



# ROBINS REV-UP 2.0

DECEMBER 16, 2016

SUCCESS HERE = SUCCESS

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## FRIDAY FLYBY



Museum of Aviation seeks volunteers for annual marathon

The Museum of Aviation Foundation is sponsoring its annual Marathon, Half-Marathon and 5K, Jan. 14. Last year, over 875 runners participated, and more than 100 people volunteered.

For those wishing to volunteer this year, contact Master Sgt. Amanda McCullough at 413-835-5797, or by email at [amanda.mccullough.2@us.af.mil](mailto:amanda.mccullough.2@us.af.mil), or Capt Pedro Avila-Morales at 787-396-1307 or [pedro.avila\\_morales.1@us.af.mil](mailto:pedro.avila_morales.1@us.af.mil) or Tech Sgt. Christina Williamson-Haupt at 828-450-1692 or [christina.williamsonhaupt@us.af.mil](mailto:christina.williamsonhaupt@us.af.mil) by Jan. 10.

## Packed with Care ...



(U.S. Air Force Photos by RAY CRAYTON)

Team Robins members recently came together at the Airman & Family Readiness Center to create care packages for military and civilians who are deployed from Robins Air Force Base.

Above, Tech. Sgt. Tarrance Garner, and Staff Sgt. Mack Alexander, both from the 78th Air Base Wing's Communications Directorate, prepare a care package for one of their coworkers who is currently deployed.



Left, Master Sgt. Beth Wakefield, 78th Medical Group Lab Flight chief, places items in a care package for one of the Med Group's deployed airmen.

# CIVILIAN TUITION ASSISTANCE

## Air Force increases to \$1M, expands eligibility for 2017 TA program

By **KAT BAILEY**  
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force has received an additional \$400,000, for a total of \$1 million, for its 2017 civilian tuition assistance program, and all permanent, full-time appropriated fund employees, including those in wage-grade positions, are now eligible to participate.

Employees are required to have a current acceptable performance appraisal on file and are eligible whether or not they occupy a centrally managed position.

New for 2017, the standard TA rates have increased to 75 percent of the cost of tuition, not to exceed \$250 per semester hour versus \$187.50. The new fiscal year limit increases by \$1,000 in 2017, up to a maximum of \$4,500.

“Air Force civilian post-secondary tuition assistance is intended to support civilians in their continued self-development, including coursework at the associate, bachelor and master levels,” said Mark Schinzel, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Starting in January, TA for all civilians will be administratively managed through the Air Force Automated Education Management System, except for members in

the Palace Acquire formal training program. These interns will be added once the software is updated. Until January, civilians are asked to use the current paper SF 182, *Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification for Training Form*, while applying the new rules.

“We want our people to use tuition assistance for courses that contribute to occupational and institutional competencies, special-interest needs and readiness by supporting the current and anticipated needs of the Air Force,” Schinzel said.

Additional changes for CTAP include TA allowed for one course at any given time. Course start and finish dates cannot overlap. TA is available for courses offered by a fully accredited academic institution but cannot be used for courses leading to a second degree of the same level already attained, such as a second bachelor or master's degree. Nor is TA available for doctorate-level course work.

Stay informed on the most current civilian tuition assistance information on the Civilian Force Development page on [myPers](#).

Click the Force Development link on the far left from the civilian employee landing page; CTAP can be found under the “General” heading.



## AFAS offers education financial programs for military families

By **GEOFF JANES**  
ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

If you're a military family member seeking higher education, the Air Force Aid Society is offering several opportunities to help foot the bill.

The programs are open to dependent children of active duty, Title 10 Reserve, Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve, retired Reserve, and deceased Air Force members.

They are also open to active duty and Title 10 Reserve spouses as well as spouses of deceased Air Force members.

One online application provides access to the following grant, scholarship and loan:

### General Arnold Education Grant

Awards for this grant range from \$500 to \$4,000 based on need. Requesting applicants must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average, and must be enrolled full time as an undergraduate student. The deadline for applications in March 17 for the

2017/2018 academic year.

To apply online, visit the Air Force Aid Society website at: <http://www.afas.org/education-grants>.

### Merit Scholarship

There are a minimum of 10 \$5,000 scholarships awarded. To receive the scholarship, students must apply for the Arnold Grant, and be a first-time freshman with a verifiable 4.0 GPA.

Eligible applicants will be contacted directly by the Air Force Aid Society in June for additional application requirements, such as an essay and transcript.

### Supplemental Education Loan Program

AFAS offers interest free loans up to \$1,000 per student. In order to qualify, students must apply for the Arnold grant, be able to document their out-of-pocket expenses, and be able to repay the allotment over a 10-month period.

Eligible applicants will be contacted by AFAS in August with application forms.

**Editor's note:** For more information on these and other Air Force Aid Society programs, visit the website at <http://www.afas.org>.



*IDS Tip of the Week*

*\$20 cab fare or \$7K for a DUI ... you decide.*

*Active-duty military members can call Robins Air Force Base's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment Program 478-327-8398 for help.*



## AADD: Taking Care of our own

By GEOFF JANES  
ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The holiday season is upon us. There are gifts to buy, dinners to plan and parties to attend.

And though some people will drink at those parties, there's not one good reason to drink and drive. Ever.

If you're going to drink, have a plan. Call a cab, stay the night or have a designated driver. It's just that easy.

But ... plans sometimes fall through, and when that happens, Airmen Against Drunk Driving will be there to help. AADD is a non-retribution program designed to decrease the number of drunk driving incidents. There is a whole group of motivated airmen who volunteer to pick up intoxicated individuals when plans fall through.

AADD is available Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. They will pick people up anywhere from Macon to Perry, and the service is free.

So, who can take advantage of the service? Military, civilian employees and contractors with a DOD identification card are eligible.

The cost of a DUI will run you roughly \$6,000 to \$10,000, jail, probation, a suspended driver's license and an elevated insurance bill. It could cost a lot more. It could cost you your life and the lives of others.

Did we mention AADD is free? Did we mention it's a no-retribution program? If you get in a bind, don't get behind the wheel. Call AADD at 478-222-0013. It's a phone call you won't regret.

# Be Advised:

The election may be over, but rules for federal government employees still apply

The 2016 Presidential Election is over, but that doesn't give federal employees at Robins a pass to do as they will politically. The U.S. Office of Special Counsel recently released guidance which governs the do's and don'ts for federal employees during political election years, even post-election. Because of the Electoral College system, candidates for President of the United States retain their status as candidates until January 6, 2017.

However, after Election Day, with rare exception, such as influencing or attempting to influence the popular vote through a recount effort, or swaying or attempting to sway the allocation of electoral votes, activities supporting or opposing a presidential candidate will not affect the result of the election, as only members of the Electoral College are left to cast their votes.

Even after Election Day, the Hatch Act prohibits federal employees, while on duty or in the federal workplace, from wearing or displaying items that show support for or opposition to a political party or partisan political group. For example, an employee may not wear or display a political party T-shirt, poster or similar item in the workplace.

For more information about the Hatch Act, visit the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's website at <https://osc.gov/Pages/HatchAct.aspx.1>.

— Base Legal Office

# AROUND ROBINS

## Airman & Family Readiness Center

### Upcoming classes

**Pre Separation Counseling** –  
Jan. 3 and 24

**Pre-Separation Counseling for Retirees** – Jan. 17 and 31

**Transition GPS workshop**, Jan. 9 through 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m

**Entrepreneurship Track**, Jan. 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Career Technical Training Track**.  
Jan. 18 and 19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Writing a Winning Resume**, Jan. 5, 9 to 11 a.m.

**Contact the A&FRC to schedule classes and appointments.**

**478-926-1256.**



### For the health of it ...

Maj. Catherina Wynn, 78th Aerospace Medical Squadron Audiology Flight commander, checks her weight at the Civilian Health Promotion Services, with Angie Law, CHPS coordinator, Dec 12. Wynn participated in the Recess Physical Activity Challenge that promotes active duty and civilian employees to be physically active. Between Oct 17 and Dec 2, about 200 people participated in the challenge. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Misuzu Allen)



### Spin Class

These die-hard fitness buddies participate in a spin class at the base fitness center to get a head start on burning holiday calories. The fitness center offers 11 spin classes each week at the main fitness center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Misuzu Allen)

## SERVICES

### Winter Break Craft Camp

December 20 through 22  
Noon until 2 p.m.  
\$20 per person  
Arts & crafts  
478-926-5282 or DSN 468-5282

### Fried Catfish Buffet

\$8.95 all you can eat  
\$7.50 per person  
Every Friday  
11 am to 1 pm  
Heritage Club Lounge  
478-926-2670 or DSN 468-2670

### Trivia Tuesdays

Play Trivia in Lounge every Tuesday  
4 to 7 p.m.

Registered players get one 8" cheese pizza  
Heritage Club Lounge  
478-926-2670 or DSN 468-2670

### FSS Gift Card

Pick up a 78th FSS Gift Card at the following participating facilities:

**Arts & Crafts**  
478-926-5282 or DSN 468-5282

**Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)**  
Comm. 926-2945 or DSN 468-2945

**Outdoor Recreation**  
478-926-4001 or DSN 468-4001  
*No guesswork, No Expiration Date and fits all sizes.*

## Money Matters

# Build Memories, Not Debt

By ANTHONY POPE  
ROBINS AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS  
CENTER

**T**he Holiday season is a wonderful time of celebration, time with family, and time of giving. Please enjoy this special time of year but be mindful the "giving" part can be done in countless ways.

Many Americans find they have overspent and they spend several months of the new year trying to recuperate from the pile of debt.

**Remember it's the season to reach out to others, but it doesn't have to be expensive.** Sometimes a phone call, a card, or a batch of cookies will bring a smile and warm a heart.

Here are some other tips for managing the holiday costs and reducing your stress levels next year.

First and foremost, you must control the debt and you begin by deciding how much you can truly afford to spend.

Now, sticking to your budget, create a holiday spending plan that incorporates costs like gifts, travel, and supplies.

For most families, gifts are usually the most expensive part of the holidays, so **it's critical to designate a specific dollar amount** and then make a list of people that will need a gift.

Now go down your list and decide what will be spent on each person and perhaps a gift idea. Sticking to your list and the dedicated dollar amount will help you keep on track and stay within budget.

Be creative in gift giving, sometimes **your time and a little effort are all that's needed.** For example, doing a sibling's chores for a month, lending a hand on a tough project, or making a photo album will mean just as much as a store-bought gift.

Gifts don't have to be expensive, just put a little extra thought in what the individual does or enjoys, then visit your local dollar store.

They have tons of simple items you can buy individually or easily make into a gift basket.

Dollar stores are also good places to buy some of your supplies such as wrapping paper and bows. If gifts are special or expensive, be sure to compare prices online and at stores. Use price comparison apps and coupons if possible!

On the payment side, use cash and use big bills! People will spend 30 percent less when they use cash instead of credit cards and they will avoid paying the interest if they have a revolving balance.

If credit cards are used, avoid using multiple cards and use the one with the most favorable terms, such as lowest interest or cash back.

When using cards, keep a running total and mark off each person on your list as items are bought. After the shopping is over, have a plan to completely pay off all debts, and, just as important, start a savings plan for Christmas next year!

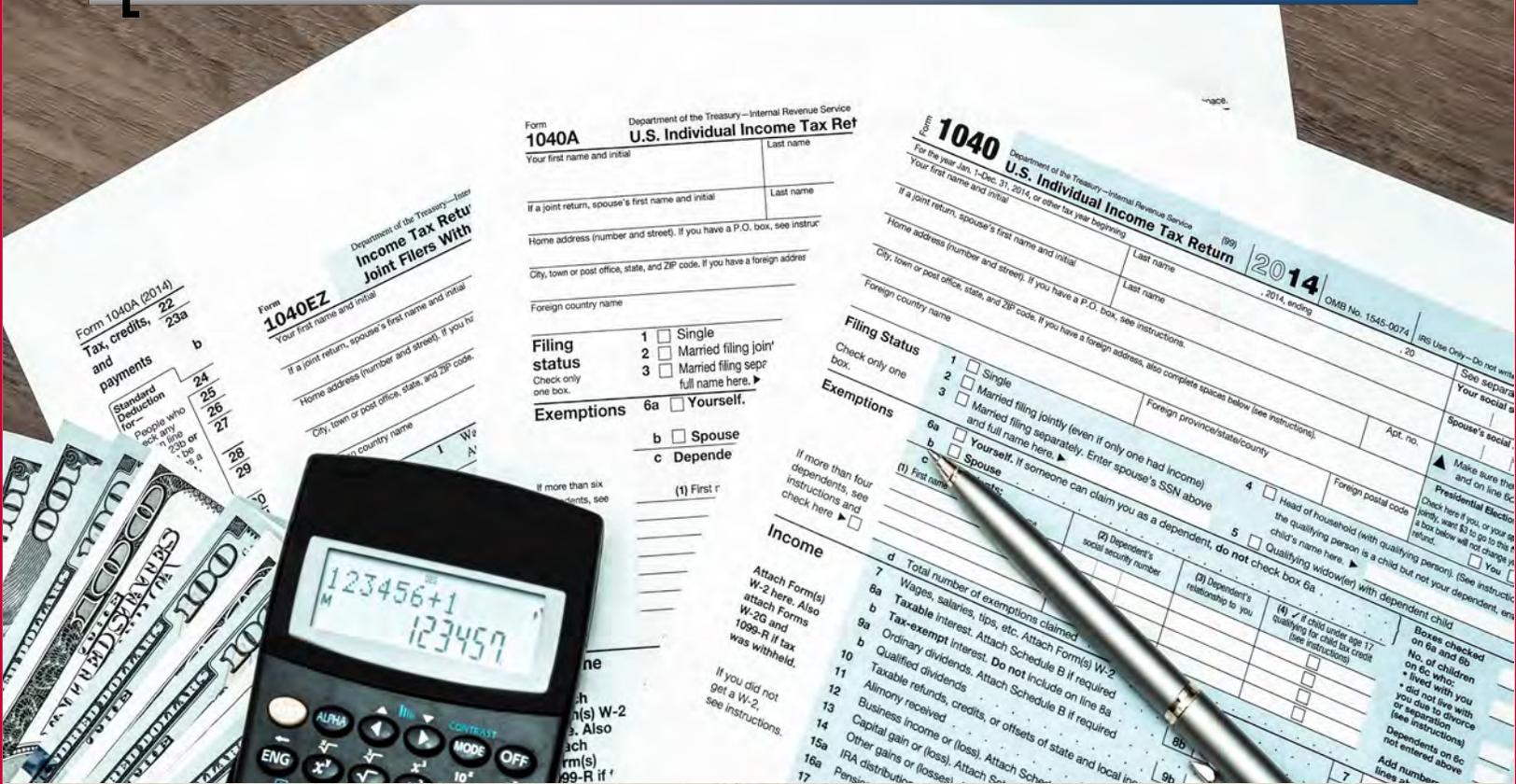
Remember the season and true reason we celebrate. **It's not the item we give, it's the act of sharing kindness and compassion with others.**

**It's a time to make good memories and perhaps start traditions.** One family provides each teenage child with an envelope and an amount of money.

The instructions are simple, find someone that needs it. Another family does a treasure hunt each year where they find hidden instructions that run them all over the house and finally to a nice gift.

Make up your own family tradition and start building those wonderful memories!

Please celebrate and enjoy Christmas. Build memories, not debt.



## Set the Date: Base Tax Office to open in February

By ANTHONY POPE  
ROBINS AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS CENTER

The Robins Air Force Base Tax Center will open for the 2016 filing season on Tuesday, Feb. 7 through April 18, 2017. The Tax Center will be located in the Education Office of Bldg. 905.

The Tax Center provides free tax preparation and electronic filing services to Active Duty, Reservist, National Guard, Retirees and their eligible dependents.

Per AFI 51-504, *Legal Assistance, Notary and Preventive Law Programs*, Reserve and National Guard members must be on Title 10 Orders in order to receive tax assistance – this applies to their eligible dependents as well.

Services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in having their taxes prepared should arrive at the Tax Center at 8 a.m. to attend a requirements briefing.

Taxpayers will be given an appointment with a preparer either same day or at a later date. Individuals who do not have all necessary supporting documentation with them will be given an appointment for a later date.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your appointed time to complete the client questionnaire. We will also be offering a drop off service for the 2016 filing season. If you have all required documents to prepare your taxes, you may drop off them off at the tax center for preparation. When the return has been completed someone from the tax center will contact you to stop by to review and sign them.

If the taxpayer is deployed to a Combat Zone, Persian Gulf, Hazardous duty area of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea north of 39th parallel, or Afghanistan, they have 180 days from the last day they were in the combat zone, or the last day of continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from the combat zone to file their return.

Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program guidelines and resource limitations, we are not permitted to prepare tax returns for taxpayers who received a 1099 Miscellaneous Business Income or Royalties, had Health Savings Account Deductions or whose tax returns will include Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business), Complicated & Advanced Schedule D (Capital Gains & Losses), or Schedule F (Farm Income or Loss).

For those we are able to assist, it is imperative that you bring all documents and information listed below as it pertains to your tax return:

- ⇒ Military IDs and Social Security cards of taxpayer, spouse, and dependent children;
- ⇒ W-2s;
- ⇒ 1099s;
- ⇒ 1098s;
- ⇒ Legal documents;
- ⇒ Divorce decree or Form 8332 that states entitlement to claim a dependent;
- ⇒ Power of attorney if someone will be signing the return for you or your spouse;
- ⇒ Death certificate if you are filing on behalf of a deceased person;
- ⇒ Voided check for verification of your bank account number and bank routing number;
- ⇒ Child care provider's name, address, and tax identification number (or Social Security number) and the amount paid;
- ⇒ Last year's tax return or any other documentation you think will be helpful.

**Editor's note:** If you have questions, call Robins Tax Center at 478-926-1831. The point of contact is Capt Stacey Snyder. Her number is 478-327-4577.

## Parting Shot

Jeremy Larson, 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group, nondestructive inspection technician, inspects aircraft parts for crack and imperfections under ultra violet light. The NDI inspection is crucial to determining the structural integrity of aircraft parts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tommie Horton)



## CONTACT US

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## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

**ROBINS.ACTIONLINE@US.AF.MIL**

**DSN 468-2886**

The Commanders 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 live, learn, work and play. The most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the responsible organization.

That gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve its processes. If you do contact the Commanders Action Line, please fully explain whom it is you want to recognize and why, what you have a question about, or your suggestion. Discourteous or disrespectful submissions will not be processed. Commander's Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up 2.0.

78th Comm Group First Response Center – 478-926-4357 or DSN 468-4357

78th Civil Engineer Service Call Desk – 478-327-7447 or DSN 497-7447

78th Force Support Squadron CC– 478-926-5023 or DSN 468-5023

78th Medical Group Patient Advocate – 478-327-8475 or DSN 497-8475

78th Security Forces Squadron CC – 478-926-3212 or DSN 468-3212

Civilian Personnel Customer Service – 478-222-0601 or DSN 472-0601

Comptroller Front Office – 478-926-4462 or DNS 468-4462

Family Housing – 478-926-3776 or DSN 468-3776

Equal Opportunity – 478-926-2131 or DSN 468-2131