

THE ROBINS REV-UP

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

January 19, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 3

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Timber!!!!



THE MACH READ

Flu Shots Available

Flu shots are currently available to active duty members and their dependents, retired military members and DOD civilians who work on base. The immunizations will be available at the Allergy and Immunization Clinic in Bldg. 700. Hours of operations are Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 7 to 11:30 a.m.

Quarterly awards

Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will host the 78th ABW 4th Quarter Awards Ceremony Wednesday at 8 a.m. in the Enlisted Club Ballroom.

Outstanding civilian and military performers from the 78th ABW will be recognized. Commanders, supervisors, family members, and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join in congratulating the troops for their stellar achievements.

For more information call Master Sgt. Evelyn Porcher at 926-0792.

Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting will be held Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. at the Base Theater to discuss the upcoming privatization of base housing.

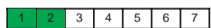
Prayer Luncheon

Marine 1st Lt. (Ret.) Clebe McClary will be the keynote speaker at this year's National Prayer Luncheon. The theme of the luncheon is "The Price of Service, Paid by Faith." The event will be Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar. The cost is \$3 per person and tickets may be purchased until Feb. 6 through your first sergeant or through the Base Chapel at 926-2821.

Center of Excellence

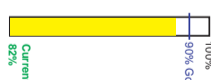
The following performance goals are set for the Center

DUIs as of Jan. 5
50% reduction from fiscal 04



- Maximum DUIs allowed, 6
- Current DUIs obtained, 2

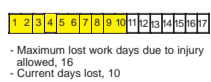
Training attendance as of Jan. 5
90% attendance of training



Aircraft production as of Jan. 5
100% aircraft due date performance rate

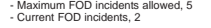


Lost work day injuries as of Jan. 5
50% reduction from fiscal 04



- Maximum lost work days due to injury allowed, 16
- Current days lost, 10

Foreign Object Damage as of Jan. 5
50% reduction from fiscal 04



- Maximum FOD incidents allowed, 5
- Current FOD incidents, 2

Green means goal is being met or exceeded.
Yellow means goal has not been met, but is still attainable.
Red means goal cannot be met.

Arctic Chillin'



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Call, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, poses with some penguins during the 2006 - 2007 Operation Deep Freeze. Deep Freeze was a month-long mission at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to assist the 109th Air National Guard, a New York-based Guard unit, with maintenance of eight LC-130 aircraft used in support of the U.S. Antarctica Program's Scientific Station. The Scientific Station, which is part of the National Science Foundation, enables scientists to research wildlife, marine life and other environmental factors of Antarctica.

3,000 employees to convert to NSPS Sunday

By AMANDA CREEL
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After months of hearing about the National Security Personnel System, about 3,000 non-bargaining Robins employees will return to work Monday under the new system.

The NSPS system, a new civilian employee compensation and management system, rewards workers based on their individual performance.

The system, which will go into effect Sunday, was designed to replace the 50-year-old civilian personnel system presently

used by the Department of Defense.

The personnel who transition to the system, will also receive their last pay increase based on the present civilian personnel system as they convert to the new system. The Within Grade Increase Buy-In will pay employees for the progress they have made toward the next step on the former pay scale. For example if a General Schedule employee is half way to Step 6 then the per-



son will be paid 50 percent of the increase for attaining that step.

"Basically that is why no one will lose a dollar. Everyone in fact gets a little bit of a pay raise when it is implemented," said Bob Zwitich, WR-ALC Commander's Program Control officer

But once the initial WGI Buy-In is completed, all pay increases on the system will be based on performance and done

through the new Pay Pool system.

Employees at Robins will be placed into one of 15 pay pools and will then be assigned to a career group: Standard, which most converting employees fall into, Scientific Engineering Career Group, Medical Career Group or Investigative and Protective Services Career Group. Within the career group employees will be assigned to a pay schedule, which is a group of workers who do similar types of work. The worker will then be

► see NSPS, 2A

DOD begins NSPS design for Federal Wage System

Department of Defense is in the early stages of designing the National Security Personnel System for the Federal Wage System employees. The Program Executive Office for NSPS is looking at design options for classification, compensation and performance management for DOD's FWS workforce.

"Although we haven't determined a conversion schedule for FWS employees, now is the time to begin the design process," said Mary Lacey, NSPS program executive officer. "Having completed the first phase of the Spiral 1 implementation, our next step is to start the design phase of the FWS."

PEO officials met with the unions as part of continuing collaboration obligations regarding the design of NSPS for FWS workers. According to Lacey, "The unions were briefed on the highlights of the proposed design options and look forward to working with them and to getting their input into the design of the system."

Including FWS employees in NSPS will link performance to the overall mission; tie

► see FWS, 2A

Team Robins accepts Franz Edelman Award

By DAMIAN HOUSMAN
WR-ALC Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Maj. Gen. Tom Owen holds up the 2006 Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Operations Research at a presentation ceremony Jan. 10. The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences named the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center the winner for operations research in 2005 to arrive at a radically different approach to managing the repair and overhaul activity on its C-5 transport aircraft.

months. The time required to repair and overhaul the C-5 was reduced by 33 percent.

The award is referred to as the "Super Bowl of Operations Research" and brings together the best examples of innovation from large and small, for profit and nonprofit, corporate and governmental organizations around the world. Past winners include: GM, Motorola, Continental Airlines and the City of San Francisco Police Department.

"I must say I'm in awe of your base and the aircraft that you service, I've flown thousands, maybe millions of miles in my life, but I've never been aboard a plane that I could fit my house into. Or for that matter, Donald Trump's house. The aircraft you work on are special.

The Center used a technique called critical chain project management to reduce the number of C-5 aircraft being repaired and overhauled from 13 to seven in just eight

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY 55/37 SATURDAY 55/34 SUNDAY 60/37

THINK SAFETY

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
To request a ride, call 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

SLOW DOWN

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to six months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

Spouse's game night offers chance to relax

By AMANDA CREELE

amanda.creele.ctr@robins.af.mil

For many Air Force spouses, the first Friday of each month is their opportunity to get a little rowdy.

Rowdy in the spirit of competition, as active-duty spouses take their chairs and the cards they're dealt and prepare to battle to the end in a game of Peanut.

"Take your jacket off, push your sleeves up, the game has begun," said Tanja Ramsby, a 54th Combat Communications Squadron spouse.

Peanut, a card game resembling a sped up game of community solitaire, is the game of choice, but spouses involved are open to anything that adds to the fun.

"Where else can you find this much laughter for free," Mrs. Ramsby said.

Laughter is contagious as the cards and elbows fly in efforts to be the first to proclaim "Peanut."

"It's addictive," said Alona Shenburg, a 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron wife, while attending her first spouse's game night.

However, spouse's game night doesn't just promote competition, it also fosters new friendships and support circles.

"It's a chance to get out of the house and have some adult time and meet new people," said Theresa Weaver, a 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron wife.

For those not in the mood for cards, there are door prizes, free food and lots of conversation to keep you entertained, said the wives. Though more important to many of the wives than the food, is the free, never-ending supply of chocolate.

All of the wives agreed the key to the game night's success is it has something for everyone.

"One table is in a serious card game all night long, another table is whoopin' and hollerin' all night and then a



Sarah McIntyre and Donna Espinosa, two Robins military spouses, play a game of Peanut at spouse's game night.

few people are sitting in the corner chatting away," said Melissa Barber, a 78th Security Forces Squadron wife.

Tammie Sahn, a 5th Combat Communication Group spouse added, "You can make it what you want."

Spouse's game night is open to all active-duty spouses at Robins, no matter where on base their spouses are assigned or what rank they are.

"It doesn't matter what squadron you are in, you can find out about all kinds of different aspects of the military," Mrs. Ramsby said.

She said it gives spouses a chance to learn from one another and the things they have experienced as Air Force spouses.

But, the questions aren't just military related. Spouses share their knowledge on all sorts of topics such as recommendations for hairdressers or dentists, the next movie on their rental list or finding out about local restaurants or

shopping centers.

Spouses of all ages attend, some with years of knowledge about being an Air Force spouse and others just learning the ropes.

"The main thing I want everyone to know is anything that brings spouses together is going to be a learning experience," said Joy Ashley, who designed the program to help Air Force spouses form a network of support and communication. "It's the different age groups and different squadrons that make it work."

The wives agreed there is no excuse for spouses not to get involved, because the event corresponds with the "Give Parents a Break," a program offered at the Child Development Center East for preschool children and the Youth Center for school age children.

The Air Force Aid Society pays for the care of children of deployed Air Force members and families who face other family stresses. The free care

is available through a referral system and referrals can be received from the Airman and Family Readiness Center, a chaplain or a first sergeant, while care for children not under the referral system is provided for just \$3 an hour per child and a \$6 deposit upon registration. Anyone can sign up for the hourly care until 6 p.m. Monday, while those with referrals can sign up until 6 p.m. Wednesday.

All children who participate are required to have up-to-date shot records and complete all required forms before registering.

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information about Spouses Game Night contact Joy Ashley at 213-2917 or 327-7692.

For more information on the Gives Parents a Break program or to make reservations contact the CDC East at 926-5805 or the Youth Center at 926-2110.

EDELMAN

Continued from 1A

And so are you and your operations research team," said Mr. Doherty. "You have earned the Franz Edelman Award for your use of operations research and the discipline of applying advanced analytical tools to make better decisions."

In accepting the award on

behalf of the Center, General Owen pointed to the impact the C-5 process improvements have had for the warfighter.

"Returning airplanes to the warfighter is key and essential to our nation being able to achieve what we need to achieve today as we fight the Global War on Terrorism. The C-5 is a cornerstone of this effort. It does the heavy lifting throughout the entire theater of

war, Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas of the world," he said.

General Owen also pointed to teamwork and partnerships, including the work of the University of Tennessee and Realization Technologies along with the 402nd Maintenance Wing, the 402nd Maintenance Group, and the 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, which were essential in performing the

work that resulted in the award.

INFORMS is an international scientific society with 10,000 members, including Nobel Prize laureates, dedicated to applying scientific methods to help improve decision-making, management and operations. Members of INFORMS work in business, government, and academia. They are represented in numerous diverse fields.

Robins tax center will open Monday

The Robins Air Force Base tax center will open for the 2006 filing season Jan. 22 and close April 15. The center is open Monday through Thursday each week to active duty, reservists, guardsmen, retirees and their dependants. Services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to ticket holders. Each day at 11:30 a.m. tickets will be handed out to eligible members. Those individuals will return starting at 1 p.m. for tax assistance. There will be no appointments.

The tax preparation and electronic filing is a free service. The base tax center is not affiliated with Military One Source, Turbo Tax or any other

potentially free tax service provided to military members via various Web sites. In addition, some free tax services do not file state taxes for free. The federal and state taxes are prepared and e-filed simultaneously at the base tax center; state only returns will not be filed.

There have been recent changes in Air Force policy regarding the software used in base tax centers. The Robins tax center no longer has access to tax information filed in previous years. Returns that include Schedule C (profit or loss from business), Schedule E (rents and losses), or Complicated and Advanced Schedule D (capital gains and losses) will not be prepared. Participants must bring the following information as it pertains to the filing: W-2 forms, Form 1099 for interest, dividends, miscellaneous income, retirement income, etc., social security cards of taxpayer,

spouse and dependent children, legal documents, bank account number and bank routing number for electronic filing, childcare provider's name, address, and tax identification number (or social security number) and payment receipts for those planning to claim the child and dependent care credit, Form 1098 for college expenses and mortgage interest paid and last year's tax return filing.

The tax center is located in Building 905 on the second floor of the library. To get to the tax center, you must go through the library and take the stairs or the elevator (located in the back of the library) to the second floor. The Tax Center can be reached at 478-926-2635, or 478-926-2391.

The 2006 tax forms and booklets will be made available on Jan. 22, which coincides with the opening of the base tax center.

—Base legal office

NSPS

Continued from 1A

placed in a pay band, where there will be a minimum and maximum pay limit.

However, employees will have the option to move into higher pay bands by applying for other positions.

Performance will be measured by an appraisal system where employees will be ranked on a scale of one through five with five being a role model and a one being unacceptable.

"The structure of the process helps to bring back some integrity to the system and a much fairer system for promotion," Mr. Zwiitch said.

However, he added supervisors will not just be allowed to turn in a bad appraisal; there will be a review process in place, which will make the system conducive to fair and equitable treatment.

All employees converting to the new system should have completed required training courses including all the NSPS specific training courses such as Human Resources Elements for Supervisors, Managers and Employees; Performance Management for Employees or Performance Management for Supervisors and Supervisory Interactive Skills. All transitioning employees should also log into My Biz and My Workplace,

which is a valuable tool for supervisors and employees to complete performance evaluations under the NSPS system, to ensure their information is correct and to become familiar with the tools available under the program such as the feedback tool where workers can provide feedback to their supervisors.

The Self Assessment process by employees will be accomplished through the My Biz and My Workplace modules. The self assessments will be brief statements explaining how employees meet their objectives and will focus on the themes of action, result and impact, which are similar to the Enlisted Performance Report bullet system used by active duty service members.

The transition team is also making other resources available to help transitioning such as

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information about the conversion call 926-4023 or e-mail wralcdpr.nps@robins.af.mil

the Community of Practice, which is available through a link on the Robins secure Web site.

"It's a chance to read and get smart (about NSPS)," said Eve King, a NSPS transition specialist.

One of the things the Community of Practice provides is a discussion forum, where members of the transition team can provide answers to questions employees have about the new system.

Along with the Community of Practice, the transition team also formed SWAT Teams which are comprised of three members. The first member is a NSPS point of contact, the second is an expanded cadre, which is a representative nominated by each organization's management to help facilitate training and conversion to NSPS and the third, an employee management relations specialist, will be called in if the other members decide additional help is needed to address an issue.

"They should be able to handle it in house, but if for any reason they need additional help, they can pull in that third member," said Jennifer Roybal-McDowell, NSPS transition specialist. She added the third member is trained by the DOD in the performance management system.

One of the main goals of the SWAT team is to assist organizations having problems entering their performance plans and objectives into the Performance Appraisal Applications or automated tool.

As for the bargaining employees, the possible conversion for these employees is still in the air. The DOD has filed an appeal to the Feb. 27, 2006 U.S. District Judge Emmet. Sullivan ruling stating proposed NSPS provisions would not protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively. Officials at Robins are awaiting a decision from that appeal and bargaining employees will be kept informed, Ms. King said.

FWS

Continued from 1A

pay to performance; hold both supervisors and employees accountable for performance management; and provide a unified performance management and recognition system for the DOD civilian workforce.

The design approach is similar to the process previously used in designing the system for General Schedule employees.

To begin the design process, the PEO established a planning team and working groups consisting of line managers from organizations with large numbers of FWS employees. Initial meetings, which

occurred in June and July, resulted in the development of an overarching strategy, identifying high-level issues, and exploring various design options.

In August, the PEO contacted the unions to solicit their ideas on how they could be involved in the design process.

The PEO also met with the Federal Managers Association to solicit their input on design options.

"No decision has been made on the design or implementation schedule for FWS," said Mary Lacey, NSPS Program Executive Officer. "NSPS continues to be an event-driven process, and is inclusive of all our stakeholders, including employee representatives."

Spread the news
Send your announcements to Lanorris Askew
at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

402nd MXW earns 2006 Maintenance Effectiveness Award

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

The 402nd Maintenance Wing rounded out 2006 with yet another notch on the organization's award-winning record.

The maintenance wing recently earned the 2006 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Effectiveness Award, by providing outstanding mission support to the warfighter with record production levels in all weapon systems for global missions with 95.6 percent on-time delivery and 34 percent reduction in C-5 flowdays.

Col. Dennis Daley, 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group com-

mander, said the award, given annually in different categories, identifies the best maintenance wing or squadron in a different category each year.

"It's an outstanding accomplishment for the wing, and it really is something that reflects the dedication and hard work of the people," he said.

The recent honor falls right in with the wing's list of other trophies.

The wing received an unprecedented nine major industry awards in fiscal 2006. The C-5 Depot Team earned the nationally-acclaimed Gold Shingo Award for Excellence in Manufacturing for the second consec-

"It's an outstanding accomplishment for the wing, and it really is something that reflects the dedication and hard work of the people."

Col. Dennis Daley
Commander,
402nd Electronics Maintenance Group

utive year, making the wing the first Department of Defense organization to win the award. The C-5 Depot Team earned the prestigious Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award, Air Force Best Practice and the Gen. Ronald Yates Team Excellence Award

for their innovative production practices.

The F-15 PDM (programmed depot maintenance) and F-15 avionics teams each won coveted Bronze Shingo awards. The award winning continued with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron and the 402nd EMXG receiving U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit awards; and the C-5 Critical Chain Project Management Team recently receiving DOD's first Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Ops Research.

Colonel Daley said earning the awards took a total team effort.

"The way we wrote the package was evident of the way the whole

wing has operated all year," he said. "Phyllis Johnson was the team leader who wrote the package. She formed a team taking a couple of people from the five groups in the maintenance wing. It was 20 pages and a very extensive package of achievements."

With so many accomplishments, the colonel said writing the package was more fun than work.

Colonel Daley said he feels strongly that the wing will do well at Air Force-level competition.

"It was just a phenomenal year, and the package was really strong," he said. "It's strong because of the many accomplishments that the wing had over the past year in fiscal 2006."

Military justice

Commanders and First Sergeants, in concert with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, are responsible for ensuring good order and discipline on Robins Air Force Base. There are many avenues available to meet this responsibility. Examples include trials by courts-martial, Article 15s, Administrative Discharges, and the U.S. Magistrate's Court. Actions recently reviewed by the 78th Air Base Wing legal office include:

Courts-Martial:

A senior airman faced trial by special court-martial for wrongful use of cocaine, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. He tested positive for cocaine during a random urinalysis. The military judge sentenced the member to be reduced to airman basic, to be confined for six months and to forfeit \$1,000 pay per month for six months. In return for the member's plea of guilty, the convening authority agreed to cap his sentence to confinement to three months.

An airman basic faced trial by summary court-martial for willfully disobeying a lawful order given to him by a non-commissioned officer, in violation of Article 91, UCMJ and dereliction of duty, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The member had previously received an Article 15 for marijuana use and had been reduced in rank from airman 1st class to airman basic. The member's base driving privileges had been revoked on Oct. 8, and on Nov. 11 he was apprehended for driving on base. The member was then given a lawful order by his first sergeant to remove his base decals and deliver them to 78th Security Forces. The member disobeyed that lawful order. The summary court officer sentenced the member to 20 days confinement and forfeiture of \$400 pay for one month.

Article 15 Actions

A captain fraternized with a senior airman by frequenting bars, going to her apartment for lunch, sending personal emails and text messages and displaying undue familiarity. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$2,148 pay per month for two months with \$648 suspended and a reprimand.

A senior master sergeant committed adultery with a technical sergeant. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$1,782 pay per month for two months.

A senior master sergeant misused his or her government travel card. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$2,126 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

A senior airman operated a motor vehicle on base while drunk. Punishment consisted of reduction to airman 1st class, suspended forfeiture of \$846 pay per month for two months, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class wrongfully used marijuana. Punishment consisted of reduc-

tion to airman, 10 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant stole non-military property from the base exchange of a value of about \$44.20. Punishment consisted of reduction to the grade of senior airman and a reprimand.

Administrative Discharges

A senior airman received an Under Honorable Conditions (General) discharge for minor disciplinary infractions. The airman failed to report the loss of his restricted area badge prior to being posted in a secure area, reported to duty without the proper uniform, failed to report to his place of duty at the appointed time, and disobeyed a lawful order to have his Phase 2 training records completed. For these offenses, he received two letters of counseling and one letter of reprimand. The airman also received an Article 15 for disobeying two no contact orders which resulted in a reduction in grade from staff sergeant to senior airman, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class received a general discharge for commission of a serious offense, other serious offenses. The airman was arrested by the Houston County Sheriff's Office for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a suspended license and tampering with his ignition interlocking device. For these offenses, he received a letter of reprimand and was placed on the control roster.

An airman 1st class received a general discharge for a pattern of misconduct, conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. The airman had an affair with another Air Force member's spouse. For this offense, he received a letter of reprimand and a unfavorable information file was established. He received an Article 15 for disobeying a no contact order which resulted in a reduction in grade from staff sergeant to senior airman. Additionally, he received a second Article 15 for

disobeying a no contact order which resulted in a reduction in grade from senior airman to airman 1st class, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

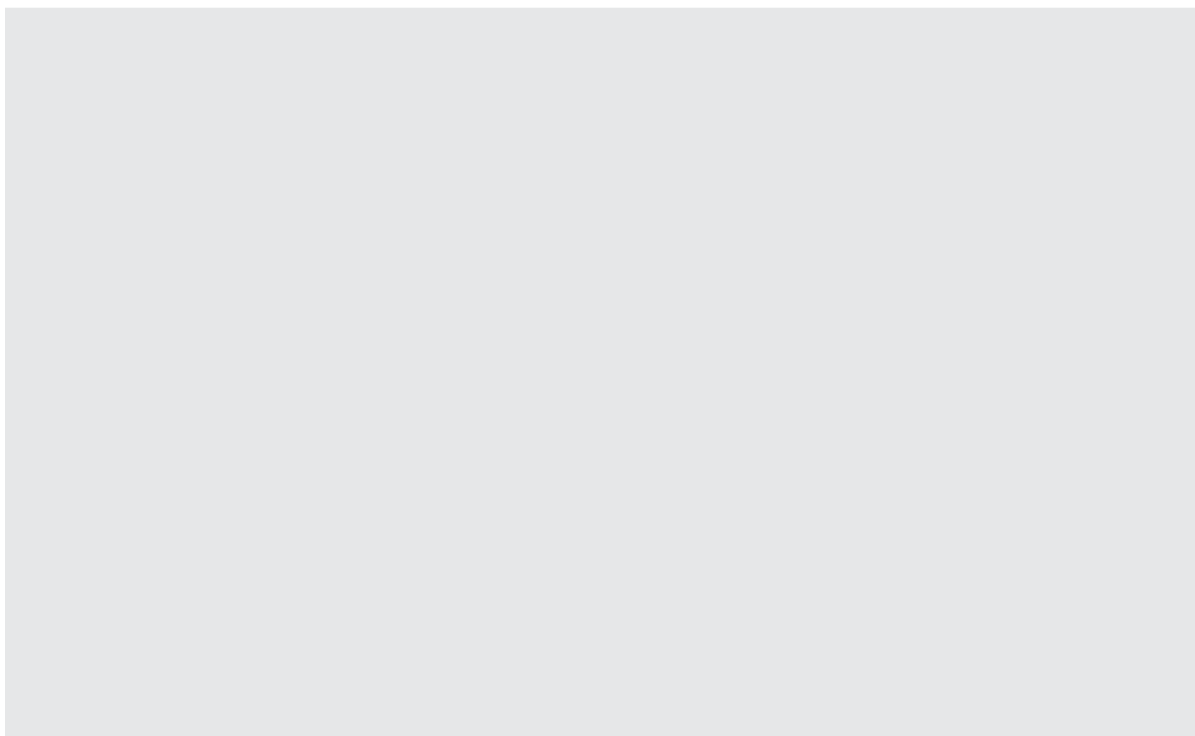
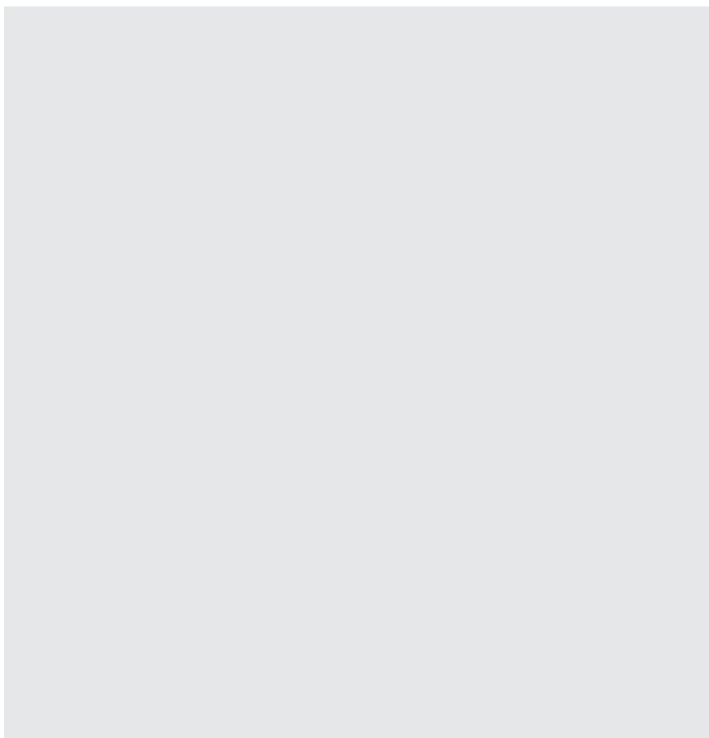
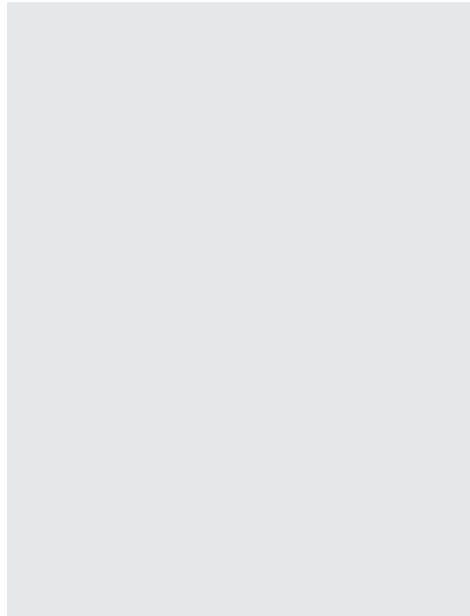
An airman 1st class received a general discharge for drug abuse. The airman wrongfully possessed marijuana. For this offense, he received a letter of reprimand and an unfavorable information file was established.

An airman 1st class received a general discharge for drug abuse. The airman wrongfully used marijuana. For this offense, he received an Article 15 which resulted in a reduction in grade from senior airman to airman 1st class, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman received a general discharge for drug abuse. The airman wrongfully used oxymorphone, a schedule II controlled substance. For this offense, he received an Article 15 which resulted in a reduction in grade from airman 1st class to airman.

An airman basic received a general discharge for drug abuse. The airman wrongfully used marijuana. For this offense, he received an Article 15 which resulted in a reduction in grade from senior airman to airman basic, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman received a general discharge for a pattern of misconduct and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. The airman consumed alcohol while under the legal drinking age of 21 years old, was involved in a physical altercation with another airman in his dorm room, disobeyed a lawful regulation by failing to maintain his dorm room within cleanliness standards, disobeyed a lawful order by failing to attend a mandatory meeting as directed, knowingly disobeyed a lawful order by failing to report for scheduled, mandatory physical training as directed, failed to have his flight recall/bag inven-



Six 78th CPTS members win AFMC-level awards

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil

Six members of the 78th Comptroller Squadron took big honors in the fiscal 2006 AFMC Financial Management and Comptroller Annual Awards.



Bonnie Lamb was named Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year

"I am very proud of the great service that these folks as representatives of the squadron have accomplished," said Lt. Col. Kalwant Smagh, 78th CPTS commander. "These folks are very deserving and we are optimistic about charging forward as a squadron in our continued support of the Center and the Air Base Wing missions."

Bonnie Lamb, a financial management officer and team leader, was named Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year; Robert Brown, a supervisory accountant, was named Financial Services Civilian of the Year; Senior Airmen Boris Shapoval, a customer service technician, was named Financial Management and Comptroller Airmen of the Year; Carolyn Iceneder, a former Robins non-appropriated funds financial analyst who recently relocated to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, was named Non-Appropriated Funds Financial Analyst of the Year- Installation Level; Bambi Yeomans, a resource advisor for the 78th

Civil Engineer Group, was named Resource Advisor of the Year- Installation Level; and 1st Lt. Carolyn Whittington, an individual mobilization augmentee who works at Robins as a full-time deputy dispersing officer, was named Reservist of the Year.

"It's a stellar year. I don't think the organization has ever gotten so many (AFMC awards)," Ms. Yeomans said. "We work hard and to go up and compete with people at other bases who do the same job, and then get recognized and beat the other bases out is just phenomenal."

Mr. Brown attributed some of the recent achievement by himself and other members of the squadron to the small size of the squadron and the culture within the squadron that inspires others to achieve similar recognitions.

"I think it is an outstanding squadron and it is about time we got recognized," Mr. Brown said.

Lieutenant Whittington, who is one of only a few reservists who work as dispersing officers, said, "As a reservist I am very thankful to work full-time for such a first-class squadron. We are truly a team and a family."

All of the members who received awards acknowledged they couldn't have done their job without the support structure of

the squadron and the organizations the squadron supports.

"It is a great squadron to be in and that accounts for the many awards. If we didn't have the excellent leadership we wouldn't be here. When you like your job and feel good about it, you are automatically going to do a good job," Ms. Lamb said. "Being a part of this squadron really makes you want to earn your check."

Airmen Shapoval agreed the support provided by the squadron allows everyone the opportunity to excel together as a team.

"I think that it speaks for itself (that six members of our squadron won on the AFMC-level). The squadron works together as a team and to be recognized as a part of that as an individual is a big thing," said Airmen Shapoval.



Bambi Yeomans was named Resource Advisor of the Year- Installation Level

All the winners said the support available throughout the base for the finance team allowed them to bring home these awards.

"I feel that while at Robins I received wonderful support from the 78th Comptroller Squadron and Services. Their support and their help doing my job is why I got this award," said Ms. Iceneder, who earned the award for the second consecutive year.

All of the winners except for Lieutenant Whittington, who won in the reservist category, which does not advance to the Air Force Level, will go on to compete at the Air Force Level.

The award recipients all agreed they are just glad they are able to support the mission of the warfighter by providing financial support.

"The whole function of FM (Financial Management) is to support the warfighter. The FM community is responsible for the family at home and the deployed members while they are away," Ms. Yeomans said.

Ms. Lamb said one of the most rewarding parts of her job is knowing her efforts can be the difference between an aircraft being grounded or flying its next mission.

"Whether it is keeping a plane in the air or providing whatever the warfighter needs, that is what we do," Ms. Lamb said.

She said her work certifying funds gives her a sense of pride because no parts can be purchased without funds being certified and no parts could mean the grounding of an aircraft and the failure of a mission.

"The Comptroller Squadron is proud of the way these folks have been recognized for financing the fight," Colonel Smagh said.



1st Lt. Carolyn Whittington was named Reservist of the Year



Robert Brown was named Financial Services Civilian of the Year

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Trio of maintenance workers earn Leo Marquez Award

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

The 402nd Maintenance Wing and the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron have the tools to get their jobs done right.

Three individuals from the organizations were named as winners of Air Force Materiel Command's 2006 Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award.

Brent Inman, director of the 568th Electronics Maintenance Squadron, was recently named as the award's Outstanding Civilian Manager of the Year. Master Sgt. Rick Fujimoto, a C-130 element chief in the 653rd CLSS, earned the award's technician supervision category prize. Staff Sgt. Edgar Torres, a structural maintenance journeyman in the 653rd CLSS, won in the award's technician category.

The award winners will represent AFMC at the Air Force-level in the future.

Mr. Inman said the award, a first for the squadron director, is the most recognized award in the maintenance community throughout the Air Force. It evaluates job performance, efficiency and knowledge, and also looks at contributions made to the Air Force at large, the community and self improvement.

During his time, Mr. Inman led a 350-person team to achieve outstanding results, using more than 40 different Lean events. Mr. Inman led the Fighter Avionics Squadron in producing a record 22,656 units in fiscal 2005, while reducing 'work-in-process' by 34 percent, reduced shop flow days by 38 percent, and cut backorders by 50 percent.

In addition, Mr. Inman implemented programs that reduced labor grievances by 66 percent and eliminated Equal Opportunity complaints.

While the senior-level leader has numerous achievements under his career belt, he said the credit for the accomplishments goes to his people.

"Certainly, I am the director of the 350-person organization that I'm assigned to," he said. "My view is that I provide an environment for my technicians to do the great things they do. I tell them time and again, all of my flight chiefs, first-line supervisors and the technicians, the absolute only reason why Maj. Gen. Tom Owen has a job, Brig. Gen. Andrew Busch has a job, the only reason Col. Dennis Daley and Brent Inman have jobs is to support them, and I think we lose sight of that a lot. We lose sight of the fact that the only reason we all have jobs is, simply put, to support our warfighters."

His fellow award winners agreed team work is at the heart of their achievements.

Sergeant Fujimoto said he credits his recognition to a combination of good supervisors and numerous deployments.

"I've been very fortunate," he said. "I've been on a lot of

TDYs (temporary duty assignments) this year. As part of our squadron, we're always deployed, and I've been on the road probably 200 days this year."

The 39-year-old Hawaii native said one of his biggest deployments took place in February 2006 and involved the repair of the Iraqi Comp Air 7, an aircraft that had crashed, killing several people.

Sergeant Fujimoto said his work with New York's 109th Air National Guard unit at

McMurdo Station, Antarctica, that helped sustain the National Science Foundation's Operation Deep Freeze with more than 1.8 million pounds of winter supplies at the South Pole station was a huge undertaking as well.

Sergeant Fujimoto said he feels fortunate to earn the prestigious honor.

"I won the AFMC Support Crew Chief of the Year award in 2002," he said. "I thought that was great, but this is even better."

Sergeant Torres said 2006

was marked by many aircraft repairs throughout the Air Force as well. But the 25-year-old Texas native never thought they'd lead to such an achievement.

"We stay really busy in the squadron," he said. "I didn't think anything about doing the jobs I had been doing and I guess they slowly started accumulating. By the time I realized it, I had so many TDYs that I had went on. I didn't realize they were major jobs."

A personal visit from the

653rd CLSS commander, Maj. Paul Kanning, in the sergeant's work center gave him a clue though.

"I was shocked," he said. "I didn't believe it the first time, I thought I was nominated for it, but I didn't think I had actually gotten the award."

At the time of the good news, Sergeant Torres was lined up to leave active-duty Feb. 12 and become an Air Force reservist. Now, he is set to reenlist Jan. 22.

Maj. Kanning said his

squadron's award winners are true stars in his book.

"In the aircraft maintenance community, the Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award is like our version of the Academy Awards," he said. "It's the number one award and that is the award that tells everybody across Air Force Materiel Command who's the best of the best," he said. "They're competing only against aircraft maintenance folks and these two individuals are our Academy Award winners."



Brent Inman, director of the 568th Electronics Maintenance Squadron



Master Sgt. Rick Fujimoto, element chief for the 653rd CLSS



Staff Sgt. Edgar Torres, structural maintenance journeyman for the 653rd CLSS

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

DELIVERY

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Battlelab tests wireless aircraft intercom system



U.S. Air Force photo

Aircraft maintenance Airmen use wireless headsets as part of communication capabilities tests for the Air Force maintenance career fields. The test was part of an initiative by the Air Mobility Warfare Center's Air Mobility Battlelab at Fort Dix, N.J. The Airmen are assigned to the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

REMEMBERING MLK

Message of respect applicable to today's military

Americans observed what would have been the 78th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday.

Had Dr. King lived 78 years, one can only imagine the additional contributions he would have made to our country and society.

Sadly and tragically, his life was cut short by an assassin's bullet April 4, 1968, and we lost the youngest person ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He earned it for his work as a peacemaker, promoting nonviolence and equal treatment.

As a tribute to Dr. King, I hope we all took at least a few

minutes Monday to reflect on Dr. King's message and then spent some more time thinking about what we can do to spread his message as we go about our daily routines.

It may be as simple as telling our children about Dr. King or as significant as giving a commanders call briefing on the importance of respect for others, the positive power of diversity and the need for equal treatment.

For Air Force members — civilian and military — Dr. King's message of respect for others is an essential cornerstone to our three core values: integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do.

That's why the Air Force promotes an environment free from personal, social or institutional barriers that prevent Air Force members from rising to the highest level of responsibility possible. This type of environment starts with respect for every member of the Air Force team regardless of race, color, national origin, religion or gender.

Dr. King's famous statement, "I have a dream that one day ... sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood," is really one way of depicting an environment of mutual respect and appreciation.

A phrase that you've probably heard uttered by numerous Air Force leaders is, "People are our most valuable asset." This statement is very true. It isn't the aircraft or the weapon systems that accomplish a mission — it's the people. Each person has a tremendous amount to offer to the Air Force, but if they are weighted

down by the barrier of disrespect, they cannot reach their full potential.

Respecting each other regardless of differences and recognizing the valuable role each member of our military family plays is imperative.

In the 78 years since Dr. King was born, much has changed in both the world and the military, but the fundamental need to respect others remains constant. On Monday, we pay tribute to Dr. King — his courage, his leadership and his message. What a great reminder that we all play a vital role in the world's greatest Air Force and we all deserve the respect that Dr. King so aggressively sought for all people.

— This commentary was written by Col. Tom Schlucke, 66th Air Base Wing commander.



Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing commander

Commander's Action Line

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

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible:

- ▶ Security Forces 327-3445;
- ▶ Services Division 926-5491;
- ▶ EEO Office 926-2131;
- ▶ MEO 926-6608;
- ▶ 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 and Abuse hotline 926-2393;
- ▶ Housing Office 926-3776.

This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List.

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

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

Mountain bike trails

I've been riding my mountain bike on the trails/confidence course behind the Lodge for about ten years, and have always been pleased with the condition of the trails. I ride there each week for my Base Exercise Program. I brought my family out for a bike ride on Dec. 31, and was appalled at the sudden change of conditions on all of the trails. Someone had ridden a four-wheeler on the trails, after the recent rains, creating huge ruts over the entire course. They had torn up the curves, created alternate routes through the woods and around narrow points. These ruts are very hazardous to bikers, runners and walkers. Meeting an ATV in a curve while walking or biking would be a disaster. In past years there were signs prohibiting motorized vehicles on these trails. The signs are not there anymore. Could new signs be installed at all of the possible trail entry points?

Col. Carter's response

RAFBI 32-7064 prohibits the use of ATVs except for specific areas on the Jeep Trail, the archery range, the gas pipeline accessing the hunting areas, and in military training areas. Signs will be placed in this area and an article in the paper will address the use of ATVs on base property. The hiking and nature trails are an important part of our outdoor recreation and should be safe and used for the intended purpose.

NSPS implementation days away, questions answered



Q: How are pay bands structured?

A: Under the NSPS classification system, every GS position within the Department will be assigned to a career group, pay schedule, and pay band.

Many of the factors used to classify positions under NSPS are the same as those contained in the old system, such as complexity and level of work.

There are four career groups:

- ▶ Standard Career Group;
 - ▶ Scientific and Engineering Career Group;
 - ▶ Investigative and Protective Services Career Group
 - ▶ Medical Career Group.
- There are typically four pay schedules:
- ▶ Professional/Analytical
 - ▶ Technician/support
 - ▶ Supervisor/Manager
 - ▶ Student

There are typically three pay bands for each pay schedule:

- ▶ Expert
- ▶ Journey

▶ Entry/Development.

Q: What is a rate range adjustment and who gets one?

A: Each pay band has a rate range - minimum level and maximum level.

Each rate range can increase, decrease, or remain the same depending on market drivers (specific labor market, occupational, or other demands).

Rate ranges are reviewed at least once a year, but adjustments can be made at any time during the year.

New rate ranges for all pay bands are effective the first full pay period beginning in January of each year.

In order to receive an increase to the minimum rate, employees must not be at the maximum of the pay band's new rate range and must have a rating above unacceptable (Level 1).

Q: Who has the authority to make decisions on rate range adjustments?

A: The Secretary of Defense has the authority to set and adjust rate ranges.

Q: What is a Local Market Supplement and how does it work?

A: An LMS replaces locality pay and special salary rates under the GS system.

Employees must have a rating of record of Level 2 (Fair) or higher.

At least once a year, DOD reviews each LMS and makes appropriate adjustments.

Factors reviewed in making LMS determinations:

- ▶ Mission requirements
- ▶ Labor-market conditions
- ▶ Availability of funds
- ▶ Allowances and differentials, such as those paid to employees overseas and in Alaska and Hawaii

▶ Similar pay adjustments received by employees of other federal agencies

▶ Other relevant factors.

Q: At the time of conversion to NSPS, will LMS be the same as the locality pay employees are currently receiving?

A: Until determined otherwise by the Secretary of Defense, the standard LMS will be the same as GS locality pay for each area at the time of conversion.

Q: How are special salary rates converted to NSPS?

A: In most cases, special salary rates will be included within the broader pay ranges of the NSPS pay bands (including the addition of the standard LMS).

For employees paid from a special salary table with a maximum that exceeds the pay band maximum (and the applicable standard LMS), a targeted LMS will be established.

The targeted LMS will ensure that such employees convert to NSPS without a loss of pay.

In the thick of it

Longleaf pine needles can reach up to 18 inches in length.



A skidder drags downed trees to be loaded and picks up debris.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



Above top, An area on the south end of Robins is designated as a Longleaf pine reforestation site.

Above bottom, Bob Sargent talks with Al Lewis, Lewis Timber Co. Inc., about the project.

Below top, A logging truck leaves the site with a load.

Below bottom, Bob Sargent looks at a map showing the tracts of land that will be logged.

Thinning out Robins pines brings brighter future to other resources

By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ct@robins.af.mil

Tree crews spent several days thinning out Robins pine stands, which will create revenue to help manage the remaining trees and protect less common resources on base such as the Longleaf Pine Reforestation Site.

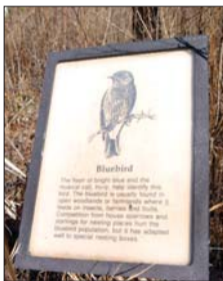
"It's partly about managing and monitoring the health of the forest here on base and partly about clearing areas for growth and development," said Bob Sargent, natural resources manager.

The majority of the trees thinned at the 16 pine stand sites on base were Loblolly pines. Once the Loblolly Pines are cut down and loaded on trucks, they will be turned into revenue that can help aid the base resources.

"The thinning allows remaining trees to grow faster and allows us to generate revenue," Mr. Sargent said.

He added the thinning of the pines also allows the remaining trees to have more sunlight and less competition for water and soil nutrients.

Along with helping the remaining trees prosper, the thinned trees provide income because they can be turned into paper, cardboard, mulch or even two-by-fours. Where the timber ends up is based on the size of the tree and the condition of the tree. Timber from Robins will be sent to three different kinds of



Thinning out the density of a forest improves the growth of the forest and improves animal habitats.

mills: a pulp mill, a saw and chip mill and a saw timber mill, said Al Lewis of Lewis Timber Co. Inc., a subcontractor for the project. He said those that are sent to the pulp mill will be turned into cardboard boxes and those sent to the chip and saw mill will be used to make smaller timber such as two-by-fours and the scraps will be chipped up and sent to paper mills to be made into paper products. Those sent to the saw and timber mill will be made into saw timbers such as two-by-fours and four-by-eights, he said.

"Basically, they will be made into all of your household building products," Mr. Lewis said.

The last time the Robins pine stands were thinned was 1999 and most of the trees were planted in the early 80s, which means the trees were in their teens dur-

ing the first thinning. The trees were row thinned, which is when trees are originally planted in rows and the fifth row of pines is removed, along with any other pines in declining health, Mr. Sargent said.

However, the latest thinning was done to help eliminate any large pines or pines in poor health. Teams actually went through the wooded areas and spray painted all the trees that needed to be removed.

The pines at Robins will not be thinned again for about five years, when the pine stands will be clear cut, which will mean clearing all the pines at the stand.

After the areas are clear cut, the tree debris will be removed and the process will start over with the planting of more pines.

However, there are some wooded areas on base that are never thinned, such as areas that are wooded to provide protection to a certain environment like some of Robins wetlands where it also protects some of Robins rare plant life, Mr. Sargent said.

Most of these areas are planted through a process called broadcast seeding which is when seeds are just spread across a landscape instead of being planted in rows.

Some of the proceeds from the logging will help plant other pines in the future and some of the revenue from the logging goes to help a fellow pine

species, the Longleaf Pine. Mr. Sargent said the Longleaf Pine was once a very common forest type, but has dwindled over the years.

"When you see these communities disappearing it is worrisome, because there are a whole host of other species that are dependent on the community," Mr. Sargent said.

Longleaf Pines provide a rare ecosystem that is home to some rare and endangered species such as the Indigo Snake, Gopher Tortoise and Red-Cokaded Woodpecker.

Though thinning is used to help maintain the Loblolly pine stands, the Longleaf Pines thrive on natural and prescribed burns to help eliminate the competition of other specimens in their community. The Longleaf Pine Reforestation site allows the base to maintain the significant natural community and uses prescribed burns to help them thrive. The site has not been burned for about three years and Mr. Sargent said the next burn is probably two or three years away, which a long break between burns.

"We want the younger ones to get more height on them before we run a fire through here," Mr. Sargent said.

Mr. Sargent said it is important to preserve the Longleaf Pines because they offer a home to many plants and animals that would not be comfortable in the other pine stands on base.



Final passing of the torch



U.S. Air Force photo by GARY CUTRELL

The 99th Air Refueling Squadron observed a Change of Command ceremony Jan. 12. Col. Christopher Bence, 19th ARG commander, passed the guidon to Lt. Col. Sandra Chandler, the former wing chief of safety for the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. Col. Chandler replaces Lt. Col. Marc VanWert who became the deputy commander of the 19th Air Refueling Group effective Jan. 12. This was the last change of command for the 99th ARS before the 19th Air Refueling Group retires in May 2008.

SCHOOL REZONING

For members of the Robins community, who live in Houston County and have school age children, a recent decision by the Houston County Board of Education to draw new attendance zones Jan. 9 may affect you.

The addition of two new schools, Hilltop Elementary School and Mossy Creek Middle School in Houston County has some students attending different schools for the 2007 academic year.

Hilltop Elementary will draw its students from students currently attending Bonaire and Matt Arthur elementary schools.

The opening of a new Lake Joy Elementary and the addition of Lake Joy Primary in the elementary school's present building will not result in any zoning changes for Lake Joy students.

According to school officials none of the changes will affect the students of families who live

in Robins privatized housing or base housing and attend Houston County Public Schools. However, some Robins families who live off-base will be affected by the changes.

High school students will not be affected by the new zones.

Other zoning changes approved by the board for the 2007 academic year are:

Kings Chapel Elementary School will house Pre-K through fifth grade students, instead of its present enrollment of second through fifth graders. The school zone will not change, it will just add the younger students to its enrollment to help decrease enrollment at Perry Primary School.

Students who presently attend Feagin Mill Middle School, who live in the area between Ignico Drive, North Davis Drive, Watson Boulevard and Ga. Highway

247 will be rezoned to Bonaire Middle School.

Current Eagle Springs Elementary students, who live between Green Street, North Davis Drive, Watson Boulevard and Ga. Highway 247 will be relocated to Linwood Elementary. While current Eagle Springs students, who live east of Margie Drive and south of Watson Boulevard will attend Quail Run Elementary.

For more information about the changes visit www.hcbe.net/zonemaps.html, then click on the interactive bus routing information link. You will then be prompted to enter your home address to see if the zoning changes affect you. Maps of the zones are also available on the Web site. For further information you can also contact the Community and School Affairs office at 988-6200.

— Amanda Creel

► IN BRIEF

TELEPHONE CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING

The 78th Communication Squadron will conduct Telephone Control Officer annual training at the base theater Monday at 2 p.m. and Tuesday at 9 a.m.

All appointed Robins TCOs are required to attend one of the two sessions. Training will last approximately one hour and will focus on TCO responsibilities and the telephone requirements process for 78th CS.

For more information call 2nd Lt. Patrick Tibbals at 222-0051 or Ed Wolfe at 222-0052.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is accepting resumes for the positions of bookkeeper and janitor.

Those interested should submit their resume to the Thrift Shop during normal operating hours or may mail it to: Thrift Shop, P. O. Box 98533, South

Branch, Robins AFB, GA 31098.

Hours of operation are: Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday afternoon 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ROBINS OFFICER SPOUSE'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Robins Officer Spouse's Club Scholarship applications are now available.

Graduating seniors may pick up a packet from their high school counselor and Continuing Education students may pick up a packet from the Thrift Shop, Family Services, continuing education Office or the Officer's Club. Completed packets must be received by March 16. For more information or eligibility criteria call Amy Noel, Scholarship chairperson at 337-257-0757.

HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

Share your good news with family and friends back at home by

taking part in the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service.

Submissions may include professional military education graduations, reenlistments, retirements, quarterly and annual awards at all command levels and participation in national news events.

Submit DD Form 2266 within 30 days of the event. Photos are not mandatory, but are highly encouraged. For more information contact 1st Lt. Sequoiya Lawson at 222-0802 or sequoiya.lawson@robins.af.mil.

PALACE CHASE

The Palace Chase program allows Airmen to apply to separate early from their active duty commitment, and serve out their time in the Air Force Reserve. All AFSC's are eligible. For more information on the Palace Chase/Early Separation program, call Tech. Sgt. Deserie Jackson at 327-7367.

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

Sponsorship training

The A&FRC will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Tuesday, 9 to

10:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Bldg. 794.

The training provides information on what types of information to send to the PCSing member and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the inbound member; and finally sponsors are given vital information regarding his or her responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

Interview basics and preparation class

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

The class covers types of interviews; the purpose of each and what to expect from them.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle

Georgia, a non-profit organization funded by the United Way, will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 794.

A comprehensive workbook is provided to all attendees. 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. This workshop is open to all Team Robins members.

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-Deployment Briefings are offered twice weekly by the A&FRC Readiness Team. Briefings are conducted at 9 a.m., Monday and Friday in Bldg. 794.

For more information call 926-1256.

Marathon attracts record crowd

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

A total of 684 runners and walkers participated in the Museum of Aviation Foundation Marathon Saturday, making it the largest running event ever held at the Museum. The event hosted runners from 26 different U.S. states and Canada, including participants from Hawaii, California, Washington and New York.

"The race grows and grows every year and has become one of the widest attended races in the area," said Bob Dubiel, director of marketing for the Museum. "We were pleasantly surprised with how many people came from afar. It shows the race is growing in stature and reputation. Not only is it a good venue, but it's a well-organized race that runners like."

There were more than 100 participants in the full marathon, while the half marathon attracted 276 runners and the 5K walk/run saw 286 participants.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON

A total of 684 runners competed in the Museum of Aviation's annual marathon and other running competitions. It was the largest turnout in the event's 10-year history.

In addition, four relay teams participated in the full marathon.

"This marathon is a great way for people to start off the New Year," said June Lowe, executive vice president of the Museum of Aviation Foundation, one of the race's main sponsors with the Robins Pacers Running Club. "We had a terrific pool of participants, a group of people scattered all over the country. We also had more than 120 volunteers from Robins. We had great support from the medical group, security forces and civil engineers."

Many of this year's participants were notable for one reason or another. For 64-year-old Phil Little from Apopka, Fla., it was his 223rd marathon. And Roger Keel, Valley, Ala., has participated in every Museum of Aviation marathon since its inception 10 years ago.

"The Museum of Aviation marathon was the first marathon I ever ran and I have just run it every year since," Mr. Keel said. "It's always well organized, the water stops are well placed and well manned and the volunteers do an excellent job. If I didn't run any other marathon, I'd still run this one."

Mr. Keel ran three marathons and a 50K race last year. He said despite getting a poor time this year due to the heat, the race is a good one for beginners because it isn't too challenging. "It's pretty flat," he said.

The marathon was the first event in the Museum's year-long celebration of 100 years of

Aviation in Georgia. Runners left from and returned to the Museum and pursued a course on the streets of Robins. Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold, vice commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, shot off the gun starting the races.

Chief Master Sgt. Randolph Bofto, who is in his second year competing in the marathon on a relay team, said the large crowd was due in part to the nice weather.

"The weather was beautiful, especially compared to last year. It was a gorgeous day all around and not a bad place to be. That probably brought out more runners," Chief Bofto said.

Additional sponsors for the race were Houston Healthcare, Northrop Grumman, the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, Run Fit Sports, Piedmont Springs, Coca Cola, Publix and Services. Complete results for the marathon can be found at www.robinspacers.org.

No. 13 Air Force suffers setback, loses to Utah

The Air Force men's basketball team suffered a serious setback in its bid to crack the top 10 of the national rankings for the first time in program history. Off to its best start ever, sporting a 17-1 record and a No. 13 national ranking, Air Force lost to Utah 85-79 in a Mountain West Conference road game. The loss snapped a 13-game winning streak for the Falcons.

The Falcons defense had trouble stopping the Utes' attack all game. Utah shot 70.7 percent from the field and made 11 straight free throws in the final minutes to end its six-game losing streak — the school's longest since 1950.

Luke Nevill led Utah with 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Johnnie Bryant scored 18 points for the Utes and launched the ball straight up at the buzzer as the Utes celebrated their first victory since Dec. 20.

"We can score pretty much all the time whenever we need to. It was pretty much a matter of stopping them from scoring," Nevill said after his seventh double-double of the season.

Air Force was tied with No. 2 Wisconsin for the longest winning streak in Division I, but the Falcons never led Tuesday.

Jacob Burtschi had 21 points and Dan Nwaelele added 20 for the Falcons, who didn't have enough to overcome Utah's almost-perfect shooting. The Utes finished 29-for-41 from the field, including going 9-for-16 from 3-point range, and held off every rally Air Force could come up with.

The Falcons had flirted with losing in their previous two games. The Falcons came back from a 15-point half-time deficit against New Mexico and rallied from behind to defeat

Wyoming 58-56 on a last-second shot by Burtschi.

"The last three games, including this one, we have gotten off to horrendous starts," Air Force coach Jeff Bzdelik said. "We must understand that we will take everybody's best punch. We have not understood that yet and it caught up with us today."

After Nwaelele got the Falcons within 78-72 on a layup, Ricky Johns made two free throws with a minute left, then the Utes broke the press and got the ball to Nevill for a two-handed dunk that all but sealed it.

It was Air Force's first loss since Nov. 10, when Duke beat the Falcons 71-56. The winning streak was tied for the longest in school history.

Utah committed 13 turnovers in the first half, but compensated by going 13-for-19 from the field - 5-of-8 on 3-pointers - and holding the Falcons to 36 percent shooting. The Utes were even better in the second half, going 16-for-22.

Air Force, which shot 48 percent from the field, scored three points on five straight possessions late in the second half, getting either a three-pointer or three-point play. But each time the Falcons made a run Utah did just enough to hold them off.

Bryant and Green each hit three-pointers after Air Force had pulled to within five points and the Utes were able to seal it from the line after the Falcons had to foul at the end.

"It really wouldn't have mattered who it was tonight. We needed to find a way to get a win. It just happened to be Air Force," Utah coach Ray Giacomoletti said.

— from staff reports



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold, vice commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, fires the starting gun for the annual marathon.



B-1B serves as reminder of 116th Bomb Wing

By AMANDA CREEL
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"The Midnight Train from Georgia," a B-1B Lancer that calls the Museum of Aviation home, was dedicated Jan. 10 in honor of the 116th Bomb Wing.

The B1 Lancer, which has been attracting visitors at the museum since it arrived in November 2005, was retired from service in 2002 and brought to Robins where the aircraft was restored and prepared for display at the museum.

The bomber was dubbed the "The Midnight Train from Georgia" when artists Dru Blair and Mickey Harris airbrushed the nose of the aircraft in November 2006, to resemble the nose art of a B1-B assigned to the 116th Bomb Wing.

"I am deeply honored to have been a part of this B-1B dedication, and it is truly fitting that this airplane be the centerpiece of the museum display here," said Maj. Gen. Scott Hammond, commander of the Georgia National Guard. "The B-1 clearly represents an historic era in the legacy of Georgia military aviation."

General Hammond was at the dedication ceremony on behalf of Gov. Sonny Purdue to read a letter from the governor acknowledging the outstanding efforts of the restoration crews and his excitement that the B-1 would serve as a permanent tribute to the 116th Bomb Wing for its B-1 service.

There were only 100 B1-B Lancers produced and 67 of those are still in service today.

The bombers dedication in honor of the 116th was fitting because the bomber first appeared at Robins in 1996 when the Air National Guard's 116th Bomb Wing was relocated to



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Brig. Gen. Tom Lynn, 116th Bomb Wing former commander, Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Center commander, and Paul Hibbits, Museum of Aviation director stand at attention during the national anthem at the dedication of a B-1B Bomber Jan. 10 at the Museum of Aviation.

Robins from Dobbins Air Reserve Base and converted to the B-1 Bomber. Today, the 116th Bomb Wing is known as the 116th Air Control Wing and is the first "blended

"wing," made up of active duty and Air National Guard personnel. Along with the unique design as a blended wing", the wing has also converted to the E-8C, Joint STARS aircraft.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
B-1B ceremony attendees get a closer look at the aircraft after a dedication ceremony.

Recognizing the 116th Bomb Wing's role in helping the museum secure the bomber was one reason the museum dedicated the bomber to the wing, said Paul Hibbits Sr., Museum of Aviation director.

"We couldn't have done it (attained a B-1B for display at the museum) without the help of the 116th, being able to move this thing down here and having a place to keep it until we were ready for it," Mr. Hibbits said. "This just gives us a way of showing our appreciation of them."

His sentiment was echoed by Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, who said the dedication of the bomber was "a perfect example of the team work that makes this center great."

He added the combination of the Air National Guard, active duty, reserve and civilians to combine a total force was something to be celebrated.

"I think the B-1 in part represents so much of what the mission of Robins is all about," General Owen said.