

THE ROBINS REV-UP

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

November 21, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 47

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

'Gobble, gobble'



Jordan Bailey, Robins Elementary kindergarten student, shows off the pine cone turkey she made for Thanksgiving.

U. S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

19th ARG Airmen receive new assignments

Group gives Airmen say in assignments, as unit prepares for deactivation

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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As the 19th Air Refueling Group readies to close in June 2008, the unit is helping its Airmen decide where they will go next.

On Nov. 15, Airmen, NCOs and Senior NCOs gathered in three sessions in the group's

auditorium in Bldg. 2072 to make their choice of about 120 assignments put before them.

Col. Chris Bence, 19th ARG commander, said the distribution of assignments is usually filled by a team from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, but funding limitations prevented the team from making a visit. So the unit decided to help.

"Today, we've tried to be as proactive as possible and we have preidentified about a third of the group's personnel for assignments by name to the AFPC at Randolph AFB for the first spring move which will happen January, February and March, with most of our folks in the February/March time period (making a

permanent change of station)," he said.

Colonel Bence said the group has taken the same action with officers and enlisted Airmen. Officer assignments were handled directly through commanders, with a majority of the officer assignments already decided.

Assignments for the group's enlisted Airmen were based upon individual rank, skill level and pre-identified names. A list of job opportunities broken down by rank and skill level were made available for Airmen's individual choice, Colonel Bence said.

The 19th ARG commander said the group worked closely with AFPC in compiling the list of jobs and great care was taken to ensure information given to Airmen was accurate to prevent any further anxiety with future changes.

The leg work for deciding assignments and mapping out the road to the unit's June 23, 2008 closure began shortly after the commander came to Robins in July 2006.

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Hamilton, 19th ARG superintendent, said the group could afford to let only 30 percent of its Airmen leave in February, with the other 70 percent moving in the June or July timeframe.

Colonel Bence said one-third of the officer and enlisted Airmen pre-identified and offered assignments had been on station for a long time and were not in single-deep critical billets.

Colonel Bence said the AFPC gave officers their first or second choice and matched enlisted Airmen with assignments based on the Air Force's needs.

In most cases, assignments were marked with Code 36 or Code 54, which would identify when people would move. In recent months, the codes have been lifted off of some Airmen to allow them to apply for special assignments Air Force-wide, Chief Hamilton said.

Colonel Bence said by de-coding the

▶ see 19TH ARG, 2A



U. S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Staff Sgt. Hiadia Ramsey, 19th Air Refueling Group, is one of many Airmen who were able to choose from about 120 choices for reassignment.

Robins congratulates new chief selects

BY AMANDA CREEL
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Base Wing staff superintendent. "It's all about making things happen for other people. I hope to be able to open some doors for other people."

Twelve Team Robins enlisted members recently reached the pinnacle of their careers as chief master sergeant selects. However, the chief selects aren't just focusing on the additional stripe. Instead, they are focusing on how the eighth stripe will help them make a difference in the lives of their fellow Airmen.



Becoming a chief is an exciting accomplishment for anyone and because only one percent of the current enlisted force can earn the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, those who earn the rank are in a league all their own.

"I just want to be able to make a difference. I just want to lead from the front," said Senior Master Sgt. Sakenna Dixon, 78th Comptroller Squadron superintendent and 78th Air

"It is an honor. I have known some truly phenomenal chiefs and I am just proud to be part of the chief corps," said Senior Master

▶ see CHIEF SELECTS, 2A

WAY TO GO!

Team Robins beats 2007 CFC goal

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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People at Robins Air Force Base reached deep into their pockets and made a huge difference in the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign.

Robins hoped to raise \$1,350,000 in the 2007 campaign. But, as in past CFCs, contributors topped themselves, raising \$1,454,000 as of Nov. 13, at 2 p.m.

Mark Shores, 2007 CFC chairman for Robins and the Middle Georgia Area, said he estimates the campaign's final tally will exceed \$1.5 million.

"Once again, the men and women of Robins have supported the campaign through their generous contributions," he said.

Paul Nagle, the contractor who operates the local CFC for Middle Georgia's 17 counties, said CFC has always been well supported by the base.

"I love working with Robins in the CFC because all you have to do is step out of the way and they do all of the work," he said.

Mr. Shores said while \$1.5 million is a lot of money, the campaign's 2007 bottom line contributions are down by \$150,000 from last year's CFC.

The CFC chairman said the decrease is due in part to about 150 senior civil service employees taking an early retirement on Nov. 2. The Office of Personnel Management does not deduct CFC contributions from retired employees' paychecks.

Mr. Shores said a dip in the local housing market may have also contributed to the decrease as people are more cautious about where their money goes.

Despite the decrease, Mr. Shores said the base still did really well.

"Thank you to all of the men and women of Robins for making it possible to have another successful campaign," he said. "We exceeded our goal by \$150,000

▶ see CFC, 2A



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THE TWO-MINUTE REV

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Robins Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, a more than 20 year-old tradition, will officially kick off the holiday season for Team Robins Nov. 28 at 5 p.m. on the front lawn of the base chapel.

The Robins Elementary School chorus will perform and there will be a special guest appearance by Santa. A reception following the ceremony will include light refreshments, music and holiday cheer. Admission is free. For more information call the Base Chapel at 926-2821.

HEALTH

Team Lean Challenge

Robins loses more than 1,000 pounds in Team Lean Challenge, 3A

ROBINS

High Velocity Maintenance

Robins team aims to keep aircraft available, 5A

SERVICES

Happy Thanksgiving

Holiday hours

The 78th Services Division announces its holiday hours, 6A

WEATHER FORECAST

WEDNESDAY 50/79

THURSDAY 67/43

FRIDAY 38/62

19TH ARG

Continued from 1A

assignments, the unit has been able to protect most Airmen from getting no-notice assignments.

Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Senzig, NCOIC of the 19th ARG Base Relocation and Closure office, said his office worked with the Air Mobility Command and AFPC to determine people's next assignments.

Sergeant Senzig said enlisted fliers were given assignments through the group commander.

Airmen making assignment preferences on Nov. 15 were in the maintenance, supply, personnel and other specialty codes, Sergeant Senzig said.

Sergeant Senzig said the majority of Airmen at the Nov. 15 sessions will be going to Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. Others are going to Little Rock AFB, Ark.; Shaw AFB, S.C.; and Nellis AFB, Nev.

While the assignment process has been lengthy for some, many Black Knights are appreciative of what the unit has done to make it easier.

Airman 1st Class Alfonso Pagan, an engine mechanic in the 19th Maintenance Squadron who plans to PCS to Shaw, said his new assignment will bring him closer to family.

Master Sgt. Marvin Simpkins, NCOIC of non-destructive inspections in the 19th MXS, said being able to choose his next assignment at Moody AFB, Ga. will mean a lot less stress on his family who is remaining in Warner Robins.

"Having a choice helped me stay near my family and reduced my stress level," he said.

Staff Sgt. Hiadia Ramsey, an aviation resource management craftsman in the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, said her assignment choice at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., will carry her about 30 hours from family, but it's a good assignment.

Airmen like Senior Airman Jason Byrd, a member of the 19th ARG's Global Reach Communications Element Team, won't go far for his next assignment with the 5th Combat Communications Group.

"It really eased a lot of tension just knowing what's happening," he said.

Airman 1st Class Phillip Capps, a member of the Global Reach Communications Element Team, who will also PCA to the 5th CCG said he learned a lot about his assignment choices.

"They were actually very informative," he said. "They issued a spreadsheet for us to see our choices. So, it was very helpful."

While Airman Capps didn't get to PCS as he had hoped, he now has the information needed in case he gets the chance in the future.

CHIEF SELECTS

Continued from 1A

Sgt. Anthony Pope, superintendent of the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

For many, earning the eighth stripe is a validation of a job well done and the opportunity to focus on continuing an Air Force career and make an impact on the future of their Air Force and the enlisted force.

"It's all about the future. It's not about today. It's about changing the future for the better for our Airmen," said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Helms, 330th Combat Training Squadron superintendent.

Chief Master Sgt. David Hurst, president of the Robins' chief's group, encouraged all the chief selects to take advantage of the weight of the rank by helping their Airmen by offering sound advice and going to bat for them when necessary.

"They aren't there for the glory, they are there to take care of the people," he said.

Many of the chief selects echoed Chief Hurst's sentiments. Senior Master Sgt. Kerry Taylor, a member of the Air Force Reserve Command, said he was looking forward to whatever opportunities his new promotion might bring.

"I like to think I'm an Airmen's kind of guy. I want to give back by mentoring and seasoning those up and coming Airmen," Sergeant Taylor said, adding he was looking forward to helping the Air Force continue its transformation by bringing fresh ideas to the table.

Chief Hurst reminded the chief selects with the rank of chief comes, "the horse power and the resources available to reach out and get some help."

He added everyone wants to help a chief help their Airmen.

Another chief select, Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Riley, said becoming a chief is about the people you work with and being able to make a difference in their lives. "You take care of your people and they'll take care of the job and achieve the mission," said Sergeant Riley, NCO in charge of HC-130 P/N Sustainment.

Chief Hurst said it is important for the chief selects to always be aware of their actions because as a chief, you never want to reflect badly on the rank of chief that you and so many others have worked so hard to attain.

"I told all of the chief selects, 'you should never have to tell anyone you are a chief unless its over the phone. People should gather that from your actions and your demeanor,'" Chief Hurst said.



Senior Master Sgt.
John Campbell
HQ AFRC



Senior Master Sgt.
Sakenna Dixon
78th CPTS



Senior Master Sgt.
Andrea Gates
116th CS



Senior Master Sgt.
Steven Helms
330th CBTS



Senior Master Sgt.
Robert Hipple
330th CBTS



Senior Master Sgt.
Carol Humphrey
576th ACSS



Senior Master Sgt.
Anthony Pope
78th MSG



Senior Master Sgt.
Joseph Riley
572 ACSS



Senior Master Sgt.
Michael Rosser
778th CES



Senior Master Sgt.
Roxann Santos
HQ AFRC



Senior Master Sgt.
Kerry Taylor
HQ AFRC



Senior Master Sgt.
Micky Wall
116th AMXS

CFC

Continued from 1A

(3 percent) and all of that money will go to a very good cause."

Bobbie Sellers, a Drug Demand Reduction specialist at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, who has served as a CFC super monitor for AFRC for two years, said her area exceeded its goal of \$114,681 by \$19,640.

Ms. Sellers said she thinks this year's CFC went well.

"Speaking for AFRC, everyone stepped up and supported

the campaign," she said. "They were very generous in their giving to help other people."

Jennifer Spires, a program support specialist in the 402nd Software Maintenance Group, who was the CFC super monitor for the 402nd Maintenance Wing in the 2007 CFC, said her organization, which earned the Early Bird Award for reaching its organizational CFC goal early in the campaign, did a fantastic job of giving.

"It was a team effort," she said. "We couldn't have done it without all of the group and squadron key workers."

Mr. Shores said people should be mindful of any charities they personally appreciate so they can give to those in the 2008 campaign which will begin Oct. 8.



Team Robins collectively loses more than 1,000 pounds during the 2007 Team Lean Challenge

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Sometimes being a big loser is something to be proud of.

That was certainly the case for Natasha Dunomes, a financial manager who works in the Financial Management Section in the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing who individually lost the highest percentage of weight at Robins in the 2007 Team Lean Challenge, an Air Force Materiel Command-wide weight loss initiative that ran from April 16 to Sept. 30.

Ms. Dunomes, who lost 30 pounds in the challenge and 110 pounds since June 2006, said a combination of working out and watching what she ate helped her reach her goal.

"I joined the challenge basically for accountability," she said. "I knew that I would have to be weighing in and keep on track."

Ms. Dunomes, who joined up with friends to form Robins' second place winning Dieting Divas team in the challenge, said in addition to losing weight, she's enjoying the health benefits of the weight loss.

The Combat Foxy Five team placed first as a group in the challenge. The Dieting Divas took second place and the 78th Mission Support Group's Dream Team took third place in the local challenge.

The 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing was named as the unit that lost the highest

percentage of weight.

Winning participants were presented with plaques and pen sets at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Quarterly Awards Ceremony at the Base Theater Nov. 16.

Phyllis Burns, a process analyst in the 580th Combat Sustainment Group, who lost 10 pounds as a Combat Foxy Five member, said it took a group effort to keep on the track to weight loss.

Robins' first place team members helped each other make the right food choices and sweated their way to the challenge's finish line in Rhonda McKnight's aerobics class at the base gym.

"We decided we were going to stop eating fast food every day for lunch," Ms. Burns said. "(We) decided we were going to do Lean Cuisine for lunch and stayed around the office area. We used our one hour, three days a week to go to the gym."

Ms. Burns said having a support group and setting small goals helped her make a lasting weight loss.

Joyce Roberson, a resource analyst in the 402nd Maintenance Wing's business office, lost 25 pounds in the challenge with her Dieting Divas team. She said she began losing weight as part of her goal to get healthier.

"I feel really good about the weight I've lost, but I feel best about the fact that I'm achieving what is optimal health, which is



U.S. Air Force file photo by GARY CUTRELL

Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, presents Natasha Dunomes with the Team Lean Challenge award. Ms. Dunomes lost more than 30 pounds in the challenge.

making sure your body is operating the way it's supposed to because you're eating the right food and you exercise and you do the things that are healthy for you," she said. "That also includes doing things that help you mentally as well as exercising."

Kelley Denney, Civilian Health Promotion Service coordinator and a registered nurse who worked with the Health and Wellness Center in managing the 2007 Team Lean Challenge, said Robins' participants lost 1,187.4 pounds and 2.2 percent body fat in the challenge.

"I think it was a great success," she said. "Although a lot of people who started the weight loss initiative didn't really follow through with it and end with it, those who did finish it did

very, very well.

"They were the ones who needed an initiative like this to jump start them and give them motivation to get out there and exercise and eat right like they should do all along, but they just needed support to do that. I feel like that's what the Team Lean Challenge has done."

Participants received encouraging messages via e-mail to keep them on the right track, Mrs. Denney said.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, was the top performing base in the overall AFMC Team Lean Challenge.

Colonel Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, congratulated the Robins group and encouraged them to continue on their path to a healthier lifestyle.

New initiative offers education, training funds for military spouses

BY DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates joined Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao Nov. 14 in supporting a new initiative to help military spouses get the education and other credentials needed to pursue careers in high-demand, high-growth occupations.

Secretary Gates praised the new Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative as a "landmark program that will open the doors to our military spouses for more fulfilling careers," even as they relocate regularly due to their loved ones' assignments.

The \$35 million demonstration program, co-sponsored by the Defense and Labor departments, sets up accounts for eligible spouses in eight states to cover expenses directly related to post-secondary education and training. Secretary Gates said during the signing ceremony at the Pentagon.

These include costs for tuition, fees, books, equipment, and credentialing and licensing fees required for careers in education, health care, information technology, construction trades, financial services and other

"high-growth, portable" fields, Secretary Chao said.

The program also covers the cost of renewing existing credentials and licenses due to a military move.

Beginning in January, the new program will launch at 18 military installations in eight states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, North Carolina and Washington.

Spouses of active-duty servicemembers grades E1 through E5 and O1 to O3 will be eligible to participate. They must have a high school or general education diploma.

Secretary Gates said the program will provide the much-needed help many spouses need to pursue rewarding careers despite frequent career disruptions.

"Thousands are called on to pack up and relocate the family, often at the cost of their own careers," he said. "This makes it difficult to navigate the career licensure and certification requirements that go with most professions."

"In addition, education is often unaffordable for young families who must also bear the expense of child care," he said.

Secretary Gates called the

new initiative another step in fulfilling the Defense Department's commitment to its servicemembers and their families.

"We owe it to our brave men and women in uniform to assist their families as they do their job, often thousands of miles from their homes and families and under extremely hazardous conditions," he said. "When servicemembers find time to call home or e-mail home, they shouldn't have to worry. They have the right to hear their loved ones honestly say, 'We miss you, but we are doing fine.'"

Secretary Chao said the program will give the 77 percent of military spouses who report wanting or needing to work an opportunity to forge careers in fields that provide the most opportunity now and in the future.

Workers in these high-demand occupations will be able to pick up and move with their loved ones' assignments, but still continue building their own careers, she said. She noted that with the trend toward a knowledge-based economy, two-thirds of the new careers will require some post-secondary education or training.

Secretary Chao said military families serve as the backbone

of the fighting force. "Our military could not do its job without your support," she told spouses at today's ceremony. "As they say in the military, you are mission-essential. And that's what this initiative is all about."

Twenty-five-year-old Gwen Bates, wife of Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Bates, said she hopes to be among the first military spouses to take advantage of the new program. Living in San Diego, where her husband is assigned, with the couple's three children, Mrs. Bates said her family hasn't had extra cash to put toward her education. "This has been my stumbling block. I've been at a crossroads," she said.

Mrs. Bates said the new initiative will offer exactly what she needs to build on the associate's degree she already has to get a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine, then go on to medical school.

"This is the reinforcement I need to finally go ahead and get the show on the road," she said.

With the initiative beginning as a demonstration program, Mrs. Bates said she's hopeful it will expand to include more spouses military-wide. "There are so many people like me," she said.

Holiday helpers



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Kristi Parks, a member of the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group, separates food into stacks to feed needy families this Thanksgiving. The group's canned food drive brought in more than 11,500 cans and was able to support 17 families. Along with the donations of food, money was also donated. The families were bought turkeys and sugar. The remaining food, about 10,000 cans were then given to the local food bank.

"The holiday season gives many of us the well-deserved opportunity to relax and celebrate with friends and family. But for some the holidays can be stressful, especially when heightened by separation from loved ones. This time of year includes unique opportunities for activities and emotions that we should be both grateful for and wary of. We're asking you once again to keep a close eye on your Wingmen - your friends, loved ones and fellow Airmen - this holiday season, thus continuing to play an important role in preserving the Air Force's most precious resource - you."

— Michael Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force and T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff

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Happy Thanksgiving



As part of the Thanksgiving festivities at Robins Elementary School, Michael Osborne's fifth grade class built a model of the Mayflower. Some students also drew Native American picture language symbols on Indian pouches they made in art class Nov. 13.

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Pizza, turkey and family traditions

Traditions in these United States have become almost a religion and you had better stick to them or risk being called a rebel. We have many traditions associated with holidays — fireworks and homemade ice cream on the Fourth of July, barbecue on Memorial Day, flying the American flag on Veteran's Day, hot cider on Halloween, pizza for Thanksgiving, Christmas caroling at Christmas — hey, wait a minute, pizza for Thanksgiving? What kind of a tradition is that?

Many traditions start in families, not necessarily by the mutual consensus of the mother and father agreeing to start it and faithfully sticking to it over the years, but rather out of necessity itself.

Twenty-one years ago when I was pregnant with my sixth child, I spent most of the day before Thanksgiving making pies. Being only 5-2, carrying a huge baby (she was 9 lb. 13 oz.) and enough water to create my own Lake Erie, I knew that I had to go a little at a time and not make the pies on Thanksgiving Day.

When I woke up on Thursday morning, I could hardly walk; my hips had hurt it. My husband, knowing my love for football, told me to go to the basement and watch TV and he and the kids would fix dinner. I hobbled downstairs and he and the kids got right to work.

After several hours and several touchdowns later, I was called up for "The Feast."

There amidst the Belgian lace tablecloth, Lenox china, crystal goblets and silver flatware, was a feast any 8-month pregnant woman would be thrilled to behold — two beautiful pizzas, a bowl of potato chips and ice in the goblets with the two-liter root beer bottles ready to pour. It was a great day for pizza and even greater day for clean up — which I discovered there wasn't much!

Well, time marches on and when Thanksgiving the following year rolled around, I took a survey of what the family wanted for Thanksgiving, turkey or pizza. It was unanimous — pizza! This tradition was born. We had pizza every year for Thanksgiving, complete with the Belgian lace tablecloth, crystal goblets, silver flatware and Lenox china. Even though we don't fit with the mainstream of society and have a big turkey dinner, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy and sweet potatoes with marshmallows on top, our tradition of pizza at Thanksgiving means a lot to us. We are together as a family. What could be better?

When I tell my friends about our tradition, most of them look at me with envy and I know that running through their minds is "Wow, that

would be easy." They not only have to get up early to get "the bird" started, prepare all the salads and rolls, cook and mash the potatoes and so on and so on and so on, they have to clean it all up. If they have a helpful husband, the work is cut in half. If not, well, it's a lot of work. Because football is of great importance and a great tradition on Thanksgiving, many husbands are off to the La-Z-Boy recliner and la-la land and the wife is left plucking the meat off the turkey.

My oldest daughter worked at Sam's Club as a cashier while going to college in Provo, Utah. About five days before Thanksgiving, a lady came through her line and Jennifer told me, "I could see 'stress' written all over her face. When I got to talking to her, I asked her if everything was going well for Thanksgiving and if she was ready. She looked at me and said, 'I don't think I can get it all done.' I said to her, 'You should do what my mom does and have pizza for Thanksgiving.'"

She finished checking her out and the lady left. About a minute later, she came and back and asked my daughter, "Does she make them or buy

them?"

Our son was 14 when he went with his high school marching band to Houston, Texas, to march in their Thanksgiving Day Parade. It was his first Thanksgiving away from home. He was torn. The true test of loyalty to our tradition was on the line. Would he prefer the Thanksgiving feast prepared by the hotel chef or pizza? After eating the turkey dinner, he said he felt guilty for breaking tradition — he would have rather had pizza.

Our children are all grown now and five of them are married. Did the tradition carry on? Not really. I counseled my children that when they got married, they needed to start their own traditions because their spouses would bring in traditions from their families that may not include pizza.

We are well-known in our small town because of our pizza tradition. The easy clean up is the envy of the town. Over the years, it has been a great part of our tradition of Thanksgiving Day, engraved in our hearts as a special time of year when we all get together and count our many blessings. Hurray for traditions. They are the glue that keeps families and our country in place.

My mother-in-law has a saying, "Families are that joy might abound." Amen.

— This commentary was written by Bette Christensen.

Airman: volunteerism much more than time

Volunteering is not new to me. Beginning when I was in middle school, I was constantly involved in programs that encouraged students to reach out into the community with events such as soup kitchens, food drives, auctions, holiday gatherings for children, yard work and meal deliveries.

Each time there was something special that made me take a step back and realize that what I'm doing is important. What I'm doing makes a difference to someone.

I realized that while these hours of community service

and volunteering were sometimes just numbers to place on my volunteer time sheet, someone actually benefited from what I was doing.

As I continue my immersion into military life, I see that volunteering should not just be a bullet on a performance report. It is undoubtedly much more than that.

For Veterans Day last year, a group of Airmen visited an Air Force veteran's home. The man was aging, becoming unable to keep up regular housekeeping and yard work, and it was apparent that he didn't have

many visitors. But on this special day, he had more than 10 appreciative Airmen with whom he could share his valorous stories of his military days.

We left the veteran's house that day in a better state than it was when we got there. The porch newly painted, stepping stones replaced, awry branches cut and ages of dust removed.

We also left the veteran's house knowing that we had made a difference in his day, and it definitely made a difference in mine.

This was just more proof that volunteering is a two-way

street. It is a powerful tool to help someone in need, and to see the smiles and renewed hope some receive from one simple act.

Do some volunteering. Do it for yourself and do it for others. It may actually provide you with the same sense of accomplishment and gratification as a perfect "firewall five" on your performance report.

— This commentary was written by Airman 1st Class Kali L. Gradishar 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs.



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.

To contact the Action Line, call 222-0804 or 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>.

Include your name and contact information so a response may be provided. 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.

'Toys for Team Robins Angels' is underway

It's time once again for the "Toys for Team Robins Angels" Christmas drive. This annual toy drive, which kicked off Nov. 13, solicits aid from the base community to ensure all children with ties to Robins have toys for Christmas. You might notice the name change adding "Angels." This year marks the first year both the toy drive and angel tree are combined under one initiative solidifying the commitment to Team Robins families.

"The idea is to gather as many toys as we can to be certain that no child associated with Robins wakes up on Christmas morning without a full load of presents," said Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Powers, 19th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

Sergeant Powers said, the 19th Air Refueling Group has sponsored the Toys for Team Robins drive for the past 24 years, and by merging with the Angel Tree.

"We see this program getting better to help brighten the holiday season for numerous Team Robins families and their children," he said. "We want all of the children to have big smiles on Christmas day."

That is sometimes difficult due to financial situations caused by deployments. With the community's continued support, he said he is confident this year's Holiday season will be the best yet.

First sergeants across the base will be responsible for putting boxes out in each of their squadrons and if anyone wants to make a donation they can drop them off or contact their first sergeant. A large box will also be available for donations at the base exchange.

"Due to the current world situation, they are asking people not to wrap their donations. We ask that the gift be in its original packaging if possible and clearly recognizable," Sergeant Powers said.

The Angel Tree will be located at the Robins Air Force Base Exchange.

Donations are due by Dec. 14 to ensure timely delivery. The toys will be distributed to the units on Dec. 18 and 19. Monetary donations are also being accepted and said checks can be made out to Toys for Team Robins Angels. For more information call Sergeant Powers at 327-9624.

— 19th Maintenance Squadron.

TALENT SEARCH

Robins Airman's talent earns shot at a spot on 2008 Tops in Blue team

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
hollybirchfield@robins.af.mil

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Frost first discovered her singing voice when she joined her middle school's choir in sixth grade.

Now, the 24-year-old Kalamazoo, Mich., native who is a front desk representative at the Pine Oaks Lodge at Robins is getting a shot at a spot on the 2008 Tops in Blue team, the Air Force's talent team that travels nationwide entertaining the masses.

Airman Frost, who has been at Robins since Jan. 23, auditioned for a chance to join the team at the Community Center in mid-October.

The Tops in Blue hopeful performed two country music hits, Loretta Lynn's "You Ain't Woman Enough to Take My Man," and Rascal Flatt's "God Blessed the Broken Road," during her local audition.

Now, Airman Frost is in the Tops in Blue 2008 semi-finals. She will compete against Airmen Air Force-wide at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, from Dec. 2-10, for a chance to share her talent worldwide.

Ruby Wasway, Community Center director at Robins, was taken aback by the singer.

"I knew she would make it," she said. "I had confidence in her."

Ms. Wasway said she felt the Airman had talent and wanted to encourage her to share it.

"It's good for (Airmen)," she said. "They get to travel and do new things. It's just a new challenge. I think everyone should come out and try out next year."

Airman Frost said she's cer-



Airman 1st Class Jennifer Frost

tainly glad she tried out.

"I just feel so phenomenal," she said. "This is a chance of a lifetime. Not everybody gets this chance, and to get to travel all around the world if I make it in, (that would be a dream come true)."

Airman Frost, who recently became engaged to her fiancé,

Richard Tanner, said she hopes to get more involved in singing in church since she will soon be a pastor's wife.

For now though, she's elated by the chance to take her vocal talent around the world.

"There are really no words to explain how you feel when you get something this big put into your path," she said. "I want to thank God for everything he's given me. He's given me this chance and I'm just so grateful to him."

Robins High Velocity Maintenance team aims to keep aircraft available

By Lisa Mathews
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

A team of experts has been working on a plan to increase aircraft availability. The High Velocity Maintenance High Performance Team's goal is to increase aircraft availability using Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century tools to establish a synchronized, integrated end-to-end process so that maintenance does not impact mission requirements.

Jerry Mobley, the team's lead, said HVM would require all involved with the aircraft to work together so there is less time spent on maintenance and more time the planes can be in the air serving the warfighter. This will include better tracking of all aspects of the aircraft's condition with information shared by the home station of the aircraft and the air logistics center where the programmed depot maintenance takes place.

This shared information will allow for all parts and equipment needed for the maintenance of the aircraft to be in place as soon as the plane arrives at Robins so there is little or no wait time for the PDM to begin, Mr. Mobley said. By ensuring a better understanding of all the work needed to complete the PDM of an aircraft, parts can be kitted on site, technical data can be in place, tools and equipment can be on hand and all pre-positioned so that the mechanic can come in each day and immediately begin work.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Ed Pratt, an engineer on the High Velocity maintenance team and 1st Lt. Andrew Soine, HVM program manager from the 580th ACSG, discuss the end-to-end maintenance process.

This should ensure a decrease in time spent by the mechanic looking for the things needed to do their job.

"We want to have a mechanic-centric focus," Mr. Mobley said.

The team is also analyzing how to optimize all enabling processes such as requirements identification, funding and materials.

Another area the group believes could shave downtime for the aircraft is to realign the inspections process. The HVM team is researching the possibility of aligning the isometric inspections currently being done by the home station mechanics on aircraft to be rolled up into the PDM work here at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

"We already do numerous inspections here, so it would not

add much time to complete the ISO inspection into the PDM," Mr. Mobley said. The team believes this could shave anywhere from nine to 20 days from the downtime of the aircraft.

The Air Force Special Operations Command's C-130 aircraft has been selected as the pilot program to test the HVM process. This will begin in late spring or early summer 2008. Following the pilot testing of the process, the team expects the process to be exported across the entire C-130 fleet. Following this, the processes could be used for other weapons systems.

The implementation of the HVM process would be done in spirals. As technology, such as on-board systems diagnostics and automated data analysis become available, this could be incorporated into the HVM process.

Robins is a hands-free zone



Drivers on Air Force Materiel Command bases will be cited by security forces personnel for talking on cell phones without hands-free devices. Repeated violations could result in suspended or revoked driving privileges.

Cell phone use while driving is categorized as a moving violation in Air Force Instruction 31-218(I).

WINGMEN WANTED

ASIST - 926-2821; 327-8480

EAP - 327-7683; 926-9516

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING - 335-5218; 335-5236; 335-5238

Civilian discipline, adverse actions

The Air Force Civilian Discipline and Adverse Actions Program is designed to develop, correct, rehabilitate and encourage employees to accept responsibility for their actions. The circumstances of every disciplinary situation, including an employee's past disciplinary record, are taken into account when determining appropriate discipline.

The purpose of this article is to ensure employees are more aware of the program and the consequences for misconduct.

May actions:

- ▶ Reprimand for failure to observe safety practices. No priors.
- ▶ Reprimand for disrespectful conduct. No priors
- ▶ Three-day suspension for failure to observe safety practices. Prior three-day suspension.
- ▶ Two-day suspension for unauthorized use of a government credit card. No priors.
- ▶ Three-day suspension for unauthorized use of a government credit card. No priors.

- ▶ 10-day suspension for unauthorized absence. No priors.
- ▶ 14-day suspension for failure to properly request leave and unauthorized absence. Prior 14-day suspension.
- ▶ 14-day suspension for failure to properly request leave and unauthorized absence. Prior 10-day and five-day suspensions.
- ▶ 14-day suspension for falsification of a government document. No priors.
- ▶ Removal for use of methamphetamine. No priors.

Military disciplinary actions

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:

Article 15s

▶ A master sergeant violated a lawful general regulation by wrongfully changing information on a Standard Form 88 in another individual's case file. Punishment was suspended reduction to technical sergeant and forfeiture of \$225 pay for two months.

▶ A staff sergeant committed adultery with an airman 1st class. Punishment was suspended reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$150 for two months and a reprimand.

▶ A staff sergeant committed the offense of larceny of military property. He falsified leave documentation to steal pay and allowances, in the amount of \$8,195.06, which

was property of the Department of Defense. Punishment reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

▶ A senior airman was derelict in the performance of his duties by negligently failing to properly secure classified documents. Punishment reduction to airman 1st class.

▶ An airman 1st class was derelict in the performance of his duties in that he willfully failed to refrain from watching DVDs while on duty and willfully failing to wear the proper duty uniform while on duty. Punishment was reduction to airman and a reprimand.

▶ An airman 1st class, while TDY, was drunk and disorderly, unlawfully entered the dwelling of another, and resisted arrest. Punishment was reduction to airman and a reprimand.

▶ An airman 1st class failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty. Punishment was suspended reduction to airman and forfeiture of \$400 pay.

▶ An airman 1st class was

derelict in the performance of his duties in that he willfully failed to refrain from possessing a butterfly knife, a dagger, a collapsible baton, and fireworks in the dormitory. Punishment was suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$500 pay for two months, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

▶ An airman 1st class physically controlled a motor vehicle while drunk, willfully damaged a portion of the perimeter fence by striking it with his car (causing over \$1,700 in damage), and fled the scene of the accident. Punishment was reduction to airman basic and a reprimand.

▶ An airman basic was derelict in the performance of his duties in that he willfully consumed alcohol under the legal age of 21. Punishment was 40 days extra duty, 40 days restriction to base, and suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months.

Discharges

▶ An airman 1st class received an Under Honorable Conditions (General) discharge for drug abuse. The member

admitted to wrongfully using marijuana and for this offense, he received a letter of reprimand prior to the initiation of the administrative discharge.

▶ An airman 1st class received a general discharge for Misconduct – Conduct Prejudicial to Good Order and Discipline. The member consumed alcoholic beverages that impaired his ability to handle a firearm. For this offense, he received a letter of reprimand and an unfavorable information file was established. The member was found drunk on duty, and failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty. For these offenses, as a result of a summary court-martial, he was sentenced to one week confinement and a reprimand, and an administrative discharge action was initiated.

▶ A senior airman received an honorable conditions discharge for failure in the fitness program. The member's first failure in the fitness program was documented in January 2005. From that time until July 27, the member had a total of six failures in the fitness program and administrative discharge action was initiated.



► IN BRIEF

QUARTERLY AWARDS

Brig. Gen. Thomas Moore, 116th Air Control Wing commander, will host the Team Robins 3rd Quarter Awards Ceremony Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. Outstanding civilian and military performers from across the base will be recognized. Commanders, supervisors, family members, and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join us in congratulating the nominees for their stellar achievements. For more information, contact Gayle Martin at 926-4940.

AIR FORCE RESERVE BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve will perform a free holiday concert at the Museum of Aviation Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

This annual event features songs from the band's "Happy Holidays" series, including a mixture of classic holiday carols, novelty segments and sing-alongs.

The concert is free, open to the public and will be held in the museum's Century of Flight Hangar. Doors open at 6 p.m., and seating is limited.

"Throughout this past year, the band has literally been around the world entertaining our deployed troops on five continents," said Maj. Chad Steffy, music director and band commander. "We're thrilled to be back home for the holidays and share this gift of music with our friends and family of Middle Georgia."

TAX CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Robins is looking for volunteers to serve as tax advisors at

the base tax center.

No prior tax preparation experience is necessary just the time and desires to help others. The IRS will provide certification training here at Robins January 7 - 11, 2008. Each volunteer must be certified in order to prepare taxes. Volunteers should be active-duty military, retirees and their dependents. Since the tax center is manned by volunteers only, we need committed members who are able to work at least two days a week if possible and not be slated for a TDY during the tax filing season which runs January 21 - April 16, 2008. All interested volunteers contact Master Sgt. April Farmer at 327-4581 or via e-mail at april.farmer@robins.af.mil.

1-2-3 MAGIC

Parents looking for a new and more effective way to discipline are invited to learn about 1-2-3 Magic, a program designed to effectively discipline children ages 2 to 12.

The seminar is being provided free to all interested parties. For more information visit www.parentmagic.com. The two-day seminar will be held Dec. 1 and 8 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Warner Robins Recreation Department's McIntyre Room. You can register by contacting Sharon Lowe, Family Advocacy Program assistant, at 327-8430.

5TH CCG CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

The 5th Combat Communications Group will host a children's holiday party for children of group members Dec. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 963, the Mobility Warehouse. The party will include crafts, pizza and a special visit from Santa Claus. For more information, call Lori Grannon at 988-7914.

FLAG FOOTBALL INTRAMURALS

PLAYOFF RESULTS

Mon-Wed League:

1st Round - Nov. 13

78th MDG def CGOA, 7-6
116th ACW def 542nd CSW, 16-0
330th ASW def 116th AMN, forfeit

Second Round - Nov. 15

78th MDG def 116th ACW, 7-6
78th SFS def 330th ACW, 20-0

UPCOMING:

78th MED vs. 78th SFS, Monday, 6 p.m.
78th CES vs. 19th ARG, Monday, 7 p.m.

The championship game will be played Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Tues-Thurs League:

1st Round - Nov. 13

78th CES def 581st SMXS, 14-8
78th CS def 78th LRS, 6-0
78th CEF def 78th SVS, 8-0

Second Round - Nov. 15

78th CES def 78th CS, 24-0
19th ARG def 78th CEF 32-0

Buckle up ... It's the Law



According to Air Force Instruction 91-207, all motorists and passengers must wear seat belts when operating and/or riding in a moving vehicle. Individuals found not wearing a seat belt in a moving vehicle may be issued a ticket by the 78th Security Forces Squadron.

Be a good wingman and always buckle up. It could be a life or death decision.

HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY!

BE KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER