stick it out," Jacobs said. "After two weeks you are going to be fighting them. It's all business when you step in the ring though."

For the spectator sitting in the stands, boxing may seem like a sport anyone could participate in, but Jacobs begs to differ.

"Everyone wants to be a fighter, but not everyone wants to train," Jacobs said. "People change their mind real

quick once they start eating a five-piece punch combination with a side of barbecue sauce for dinner. A lot of blood and sweat goes into boxing as it does in other fighting styles. An old man once told me, 'the more you sweat the less you'll bleed.'"

The 28-year old fighter has been fortunate to never have been knocked-out but says he has been "rocked" before.

"Getting rocked is basically the step before getting knocked out," Jacobs said. "It's almost as if your brain just shook inside your head. I got rocked today as a matter of fact; the team went to a local gym to fight their boxers and the guy I fought threw punches like he had bricks in his gloves. I have a black eye as a going away present from him."

Not only has boxing for the Air Force team allowed Jacobs the ability



to earn a paycheck while competing in a sport he loves, but it's also given him tools to be just as successful in his military career.

"Boxing has helped me in my Air Force career mostly by giving me a way to release and get rid of the daily stresses of work," Jacobs said. "It helps me come in with a clean mind everyday and lets me focus on my tasks for the day. Not to mention on the PT tests. I'm trying to use my focus and determination I've learned from boxing and apply it to my goals that I want to achieve in the Air Force."



Courtesy photo  
Staff Sgt. Thomas Jacobs, left, demonstrates his left hook in a boxing match at the Air Force training camp. Sergeant Jacobs earned a spot on the Air Force boxing team and competed in the Armed Forces championship.

### WHAT TO KNOW

The boxing term "sweet science" was popularized in modern day sports writing by A.J. Liebling in his New Yorker boxing columns in the 1950s.

## Air Force suffers loss to UNLV, 58-51

Wink Adams scored 13 points and Corey Bailey added 11 to lift UNLV to a 58-51 victory against Air Force on Tuesday night.

The game was tied at 42 with six minutes to play before the Rebels (19-5, 8-2 Mountain West Conference) went on a 5-0 run and never trailed again. Bailey capped the rally with a 3-pointer.

Air Force (12-11, 4-6) scored the next four points to pull within one, but Adams converted a 3-point play to extend the lead to four and the Falcons committed a shot clock violation on their next possession.

Joe Darger scored nine of his 11 points in the final two minutes, including a 3-pointer with 32 seconds to play to give the Rebels a five point advantage.

UNLV led by one at halftime, but Air Force used a pair of 3-pointers from Keith Maren to open the second half on a 7-0 run to build its biggest lead of the game, 31-26.

Andrew Henke led Air Force with a game-high 15 points, and Maren had 11.

With a 12-11 overall record and a 4-6 conference record, the Falcons are not finding the success the team

has had in the past few seasons. Air Force has lost three home games this season, more than they had lost at home in the previous four seasons combined.

Despite having had success over the past four years — the Falcons own the best record in conference games among Mountain West teams during that time — the team was expected to struggle this year. Air Force was picked to finish in eighth place.

— staff report

Courtesy photo  
Air Force Academy's Andrew Henke dribbles in a game against Colorado earlier this season. Despite scoring a team high 15 points against UNLV, Henke couldn't lead the team to victory as the Falcons lost 58-51.



### IN BRIEF

#### BASEBALL TRYOUTS

There will be all-star tryouts for military baseball players with collegiate- or professional-level abilities March 14-16 at Turtle Park Naval Station in Norfolk, Va.

This opportunity gives military members a chance to represent their command or branch of service in the fastest growing, largest and most successful reorganized military baseball program in the world, according to Navy Lt. Michael Ridge, military baseball coach.

Those who make the team will travel nation-wide and compete against semi-pro, collegiate and Olympic caliber baseball teams.

The tryouts in Norfolk will begin at 1 p.m. on March 14 and 9 a.m. on March 15 and 16. There also will be tryouts in other locations around the continental United States. The tryout locations are listed on the military baseball Web site at [www.usmilitaryallstars.us](http://www.usmilitaryallstars.us). Click on "Schedule" to view tryout locations.

Contact Lieutenant Ridge for details at [ridgem@cox.net](mailto:ridgem@cox.net).



The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor

Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine

may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in

love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.)

— Courtesy of History.com



**What are your plans for Valentine's Day?**

**Senior Airman  
Amanda Murry**  
78th MSG

I'll celebrate by going out to dinner with a date and then go home and watch a romantic movie like something on Lifetime.

**Chief Master Sgt.  
Roy Lapioli**  
Robins NCO Academy

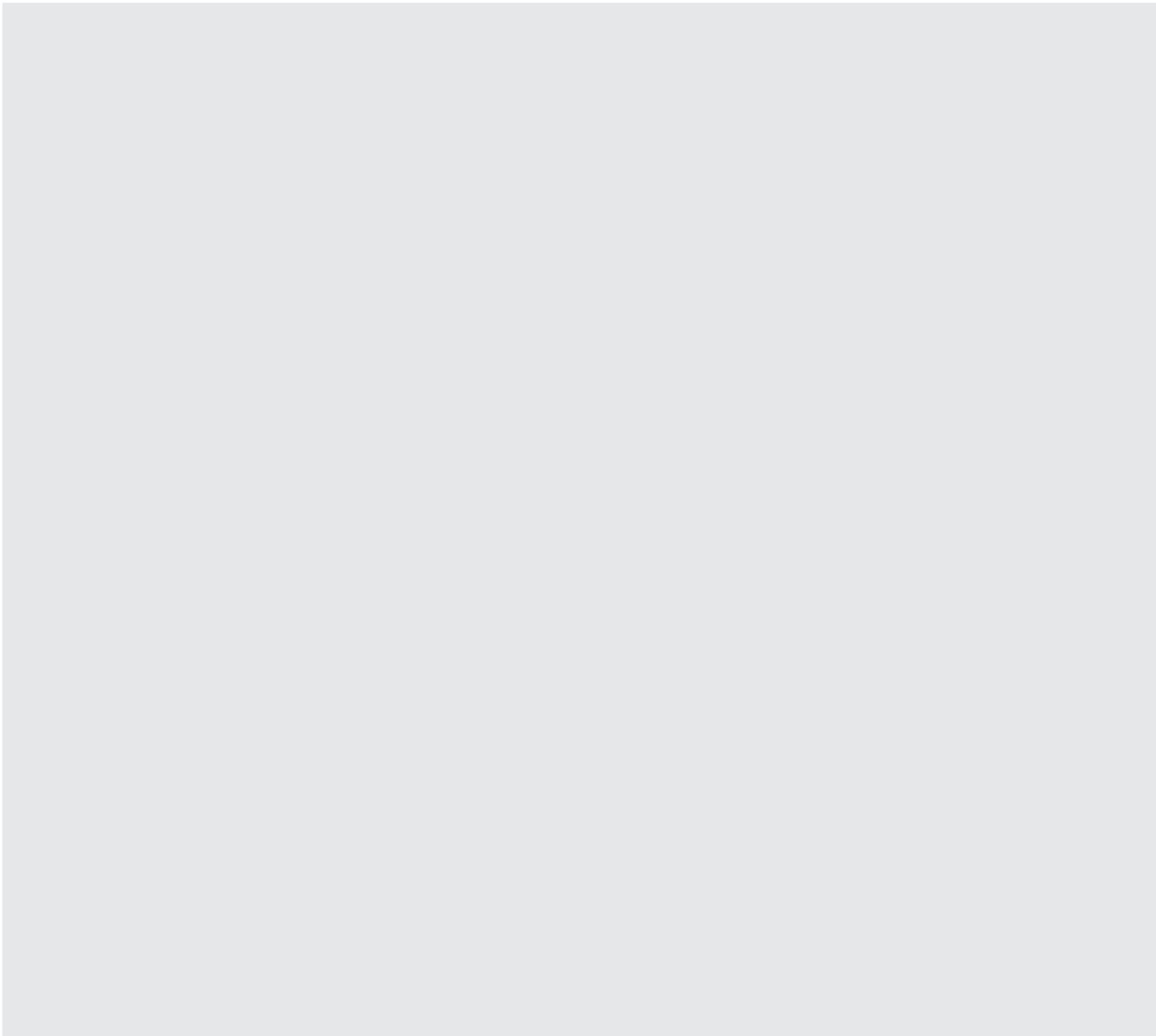
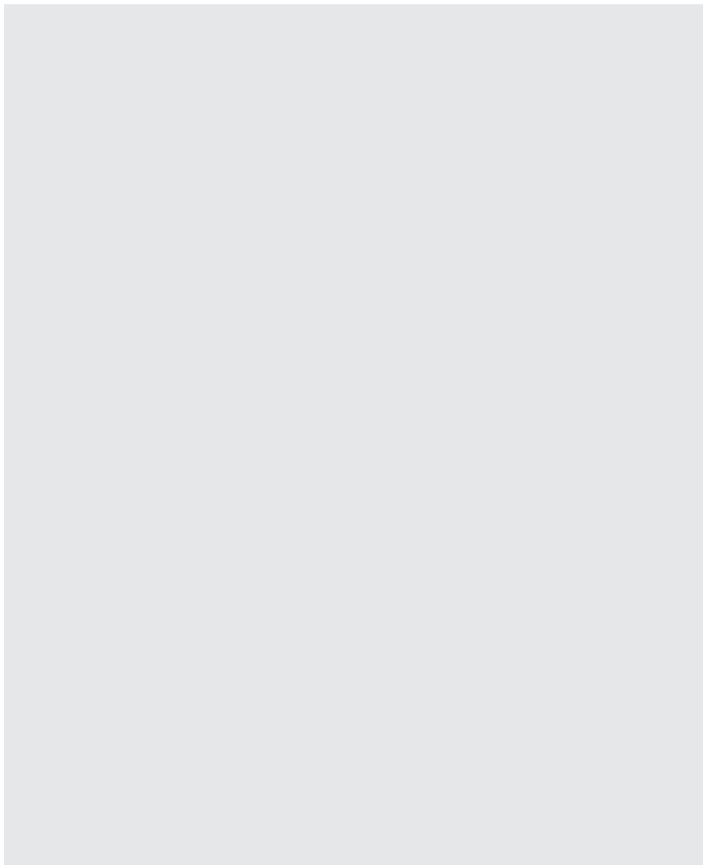
There's a graduation so I'll be with about 300 of my closest friends. My wife will be there. I'll get her something so she will feel special that day.

**Senior Airman  
Dustin Clapp**  
52nd CBSC

I'm single so I'm going to celebrate by watching the Gatorade 125 Duel. I'm a big NASCAR fan.

**Barry Miller**  
Happy Hour

I plan to make reservations to take my fiance and our daughter out to a nice dinner.



# 78th Comptroller Squadron earns multiple awards at AFMC

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

The 78th Comptroller Squadron worked hard in 2007 to raise the bar and their recent awards are proof. The squadron garnered five awards at the Air Force Material Command level for the year.

Lt. Col. Kalwant Smagh, 78th CPTS commander, praised his people for the improvements made to their financial management processes across the board.



Lt. Col. Kalwant Smagh

"We were excited to be named best in the command," he said. "I am so proud of the hard work of each one of the folks to master their particular area, whether that was paying travel vouchers, helping customers at the counter, paying vendors, working with other wings on accounting, or providing financial analysis. This is great team recognition for a deserving group of folks who took on the challenge to make a positive difference for Robins and our warfighters."

Colonel Smagh said among the squadron's most notable achievements were the deployed Airmen who earned distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as in Joint Task Force Civil Support in the U.S.

The colonel, who won the Robert D. Stuart Award for Excellence in Financial Management, said 78th CPTS greatly improved its performance in 2007.

"Our performance measurements went from last to first in AFMC, and that is a Robins-wide kudo based on a concerted drive to be in compliance with standards," he said. "Working with all units and

(Air Force Reserve Command), we were able to reduce delinquent orders from 18 to 3 percent, which freed up more than \$7 million for other uses. One of our teams cleared a six-year \$1 million out of balance funding condition where we were last in the Air Force, number 80 of 80, and raised ourselves into a tie for number one in the Air Force."

In addition to the squadron's many other achievements, its members also trained more than 1,100 people on an invoice payment system that allows organizations to process invoices faster and reduce interest penalties.

"We've built a forum with our sister wings to address Robins-wide compliance and that has helped greatly," Colonel Smagh said.

A few of the unit's members were also recognized for their individual contributions.

Staff Sgt. Derek Carroll, Travel Section lead in the 78th CPTS, who earned AFMC's financial management and comptroller airman of the year award, said his efforts in helping the squadron correct five years of accountability error in two months greatly helped him earn the award for his unit.

Sergeant Carroll was a distinguished Airman Leadership School graduate in April of 2007, an accolade he said helped him earn his recent honor.

The staff sergeant credited his management and co-workers with his being recognized.

"I can definitely say that all of my accomplishments would've been unnoticed if it wasn't for my management getting together and writing the

packages," he said.

Cheryl McNeil-Jordan, Financial Services Flight chief in the 78th CPTS, earned AFMC's financial services civilian of the year (GS-11 and above, below major command level) award, for her efforts in leading her work area in learning processes and leading others in taking care of a host of systems her section is charged with overseeing.



Cheryl McNeil-Jordan

Ms. McNeil-Jordan said she attributes her recent honor to those who helped her get it, her workers.

"It is an honor and it is a team award," she said. "I certainly attribute (this award) to my entire team, all of the individuals who work in the Financial Services Flight because everybody played a part in this."

Colonel Smagh said he's proud of Robins' recent honor.

"My hat's off to the folks in the squadron, and our sister wing financial organizations for pulling together and seeking excellence."

Other AFMC winners included Capt. Gena Tuttle, who earned the reservist of the year award, and Troy Hubbard, who earned the financial analyst of the year award (NAF).



Staff Sgt. Derek Carroll



Troy Hubbard



Capt. Gena Tuttle