

ROBINS REV-UP

October 31, 2008 Vol. 53 No. 42

EVEN PIRATES LIKE COTTON CANDY...



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Tristan Crawford, 4, takes a break from pirating to enjoy cotton candy at Robins Chapel Hallelujah Night. The event is hosted annually by the Base Chapel and is offered as an alternative to the traditional Halloween celebration. The festival featured a trunk-or-treat, games, face painting and other activities, and food. Those who wish to celebrate Halloween with the traditional trick-or-treating and scary costumes can do so on base tonight from 6 to 8 p.m.

542nd CSW unit first at Robins to receive VPP gold site status

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

When it comes to safety, the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing Operations Management Branch has struck gold.

The 53-person office is the first at Robins to win the coveted Gold Site Safety Status. It's a step toward the goal of having the entire wing get the designation, which is an initiative of the base's Voluntary Protection Program.

"It's something we've worked on for some time and I'm proud especially to be the first to plant the Gold Site flag," said Eliza "Bubba" Fowler IV, the wing's safety manager.

Once all the wings have Gold Site status, then the base would meet the criteria to reach the ultimate goal, which is to be declared a Star site by Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Star designation is OSHA's top recognition for work sites that go above normal safety standards, said Lew Jarrell, a member of the VPP team in the 542nd CSW.

He said the 542nd CSW is tentatively aiming to have at least the majority of the wing reach Gold Site Status by December, 2009. At that point the team would seek to have the entire wing designated a Gold Site.

The 542nd CSW/OM got the Gold Site status after an inspection by a team that included representatives from Savannah River Site, American Federal Government Employees 987, 78th Air Base Wing Ergonomics Office, and Johns Manville Inc., a Macon company that is an OSHA Star site.

Mr. Jarrell said there is actually a higher goal than either the Gold Site or the Star designations.

"The goal is not to get the Gold Site, that is a great thing, but the goal is for people to come in, work and go home the same way they came in," he said.

Although 542nd CSW/OM is an administrative office, there are plenty of hazards that can cause injury, Mr. Fowler noted. The leading cause of office hazards, by far, is falls. About half the reported injuries in the 542nd CSW last year was due to falls, and that's only the ones that were reported. Falls have resulted in broken legs and broken ribs, he said. The wing registered 17 falls last year, which was down from 19 the previous year. Falls amount to about half of all injuries in the wing.

To reduce falls, the safety team has started a campaign that includes reminding people to use hand rails on stairs and not to rush. They also post signs in places where falls occur, alerting people to the number of falls that have occurred in that area. They also have created a poster that reads "WANTED: 'Jack the Tripper' At Large" to warn people of the dangers of falls.

Mr. Fowler noted that other offices' hazards included paper cutters, paper shredders, objects where heads can bump, and poor ergonomics in the work area that can lead to carpet tunnel syndrome or other physical problems.

The office has a traffic light that lights yellow when someone has been injured on the job, and red when someone has been killed. It is currently on green to indicate no recent injuries.

Linda Fountain, chief of the Capabilities and Integration Branch of the 542 CSW/OM, said the Gold Site program is not just another initiative.

"Our employees have taken a personal interest in VPP not only at work but also at home," she said. "Employees come in after the weekend citing examples of where they have used VPP training at home, specifically in the area of Operational Risk Management. Everyone has embraced the elements of VPP and has actively worked to ensure OM received Gold

► see VPP GOLD, 3A

Bed-down package clears path for 787th IAG

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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Robins is on a path toward the standup of the 787th Installation Acquisition Group that will create at least 300 new job positions here and serve as a regional contracting office for 11 Air Force bases in the Southeast.

Lt. Col. Todd Pospisil, the provisional director of the 787th IAG, announced in an event for media and community members Oct. 30 that the group is on track for standup in fiscal 2010. It will be one of five regional contracting offices in the nation that are part of the Air Forces Installation Acquisition Transformation.

The bed-down package for the 787th IAG has been signed, which is the first step toward the standup as it allows for funds to be spent on facilities. Three contracts have been awarded for work on Bldg. 255, which the 787th IAG will share with

the existing 78th ABW contracting squadron.

According to Colonel Pospisil, the reason Robins has made such progress towards standing up the regional office here is due, in large part, to the strong community support.

The current contracting done at the base is focused on the combat sustainment mission, Colonel Pospisil explained. That will continue as a separate operation, but he said 787th IAG will focus on buying everything from ordinary office supplies to securing construction contracts. The creation of the regional offices will make the buying process easier, reduce acquisition of redundant goods and leverage buying power.

The 787th IAG will oversee more than \$5 billion in purchases each year, he said. Some of that contracting will be done at the individual bases, but will go through the 787th IAG.

He made the comments at the Museum of Aviation at an event attended by representatives of chambers of commerce in the area and other community officials attended. MaryTherese Tebbe, executive director of the 21st Century Partnership, an advocacy group for Robins, said the 787th IAG standup is big for the area.

"I think this is certainly going to strengthen ties between Robins and the community," she said. "This is one of those moves that truly shows the community and the rest of the DoD how that relationship is nurtured."

Colonel Pospisil said once the 787th IAG stands up in fiscal 2010, it will start with about 100 employees and ramp up to 300 to 350 by fiscal 2012. Many of those positions will be filled by transferring contracting personnel from the 10 other bases being served by the office, while others will be filled through local hires.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Capt. Steven Fletcher and Senior Master Sgt. Mark Benson talk with Perry Swanson, Peach County Chamber of Commerce's president/CEO, about strategic sourcing and future jobs. The future stand up of the 787th Installation Acquisition Group will create at least 300 new jobs at Robins.

THINK SAFETY

222-0013

Days without a DUI: 18
Last DUI: 78th SFS
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

To request a ride, call
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THETWO-MINUTEREV

Return to standard time
The return to standard time from daylight-saving time will occur on Sunday at 2 a.m. Clocks will be set back one hour.
Employees on a shift when time "falls back" to standard time will be credited with the actual number of hours worked. Any time worked in excess of eight hours will be paid at the appropriate overtime rate and/or compensatory time earned. Point of contact is your servicing human resource specialist in Employee Relations at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

CFC fundraiser
Members of the 78th Air Base Wing will bag groceries for tips at the Base Commissary's register six Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the Combined Federal Campaign.

INSIGHT

Exercise mode

Robins tests ability to react in the case of an actual emergency, 1B

WR-ALC

Commander's calls

Mandatory attendance required at calls, plus bus schedule, 3A

SPORTS

Flag football

Intramural flag football gears up for championship, 3B

WEATHER

FRIDAY
68/40

SATURDAY
70/39

SUNDAY
71/38

Robins civilians deploy in support of war

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wcrensaw@robins.af.mil

Thousands of civilians toil away for years at Robins and never get to see first hand how their efforts contribute to fighting wars, but that's no longer the case for Harry Smith and John Lester.

Mr. Lester, an equipment specialist with 25 years at Robins, and Mr. Smith, an engineer with seven years at the base, made their first deployment in September. They formed a team that included Tech Sgt. Jason Blurton and 1st Lt. John Machuca. All are part of the 642nd Combat Sustainment Group.

Their mission came straight from Air Force Central Command, which needed expertise in correcting air conditioner problems at bases in Qatar and Kuwait.

But they weren't there to make a few offices more comfortable. They were working on flightline air conditioners that are critically important to the operation of aircraft electronics. The team made modifications that improved the operation of the units, ensuring that missions are not delayed because of electronics problems.

For the two civilians, it was an eye-opening experience to see the equipment they work on every day at Robins actually used in combat operations.

"We saw not just the equipment that had the most pressing issue," Mr. Smith said. "We saw some of the other ground support equipment in operation and some of the problems encountered. It's not just temperatures, but sand and dust infiltration. It's very harsh."

The deployment of civilian maintenance personnel is so unusual that many of the mili-



U.S. Air Force courtesy photos

Tech Sgt. Jason Blurton, 642nd Combat Sustainment Group, attaches a duct to a 110-ton flightline diesel air conditioner that provides conditioned air for ground testing of aircraft.

itary personnel were quite surprised to see them there, and appreciative of their efforts, the team members said.

Mr. Lester said he wished more civilians at the base could get the same opportunity, even if it's for no other reason than to see the equipment that is maintained at Robins getting put to use.

"It gives you a sense of where we fit in with the civil service jobs at Robins Air Force Base and how that translates to the war effort," Mr. Lester said.

Sergeant Blurton and Lieutenant Machuca also saw value in sending civilians to the area.

"I thought the experience was a good one for the civilians who went with us so they could see what the field goes through," Sergeant Blurton said. "They can actually see how it works, and you don't get any more real than the desert."

After three weeks of preparation that included chemical warfare training, the team deployed Sept. 30 and returned Oct. 10. The civilians lived much like any Soldier, wearing military field uniforms, staying in 40-man tents and working 12-hour days.

Col. Keesey



John Lester, seen here wearing Air Force body armor, was one of two civilians who deployed from the 652nd CMSG in support of an Air Force Central Command mission.

AFMCM commander gives political guidance

With the November elections fast approaching, we are seeing an increase in political activity. Your mailbox is likely overflowing with requests for contributions, and military issues are being highlighted in many campaigns, both national and local. As a consequence, I believe that it is important at this time to



Gen. Bruce Carlson

remind ourselves of the statutory and regulatory provisions that govern participation in the political process by members of the Department of Defense.

The Hatch Act, 5 USC Sections 7321-7326, and DOD Directive 1344.10 are principal laws and regulations that govern political activity by Air Force military members and civilians. In general, these

rules allow federal employees and military members to express opinions about candidates and issues, contribute money to political organizations, and attend political functions in their private capacity.

However, the rules expressly prohibit engaging in political activity while on duty or while utilizing government systems or equipment (to include e-mail).

—Gen. Bruce Carlson Air Force Materiel Command commander

Sixty base units meet CFC early bird goals

BY LANORRIS ASKEW
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More than 50 percent of Team Robins' organizations rolled up their sleeves and met their Combined Federal Campaign goal early this year winning the coveted title of Early Bird.

The Early Bird designation is given to those organizations that made 100 percent of their goal by Oct. 24. Each unit that reached their campaign goal by Oct. 24 will receive a special plaque for the Unit from Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander.

Brian Vassey, 2008 CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee chairman, said despite a faltering economy, CFC contributions at Robins are right on target.

"Of the 100 organizations on base 60 of them made Early Bird," he said. "Robins is doing very well in the CFC

this year. I think most organizations will make reach their goals."

Organizational goals are based on the number and rank of people in organizations, as well as their earning power in the organization. Robins' 2008-2009 campaign, "Be a Star in Someone's Life," kicked off Oct. 2 with the base striving to meet its \$1,350,000 goal in the six-week campaign which ends Nov. 14.

Currently the base is at 91 percent of its goal with a total of \$1,232,628 and two weeks of the campaign left.

Payroll contributions pledged during this year's campaign will begin in January and while the deadline for earning the Early Bird award has passed, there is still time to make a difference by donating. See a complete listing of the organizations that received Early Bird status on the Robins homepage.



► IN BRIEF

MUSEUM OF AVIATION FILM TO PREMIERE ON GPB TELEVISION

The Georgia Public Broadcasting television channel will be premiering "Papa Said, 'We Should Never Forget'" Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The 20-minute documentary captures the story of the World War II paratroopers of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, a small band of soldiers dropped 30 kilometers south of their drop zone and deep in enemy territory.

Interest in developing the film began with the Museum of Aviation, where the show can be viewed daily as part of a new World War II exhibit.

"It is a dramatic account in which American soldiers and French citizens collaborate in such a way that you cannot help but inject yourself into the story, either as a paratrooper or a French villager and ask, 'What would I have done if this happened to me?'" said David Druckenmiller, the film's producer and director. — Courtesy of GPB

Wearing red and 'Going Green'



U.S. Air Force photo by CINDY O'MARA

Students at Robins Elementary School take time to pose for the camera. The students were celebrating a successful "Going Green" effort. The campaign was a cooperative effort among the school, the Robins Energy Office, Robins Elementary School and Georgia Power to promote energy conservation. The girls were wearing red shirts in observance of Red Ribbon Week, a drug awareness campaign.



What's the best Halloween candy to get?



Brianne Wentworth
military spouse

"As an adult, anything chocolate. As a child, I liked suckers or anything gummy."



Daniel Barfield
construction contractor

"Nerds."



Airman 1st Class
David Huntsberger
54th SCMT

"Blowpops. They're a sucker and gum. You get two things at once."



Airman 1st Class
Shamecca McKinney
5th CBCSS

"The wrapped peanut butter filled chewy candy that you see at Halloween."



Carlton Bailey
Museum of Aviation

"Snickers and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Those are my favorites."

Misuse of government funds could lead to jail time

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
Wayne.crenshaw.civ@robins.af.mil

Tucked away in the corner of a large office space at Robins are four small cubicles occupied by friendly, easy going people who should be feared by anyone misusing a government purchasing card.

Their job is to issue and provide oversight of the 636 cards currently in use at Robins. Every purchase made on the cards is reviewed to one extent or another by the office.

Misuse of those cards can lead to any of the following: polite rebuke, loss of the right to use the card, a reprimand, a suspension without pay, loss of job, or in the recent case of two former Robins employees, a trip to

federal prison. Derwin Laster, manager of the government purchasing card program, said an anonymous phone call five years ago alerted him to the shady dealings that led to the recent criminal conviction on charges of misusing government funds. The tip was turned over to the Office of Special Investigations, which ultimately led to conviction of four Robins employees, two of whom had pleaded guilty earlier.

He still can't mask his anger when recalling his reaction to learning about the problem.

"I was highly perturbed," he said. "To have somebody knowing and scheming to do something detrimental to the process ... I had some less-than-Christian thoughts."

Many of the problems the office finds with use of the cards aren't criminal in nature, Mr. Laster said. Most of the time it's something the buyer wasn't trying to hide, but made a purchase that wasn't authorized or proper under the rules of the card use.

Those rules are detailed enough that anyone getting a card - good for making purchases up to \$3,000 - has to first sit through a day-long class, plus take an Internet course. In many cases, when Mr. Laster finds a problem, he will simply inform the user why the purchase was wrong and reverse the charges. Other times the user might simply lose card privileges, but when there is a clear intent of misuse it moves toward disciplinary action or criminal investigation.

Mr. Laster's best advice for anyone making a purchase with a government card is to call his office if there is any doubt.

"I would much rather you ask me a question than have me ask you a question about a purchase and not like the answer I got back," he said.

He also invites anyone

who may suspect card misuse to call him, although he noted tips will only be useful if there is specific information, such as the name of the alleged culprit. He also said any cardholder approached by a business with any proposal that sounds suspicious should contact him.

The tip in the recent criminal case was critical, he said, because the suspects were in collusion with a company. The company was falsifying shipping records to make it appear items were being shipped that actually were not. On paper the transactions looked good so his office couldn't have caught the problem just by looking at the records.

Since that time, however, technology has improved the oversight process. Previously the billing records his office would review only showed the dollar amount of purchases made from each business, but now the records show the kinds of items purchased, making it much easier to identify misuse.

Laster said he believes most card holders are conscientious about following the rules.

Robins firefighter to represent AFMC

Bryan O'Leary, 78th Civil Engineer Group firefighter, has been selected to represent Air Force Materiel Command in the 2008 Air Force Civil Engineer Awards Program as civilian technician of the year.

Mr. O'Leary who was named Warner Robins Air Logistics Center civilian of the year, will now go on to compete at Air Force level.



Bryan O'Leary
2008 AFMC civilian technician of the year

CONSERVE ENERGY



General Peyer to host first commander's calls

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, will host a Commander's Call to the workforce Wednesday, Thursday and Nov. 7 in a series of 11 sessions at the Warner Robins Civic Center and Building 59D on the flightline.

Commander's Call is mandatory for all Center employees. Although the briefing is not mandatory for hosted units, associate commanders are welcome to attend.

Since parking is extremely limited at the event locations, bus transportation will be provided. All employees, except handicapped employees, will be required to ride the buses. Handicapped employees unable to ride the bus to Bldg. 59D should contact Gregory

Jackson, 222-2929 for flightline procedures regarding handicap parking.

Five handicapped spaces will be available per session for those reporting to the Warner Robins Civic Center who cannot ride the bus. Passes will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. All other privately owned vehicles are subject to being ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

Employees must have their base identification cards in order to ride the buses. All personnel are subject to search. Backpacks and bags are not allowed at the event locations. Bus routes and schedules are provided below.

For more information, call Jimetta Strowder at 222-0543 or Kimberly Clark at 222-0532.

► BUS SERVICE PICK UP SCHEDULE

BLUE ROUTE

CORNER OF FIRST AND COCHRAN — Bldgs. 158, 177
FIRST ST. IN FRONT OF BLDG. 140 — Bldgs. 127, 128, 140, 141, 142, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 163, 169, 180, 181, 194, 20149, GATE 38
FIRST ST. AT BLDG. 126 GATE — Bldgs. 40, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 58, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 109, 110, 111, 125, 224, GATE 31
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY AND ROBINS PKWY — Bldgs. 196, 197, 321
CORNER OF THIRD STREET AND ROBINS PKWY — Bldgs. 302, 350
BLDG. 91 AT THE WALK-THRU GATE — Bldgs. 37, 45, 91, 119, 120, 131, 137
BLDGS. 43, 46, 322, 352 (as needed)

RED ROUTE

CORNER OF RICHARD RAY & BYRON — Bldgs. 165, 214, 215, 225, 228, 300
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY & COCHRAN — Bldgs. 162, 300, 301
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY & MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldgs. 201, 301
CORNER OF THIRD & MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldgs. 301, 304, 306, 308, 319, 323, 324
CORNER OF THIRD AND COCHRAN — Bldgs. 300, 301
CORNER OF THIRD AND BYRON — Bldgs. 226, 227, 230, 231, 300

WHITE ROUTE (as needed)

BEALE DRIVE — Bldgs. 8, 2086, 2090
JOINT STACKS STREET — Bldg. 2059
BORGHESE DRIVE — Bldg. 2079
EAGLE AVE — Bldg. 2316

YELLOW ROUTE

CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND PERRY — Bldgs. 255, 261, 263
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND BYRON — Bldg. 376
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldg. 364
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER & ROBINS PARKWAY — Bldgs. 359, 368, 377
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND WARNER ROBINS — Bldg. 351
CORNER OF MLK & BYRON STREET — Bldgs. 380, 385
CORNER OF MLK & PERRY STREET — Bldgs. 269, 270, 273, 280, 282, 288, 291, 292
BLDGS. 557, 560, 826, 827 (as needed)

GREEN ROUTE

CORNER OF PAGE ROAD & DANVILLE STREET — Bldgs. 603, 604, 605
CORNER OF PAGE ROAD & NINTH — Bldgs. 640, 644, 645, 901
CORNER OF PAGE RD & TENTH — Bldg. 655
CORNER OF TENTH & MACON STREET — Bldgs. 660, 664, 941, 943, 944, 945, 946, 963
CORNER OF NINTH & MACON ST. — Bldgs. 767, 769, 794, 905, 914, 936
CORNER OF SEVENTH & MACON STREET — Bldgs. 706, 707, 708, 765, 780
SEVENTH STREET (IN FRONT OF BLDG. 700) — Bldgs. 700, 700A
BLDGS. 670, 1011, 1021, 1400, 1500, 1524, 1549, 1555, 1556 (as needed)

IN APPRECIATION...



U.S. Air Force photo by LISA HAM

In support and appreciation to Robins, the Perry Military Affairs Committee hosted Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer (left), Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, and senior base leaders at Buzzard's Roost Oct 28. At the event, Kelly Hillis (center), MAC chairman, presented \$500 to Guy Starling (right), Museum of Aviation Foundation Board of Directors chairman, for their education programs, and \$1,300 to Christine Parker, Airman & Family Readiness Center director, for their various programs for military families.

VPP GOLD

Continued from 1A

Safe Site status. The employees feel a sense of accomplishment in knowing the great efforts they put forth have been recognized."

Col. Joseph Veneziano, commander of the 542nd CSW, said the Management

Operations Branch has been a "benchmark" for the VPP program.

"These employees have exemplified dedication to each other as fellow wingman and embraced the VPP program," he said. "I have been extremely impressed with their commitment to the safety and health of our Wing."

Robins to celebrate Native American Heritage Month

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

America's fabric is a multi-cultural one, one that continues to unfold through the contributions of many different ethnic groups. To honor the contributions of some of her original weavers, Robins will celebrate Native American Heritage Month with a calendar of events meant to honor the culture while educating the community in the process.

While the Department of Defense celebrates several heritage observance months, Stephen Hammack, base on-site archaeologist, said it's more than just a directive that guides Robins' celebration of Native American culture.

"I don't think the base realizes the ties we have to the Native American community," he said. "They may see articles in the Rev-up from time to time, but we actually have government-to-government relations with 12 federally recognized tribes," he said. "We have a direct link; it's not just something that the federal government says we should do."

First Lt. Leodanny Garcia, NAHO committee project officer, said the entire committee has worked hard to make this year's observance, themed "Living in Many Worlds," something that educates and engages.



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Betty Henderson talks with David Mincey, Ocumulgee Archeology Society president, about artifacts she and Sandra Henderson have collected during last year's artifact ID day.

"We hope to convey to the base and local community the impact Native Americans have on today's culture and to reflect on their contributions throughout U.S. history," he said. "The approach was to schedule entertaining and engaging events that worked around the designated holidays and base personnel's travel plans. We also wanted to reach out to school children and their families during the month."

In order to do so, the observance committee brainstormed and came up with events that include the on-base and off-base communities. The result is a calendar of events which begins Wednesday with a primitive skills demonstration and corn roast.

The event, which will be

held in the courtyard between Bldgs. 300 and 301, will include an artifact identification day where people can bring personal artifacts to be identified and dated.

"What we'd really like to get across with this event is that the artifacts were made by real people," said Mr. Hammack. "They didn't just fall out of space. We want people to think about the people who made them and what their lives were like."

Other events will include cultural lectures at Tucker and Robins Elementary schools, a matinee showing of Brother Bear at the Base Theater and a luncheon with special guest speaker Diamond Brown from Ocumulgee National Monument.

NAHO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 3: 6:30 p.m. Ocumulgee Archaeological Society meeting at Mercer University in Macon. Archaeologists Don Gordy and Terry Jackson speak on "Archaeology at the Singer-Moye Mound Site." Visit www.sgaos.com for more information.

Nov. 5: 9:30 a.m. Primitive Skills Demonstration by Scott Jones at Robins Elementary

Nov. 5: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Primitive Skills Demonstration and Corn Roast (courtyard outside of Bldgs. 300 and 301)

Nov. 17: 9 a.m. Base archaeologist Stephen Hammack speaks on "The Archaeology of Robins" at Tucker Elementary School.

Nov. 19: 2 p.m. Stephen Hammack speaks on "The Archaeology of Robins" at Robins Elementary School.

Nov. 25: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. NAHO Luncheon at the Heritage Club featuring Diamond Go-Si, Cherokee educator and native culturalist.

For more information on the observance call 1st Lt. Leodanny Garcia at 926-2168.

IN BRIEF

NEW CELL PHONE CANCELLATION POLICY FOR MILITARY PCS

On Oct. 10, President George W. Bush signed a new law into effect which allows military members to cancel cell phone contracts upon receipt of orders for a permanent change of station. In order to take advantage of this new right, a military member must request that their cell phone service be cancelled in writing and provide the cell phone company with a copy of

their orders. The letter that the military member sends to the cell phone company must outline the fact that their ability to adhere to the contract or utilize the service will be negatively impacted by the PCS.

The new law also allows military members to suspend their cell phone service when they are deployed for at least 90 days. While the service is suspended, the military member doesn't have to pay any fees or charges. Additionally, the suspension of service does not extend the length of the cell phone contract.

If you need assistance cancelling or suspending your cell phone contract, contact the Legal Office Customer Service Center at 926-9276 or DSN 468-9276 to schedule an appointment with an attorney.

FITNESS CENTER RENOVATION

The fitness center will be undergoing a few renovations to upgrade the quality of life benefits offered at our facility. From Nov. 1-4, the basketball court, racquetball courts #1-4, and aerobics room in Bldg. 826 (new side) and from Nov. 6-9,

the basketball court and racquetball courts #5-7 in Bldg. 827 (old side) will be closed due to resurfacing of the floors.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Tim Kelly



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

TITLE: Computer specialist, 78th Communications Squadron

BACKGROUND: He performs computer programming for the 78th CS.

Mr. Kelly has been at Robins for 27 years. He has vision in only one eye.

HOMETOWN: Macon, Ga.

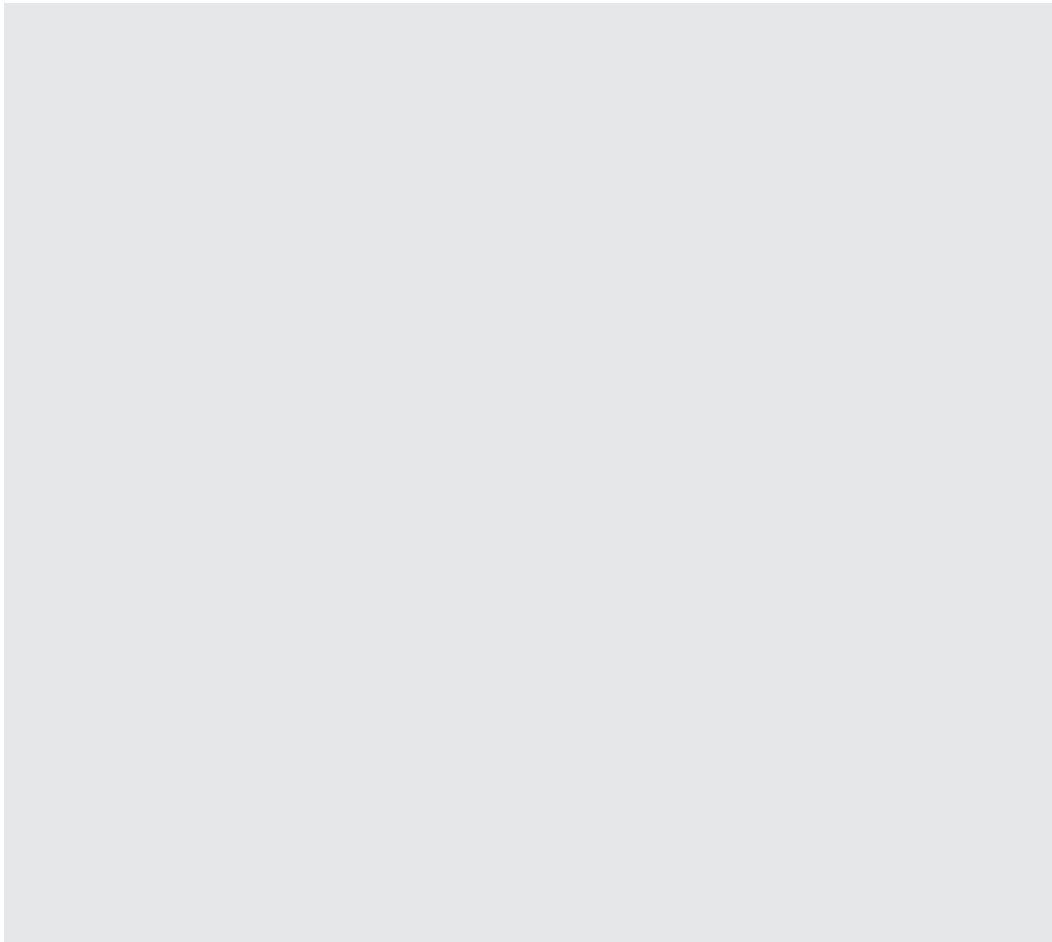
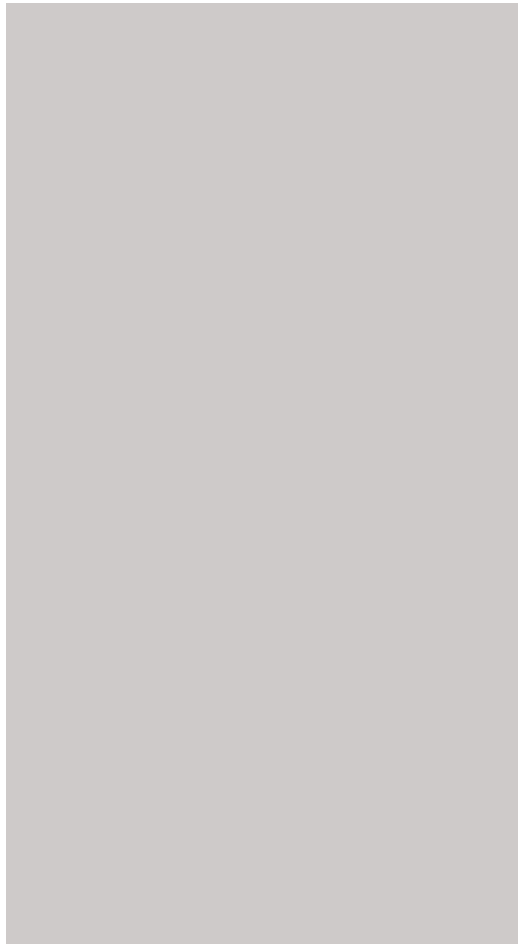
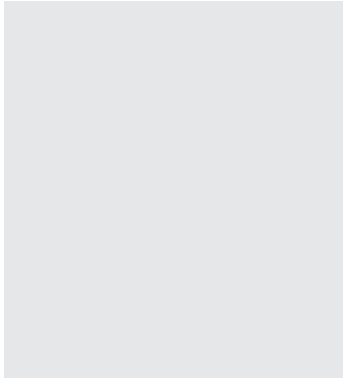
WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BRING TO THE WORKFORCE: "They bring a little bit more determination to do things and a different perspective on how things can be done in the workplace."

HOBBIES: Mr. Kelley enjoys listening to books on tape, plays the keyboard, and enjoys making a difference in his community by getting involved in various projects to help the visually impaired and others through the Centerville Lions Club.

► IN BRIEF

TONER CARTRIDGE ROUNDUP

In conjunction with America Recycles Day, the 78th Civil Engineer Group Environmental Division is initiating a toner cartridge round-up Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the west parking lot of Bldg. 359. Bring all toner, fax and inkjet cartridges and printer ribbons. Only government procured cartridges will be accepted. All cartridges will be recycled by a local company. For more information, call Ken Wharam at 327-4169 or Ben Torrey at 327-4173.



Commentary

"Democracy arises out of the notion that those who are equal in any respect are equal in all respects; because men are equally free, they claim to be absolutely equal."

— Aristotle

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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 kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil. Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

DELIVERY
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Commander's Action Line

The Action Line is an open-door program for Team Robins personnel to give kudos, ask questions or suggest ways to make Robins a better place to work and live.

The most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

Col. Warren Berry
78th Air Base Wing,
commander

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Anonymous action lines will not be processed. Discourteous or disrespectful submissions will not be processed.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up.

To contact the Action Line:
Call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail action.line@robins.af.mil.

<https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>

PHONE NUMBERS

- ▶ Security Forces 327-3445
- ▶ Services 926-5491
- ▶ Equal Opportunity 926-2131
- ▶ Employee Relations 926-5802
- ▶ Military Pay 926-3777
- ▶ IDEA 926-2536
- ▶ Base hospital 327-7850
- ▶ Civil engineering 926-5657
- ▶ Public Affairs 926-2137
- ▶ Safety Office 926-6271
- ▶ Fraud, Waste, Abuse 926-2993
- ▶ Housing Office 926-3776
- ▶ Chaplain 926-2821

Veterinary care helps build relations with nomadic tribe



U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. KEITH BROWN
Staff Sgt. Don Elias deworms livestock during a veterinary medical outreach conducted by the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team Oct. 17 in Qalat, Afghanistan. The PRT members offered free deworming and vitamin supplements. Sergeant Elias, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., is deployed from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

NSPS final enabling regulations published

The Department of Defense has recently published the final Federal Register as amended by the 2008 National Defense Appropriations Act. Since its implementation at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in 2007, the National Security Personnel System had followed the initial guidelines set forth by the Federal Register published in 2005. Changes to NSPS based on the 2008 NDAA mandated publication revisions. NSPS is a government pay-for-performance system to which many federal employees are converting for performance compensation. Approximately 23 percent of WR-ALC employees are under the system. On Sept. 26 DOD and the Office of Personnel

Management jointly issued Final Enabling Regulations for the National Security Personnel System. NSPS was initially authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2004 and amended by NDAA 2008. The final regulations become effective 60 days after publication - Nov. 25, consistent with the provisions of the Congressional Review Act. There were significant changes made to the underlying NSPS statute, but the core features of NSPS remained essentially intact (i.e., pay banding and classification structure, compensation flexibilities, and the pay for performance system). NSPS also retains the core values of the civil service, including merit system principles and veterans' preference, and allows employees to be paid and rewarded based on performance results and local market considerations. Some of the major changes that have been brought about by the NDAA 2008 are:
▶ Excludes federal wage system (blue collar) employees from coverage under NSPS.
▶ Requires advance Congressional notification for OPM/DOD jointly-prescribed NSPS regulations.
▶ Mandates at least 60 percent of the annual General Schedule government-wide pay increase as a base salary increase.
▶ Requires that all NSPS employees with a performance rating above "unaccept-

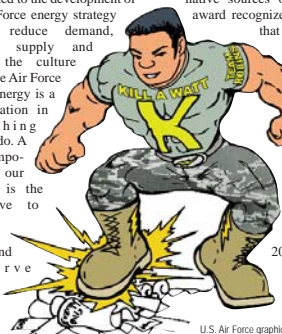
able" or who do not have a current performance rating receive locality pay in the same manner and extent as General Schedule employees. The new federal regulations also contain adjustments and clarifications that were made to lend consistency based on lessons learned and best practices. A couple of the topics that have been clarified by the new regulations are:
▶ Provides a Conversion/Movement Out Process for employees moving to GS positions to ensure consistent pay setting practices for NSPS employees.
▶ Provides a Conversion/Movement Out Process for employees moving to GS positions to ensure consistent pay setting practices for NSPS employees. As with the implementation of any new set of regulations there are bound to be some questions raised about the subject. To access all of the FAQ's pertaining to the new Federal Register visit: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-DP-WR-05>. For further information or to view the changes made to the regulations in greater detail, access the CPMS Web site at <http://www.cpmosd.mil/nsp/s/> or visit the NSPS Plans and Policies Web site to view changes, regulations, as well as the FAQ's <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-DP-WR-05>. — courtesy Robins NSPS Plans/Policy Office.

Air Force wins EPA energy award

Air Force officials have received an Environmental Protection Agency award for leading the federal government in purchasing renewable energy. The Air Force was named the winner of the 2008 Green Power Leadership Award in the Green Power Purchaser category. Air Force officials made an annual purchase of more than \$99 million kilowatt hours, making it the top federal government purchaser of green power and ranking it among the largest purchasers on the EPA Green Power Partnership list. In addition, Air Force leaders have implemented several renewable energy projects on bases:
▶ A 14.2 megawatt photovoltaic solar array — the largest in the western hemisphere located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

▶ A 0.4 megawatt photovoltaic array at Luke AFB, Ariz.
▶ A 0.4 megawatt photovoltaic rooftop at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.
▶ A 3.3 megawatt wind farm at Warren AFB, Wyo.
▶ A 2.7 megawatt wind farm at Ascension Island, England.
▶ A 2.3 megawatt landfill gas project at Hill AFB, Utah.
▶ A 3,500 ground source heat pumps at various locations. "As the largest federal energy user, the Air Force consumes significant amounts of energy in executing its national defense mission," said Kevin W. Billings, the acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics. "The increasing costs of energy and the nation's commitment to

reducing its dependence on foreign oil have led to the development of the Air Force energy strategy — to reduce demand, increase supply and change the culture within the Air Force so that energy is a consideration in everything Airmen do. A key component of our strategy is the imperative to eliminate waste and conserve resources as well as seek new, alternative sources of energy. This award recognizes our efforts in that area." The Air Force is a previous winner of the Green Power Leadership Award in 2004, and received the Green Power Partner of the Year award in 2003 and 2005. —courtesy Air Force Print News.



U.S. Air Force graphic by HARRY PAIGE

Chiefs' Group awards scholarships



courtesy photo

The Robins Chiefs' Group presented its enlisted scholarship awards Oct. 10. Winners include Staff Sgt. Steve and Sondra Wiseniske, Naomi Billquist, Amanda Pradaritis, Senior Airman Marion Stephens, Jennifer Cornacchione, Staff Sgt. Jonathon Dalsing and Staff Sgt. David Maldonado. The winners were chosen from a pool of 25 enlisted and family member essays on educational goals and achievements.

**STRAIGHT TALK
HOT LINE**
For up-to-date information in the event of a base emergency, call 222-0815.

► IN BRIEF

ALCOHOL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Save A Life Tour, an alcohol awareness campaign, will be at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar Thursday.

The first of two briefings will be held at 8 a.m. Beginning at 9 a.m. participants will take turns in a driving simulator that mimics the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol. All military personnel ages 18 to 26 years old are required to attend. All other military or civilian personnel on the base are invited to attend.

PINE OAKS LODGING

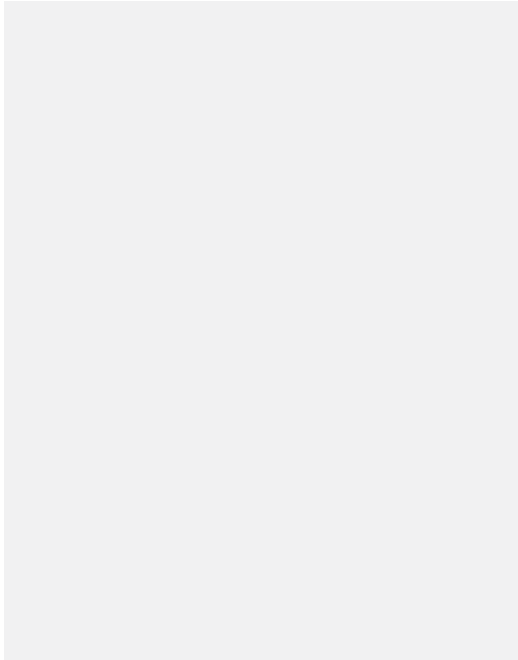
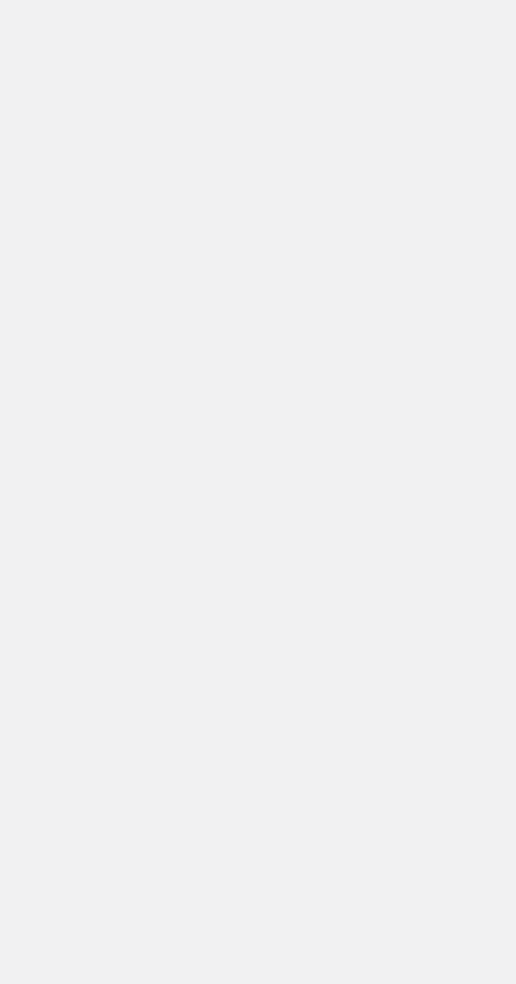
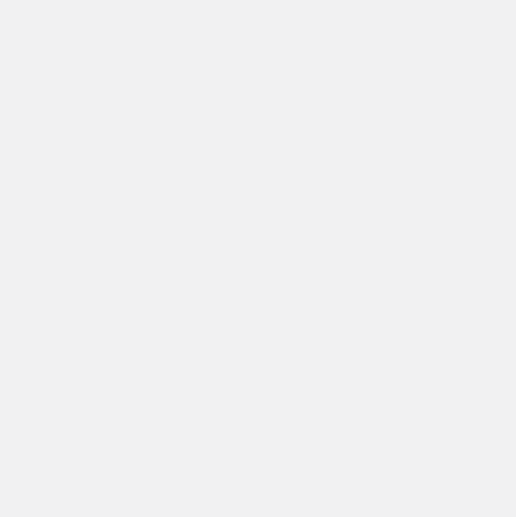
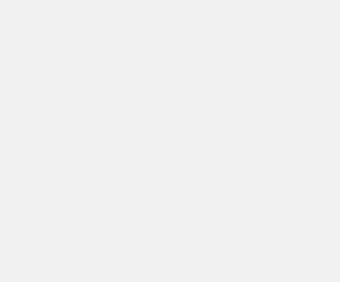
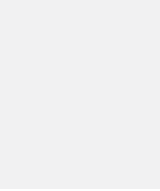
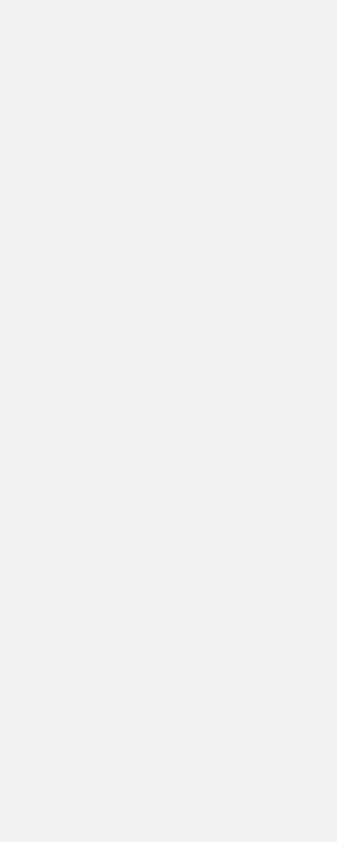
The temporary lodging facilities are closed so all 50 units can be renovated. Renovation will begin Nov. 8 for an estimated seven weeks with a tentative reopening of Jan. 15.

VETERAN'S WALL DEDICATION

The dedication of the Veterans Wall of Honor, a national veterans monument to those who served in the Armed Forces from all 50 states, will be at 3 p.m. Nov. 11 at Heritage Park, 101 Lake Dow Road in McDonough, Ga.

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, state Sen. John Douglas, U. S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland and local Vietnam veteran Tommy Clack will be the featured speakers for the event.

For more information about the Veterans Wall of Honor, visit <http://www.veteranswallsof Honor.org>.



“EXERCISE, EXERCISE”

Robins exercise tests base, community response capabilities

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

On Oct. 22, a call went out over Houston County 911 that a military plane had crashed at the Perry-Houston County Airport, but the message was clarified with the words “exercise, exercise.”

A school bus simulated the fuselage of a crashed E-3 Airborne Warning And Control System aircraft, and smoke, a few scattered airplane parts and some makeup for “victims” helped add to the realism of the scene.

It was all part of Robins’ exercise to test how base responders and emergency personnel in the community can work together in the event of an actual crash.

“I think it went real well,” said exercise evaluation chief Wayne Carson. “There were problems that occurred here and there but it’s nothing you can’t correct. There are things you have to work out. Nothing

is going to be perfect but that’s why we exercise.”

Over 50 emergency personnel responded from agencies that included several local fire and police departments along with ambulances, hospital personnel and the county coroner. Volunteers with makeup to simulate various injuries played the roles of 13 victims. Mannequins were used for four people killed in the crash.

An exercise is usually held four times per year, Mr. Carson said, and about once a year an exercise is held off base for the purpose of testing coordination with other agencies.

The exercise evaluation office in the 78th Air Base Wing works to set up the details of the scenario then gauges the response to the event.

“We have exercise evaluators in each one of those fields of expertise,” said Audrey Ray, a program analyst in the office. “We go through each part of the exercise to show each area of improvement.”



The bus pictured here was used to simulate a crashed E-3 AWACS aircraft during the Robins Emergency Response Exercise Oct. 22. While mannequins simulated fatalities, human players moulaged to look realistic served as crash survivors.



An emergency responder takes care of a “victim” in the triage area of a simulated aircraft crash scene. Base and local emergency personnel took part in an exercise Oct. 22 to prepare in the event of an actual crash. U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Smith, 78th Operations Support Squadron, is made up by Tech. Sgt. John Beasley, 78th Dental Squadron, to simulate second-degree burns on his arms for his role as a victim in the exercise.



A “victim” is loaded into an ambulance for transport to a local hospital from the simulated aircraft crash scene.



Houston County fire fighters move a “victim” away from the crash scene at the Perry-Houston County Airport.



L-R, Donald Striejewski, 778th Civil Engineering Squadron fire chief; Chief Master Sgt. Harold Hutchison, 78th Air Base Wing command chief; and Col. Warren Berry, 78th ABW commander, discuss the exercise while it is in progress Oct. 22.

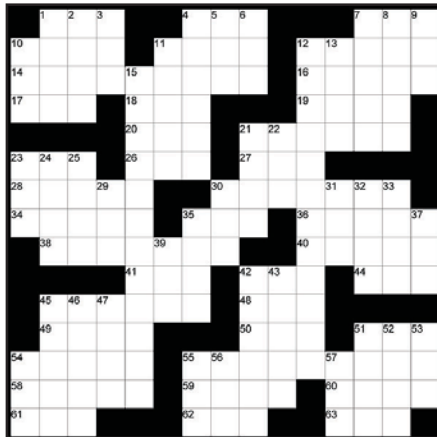
2B The Robins Rev-Up ■ October 31, 2008

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

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

Submissions run for two weeks. The following have been approved as a leave recipient: **Jerry Morningstar**, 78th ABW/SE. POC is **Richard Thomas** at 926-6643 and **Shirley A. Osborne** 569th EMXG/IMXDAO. POC is **Etta Davis**, 926-2689.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Boo!

By Capt. Tony Wickman
USAFE Public Affairs

ACROSS

- Rapping Dr.
- Music holders
- Singing group ____ Na Na
- Fuel source
- Away from the wind
- Land of the Rising Sun
- 2001 Ryan Philippe film
- With full force
- Golf prop
- Stimpy's pal
- Bud of Harold and Maude fame
- Pen filler
- Stock market in 12 Across
- Cleo killer
- Small low island
- Bother
- Color synonymous with Halloween
- I'm sorry
- Egyptian capital
- Health resort
- GI JOE: ____ American Hero
- Make an arrangement on a basis of proportional distribution
- Fool or simpleton
- Mil. pay entitlement during PCS
- Acne
- Scream during Halloween
- Ghost seen during Halloween
- Lyrical poem
- Ear part
- Russian space station
- Tree product
- British television host and cookbook writer Smith
- Italian mathematician who founded a sequence of integers
- Bread mold?
- Forget
- Acting role
- USAF appraisal for AB-SMSGt
- Norma ____; Fields movie
- Single

DOWN

- Complete
- USN equivalent to AFSC
- NY Giant Manning
- Awkwardly heavy
- Moines
- Place
- Extra
- Caribbean country
- Grumpy Old Men actress ____
- Margret
- A black one is a Halloween icon
- Stadium
- Carved pumpkin that is a Halloween icon
- Frenziedly
- Halloween saying
- California wine valley
- Wedding words
- Beginning of a 26-letter string
- Hit
- Duo
- ____Magnon; early man
- Mock
- USAF examination for a wing's ability to do its mission
- Hackman of Behind Enemy Lines
- Nickname for an American
- Immediately
- Soap
- The Greatest
- Halloween ghoul
- Dummy
- Go to bed
- Type of bear
- Large wading bird
- Observe
- Land measurement
- Hole
- Color
- In favor of
- USAF Reservist
- Mil. overseas address starter

SOLUTION



78th FSS BRIEFS

FRIDAY

Bring your dancing partner and arrive in costume to a Halloween dinner and dance Oct. 31 from 6 to 11 p.m. with dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$15 members and \$20 guests and includes choice of prime rib, sautéed salmon or grilled chicken. Entertainment will be provided by the Bob Cummings band. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

SATURDAY

The Youth Center JR NBA and JR WNBA basketball registrations will begin Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$55. The program emphasizes fundamentals of skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship and positive adult participation with the goal of providing a fun and rewarding youth basketball experience. A copy of birth certificate and current physical examination is required. Dedicated basketball coaches are also needed. Apply in person at the center or call 926-2110 for more information.

The AS&RC fall festival will be Nov. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. in Robins Park. All Robins ID card holders welcome (please no guests). Festivities will be for all ages and will include an obstacle course, bungee run, joust, golf chipping, touchdown toss, basketball free throw, Simon Says game, bubble machine and arts and crafts. For more information call 926-1256.

UPCOMING

Attention all artists, the Arts and Crafts Center would like to display Native American Indian influenced arts and crafts during the month of November. Anyone who has created a painting, drawing, pottery or craft of or inspired by Native American Indians please bring it in the first week of November, and we will display it throughout the month of November. For more information call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

A First Friday "Country Night" will be held at Heritage Club and Horizons from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and non-members \$5. For more information call 926-2670.

A Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be held Nov. 7 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Child Development Center East and School Age Program (unless other-

Dorm sweet dorm



Col. Warren Berry, 78th Air Base Wing commander, presents Senior Airman Sylvia Kirechu, 78th Medical Group, with a trophy for Dorm Room of the Quarter for July-Sept. 2008. In addition to the trophy, she received a \$50 gift card.

The RAFB Chili Cook off and tailgate party is scheduled for Nov. 8 from noon to 5 p.m. in the Heritage Club parking lot. Enjoy music and college football on big screen televisions while cooking. Cost is \$20 per team and teams may register now until Oct. 31. For more details call the community center at 926-2105.

An American Education Week will be held Nov. 16 - 22. Show your appreciation for education professionals, professors, teachers, school staff, and librarians, by personally thanking them during this historic week. For more information call the library at 327-8782.

The base restaurant will offer its annual customer appreciation Thanksgiving meal Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dine at the main restaurant or purchase a meal at one of the snack bars or mobile trucks. Meal includes turkey, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, giblet gravy, roll and cranberry sauce for \$2.25.

A turkey dinner carry-out special is available to include an 18-20 pound whole turkey, 8 pounds of cornbread dressing, one quart of giblet gravy and one quart of cranberry sauce for \$53.95. Orders will be taken Nov. 1 - 17. Final day for pick-up is Nov. 25 by 3 p.m. To place an order or for more information, call the base restaurant at 926-3031 or 926-6972.

Child Care requests are being accepted for school-age children to attend the Robins school-age program during the November break for Houston County Schools. Care will be offered Nov. 24 - 26 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the youth center. Please use the online child care request form located at www.robinservices.com to apply. Contact Vera Kestley at 926-6741 for more information.

ONGOING The Child Development Centers East and West have openings for ages six weeks through 5 years old. Both centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and offer full time care. Hourly care is available at CDC East or West at 926-5805 or 926-3080.

Tickets are available for the Atlanta Thrashers and Atlanta Hawks home games. Prices vary based on ticket location. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

78th FSS PHONE DIRECTORY

- Services 926-5491
- Community Center 926-2105
- Outdoor Rec 926-4001
- Arts & Crafts 926-5282
- Horizons 926-2670
- Heritage Club 926-7625
- Library 327-8761
- HAWC 327-8480
- Fitness Center 926-2128
- Fitness Center Annex 926-2128
- Youth Center 926-2110
- ITT 926-2945
- Bowling Center 926-2112
- Pine Oaks G.C. 926-4103
- Pizza Depot 926-0188

Additional information on Services events and activities can be found in **The Edge** and at www.robinservices.com

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic
Catholic masses are 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.

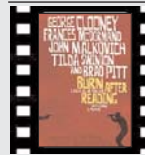
Islamic
Islamic Friday Prayer (Jum'ah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

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.

NOW PLAYING



FRIDAY — 7:30 P.M.
BURN AFTER READING
RATED R

At the CIA headquarters in Arlington, VA., analyst Osborne Cox arrives for a top-secret meeting. Unfortunately for Cox the secret is soon out: he is being ousted. Cox does not take the news well returning to his Georgetown home to work on his memoirs and his drinking.



SATURDAY — 7:30 P.M.
MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL
RATED R

Alexis is the girl of Dustin's dreams, but after only five weeks of dating, the love-struck Dustin is coming on so strong that Alexis is forced to slow down permanently. Devastated and desperate to get her back Dustin turns to his best friend, Tank, the rebound specialist.



UPCOMING:
IGOR
RATED PG

Igor is sick of being a lowly lab assistant with a Yes Master's degree and dreams of becoming a scientist. When his cruel master kicks the bucket a week before the annual Evil Science Fair, Igor finally gets his chance. With the help of two of his experimental creations Igor embarks on building the most evil invention of all time.

Tickets: \$4 adult; \$2 children (11 years old and younger). For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919



INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL

Final regular season standings

TEAM	W	L	PLAYOFF SCHEDULE:
78 MDG	12	0	Oct. 28
581 SMXS	12	2	116 ACW def. 16-14
78 LRS	10	4	78 SFS def. 78 LRS, 11-8
78 SFS	9	4	Oct. 29
402 AMXG	8	4	78 MDG def. 116 ACW, 31-11
116 ACW	7	6	78 SFS def. 581 SMXS, 12-8
330 ASW	4	9	
78 CEF	4	9	Monday (Nov. 3)
5 CCG	3	12	Consolation — 6 p.m.
138 MICO	3	10	581 SMXS vs. 116 ACW
JSTARS	1	9	Championship — 7:15 p.m.
			78 MDG vs. 78 SFS



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Kyle Halderman, seen here rushing for a touchdown against Wyoming, is averaging a team-best 9.9 yards per carry.

AF to tackle Army

The Air Force Academy football team looks to keep its three-game winning streak alive this week as it travels to West Point, N.Y., to take on service academy rival Army. Kickoff is set for 12 p.m. and will be televised nationally on ESPN.

The Falcons are 28-13-1 all-time against the Black Knights. Last year when the two teams met in Colorado Springs, Air Force won 30-10.

The Falcons rank fourth nationally with a 291.0 per-game average. Army is eighth

in the nation with an average of 246.75 yards per game. The two rank close in total defense as well. Army ranks 27th nationally with a 304.00 per-game average. The Falcons are close behind with an average of 304.50 yards allowed per game.

The Falcons (6-2, 4-1 Mountain West) have not lost on the road this season, going a perfect 4-0. The team secured bowl eligibility for the second straight season under coach Troy Calhoun, with a 23-10 defeat of New Mexico. — *staff reports*



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Staff Sgt. Carl Farris, 78th Security Forces Squadron, is pursued by Tyrone Smith, 581st Software Maintenance Squadron, as he races toward the goal line. Farris and his team won the game 12-8 to advance to the championships.

Left, Kendall Coleman, 78th Medical Group, runs the ball in a 31-11 victory over the 116th Air Control Wing. The 78th MDG went unbeaten on the season at 12-0. The team's undefeated record will be tested Monday in the intramural championships game, when the team faces the 78th SFS.

402nd Software Maintenance Group focuses on safety during Wingman picnic, sports day

BY LISA MATHEWS
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

On Oct. 3 more than 500 people turned out at Freedom Park for a day of sports, fun, food and safety. The 402nd Software Maintenance Group conducted its wingman picnic and field day, and safety was a key focus for the entire event.

"Each squadron hosted an event and were graded on the various elements of the Voluntary Protection Program," said Laurie McAlister, unit safety representative, or USR.

The second VPP element, worksite analysis, was used days before the field day when the squadron safety reps did operational risk management evaluations for each event. The evaluations identified the potential risks and allowed the USRs to develop safety measures for protecting everyone while they played.

The management commitment and employee involvement element was visible in the numerous signs at each event. Signs were posted showing the safety rules for each game, warm-up exercises and even signs describing the personal protection equipment available to protect the participants during the games.

The fourth VPP element, training, was valuable as each player received a safety briefing before his or her event. The safety judges applied the hazard prevention and control VPP element as they rated the success of the safety controls. The events included a medley race, volleyball, tug of war, kickball, poker, and a fun walk and run. Beautiful weather, a volunteer band and good food made for a perfect setting for the fun.



courtesy photo

More than 500 people turned out at Freedom Park for a day of sports, fun, food and safety, including a tug-of-war, as the 402nd Software Maintenance Group conducted its wingman picnic and field day. Safety was a key focus for the entire event.

Members of the 402nd Maintenance Wing senior leadership team judged the sporting events using a safety scorecard based on the four elements of the VPP.

"We've learned through employee involvement just how meaningful and important safety is, to not only our work environment, but also our everyday lives," said Chris Moore, 402nd SMXG deputy director.

"I am impressed with how the emphasis on safety and VPP is being embraced by our employees during their off-the-job and home activities," said Marian Fraley, 402nd Maintenance Wing deputy director. "I am convinced our focus on VPP is having a positive effect beyond work."

Supervisors of the various squadrons showed their support during the events either as participants or referees. USRs briefed participants on safety issues prior to the events and led groups in stretch and flex

exercises to prepare them for the activities.

The USRs also ensured that the participants had the right apparel for each event. At the track events, one participant had to be reminded that shoes were required when kicking a football. Those monitoring the events said that when people were informed of something that was not safe, they took the information good naturedly and were glad to learn how to play safely.

Signs with helpful safety information were posted at the various locations so that safety was in the spotlight at all events. Even the Texas Hold'em poker event had VPP information posted. While the popular game did not include a great deal of physical hazards, the squadron hosting the event took the opportunity to share information on VPP, safety and health.

The final event to determine the overall winner of the safety plaque was the tug of war.

USR Sean Johnson and his team from the 579th SMXS did an excellent job preparing for the event and educating participants on safety and VPP.

"I think a lot of people participating are doing a good job. We're keeping it safe," said Steve Duffield, director of the 577th SMXS.

Don Ellis, who leads a public automatic defibrillator program, talked to the group about the Automated External Defibrillator program on base. Mr. Ellis explained that recently a WR-ALC employee's life had been saved by co-workers who were trained in the use of the devices.

"These folks get it. Management's commitment and employees' involvement is key. This is evidence that you can increase safety and health awareness while having fun," said Bill Leipprandt, WR-ALC VPP office representative. "I have no doubt that OSHA VPP Star recognition is in the future for SMXG."

Airman and Family Readiness Center offers classes, workshops

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

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

A&FRC is located in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the Heritage 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.

TAP workshop

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

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

Reservations are taken on first-come, first-serve basis within the appropriate separation or retirement dates. If you register for a session and find you can not attend, contact the Airman &

Family Readiness Center to cancel your reservation—there is a waiting list.

Financial beginnings (officers)

The A&FRC is offering a Financial Beginnings Workshop for officers, Thursday, 9 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Information on credit management, debt reduction, and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of spending and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized.

Center closed

The A&FRC, and Loan Closet will be closed Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans' Day. Normal services will resume Nov. 12 at 7:30 a.m.

Interview basics and preparation class

An Interview Basics and Preparation class will be conducted Nov. 12, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 794.

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

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered twice weekly by the A&FRC Readiness Team. Briefings are conducted at 9:30 a.m., Monday and Friday in Bldg. 794. Call 926-1256 for details.

READ THE ROBINS REV-UP ONLINE
www.robins.af.mil

► **IN BRIEF**

QUARTERLY AWARDS

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center third quarter awards ceremony will be Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. All Center employees are highly encouraged to attend to support their organization's nominees.

ROBINS HEALTH BENEFITS INFORMATION SEMINAR

In conjunction with the Federal Employee's Health Benefits Open Season, the Retirement Section of the Civilian Personnel Flight will host a health benefits information seminar in the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Representatives from various federal health plans will be available with 2009 updates on coverage and information for their respective plans.

Workload permitting, supervisors may excuse employees without charge to leave to allow attendance and return to work in no more than one hour. Additional time will be charged to annual leave. Questions regarding leave usage may be addressed to your servicing employee relations specialist at 926-0677 or 926-5802.

HEART LINK SPOUSE ORIENTATION

Heart Link is an orientation for spouses new to Robins. It is a collaborative effort of all agencies of the Integrated Delivery System. The program goals are:

- Ensure spouses are aware of their important role in the Air Force community.
- Increase awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and available resources and services on base and in the local commu-

nity.

- Increase personal and family readiness and retention.
- Assist families in becoming physically, emotionally and spiritually healthier.

The next orientation will be Nov. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 794. Childcare will be provided, but let us know the number of slots needed. For more information call 926-1256.

PISTOL COMPETITION

The 78th Security Forces Squadron will host an Excellence in Competition Pistol Match Nov. 15. Active-duty and Reserve members may participate and there is no cost to enter. Registration will

begin Monday and end when 100 participants sign up. Remaining participants will be put on an alternate list.

To register, send an e-mail to 78sfs.catm@robins.af.mil or call 926-5031. The top 10 percent of competitors will qualify for the Air Force EIC bronze badge. All competitors and alternates need to be at the 78th SFS combat arms firing range by 9 a.m. Nov. 15. Lunch will be provided for \$5. Include in your e-mail if you will buy lunch. Parking will be at the firing range with overflow in the base stable parking lot. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Jerrod Tracht jerrod.tracht@robins.af.mil or Staff Sgt. Roger Scott roger.scott@robins.af.mil.

