

This week...

Equal Opportunity policy,
page 4A

Next week...

Sheet metal mechanic
approaches 50 years on the job

ROBINS REV-UP

October 16, 2009 Vol. 54 No.41

No one is immune to danger of suicide Robins help agencies available for those in need

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

It's something that virtually everyone does, every day.

You pass someone you know in the hall at work or at some other place, and say "Hey, how are you?"

And the response almost inevitably comes back, "Fine.

How are you?"

But when Maj. Colin Burchfield's dad was a colonel in the Air Force, and someone would ask him how he was doing, he took a vastly different approach.

"He would say something like, 'Well, I've got hemorrhoids, and I hit my head getting out of bed this morning,'" said Burchfield, director of psychological health here.

His dad believed in giving an honest answer to the question, and he surely saw many a befuddled look on people's faces. But to Burchfield, there's an important lesson there when it comes to suicide prevention, because many people really don't want to hear an honest answer when they ask "How are you doing?"

"If someone starts talking to

you about their problems, you should be willing to listen," he said.

The recent suicide of Warner Robins Mayor Donald Walker tragically demonstrated that no one, even a prominent leader, is immune to the danger, Burchfield said.

"In terms of suicide, it's not discriminatory," he said. "It affects

people of all races, all creeds, and all socio-economic status. Walker's suicide reminds us of that."

It also demonstrates that people who commit suicide are not always meek, quiet types who keep to themselves, he said. Walker's suicide was so shocking

► see SUICIDE, 2A

In depth: Center Initiatives

Creating success through innovation

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON

kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil

With budgets tightening throughout the Air Force, leadership is looking for ways to do more with less, more support with less waste that is, including relying on process innovations to provide major improvements to the way things are done – improvements to increase warfighting capabilities while saving taxpayer dollars.

"You can't just settle for marginal improvements because that will barely make you come out even," said Kenneth Percell. "You have to hit some homerun innovations in key areas of need. We don't want to just make things a little



better or improve things incrementally. We want to dramatically change the game."

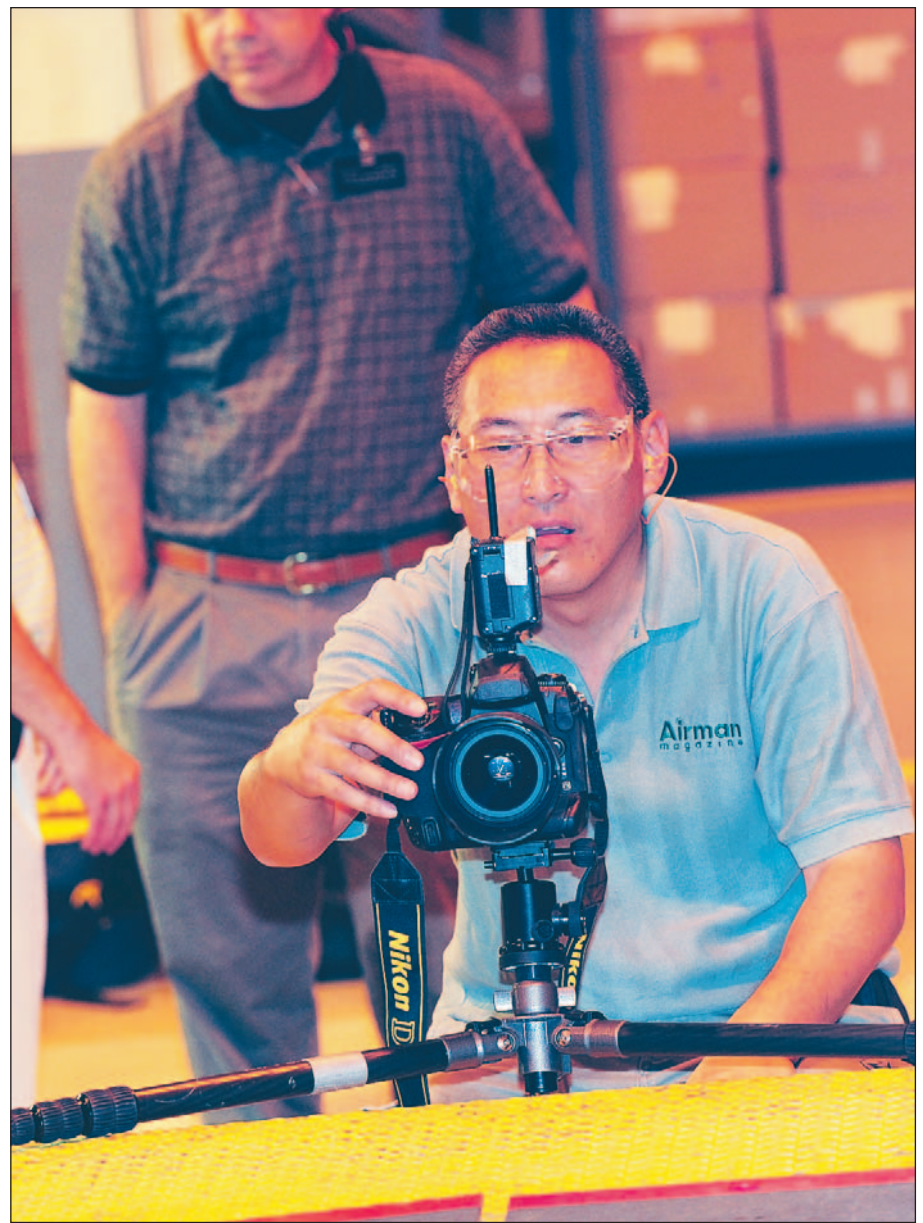
Percell is the director of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Engineering Directorate. He is the expert in Process area; one of the Center's five initiatives from Maj Gen Peyer's P3I strategy. He said building on a foundation of innovation is one

important element of success, and that establishing a Lean culture is the first step.

"Our first goal is to redeploy and reinforce our Lean capabilities," Percell said. "They've atrophied. We're not doing as well leaning out processes because we're not investing as prudently in Lean itself."

► see INNOVATION, 2A

TELLING OUR STORY



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Lance Cheung, Airman Magazine photographer, captures the mission of the 402nd Maintenance Wing during a visit to Robins last week.

Airman Magazine duo captures depot mission to share successes

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

Members of the 402nd Maintenance Wing will want to be sure to snag a copy of the January/February issue of Airman Magazine when it arrives because they just might find themselves in it.

A reporter and photographer from the magazine spent three days at

Robins visiting many of the wing's work areas.

"It's a feature on the maintenance depot and the great work being done here," said the reporter, Randy Roughton.

Roughton is new at the magazine and made his first trip here. Photographer Lance Cheung was last

► see AIRMAN MAG, 2A

Provision proposed to repeal NSPS

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2010 Conference Report filed Oct. 7, contains several provisions, including a provision to repeal NSPS and transition NSPS employees to previously existing civilian personnel systems no later than Jan. 1, 2012 with no loss in pay.

The bill also provides for new authorities regarding a new performance management system; redesigned hiring procedures; manda-

tory training for supervisors; and the ability for the Department of Defense to request Congressional approval for additional personnel authorities and flexibilities.

Should the bill be enacted, the DOD will take all necessary steps to prepare for the eventual transition of NSPS employees out of NSPS and into the appropriate pay system say officials. The primary goal will be to execute a smooth tran-

sition with minimal disruption to the workforce and mission.

The officials add that employees remember these are proposed changes and could be modified or entirely removed from the final legislation.

Additional information, including a list of frequently asked questions is available at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

– NSPS press release



TWO-MINUTEREV

Temporary gate opening

Gate 15, the Air National Guard gate, will be open to out-bound traffic only for a trial period beginning Monday and ending Oct. 30. The gate will be open Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Traffic will exit the gate through a single lane and drivers will be required to navigate through a serpentine decelerator zone. Due to safety concerns, traffic will only be allowed to merge into the northbound lanes of traffic on Highway 247.

For new guidance on texting while driving on base see page 4A.

MISSION



Damage control

Composite Repair Flight keeps aircraft bodies in shape, 1B

PARTNERING



Giving back

Local union, Center partner for CFC success, 3A

FRAUD



Workman's comp

Robins team investigates fraudulent claims, 4B

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 21
Last DUI: 78th SFS

— courtesy 78th Security Forces

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

CheckMATE survey to kick off Oct. 26

BY M. GAIL FLOYD-SIMS
Organizational Consulting Office



Robins leaders and officials from AFGE Local 987 are teaming up to build a strength-based organization, and one tool they are using to help them do that is a CheckMATE (mission accomplishment through engagement) survey.

Members of the 402nd Maintenance Wing, 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing, 78th Air Base Wing's Civil Engineering Group, and a number of Center directorates will take the survey Oct. 26 - Nov. 6.

The questionnaire, which can be completed in less than 10 minutes, will measure levels of workforce engagement and promote collaboration at all levels.

The AFMC council-approved workforce engagement enhancement program has a staunch supporter in Tom Scott, president of AFGE Local 987.

CheckMATE, according to Scott, will glean "viable data that will facilitate a cultural change across the base, not only with employees but also with managers."

"I know it's voluntary, but I encourage people to get involved with the program", he said.

Although the process begins with a simple 12

statement assessment, the Q12 methodology is much more. Items have been researched and precisely-worded to give both the items and answers more validity and comparability across organizations. Q12 is a management tool used to gauge workforce engagement and prompt dialogue within an organization.

Gallup identifies the three levels of employee engagement as engaged, not engaged and actively disengaged. Engaged employees are loyal and psychologically committed to the organization, are more productive, and more likely to stay with the company for at least a year.

On the other hand, employees not engaged may be productive but aren't psychologically connected to the company.

They are more likely to miss workdays and are more likely to leave.

Individuals actively disengaged are physically present but psychologically absent. They are unhap-

py with their work situation and insist on sharing this unhappiness with their colleagues.

According to Gallup studies, work units identified as highly engaged are apt to display a corresponding high success rate in performance outcomes and display significantly higher success rates in other measures of performance.

The world's top performing organizations understand that employee engagement is a force that drives positive business outcomes.

In addition, "When managers and workgroups discuss workplace issues openly, then act on those discussions, overall employee engagement increases," according to Gallup.

This step occurs after management receives the results of the Q12 assessment.

The process for the CheckMATE survey will go something like this: Gallup will send each person an e-mail (some will

receive a paper copy of the survey) with a link and sign on information to a secure Web site where they can complete the survey. Gallup will then compile the results, and provide to AFMC. Each work unit will have access to the results of his/her own unit's results. Each work unit will discuss results and develop and implement impact plans.

A work unit is an organization consisting of more than five people under a first line supervisor.

The Gallup Organization, which is completely independent of AFMC, administers the entire assessment and places great emphasis that specific rules are used to ensure the anonymity of individual responses. No member of management has access to data that can identify specific employees.

The goals of CheckMATE include improvement of overall supervisor/employee relationships, increased collaboration across all levels to improve mission impact, and the creation of action plans based on workforce input.

Benefits of this input include fewer safety mishaps, a decrease in absenteeism, increased productivity levels, improved retention rates and, ultimately, improved mission outputs.

INNOVATION

Continued from 1A

He said the Center is taking a "back to basics" approach to reestablish Lean here, using a "plan of care, just like a medical doctor would use on a patient – deal with the symptoms while you treat the underlying illness."

The base is extending the AFSO21 mandate by requiring all senior managers at wing and group level to receive Lean training. It's also working with new managers to ensure they come ready to work in a Lean environment. But the Lean teaching and training is not just for senior leadership; it's also for front-line supervisors. They will also receive training that would normally just be given to Lean facilitators and professionals with the aim of them instilling in their employees the culture of Lean.

As part of this redeployment, the Center will also be looking to use the resources already here by drawing upon the experience of people across the base.

"We have a lot of Lean experts at Robins. We are going to bring them together as a team and make them available across the Center as organic experts," Percell said. "Leveraging what we already know and already have learned is a big piece of the redeployment puzzle."

He said once Lean has become an integral part of the base culture, Lean experts can begin to really examine processes and can help lead process improve-

ments in areas that need the most help.

"Once we reestablish Lean, we can look at some major places where we need to get much better than we are today. Where do we need to get a five- or 10-fold improvement in our performance?" Percell said. "That's where we'll mount our initiatives to achieve world-class status."

A good example of where the base saw a need for improvement and, through innovative thinking, implemented some major changes was with high velocity maintenance, or HVM.

"We were ticking away at improving aircraft delivery performance in maintenance, but everyone involved had to come together to redefine the game," Percell said. "HVM was a complete rethinking of program depot maintenance by all the players, not just maintenance. That's an example of things we're going to do in processes under this innovation initiative."

Percell said once Lean is reestablished and processes are improved, warfighting capabilities will improve dramatically. But process is only one of five initiatives; to truly be successful at Robins it must work in unison with the other initiatives.

"The right people working with the right processes getting the right level of performance in an infrastructure that's supportive and not detracting – that's the integration we're ultimately trying to achieve – that is what Maj Gen Peyer wants from P31," he said.

SUICIDE

Continued from 1A

to many because he had an outgoing personality and was not one to shrink from a fight.

It's not usually what people think of when it comes to someone at risk for suicide. "Our profile for someone who commits suicide is someone who is more isolated, who takes their problems out on themselves, who looks at themselves negatively, who socially isolates and withdraws," Burchfield said. "That's the template of how we look at suicidal person, but then we have Mayor Walker."

Walker's death does, in fact, fit some of the profile of suicides nationwide and also those of Team Robins members. Most of the increase in suicides in recent years, Burchfield said, is among white males ages 44 to 60. Of the eight suicides among Robins employees in 2008 and the three this year, the majority

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS	
▶ Employee Assistance Program	800-222-0364
▶ Airmen and Family Readiness Center	926-1256
▶ Health and Wellness Center	327-8480
▶ Chaplain	926-2821
▶ Sexual Assault Response Coordinator	327-7272
▶ Military Family Life Consultant	230-2987
▶ Mental Health Clinic.....	327-8398

fall among that demographic, Burchfield said.

Only one of those was a supervisor, he said, but leaders are just as susceptible as anyone. Burchfield said employees shouldn't be afraid to ask a superior personal questions if they see signs of trouble.

Among the warning signs to watch for, he said, are changes in habits, such as someone who is normally clean shaven coming in unshaven, or someone who is normally talkative starting to clam up.

Whether it's a superior officer, a civilian boss, or a co-worker, Burchfield said people shouldn't be afraid

to be a little nosy if they are concerned about someone.

He also pointed out that there are a myriad of helping services on base for those in need.

And while statistics may be one field of focus, Burchfield said his main goal promoting awareness. That's why the You Matter campaign that started at Robins in January is referred to as a "suicide awareness" effort, not an anti-suicide campaign.

"I would love to see it at zero," he said of the number of suicides. "But awareness is way up around the base on this issue, and those are important indicators."



U.S. Air Force photo by LANCE CHEUNG

Randy Roughton, Airman Magazine writer, interviews a member of the 402nd Maintenance Wing during his visit to Robins.

AIRMAN MAG

Continued from 1A

here in 1994 for shots related to a story on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The story is expected to be a four-page spread and there's an outside chance that it will be the cover story.

They visited several

areas in the wing, focusing on some of its high tech industrial operations. One of their stops was in the Sheet Metal Manufacturing Flight in the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group.

There they saw the shop's stretch press in action. The stretch press is a \$2 million piece of equipment that shapes sheet metal with up to 250

tons of force.

Airman Magazine is based in San Antonio, Texas and is the official magazine of the Air Force. It is published every two months and distributed to Airmen around the world.

Cheung's photos from Robins are already available at www.flickr.com. Just go to the Web site and do a search for Lance Cheung.

Working together

Local union, Center partner for CFC

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

Base and union leadership often work together to improve working conditions and the effectiveness of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, but now they are working together to help those in need.

Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, commander of the Center, and Tom Scott, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 987, jointly signed pledge cards Oct. 9 for the Combined Federal Campaign.

The signing was a show of unity to encourage leaders and employees alike to contribute and help others.

“Even though times are tough I think it’s imperative that people give to worthy causes,” Scott said.

The Combined Federal Campaign officially began Oct. 7 and runs through



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON
Tom Scott, AFGE Local 987 president and Maj. Gen. Polly A Peyer, WR-ALC commander, sign their pledge cards.

Nov. 13. It gives all federal employees an opportunity to donate to a wide variety of charities through payroll deduction. People can choose from over 4,000 charities that have been approved for the campaign.

“No matter which organization you belong to, it should be your number one goal to help peo-

ple,” Peyer said. “CFC is a way to take care of people, even if it’s people you don’t know. This is where true partnerships come together.”

The goal for the Robins campaign this year is \$1.375 million, slightly more than last year’s goal of \$1.35 million. Last year’s campaign raised \$1.48 million.

Local energy campaign to target workspace vampires

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

For the typical person working at Robins, conserving energy is sort of like voting.

One person alone might not make much difference, but one person in concert with many others can bring about dramatic change.

“What we’ve found is that each one of us can’t do very much alone,” said Art Howard, energy awareness program manager. “But if you think about how many thousands and thousands of cubicles and workspaces are at Robins, it can have a big impact.”

As a part of National Energy Awareness Month, the base is promoting a Cubicle/Workspace Energy Awareness Campaign. The objective is to make more people realize how they can help with energy conservation efforts by controlling “energy vampires” in their own workspace.

Those include computer screens, which should be turned off at night. Computer speakers, task lighting, printers and any other electrical items in the workspace should also be turned off when not in use.

“When you add all those uses up, the amount



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON
Commander Kill A Watt reminds motorists entering Robins to be energy smart.

of electricity usage is substantial,” Howard said. “What we are hoping with the Cubicle Awareness Campaign is that people, when they leave work, will turn all the non-essential things off.”

For most people, the only thing that should always be on is the computer, which has to be left on for maintenance purposes.

Col. Debra Bean, vice commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, said Team Robins members should not underestimate the contributions they can make to mandatory conservation efforts by taking small steps in their workspace. She noted that in the first year of emphasizing workspace energy consumption, the base realized an

energy savings of 7 percent over the projected costs that year.

“It can make a huge difference,” she said. “We know this works if we get 100 percent of the people on this base doing that 100 percent time. We know there is big money in play.”

Howard said that as a part of the cubicle campaign, the base energy office has put together a slide show that supervisors can use to encourage employees to conserve energy. Anyone interested in getting the slide show can contact Howard at 327-5523.

He also encourages supervisors to use a check list to ensure items are being turned off when not in use.

Center Commander's Golf tournament rescheduled

The annual WR-ALC Commander's Trophy Golf Tournament has been rescheduled for Oct. 23 at Pine Oaks Golf Course with shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The tournament package includes golf cart, green fee, range balls, continental lunch at 11 a.m. and beverages at a cost of \$45 for members of Pine Oaks Golf Club and \$50 for guests. For more information and to sign up, please contact Senior Airman Joshua McCarty at 222-1980.

**THINK
OPSEC:**

**IF YOU
DON'T
WANT IT
READ.....**

**SHRED
INSTEAD**

CORRECTION

An article in last week's edition about the drinking water on base said two of five routine water samples taken here in September tested positive for Coliform bacteria but “were later proven to be false.” What it should have said is re-tests of the same sites showed the water to be within all quality specifications, confirming the water here is safe to drink.

Robins to celebrate Year of the Air Force Family Nov. 1 - 7

Now in its fourth month, the Year of the Air Force Family campaign is starting to build some momentum.

The Air Force dedicated July 2009 through July 2010 as the Year of the Air Force Family. During the year, bases will focus on Airmen and their families in recognition of their dedication and service to the nation.

“The Air Force has a real desire to ensure we are taking care of the needs of all family members, whatever those needs may be,” said Matt Driver, Airman & Family Services Flight chief.

The campaign was started to help remind people of the Air Force’s long tradition of taking care of its people. The aim is to help members of the Air Force family to reach their goals, both



personal and professional, while also maintaining a wartime ops tempo.

“Developing and caring for Airmen and their families remains one of our top priorities,” said Driver, who is Robins’ project officer for the Year of Air Force Family campaign.

Driver said the Air Force has a long and enviable history of meeting the needs of the Air Force family through comprehensive quality of service initiatives. The aim now is to broaden the scope of quality of life beyond the traditional programs and reach toward a more encompassing approach through quality of service.

“The Air Force is a great place to work, live and

play,” he said. “Our focus is to make it even better. We are examining the programs we offer and looking for ways to improve them.”

Driver said you don’t need to be married and have children to be considered family; the Year of the Family campaign targets everyone – single and married Airmen, Guard and Reserve Airmen, civilians, spouses, children, extended family members, retirees and community partners.

The campaign is built around four pillars of excellence:

►**Health and Wellness:** Physical health, psychological health, spiritual wellness, financial health, safety, recreation/leisure, and social networking/wellness.

►**Airman & Family Support:** Single Airmen

programs, deployment support, special needs, child care and youth programs.

►**Education, Development and Employment:** Support and advocacy for children and spouses; personal and professional development for Airmen (includes civilians).

►**Airman and Family Housing:** Safe, affordable and available on and off-base housing for single Airmen and families; housing referral and relocation assistance.

Robins is dedicating Nov. 1 through Nov. 7 as a week to help market this campaign.

There will be activities throughout the week to provide recreational and entertainment activities for members of the Air Force family.

– from staff reports

Texting, talking on mobile devices strictly prohibited while driving on base

Do you text on your cell phone, personal digital assistant, or blackberry while driving?

Almost 50 percent of drivers between the ages of 18 and 24 are texting while driving. In 2002, the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis calculated that 2,600 people die each year as a result of using cell phones while driving. They estimated that another 330,000 are injured. According to a study conducted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, for every six seconds of drive time, a driver sending or receiving a text message

spends 4.6 of those seconds with their eyes off the road. Local policy prohibits all personnel operating a government owned, privately owned, or commercially owned vehicle on Robins from using cell phones, PDAs, or a Blackberry, unless the vehicle is parked or the driver is using a hands-free device. Hands-free means not having the electronic device in your hands, including for text-messaging and while entering or exiting installation gates.

President Obama issued an executive order Oct. 1

banning all federal employees from text messaging while driving a government-owned vehicle, when driving a personally-owned vehicle while on official government business, and when using government-supplied electronic equipment while driving. The executive order applies when driving both on and off base. You can view the executive order at the following link:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Executive-Order-Federal-Leadership-on-Reducing-Text-Messaging-while-Driving
Government Contractors

are encouraged to adopt policies that ban text messaging while driving company-owned or -rented vehicles or GOVs, or while driving POVs when on official government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the government.

The mandatory implementation date of this executive order is Dec. 29.

Please help us reduce vehicle mishaps by following all local and federal instructions and guidelines to keep the roads safe.

– By 1st Lt. Robin White, 78th MSG commander executive officer.

Center commander explains EO Policy

In a Sept. 21 memo addressed to all personnel, Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, expressed full support for Equal Opportunity in the workplace.

“It is the law and nothing less than full compliance will be tolerated,” she said.

The memo began with a quote from Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley’s EO policy, stating, “When Airmen experience unlawful discrimi-

nation or unlawful harassment, their ability to excel is diminished, and their chances to reach their full potential are jeopardized.”

Peyer stated that supervisors on all levels are expected to take an active role in promoting and implementing equal opportunity principles.

Other highlights: Supervisors are to afford all employees an equal opportunity to compete on a fair and level playing field, and ensure that employees have a work environment free

from social, personal and institutional barriers.

Supervisors should work to resolve complaints and issues through the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

“I encourage each member of Team Robins to address every episode of unprofessional behavior to include unlawful discrimination,” Peyer stated. “It undermines equal opportunity and human dignity. Always remember our motto: ‘People First... Mission Always.’”

WINGMEN WANTED

EAP – 327-7683; 926-9516

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK

DRIVING – 335-5218;

335-5236; 335-5238

► IN BRIEF

PARKING LOT CLOSURE

Half of the parking lot on Perry Street next to Bldg. 222 will be closed beginning Oct. 21.

The closure, which will last for eight months will result in the loss of 68 parking spaces.

The closure will provide an area to store materials and equipment during a construction project to upgrade the storm water drainage system along First Street. For more information call Russell Thornbury at 327-8908.

LANE CLOSURES

The eastbound lanes on First Street between Perry Street and Milledgeville Street will close Oct. 28. The closure will last approximately four months to allow major upgrades to the storm water drainage system and repaving of the road.

During the closure, the two westbound lanes of First Street will be divided to accommodate two-way traffic. Motorists will still be able to cross the eastbound lanes at the intersections of First Street and Byron Street and First Street and Cochran Street. For more information call Russell Thornbury at 327-8908.

STOP UNSAFE ACTS THINK VPP

Commentary

"I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm."
— Calvin Coolidge

WR-ALC VISION STATEMENT

Be recognized as a world class leader for development and sustainment of warfighting capability.

WR-ALC MISSION STATEMENT

Deliver and sustain combat-ready air power ... anytime, anywhere.

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. Carl Buhler

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Rick Brewer

EDITOR

Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0806

STAFF WRITER

Wayne Crenshaw

wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0807

PHOTOGRAPHER

Sue Sapp

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

78ABW.PARevUp@robins.af.mil.

Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

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

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.

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.

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.

For more information on the Action Line, visit <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>.

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

▶ Security Forces	327-3445
▶ FSS (Services)	926-5491
▶ Equal Opportunity	926-2131
▶ Employee Relations	926-5802
▶ Military Pay	926-4022
▶ IDEA	926-2536
▶ Civil engineering	926-5657
▶ Public Affairs	926-2137
▶ Safety Office	926-6271
▶ Fraud, Waste, Abuse	926-2393
▶ Housing Office	926-3776
▶ Chaplain	926-2821

THE STATE OF THE BASE THEATER

I'm writing in regards to my observations at the base theater in past weeks.

I recently brought my family on base to watch three movies. The first two were shut down several times due to projection. One of the movies was restarted at the beginning and the video was displayed of Soldiers in uniform but, the whole portion of the national anthem was without audio.

Our last visit was the worst. The projector ate the film and this time we were refunded our money.

My concern is what is the current status of the base theater? I understand that the Air Force has changed since I separated. Expenses are of great concern and everything must be planned and budgeted, but I have a few suggestions:

•If attendance is too low, place an article in the base paper and on the splash page to let the people know if the operation of the base

theater may be in jeopardy.

•Have the first line supervisors and first sergeants brief the status of the base theater and whether it will remain open or will be closed for low attendance and operating costs.

•If money is not available, can fund raisers be allowed to update the theater equipment.

I understand the movies that play on the base are shown in the local area earlier than on base. I don't mind waiting until a new release makes it to the base theater. I enjoy the safety on base, which is why I drive my family on base to watch a movie.

I understand that the paint around the base movie screen inside the base theater is reflective paint. If funds are allocated to update the theater equipment, can the area around the screen be repainted with non-reflective paint?

COL. BUHLER RESPONDS:

Thank you for your patronage at the Base

Theater, and for taking the time to provide feedback on your experiences.

I've contacted AAFES on your behalf and am sorry for the inconvenience you experienced. Since the date of your feedback, AAFES has acquired a knowledgeable and certified projectionist, and it has had its projection equipment serviced, most recently on Sept. 19. Last, I'm happy to report the paint you mentioned was sanded down and repainted, and the problems with the audio system have also been resolved – the sound can now be heard clearly throughout the entire cinema.

I will continue to work with AAFES to determine which of your suggestions can be implemented to further improve theater operations.

The POC for this matter is AAFES assistant store manager, Crystal Kelly at 923-5536.

Thank you.

Robins safety specialist: 'Beware of Hairy Hooligans'

You're cruising down the road when suddenly there is a loud crash and you're stopped, the victim of an ambush. There is no getting away. You might as well just hand over your wallet and everything that's in it. And with a knot in your stomach, you know you might lose your car too. Although you'd heard about gang violence, you never thought it could happen to you. But even "20/20" hasn't dared to unveil the truth about America's most widespread street gang.

Think you're the only one? Not hardly! This has been going on for years. Chances are some of you have encountered these woodland "hoods" and know the portrayal they received in movies like "Snow White" and "Bambi" is nothing more than Hollywood hype. I've had the chance to talk to some of the victims of the "Hairy Hooligans" gang and here are a few of their grisly stories. I've changed their names to protect their privacy.

"Cletus," age 32, said, "I was driving down the road, minding my own business, when this cute little deer went scampering across the road in front of me. I slowed down and watched the little creature as it entered the woods and thought everything was fine. Suddenly, I heard a loud crash and lost control of my car. As I skidded to a halt in the gravel, I saw a very large deer jump up and run into the woods. I don't mind tellin' you, I was scared! Later, I found out there was about \$1,000 damage to my car."

It seems "Cletus" was a victim of the infamous "bait and switch" tactic where a decoy deer is sent across the road to distract a driver

while a mega-deer waits for just the right moment to blind-side him. Here's another case-in-point.

"Eunice," age 26, told her tale. "I was driving along when I saw a deer run out into the road," she said. "I was alert and swerved hard to the right to miss the deer. I missed it alright, but I succeeded in hitting three trees and doing almost \$4,500 damage to my car in the process."

"Eunice" wanted to be a good person and not hurt the "cute little deer." She got what she wanted and the deer went unscathed. However she did succeed in hitting three perfectly innocent trees and crunching her car. Perhaps the deer would have done less damage? We'll never know. However, many insurance companies count an animal strike under the comprehensive portion of the policy, potentially saving you the cost of the deductible. The point is; once again the Harry Hooligans succeeded making the roads drivers like "Eunice" take for granted a challenging place to drive.

Take the case of another poor soul who was returning home after a long road trip. He was so excited about seeing a whole herd of deer near his house that he stopped and backed up to look at them again in his headlights. This worked amaz-



ingly well, and every-thing would have been fine if he hadn't forgotten he was towing a trailer. You know, it's amazing the amount of dam-

When dealing with the Hairy Hooligans, keep a few simple things in mind:

▶Keep an eye out for deer, especially during the cooler months of year. Deer become more restless and tend to be "on the move." It's inevitable they'll be crossing the roadways more frequently.

▶Deer do not care if you're in a 2,000-pound car. Given half the chance, they'll run straight in front of — into the side of — or across the top of — your vehicle.

▶Deer tend to follow the same path returning to where they started from. If you see deer on the side of the road, there is no guaranteeing which way they are going or even if they're all headed in the same direction. Slow down until they figure out where they're going.

▶There are three things you should do whenever you encounter deer — slow down, slow down, and if nothing else works, slow down some more. This gives you more time to think and react.

▶There may be times when you have to make a split-second decision to either hit a deer or steer for the trees. This may sound heartless, but a deer has a lot more "give" to it than your average tree. Fight against instinct and don't aim for the trees.

Okay, so the deer aren't really out to get you. They do, however, add another exciting dimension to driving on roads with folks who believe the turn signal stalk is just a place to hang the litter bag.

Take care and happy motoring!
— By Bob Meloche, Robins Safety & Occupational Health Specialist.



What is your favorite tip to increase mileage in your vehicle?



Commander Kill-A-Watt

Robins energy mascot

"By keeping tires properly inflated and reducing vehicle weight by removing unneeded items from the trunk."



Connie Hall

78th CES

"Basically I just don't exceed the posted speed limits."



Rene Lindsey

78th CES

"Carpool with a friend or another co-worker if you can."



Shawn Gentry

78th CEG

"I try to stay on the highway instead of going through town to avoid stops and starts."

Composite Repair Flight keeps aircraft bodies in shape

Damage Control



Stephanie Taylor tears down a C-5 panel.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



Merrell Ussery makes a template for a C-5 wing tip repair.

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

Keeping an older car in pristine condition often requires the services of a good body shop.

When it comes to C-5 and C-17 cargo planes, the Composite Repair Flight here helps fill that role.

The flight works on damaged composite panels that make up portions of the body of the planes. Composite panels are made up of a metal honeycomb structure and fiberglass, said Lucion Foreman, supervisor of the flight's Miscellaneous Panel Shop.

He said composite panels have come in to greater use in recent years because the panels are lighter than sheet metal. When the planes come in for programmed depot maintenance, mechanics remove damaged panels and send them to the shop for repair.

Due to the age of many of the planes, Foreman said, new parts are often not available to replace heavily damaged panels, so it's up to the shop to restore the panels.

Hail and moisture damage are the most common problems the shop sees in the panels. Foreman said he has also seen some with bullet holes.

With moisture damage, water gets into the honeycomb in the panels and the honeycomb has to be replaced.

Workers in the shop said they enjoy what they do because of the variety of challenges they encounter repairing damaged panels.

"You face different challenges every day," said William Dean, work leader in the shop. "Some things are repetitious but for the most part, you see different types of damage every day."

The shop used to be caused the Metal Bond Shop, Foreman said, but the name changed because of the transition to composite material. However, the shop still does some sheet metal work and metal bonding.

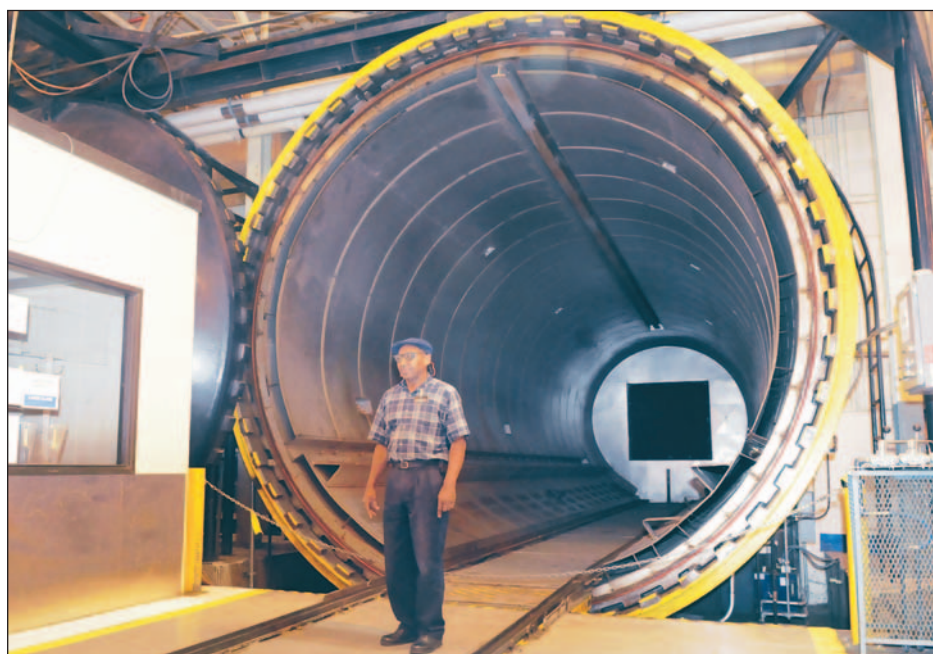
It has three autoclaves, one of which is about big enough to drive a school bus into. An autoclave is a large cylinder in which the parts are placed after the bonding work is done, and the pressurized heat in the autoclave causes the parts to bond together, Foreman said. Most of the parts are "cooked" in the autoclave for 90 minutes at 250 degrees.

Foreman said the large autoclave was here when he started working at Robins 31 years ago. He wasn't sure about the original cost, but he said replacing it is estimated at \$50 million, which is why considerable effort is put into maintaining it.

Dean said quality and safety are two of the shop's biggest priorities. In 2008 the shop earned Gold Site status in the Commander's Challenge Voluntary Protection



Pamela White puts fiberglass on a composite panel.



Lucion Foreman walks in front of one of the autoclaves used to bake C-5 panels.

78th FSS BRIEFS

SATURDAY

A Saturday vet clinic will be held today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for routine vaccinations and sick call. To make an appointment please call 327-8448.

Texas Hold 'Em Base Championships will be held in the Heritage Club Lounge Oct. 24 and 31. Starting today, sign-ups will begin at 1:30 p.m. and games will start at 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. For more information, call 926-2670.

SUNDAY

Teen Read Week will be held through Oct. 24 with a theme of Read Beyond Reality. Enjoy a pizza party to kick off the celebration Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. and learn about what the Library has for young adults. For more information call the Library at 327-8761.

Every Sunday watch all the play-by-play NFL football action on the Heritage Club's multiple television screens and three new high definition plasma televisions with satellite. Doors open at noon and games begin at 1 p.m. There will be prizes, food and beverage specials all season long. For more information call 926-2670.

MONDAY

Piano lessons will be offered at the community center on Oct. 19 and 26 from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$65 per person for four weeks. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

The Arts & Crafts Center is now offering sewing classes on Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. For more details on this class and more call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-3004.

UPCOMING

Enter the Year of the Air Force Family Photo Contest at the The Airman & Family Readiness Center. Entries must be received by the A&FRC Oct. 30. Photo theme is The Air Force Family and includes

all Airmen, Air Force civilians, retirees, married/single, spouses, children and extended family. Entries may depict Team Robins at work, rest or play. Photos should have a central theme that encompasses what the Air Force family represents. Judging will take place during Air Force Family week Nov. 1 – 7. For more information, contest registration forms and rules, contact Senior Master Sgt. Gary Hunkins at 926-1256.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies Under the Stars Oct. 23 for a presentation of "A Nightmare Before Christmas." The movie will start at dark behind the Heritage Club. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and register for a free webcam. Free popcorn will be available. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Watch WWE Wrestling "Bragging Rights" Oct. 25 in the Heritage Club lounge, 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 Heritage Club at 926-2670.

The musical showcase, Tops In Blue World Tour 2009 "To Dream" will be held at the Warner Robins Civic Center Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to general public. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. first come, first serve. Bags and packages will be subject to search. Tops In Blue is sponsored in part by AT&T, Coca Cola and Coca Cola Zero.

No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

The Youth Center will be hosting a family fun camp out Nov. 7 in celebration of Year of the Air Force Family. Cost is \$5 for each family member. Dinner, breakfast, and snacks will be provided. The evening will be full of family fun. Register by Nov. 4 at the Youth Center. For more information, call 327-KIDS.

Competing for gold



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

David Quinn, 78th Force Support Squadron director, welcomes Master Sgt. Deborah Betz, a Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command Gold Plate Award evaluator during a morning in brief last week. Not pictured is Tech. Sgt. Matthew Lemieux who also served as an evaluator. During the farm-themed in brief, the evaluation team got a look at food service operations here. The evaluation for the coveted Gold Plate Award covered two days. Robins won the Gold Plate Award in 2007.

ONGOING

Hunting season is open now through Jan. 15, 2010. Hunting requires a valid Georgia state hunting license and hunting safety class offered by outdoor recreation. Cost is \$10 for archery hunting and \$30 for gun and archery. For class times and dates please call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

The Horizons front entrance will be closed until further notice for renovation. Please use the rear entrance for your dining pleasure (some parking is available in the rear by the Wellston). For more details call Horizons at 926-2670.

Youth fall sports registrations are under way through Nov. 2 from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday for cheerleading (ages 5 – 12 years old), cost \$90 and basketball (ages 5 – 18 years old), cost \$55.

Registration accepted until teams are full. Volunteer coaches are needed in all areas. To register or for details, visit the youth center in Bldg. 1021 or call 926-2110.

The Afterburner, which proudly brews Starbucks coffee, is open Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices are falling in October. Purchase a tall coffee for \$1.55 (refill \$1), Grande coffee for \$1.75 (refill \$1.25) or a Venti coffee for \$1.85 (refill \$1.35). The Afterburner is located in the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166 on Byron St. The Afterburner offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, pastries and snacks. For more information call 222-7827 or 926-6972.

Fitness center renovations:
►The women's locker room in the main Fitness Center, Bldg. 826 will undergo a complete renovation

through Nov. 19. For more information, call 926-2128.

The Pine Oaks Lodging now offers wireless high speed internet access available in all rooms. Room reservations may be made up to two weeks in advance or you can register online at www.robinservices.com. For more information call lodging at 926-2100.

Stalls for horses are available at the riding stables. The stables, near Luna Lake, offer a lighted riding ring, hot & cold wash rack, horse trails, stalls and pasture. Cost includes a monthly \$15 family membership fee & monthly stable fee of \$97. All base ID cardholders – active duty, reserve, ANG, retired military, DOD civilians are eligible. For more information call 447-6905 or 926-4001.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: What do you know about modern history?

Do you think you know a little bit about history? Take this quiz, and see how much you really know.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What incident in 1962 nearly led to a nuclear confrontation between the U.S. and Russia?

A) Korean War, B) Yalta Conference, C) Cuban Missile Crisis, D) Serbian Standoff

Q2: What year did women receive the right to vote in the United States?

A) 1840, B) 1880, C) 1900, D) 1920

Q3: What U.S. President gave the White House its current name?

A) George Washington, B) Thomas Jefferson, C) Abraham Lincoln, D) Theodore Roosevelt

Q4: What nation exploded its first nuclear bomb in the Rajasthan Desert in 1974?

A) India, B) Pakistan, C) Russia, D) Israel

Q5: What famous painting was stolen from a Norwegian museum in 2004?

A) The Mona Lisa, B) The Starry Night, C) The Scream, D) The Last Supper

ANSWERS:

A1: C. Cuban Missile Crisis. On October 22, 1962, U.S. President John F. Kennedy announced to the world that he had acquired intelligence proving the Soviet Union was building a secret missile base in Cuba, just 90 miles off the coast of Florida. Hoping to avoid an armed invasion of Cuba, Kennedy instead opted for a naval quarantine of the island in order to prevent the Russians from equipping their bases with any additional missiles.

A2: D. In 1920, women received the right to vote in the United States with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It had been a long and hard fought battle, however, to achieve this important milestone, and it took many generations of supporters for women's suffrage lecturing, lobbying, and practicing civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans, at the time, considered a radical change to the Constitution.

A3: D. Although construction began in 1792, it was not until 1901 that President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name. At various times in history, the White House as been known as the "President's House," the "President's Palace," and the "Executive Mansion."

A4: A. India. On May 18, 1974, India exploded its first nuclear bomb in the Rajasthan Desert near the town of Pokhran, describing the event as a "peaceful nuclear explosion." According to various reports, the underground test produced a crater with a radius somewhere between 47 and 75 meters.

A5: C. The Scream On August 22, 2004, two armed robbers stole "The Scream," a famous painting by Edvard Munch, from the Munch Museum in Norway.

Source: usefultrivia.com

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave.

The following have been approved as leave recipients: **Melodie Stuart**, 78th MDSS. POC is Capt. Marie Jones, 327-8380; **Sheneika Wiggins**, 78th MDOS. POC is Gabreayl Harris, 327-8240; **Charles Lee Jr.**, 78th ABW. POC is Charydi Gambill, 926-8141 and **Susan Nagel**, 568th EMXS. POC is Carol Hall, 327-3293.

To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, send information to Lanorris Askew at: lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

78th FSS 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 (Jumua) 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

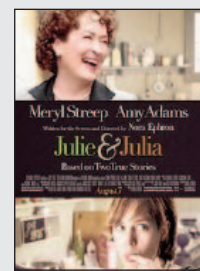
The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. Contemporary service meets at 6 p.m. in the Chapel sanctuary. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel. Religious education meets in Bldg. 905 at 9:30 a.m.

NOW PLAYING



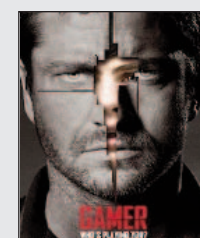
OCTOBER 16
7:30 P.M.
THE FINAL
DESTINATION
RATED R

While enjoying a day at the track, Nick has a horrific premonition in which he and his friends all die following a freak accident involving multiple race cars. Nick convinces his friends to leave mere seconds before his vision comes true. They may have cheated death, but as the survivors start to meet increasingly grisly ends, Nick must figure out a way to escape his fate before death strikes again.



OCTOBER 17
7:30 P.M.
JULIE & JULIA
RATED PG-13

A frustrated temp secretary embarks on a year-long quest to cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking. She chronicles her trials and tribulations in a blog that catches on with the food crowd. Also covered are the years Julia Child and her husband Paul spent in Paris during the 1940s and 1950s, when he was a foreign diplomat who was investigated by Sen. Joseph McCarthy for alleged communist ties.



UPCOMING
GAMER
RATED R

Humans control other humans in mass-scale, multi-player online games: people play people...for keeps. Mind-control technology is widespread, and at the heart of the controversial games is its creator, reclusive billionaire Ken Castle.

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

AFRC civilian employee marks 50 years of service at Robins

BY 2nd LT. JOE SIMMS
AFRC Public Affairs

Jerry Chalker, a civilian employee at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, recently achieved the personal and professional milestone of 50 years of continuous service at Robins.

Chalker began his career at Robins as a tabulation machine operator Oct. 9, 1959.

Today he is the chief of software and development in the directorate of communications at the Reserve headquarters.

“After high school, I worked for a company that built bridges and then I installed automatic building

sprinkler systems,” he said. “I knew that wasn’t what I wanted to do the rest of my life. I’ve been very fortunate to work in the same place for so long, and I have never had a job I didn’t enjoy.”

To put Chalker’s career in perspective, 1959 was the year Mattel introduced the Barbie doll, Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states, and NASA was a year old.

After accepting his civilian position, the former code writer began his career as a GS-2 making \$1.58 an hour. At the time, a gallon of gasoline cost 25 cents and the average annual salary was slightly more than \$5,000 a year.

“My goal was never to stay 50 years, but I enjoy the great people I work with and I enjoy life too much to retire,” Chalker said. “I’m also proud of the fact I’m going into my sixth decade of working here.”

Through his career, the Centerville resident worked with technologies that were

the forerunners to the computers and network systems used today. In the 1980s, Chalker was the project officer introducing local area network technologies to locations throughout the Air Force Reserve.

“The process today is the same as it was back then,” he said. “We are still taking in data and distributing it to the users, but today we do it much easier, faster and it is much less expensive.”

After a half century of federal government service, the career communications specialist has no plans of slowing down.

“Right now I have no plans to retire, but I look forward to spending more time with my wife and grandchildren one day,” he said.

In December, the Air Force communications pioneer will celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary. The Chalkers have a son and daughter-in-law living in Marietta and two grandchildren.

► IN BRIEF

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BANQUET AND DANCE

The Robins Hispanic Heritage Month committee will host a Banquet/Dance Saturday at the Heritage Club. With the theme of Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now, the event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails followed by dinner at 7 and dancing until 1 a.m. Entertainment will be Grupo “Pasando El Rato”

Tickets are available for \$21 Contact Miriam Rodriguez at 953-4443 or Gopi Weldon at 926-7249.

ROBINS HEALTH BENEFIT INFORMATION SEMINAR

In conjunction with the Health Benefits Open Season, the Retirement Section of Civilian Personnel will host a health information seminar in the Base Restaurant, Bldg 166, Nov. 3-4, from 10 a.m. to

2 p.m. each day. Representatives from various federal health plans will be available with 2010 updates on coverage and information on their 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.

ROBINS SOFTWARE REUNION

A reunion of Robins software employees will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Victory/Freedom Pavillion across from the Fitness Center.

Cost is \$5 and will include food. Bring a lawn chair and your favorite beverage and enjoy reminiscing with your friends and co-workers from Software Directorate past and

present. For more information or to sign up contact one of the following: Clay Mims (478) 953-1814; Linda Anderson; (478) 953-5760; Gene Odom (706) 656-7727 or Mike Martin (478) 923-2120.

AFRC RECRUITING

Separating from Active Duty? Get the facts on today’s Air Force Reserve. Contact your In-Service Recruiter at 327-7367.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Outdoor Adventure invites you to a walking/running Volkssport Nov. 7 at the Red Top Mountain State Park located in Cartersville.

This paved trail accommodates hikers and strollers. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation. Bus will depart outdoor recreation at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Please sign up by Oct. 30. A minimum of 10 people are required to sign up for the trip. For more information call Outdoor Recreation at 926-4001.

Updating Emergency Contact Information System is important

BY JEFFREY HOLLEY

Workforce Effectiveness
Division chief

As a result of catastrophic events that have occurred over the past several years, the Air Force has established the Emergency Contact Information System.

The Emergency Contact Information System is a Web based application located on the MyBiz Web site and provides civilian employees the capability to update next-of kin notification in the case of emergencies. Information stored in the Emergency Contact Information System

includes names and addresses of spouses, children, parents, and any other person(s) the employee would like to be notified if the employee becomes a casualty or for any other emergency.

The employee is the only person that can update his/her emergency informa-

tion.

The employee’s supervisory chain of command and the Directorate of Personnel have view-only capability.

Employees are strongly encouraged to update their emergency data information so that the Directorate of Personnel can make personal notification to the

family.

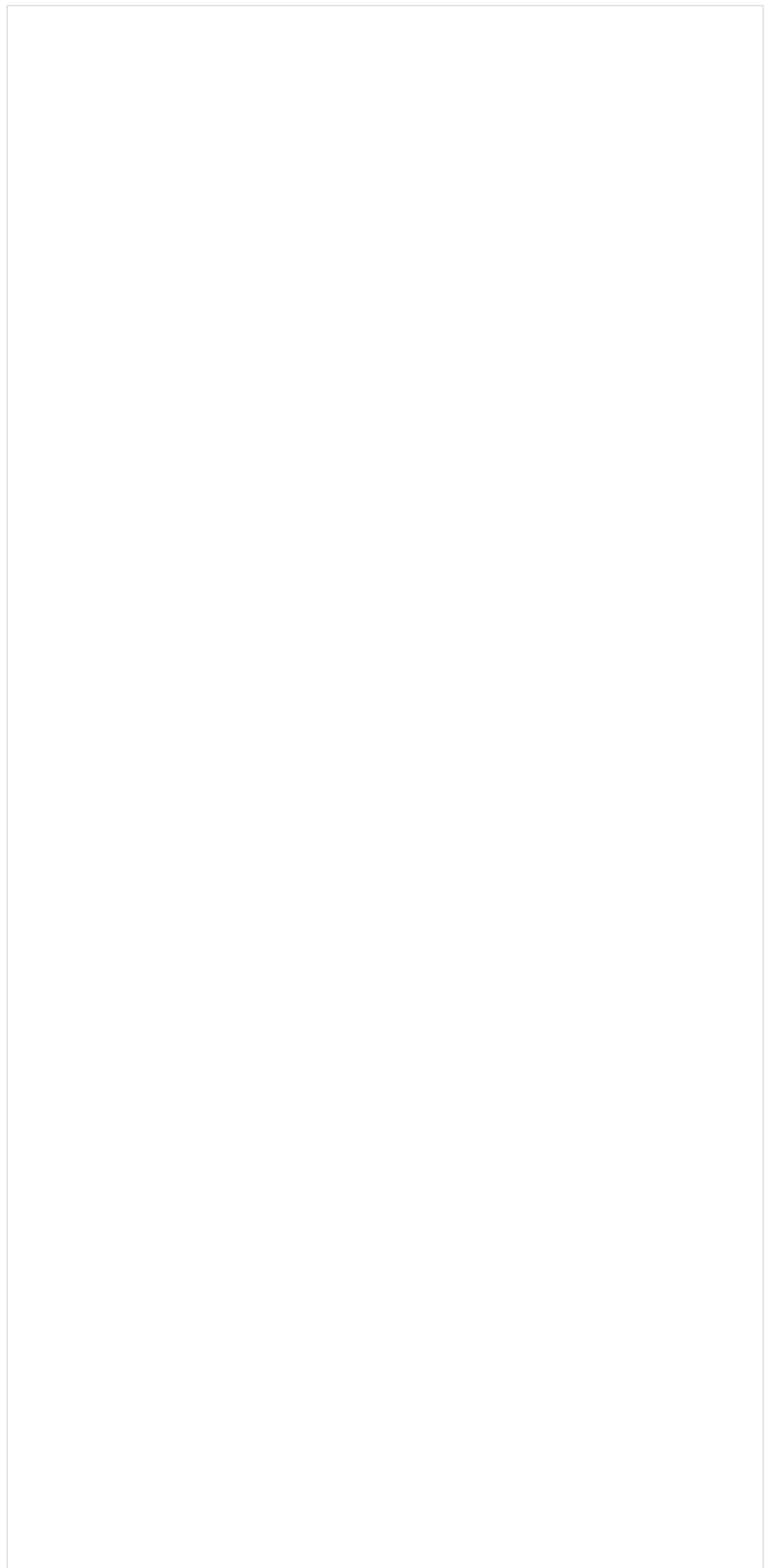
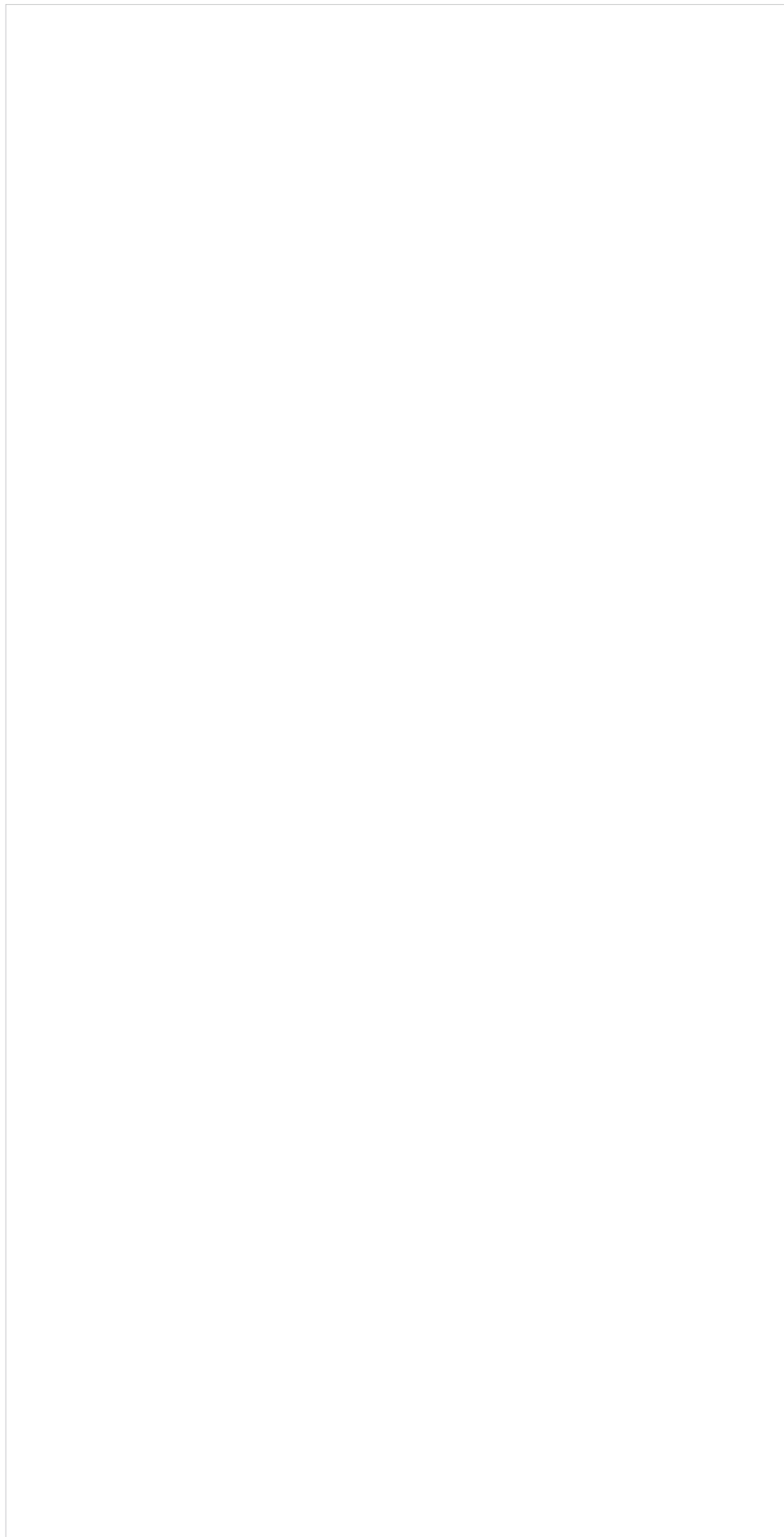
Instructions on how to access the Emergency Contact Information System are located at <https://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

For employees registering their Common Access Cards for the first time in the Defense Civilian

Personnel Data System, your user ID is your Social Security number with hyphens.

Questions concerning the ECIS and updating your NOK information should be directed to your servicing Human Resources Specialist in Employee Relations at 222-0601.

RECYCLE THIS PAPER



‘STOP IN THE NAME OF...’ Robins team combats worker’s compensation fraud

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



In an attempt to reduce fraudulent injury compensation claims, the Directorate of Personnel’s Workforce Effectiveness Division here is intensifying its investigative efforts.

“We have people out here who are legitimately hurt and our job is to take care of those folks and make sure they get all the benefits they are entitled to,” said Phyllis Johnson, Injury Compensation and Retirement Branch chief. “The problem is that we also have some people who are trying to cheat the system.”

Johnson said there are 1,500 open worker’s compensation cases, most of which are legitimate claims. She said on the rare instance that someone is committing fraud, it takes valuable resources away from the people who really need it.

“When our office has to constantly deal with people abusing the system – when the evidence just isn’t there to support their claims – it kills morale,” she said. “It takes up time we could be using to help those people who are really hurt and really need our support.”

Worker’s compensation costs at Robins exceeded

\$1.5 million from July 2008 to June 2009, a figure Johnson would like to see decrease. She has the help of two experienced investigators whose sole job is to investigate people who are suspected of trying to defraud the government.

“When it comes to people ripping off the government, I feel I need to do something,” said Tom, an investigator at Robins who wished to have his last name withheld. “You really think you are going to do something good for the government, being able to put that money back in the planes and troops, where it should be.”

He said although he doesn’t necessarily enjoy putting people in prison, saving taxpayers’ dollars is

his job.

“I have to keep my emotions in check and do what’s right for the government. If I catch someone doing something wrong, I have to stop it,” he said.

Tom said people need to have integrity when it comes to receiving worker’s compensation, and know that if they are able to work and make an honest living, they should. He also said they should realize that taking money that’s not rightfully owed is stealing.

“We look at every angle we can to prevent these people from stealing from the government, because that is what it is – theft,” he said. “I think if people really thought about what

they were doing and how it’s hurting others, they wouldn’t do it.”

With only two investigators in the office, they can’t pursue all cases of suspected fraud. But when they do catch someone who is stealing money from the government, the penalties are stiff. Recent felony judgments have included punishments of incarceration, probation, discontinuance of compensation entitlements for life, and steep fines.

Investigative efforts have also been instrumental in generating payment of more than \$350,000 in restitution. Cost avoidance to future base budget authorizations has exceeded \$12 million.

“The bottom line is some people commit fraud, and are out there getting money they shouldn’t be getting,” Johnson said. “It’s not just our responsibility to stop it; it’s everyone’s responsibility.”

She said workers who suspect someone of drawing compensation illegitimately can call one of two fraud hotlines at 926-3681 and 926-3769. She said those who report fraudulent activity may remain anonymous, but should provide detailed information that can assist investigators.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.