

This week...

High-temperature work/rest cycles, B1



Next week...

Predictive Maintenance discovery saves Center money, lost work days

# ROBINS REV-UP

July 24, 2009 Vol. 54 No.29

## NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL HVM to drastically change programmed maintenance

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW  
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**O**n July 31, a C-130 Hercules will arrive at Robins and mark the beginning of what is expected to be a dramatic change in the way aircraft maintenance is done.

The Air Mobility Command plane will be the first validation aircraft for High Velocity Maintenance, which means it will be used to test the new method of programmed depot maintenance aimed at reducing aircraft downtime.

"It's the largest philosophical and cultural change in how we do scheduled maintenance in the last 25 to 30 years," said Jerry Mobley, the HVM team lead.

The essence of HVM is that rather than bringing planes in for PDM every five to six years, the planes will come in every 18 months. The expected benefit is that by bringing planes in more regularly, the overall downtime will be significantly less, which is critically important to meeting the Air Force's demand.

In the current PDM cycle, a C-130 is at Robins for an average of 164 days. HVM team members believe the new process will cut the total downtime in that same five- to six-year period by half or better.

They are confident HVM will achieve the expected results, Mr. Mobley said, because it is patterned after the same maintenance practice being used by major commercial airlines. For two years, the HVM team has consulted closely with several airlines on how the process works.



"It's the largest philosophical and cultural change in how we do scheduled maintenance in the last 25 to 30 years."

Jerry Mobley  
HVM Team Lead



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP  
Above, A C-130 similar to this one will help test the HVM process. It's scheduled to arrive here July 31.

At left, L-R, John Huff, C-130 production flight chief and Robert Smith, DLA HVM/XP technical writer, unpack a scuff plate mounting for a C-130.

► see HVM, 2A

## NEW LOOK AHEAD FOR PUBLIC WEB Base set to debut new Web design as it migrates to more user-friendly template

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In May, the Air Force unveiled a new look for its official Web sites, and the Robins public Web site will migrate to that new look Tuesday.

For frequent visitors to the Robins site, the changes will be obvious at a glance. The site will feature a larger layout, larger photos, new technology and less clutter. The design will offer users new content types with the inclusion of slideshows, new video capability, blog-like commenting on content and improved search capability.

Those wanting a sneak peek at what the Robins site will look like can visit the main Air Force

Web site at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

"The new design packages a lot of features our users asked for. The site itself offers more room to display content.

The design is streamlined – it has a neat, clean look and feel. Our main goal here was to make things easier to find and easier to navigate," said Larry Clavette, the director of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency and the Air Force Public Web Program.

The public Web program is a service-wide effort to consolidate all public Web sites to improve security, reduce redundancy, increase performance and standardize site appearance across 315 sites.

According to Patricia Wilson,

chief of the Air Force Public Web for the Defense Media Activity in San Antonio, about 75 sites have already migrated to the new format with 25 more sites migrating each week. All Air Force Web sites will feature the new look before the end of 2009.

May's redesign launch was the culmination of almost a year of work that include research, focus groups and system development, testing and deployment. The whole process began when the Air Force launched a Usability Study survey in 2007. The research determined users liked the rich content of AF.mil, but commented on the poor navigation.

► see WEB, 3A

## Management, labor cement ties, renew 3 partnership agreements

BY MAJ. DAVID BELTON  
david.belton@robins.af.mil

Two important memorandums of agreement were signed Tuesday by base and union leadership that will help strengthen relationships and improve management-labor relations.

Maj. Gen. Polly A. Peyer, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, and Tom Scott, American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 president, signed the Unfair Labor Practices Dispute Resolution Process and a Grievance Mediation MOA at the Air Force Material Command and AFGE Council 214 partnership council meeting here.

"We're building an even stronger relationship between sen-

ior level management and the union," said General Peyer. "We're focused on commitment, collaboration, teamwork and trust."

The two also renewed a Voluntary Protection Program agreement with Russell "Rusty" Adams, president of International Association of Firefighters Union F107.

"Updating these agreements reinforces the fact that not only senior leadership but the local workforce is committed to VPP and partnership principles," Mr. Scott said.

Mr. Adams said he was fully on board with VPP. "How can you be against your workforce going home safe?"

General Peyer confided to the

► see SIGNING, 2A

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### TWO-MINUTEREV

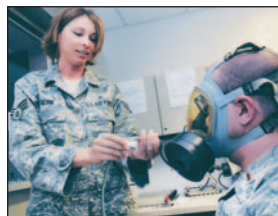
#### Schools closed July 30 and 31 due to furloughs

Schools in the Houston County School System will be open for business as usual July 27 - 29 and August 3, but closed July 30 and 31. Due to severe state funding cuts, most school system employees will be furloughed for three days.

All certified staff, to include principals and teachers, will be furloughed July 30 and July 31 and all elementary and middle schools will be closed. High schools and the central office will have limited staff members, who will be furloughed at a later date so they will be available to assist however needed during the shutdown.

Parents with school-aged children are encouraged to conduct any necessary business prior to July 30 or on August 3. The first day of school is August 4. Parents who have urgent business on July 30 and 31 may contact the central office at 988-6200.

INSIGHT



#### Gas masks

Robins shop ensures gas masks get their seal of approval, 1B

SAFETY



#### Critical Days of Summer

Summer safety focus on importance of defensive driving, 4B

CULTURE



#### Commitment to change

F-15 mechanic takes on role as VPP advocate for his flight, 5A

## HVM

Continued from 1A

“We are very confident, and one of the reasons we are very confident is that we are not the first ones to come up with it,” Mr. Mobley said. “Commercial airlines have been producing airplanes like this for years.”

The reduction in downtime is expected to be achieved through several means. One of the biggest is that planes will be inspected in the field before coming to Robins for maintenance. That will allow maintainers to be far better prepared to get work done because they will know what the planes need before they get here.

For example, when the first validation aircraft was inspected, it was found to be in need of a new scuff plate, a 13-foot part where the ramp meets the fuselage. It’s a significant replacement that requires numerous additional parts, said John Huff, production flight chief for HVM.

Previously the plane would have come in for PDM, an inspection would have been done, and then the determination would be made that a scuff plate replacement was needed. All of those parts would then have to be acquired, along with the needed tools – all while the plane was sitting in the hangar making no contribution to the war effort.

Now the scuff plate

parts have been collected and prepared and a “task kit” has been made so when the plane gets here, the replacement can be made without delay.

Furthermore, now that the plane is scheduled to come back in 18 months, there will not be another need for a field inspection because with a shorter interval between PDM, there is little chance of significant problems for which advance preparation would be needed. Also, with that shorter interval between PDM, some work can be deferred if it does not relate to safety. Under the five- to six-year interval, that wasn’t really an option because it would be so long before the plane would be seen again.

Also, Mr. Mobley said, HVM will eliminate the need for isochronal inspections, which are field maintenance inspections. In the case of the C-130, those must be done every 15 months and puts the plane out of service for two to three weeks. But, because of the shorter interval, that inspection will now become part of the regular PDM, thus further reducing down time.

The move toward HVM began two years ago at the behest of Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, then commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, said Doug Keene, HVM product lead.

“The proposal was made at that time that we needed to take on an effort to dramatically increase the

availability of aircraft,” Mr. Keene said. “If we can increase the velocity of maintenance between scheduled maintenance in depot, we give those back to the warfighter and increase their availability.”

The HVM process will be further tested with another C-130, which will arrive here Sept. 30 and another on Nov. 12. On those occasions, Mr. Mobley said, the focus will not be on speed but on seeing how the process is working and making any needed changes.

Following those evaluations, the plan is for C-130 maintenance at Robins to move fully into active HVM transition. Over the next seven years, the transition to full C-130 HVM will include both HVM and PDM C-130 aircraft. Eventually, other airframes will follow the C-130 lead into HVM.

Mr. Huff said maintainers have generally been enthusiastic about the change.

“They are excited about participation in the new process,” he said. “The mechanic is the bread and butter of the Center and that’s where the focus should be.”

While Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City and Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah, are also doing HVM tests, with the B-1 Lancer at Tinker and the F-22 Raptor at Hill, Robins will be the first to actually implement the program.



U.S. Air Force photo by CLAUDE LAZZARA

Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, WR-ALC commander, and Tom Scott, American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 president, sign a Memorandum of Agreement.

## SIGNING

Continued from 1A

group that when she first read about VPP she was “skeptical that it was just another program.” But after she came to Robins and saw the plan in action, she changed her mind.

“We’ve really taken off with VPP,” she said.

General Peyer also told

the council about the Center’s focus on people, process, performance and infrastructure, or P3I. “Our focus on those areas, which includes a determined effort to improve management-labor relations – is helping us build on our successes,” she said.

The partnership council is designed to create strategic plans to build better

collaboration between the two groups. Council 214, which is made up of an equal number of managers and union officers at the three air logistics centers, meets three times a year at various AFMC bases.

This year’s council is headed by Dr. Steven Butler, executive director of AFMC, and Scott Blanch, president of AFGE Council 214.

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## AF Network Operations begins migration to centralized e-mail, network services

BY TECH. SGT.  
AMAANI LYLE

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz signed a directive memorandum recently granting the Air Force Network Operations commander centralized order-issue authority over the operation, defense, maintenance and control of Air Force networks.

As part of an ongoing service-wide cyber operations transformation, the Air Force will establish a centralized user directory and e-mail service known as ADX that will service all Air Force network users.

The changes will be relatively transparent to most network users, but this migration to centralized services will significantly improve security and efficiency on the Air Force Global Information Grid, officials said.

“Major commands and subordinate commanders will no longer ‘own’ networks, but will be responsible for their portion of the larger AF-GIG,” General Schwartz stated in a mass e-mail to Airmen. “Cyber

operations reinforce and enable everything we do — our Airmen, civilians and contractors, knowingly or unknowingly, engage daily on the cyber battlefield.”

“Our ability to operate in cyberspace is vital to all Air Force missions and our nation’s security,” said Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, the cyber operations director. “Implementation of ADX is one building block we must emplace to streamline management and configuration of our network.”

General Schissler explained that the migration reduces needlessly disparate configurations that hamper efficiency, management and control of the Air Force network.

“ADX will improve our ability to manage user profiles and network access, freeing up vital human resources to focus on other crucial network security tasks,” General Schissler said.

The most visible changes to Airmen will be the move to a single e-mail address (first-name.lastname@us.af.mil) for the duration of their careers, regardless of the base and organization to

which they are assigned. Air Force Network Operations officials said the process builds on the successes of the “E-mail for Life” program, but also provides users log-on capability to any connected Air Force computer without having to re-register for computer access when they relocate to a new base.

“ADX balances resources, accessibility and security — which is good news for Airmen,” said Brig. Gen. Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr., director of Infrastructure Delivery in the Office of Warfighting Integration and the chief information officer. “Airmen, Air Force civilians, and even contractors will have one account and the same suite of software and network resources accessible from any Air Force base around the world.”

General Hawkins said the migration is just the beginning of significant progress as the cyber landscape broadens.

“Between the 24-hour technical support from various call centers around the globe, the streamlined security practices, and the better

use of resources, this migration marks the onset of a huge step forward for the Air Force,” General Hawkins said.

Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., is the first base to undergo the transformation with 1,800 out of 5,800 users already transferred. Over the next 18 months, the complete migration will include approximately 750,000 users at more than 240 locations around the world.

Officials overseeing the migration efforts said base users can prepare for migration by practicing good information management: move old e-mails to a locally stored personal folder, delete unneeded files, and routinely back-up vital files stored on their computer.

For more information concerning ADX, visit the Enterprise IT Initiatives link on the Air Force Portal. ADX specific questions or concerns should be directed to the AFCA/ECSO Enterprise Services Branch, while general AFNetOps specific information is available through the AFCA/ECI AFNETOPS Integration Office.

### Congratulations NCO Academy graduates

Tech. Sgt. Donald Ellison 78<sup>th</sup> Security Forces SquadronTech. Sgt. Patrick McMahon 116<sup>th</sup> Force Support SquadronTech. Sgt. John Paolozzi 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Wing

Tech. Sgt. Robert Pena 17th Air Support Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Amy Solis 578<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Sustainment Squadron

# WEB

Continued from 1A

According to Mike Carabajal, AF.mil webmaster, a main priority of the redesign was to re-evaluate the information on the Web site and “trim the fat” to keep the design clear of clutter while offering more to users.

The most visible changes of the redesign are white space and the fewer links and tabs. The new design features only three top navigation links

versus the old sites’ 13 links and displays half the number of sections to make information easier to find.

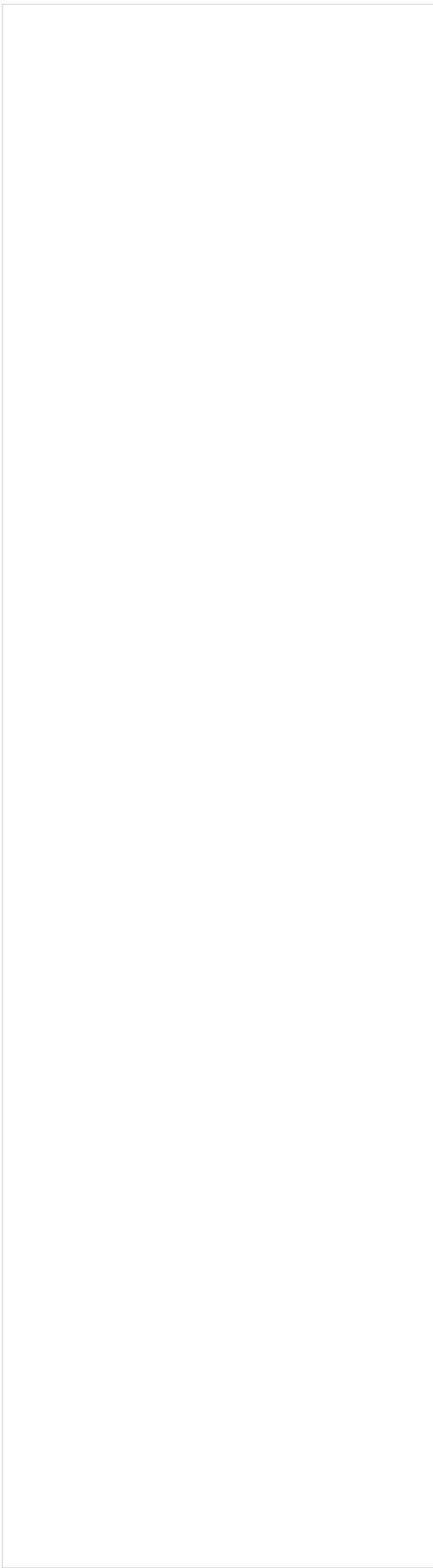
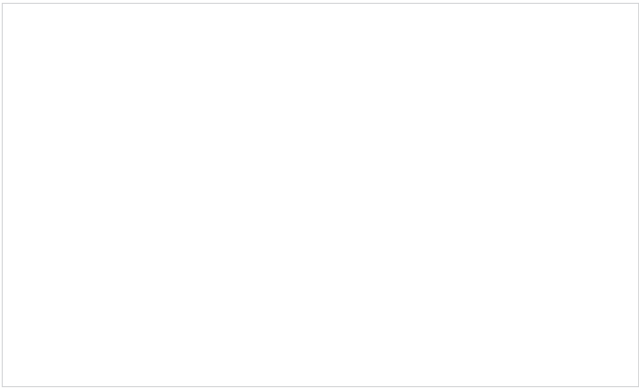
The site also features new technology that allows embeded video capability; a redesigned, customizable photo and art gallery; and users to comment on content posted on the site.

“Web technology and innovation is a never ending pursuit for improvement and capability,” Mr. Clavette said. “The cycle begins anew now for us.”



Above left is the current look of the Robins Web site. Above right is the new look the site will take on Tuesday

## READ THE ROBINS REV-UP VIA THE NEW PUBLIC WEB AT [www.robins.af.mil/library/](http://www.robins.af.mil/library/)



# Commentary

“Today’s Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, Marines – volunteers all – are rightly being called the “new Greatest Generation.”

– Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates

## Commander’s Action Line

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

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

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

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

For more information on the Action Line, visit <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail [action.line@robins.af.mil](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil).

▶ Security Forces	327-3445
▶ FSS (Services)	926-5491
▶ Equal Opportunity	926-2131
▶ Employee Relations	926-5802
▶ Military Pay	926-4022
▶ IDEA	926-2536
▶ Civil engineering	926-5657
▶ Public Affairs	926-2137
▶ Safety Office	926-6271
▶ Fraud, Waste, Abuse	926-2393
▶ Housing Office	926-3776
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Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to [78ABW.PARRevUp@robins.af.mil](mailto:78ABW.PARRevUp@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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## IN MY OWN WORDS...



**Mac Roberts**  
402nd Maintenance Wing

*Today’s thoughts are from Mac Roberts, a sheet metal mechanic in the 402nd Maintenance Wing. He took time to talk about the issue of:*

### effective communication

Everything revolves around communication. If you don’t have good communication, you can’t get anything done. I just recently volunteered for HVM, High Velocity Maintenance, and that’s going to involve a lot of communication ... talking with people making those targeted kits for certain jobs.

Communication means everything. From start to finish, it’s going to be about communication. HVM is going to involve the mechanic being on top of the process more than planning and management. In other

words, the mechanic is going to tell the leaders what needs to be done to the plane, and they are going to adjust their process and flows and charts according to what we set. We are going to be saying “Let’s do this because...” It’s going to be streamlined and a better process.

The consequence of bad communication is 165 days to get a plane out. It means a plane being down for six months as opposed to five. That’s what HVM is all about. In the business world they get planes out in 30

days. That’s what we want to do. Supporting the warfighter is what it’s all about. HVM is the future of the Air Force maintenance-wise.

Communication in my area needs improvement. But I think things like HVM and the dedicated crews will improve the communication.

I’ve only been here a couple of years. I’m from the business world; I owned my own tire store. When you own your own business you learn from your mistakes and that bad communication always costs you.

This is a regular feature in which Team Robins members are asked to give their thoughts on targeted areas of improvement. Those areas are trust, successful communications, grievances, recognition, teamwork, success, integrity, fairness, the Big Picture, diversity or other subject of interest. If you would like to participate, call Wayne Crenshaw at 222-0807 or e-mail him at [wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil](mailto:wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil).

## Training: It really can save a life

Does this sound familiar? “You have training next week?” or “You’re deploying, you need to get those computer-based trainings done,” and you’re thinking “not again” or “why am I doing this?” We’ve all been there, and we’ve all griped at least once. But there is a reason for training.

Training helps us to grow both professionally and personally. What you take from the training session is all dependent on your mindset. Channel your energy on the positive aspects of training, not the negative. Ask yourself, “How can I benefit from this?”

I am a training manager in the 52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron’s Maintenance Training Flight. My flight is responsible for ensuring standardized training for approximately 1,800 52nd Maintenance Group members. Our primary goal is to identify and meet personnel training needs. We take great pride in our daily efforts to instill knowledge and skills to help people improve their job performance. Training is important, and despite the complaints, I know people understand the need.

Let me share a story with you about two of my Airmen, one of them a technical sergeant. Read the story from his perspective then tell me if training is important.

This is the technical sergeant’s story:

March 13 was like any other day off except my boss and I decided to take a trip snowboarding. Since we are the only ones in our shop who enjoy the sport it was just us two. I picked him up around 9 a.m. and we headed out to the Netherlands. Though it was a three-day weekend, we decided to take a day-trip up to Snow World instead of traveling down to the Alps.

Once we arrived, we bought day passes and went to the slopes. The day started light with the warm-ups. My boss was working on his turns and getting better control of his board. On the fourth run my boss went down the hill first.

When I finished strapping into my bindings, I slid down to the base of the hill. The first thing I noticed was the base of my boss’s board sticking up straight. When I got to him he was face down in the snow, almost like he was

asleep. I thought he was joking at first until I saw the pool of blood soaking through the snow.

I immediately checked for signs of respiration. Once I established he was still breathing, I checked for any signs of a spinal injury. There was no abnormality along his spinal cord and no clear liquid protruding from the ears or nose. I then proceeded to check for further injuries. Finding none, I tried to revive him. Approximately five minutes later he finally regained consciousness. He was able to roll over and sit up with some help.

By this time a few people stopped to ask if he was OK and a Snow World staff member had been notified. He couldn’t remember where he was, how he got there or what day it was. His eyes were dilated. Noticing the signs of a concussion, I figured we needed to get him to the hospital right away. My boss was pretty banged up; he cut his lip and took a chunk out of the left side of his face.

During the entire trip to the hospital, my boss repeated the same questions every five min-

utes. “Where are we, how did we get here, and what day is it?” About half way to the hospital he was able to remember what day it was. I engaged him in conversation to make sure he would stay awake.

The good news is the Airman survived with only a few bruises and a minor concussion. This was due to the technical sergeant’s immediate application of his life-saving self aid buddy care skills training.

So the next time you wonder why you’re in training, think back to this story. In this case, it helped prevent the loss of a highly-valued team member. No matter what type of training you attain, there are always benefits. You never know when you will need to use it, and it’s good to have that knowledge.

As the old cliché goes, “It’s better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.”

—This commentary was written by Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Abraham, 52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron training manager, Spangdahlem, Air Base Germany.



### How important is your wingman?



**Jason Hogan**  
642nd CMSG

“A wingman is someone to run ideas by.”



**Jennifer Ridley**  
WRALC/DPCLA

“She keeps up with me and my work and picks it up when I’m not here. We keep each other balanced.”



**Kim Barbee**  
WRALC/DPLC

“My wingman means everything to me. She knows everything about me and still likes me. We have a bond of helping each other at work.”



**Tech. Sgt. Jacou Blurton**  
578th CBSS

“Very. Not just to me but to every Airman, Air Force-wide. They’re someone you depend on to back you up on anything that might arise.”

# F-15 mechanic : 'Value, don't prioritize VPP'

BY LISA MATHEWS

lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

Keith Hall knows that safety is a full-time job, and even though his position as an F-15 aircraft mechanic in the 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's B Flight keeps him pretty busy, he didn't hesitate to step forward as the Voluntary Protection Program point of contact for the B-Flight's cells seven and eight.

Mr. Hall has a strong commitment to VPP and the wingman cultures. He said the VPP and wingman programs work well together; each is focused on keeping workers and customer's products safe and hazard free.

"It is very important to me that we do our jobs and keep safety in mind," he said. "I would hate it if one of our customers flew one of our products and never returned safely. I couldn't stand that."

Being safe is also something he strives for at home as well as at work each day.

"Safety is very important to me," he said. "I have a wife and two children, and their well being and safety is never compromised."

Although he's been here only 2.5 years, Mr. Hall is not a novice at VPP. Previously an employee of Brown and Williamson, he said that company also had a VPP program as well as the Take 2 program, similar to the Wingman structure the Air Force supports.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Keith Hall, 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's B Flight, inspects an F-15 Strike Eagle for foreign object debris.**

Soon after coming to work at the center, Mr. Hall volunteered to become the POC for the VPP initiative in cells seven and eight. He said he uses visual management, such as large signs with a few words, which workers can read quickly to remind them that safety is paramount. The flight also has safety walks and safety talks during daily roll calls.

His co-workers, especially the younger, new employees, are very comfortable with pointing out possible safety hazards, he said, and take immediate action to correct them.

"They are new and don't mind when they're reminded to wear their personal protection equipment," he said. "They also recognize things that others have missed simply because it has become the routine and is accepted as safe."

For Mr. Hall, VPP is not

a priority. It is a value.

"I tell supervisors, 'Don't make VPP a No. 1 priority,' because priorities change. If there is a push in production, VPP drops from priority No. 1 to lower on the ladder. Rather, I tell them VPP needs to be a value. Your values don't diminish due to (the) unexpected," he explained.

Mr. Hall said the various cells in his flight, as well as other areas across the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, share lessons learned and have cross talk sessions. If one area finds a safety risk that could also be present in another area, they share the information with others.

"The important thing is to keep safety as part of your daily routine so that it is ingrained in you," he said. "By doing this, it becomes (an) instinct rather than just another program."

**THINK  
OPSEC:**

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

**SHRED  
INSTEAD**

## ► IN BRIEF

### ROAD CLOSURE

From Aug. 3-16, the out-bound lanes of Martin Luther King Boulevard will be closed at Gate 5 to allow civil engineers an opportunity to make necessary improvements to the road.

The closure will create a temporary inconvenience for motorists, but will improve the overall security of the base.

If you have any questions regarding this project, call Marshall Wall at 327-8935.

### SENIOR NCO

#### RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Robins TOP 3 will host the Senior Non-commissioned Officers Recognition Ceremony July 31 at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hanger at 7 p.m. R.S.V.P. by Monday to Master Sgt. Darrell Murphy at 327-8116.

### HEALTHY START

#### SCHOOL SCREENINGS

The 78th Medical Group will be providing Healthy Start school screenings for Tricare beneficiaries entering Georgia schools for the first time.

Students from pre-k to 12th grade can receive a screening Saturday, Aug. 1 or Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 700A. No appointments are necessary. Children will have vision, hearing and dental exams, all of which are required by the Georgia school system. In addition, height, weight, blood pressure and scoliosis screenings will be performed. Immunizations will be available, so bring a

copy of your child's latest shot record. Security Forces will also be providing finger printing services. The Georgia school forms 3300 and 3231 will be available and can be completed at the event.

The above services will be performed for school screenings only. If your child needs a sports physical, contact 327-7850 to schedule an appointment with their PCM. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Ashley Sims at 327-8220.

### LARGEST MILITARY EDUCATION FAIR

The Department of Defense Worldwide Education Symposium will be held July 27-31 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in downtown Atlanta

For the first time, the conference will feature the World's Largest Military Education Fair, and service-members from all branches of the Armed Forces are invited to attend. Military personnel in uniform will be admitted free to the education fair July 29 from 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be more than 160 colleges, universities and educational vendors on display. Adult family members with a military sponsor are also welcome to attend at no charge.

More than 2,000 military and civilian personnel, and exhibitors from across the country and around the world are expected to attend the symposium.

More details about the symposium and information on registration are available at [www.ww09atlanta.com](http://www.ww09atlanta.com).

## PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



# Putting Safety First

## Cycling work, rest vital to health when temperatures climb

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

In front of the Fitness Center, there is a flag that could save a life.

It's the flag that signifies the current heat condition, and along with the color comes recommendations for rest periods and water intake to prevent heat exhaustion.

For those who aren't around the Fitness Center, the flag condition is regularly updated on the main Robins Web site at <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil>.

The Web page gives detailed information about what each flag condition signifies and the work/rest cycles that should be used to avoid becoming overheated.

White flag is the lowest, posted at a wet bulb globe temperature of 78-81.9 degrees. The wet bulb globe temperature is a composite used to estimate the combined effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation.

The highest caution is a black flag, which is posted at WBGT of 90 degrees or higher. A black flag carries a recommendation that for hard work, 10 minutes of work should be followed by 50 minutes of rest, with a water intake of one quart.

Examples of hard work include hiking on steep terrain or with a heavy load, or intense fitness drills.

1st Lt. Michael Webber, a bioenvironmental engi-

neer in the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, said the guidelines for the flag conditions are suggestions.

"Whatever the flags are, the most important thing is to use common sense and drink plenty of water," he said.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, paleness, cramps, dizziness and weakness. But people should not wait for those symptoms before taking a rest, he said.

"If you are starting to feel a little something, just stop and rest for 10 minutes," he said.

Although July has been unusually pleasant for Georgia, June was brutally hot and humid, and the heat can be expected to return to full force in August.

Paul Kelley, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron chief of operations, said his unit has about 200 people who work outside. Heat exhaustion is a significant safety concern, he said.

"We stress all the time about keeping hydrated," he said. "We pay attention to the flag system. We emphasize to our people to watch out for one another."

He said June was the hottest month at Robins since 1998, but there were no significant problems from his work crew with heat exhaustion. The 78th CES handles a variety of maintenance operations around base, employing heavy equipment opera-



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP  
Don Worthington, Fitness Center assistant, raises a yellow heat index flag to indicate local heat conditions. The yellow flag represents a recommendation of a 40/20 minutes work/rest cycle for moderate work, and a 30/30 work/rest cycle for hard work.

tors, roofers, carpenters, electricians and others.

Mr. Kelley said air conditioning repair people, ironically, have some of hottest jobs because they are typically working on roofs. Paving work is also an especially hot job, he said.

Rick Clark, a mason in the 78th CES, knows a little something about getting overheated. He was once taken to the hospital after participating in a flightline competition. Co-workers feared he was suf-

fering a heat stroke.

He turned out to be OK, but the experience has made him more aware of the dangers about working outdoors. During the summer, the crew has changed its working hours. They used to start at 7:30 a.m. and end their day at 4:30 p.m., but now they start at 6:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

"We also make sure we have plenty of water on hand," he said. "If we get too hot, we sit in the truck to cool down."

## Work/Rest Cycles

**Stage 1**  
Easy work- no limit  
Moderate work-no limit  
Hard work- 40/20

**Stage 2**  
Easy work- no limit  
Moderate work-50/10  
Hard work- 30/30

**Stage 3**  
Easy work- no limit  
Moderate work-40/20  
Hard work-30/30

**Stage 4**  
Easy work- no limit  
Moderate work-30/30  
Hard work- 20/40

**Stage 5**  
Easy work- 50/10  
Moderate work-20/40  
Hard work- 10/50



Above, Rick Clark, 78th CES mason, puts finishing touches on a sidewalk in front of Bldg. 936.

Below, Mr. Clark takes a work break and rehydrates.



### WORK DEFINITIONS

►Easy work: Walking on level terrain, hiking with less than 15-pound load, weapons maintenance, drill and ceremony, and marksmanship training.

►Moderate work: Walking on rolling terrain, hiking with 15 to 25-pound load, calisthenics, team sports, physical fitness testing, and rappelling.

►Hard Work: Hiking on steep terrain or with more than 25-pound load, obstacle courses, intense fitness drills.

Note: The list is not all-inclusive. However, it should provide supervisors a starting point for making sound decisions regarding workers' work/rest cycles.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
Senior Airman Stephanie Kern, bioenvironmental technician, watches as 2nd Lt. Michael Palmer, puts on a MCU-2A/P gas mask on so she can run a fit test.

## SEAL OF APPROVAL Shop ensures gas masks are fit to fight

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

One of the things required for anyone who deploys from Robins is to make sure they have a gas mask that fits properly and that they know how to use it.

That testing and training is done at the Gas Mask Shop. Although putting on a gas mask might seem like a simple enough task, a lot of people make mistakes when they come in for the testing, said Joseph Brothers, shop supervisor.

But the testing, called Quantitative Mask Fitness Testing and Training, isn't just to test the person but also to test the mask itself. The mask is donned, and then a tube connects it to a machine that measures the

air outside and inside the mask. The air inside is supposed to be 2,000 times cleaner than the air outside.

The test also looks at whether the mask is making a good seal around the face. Mr. Brothers said the testing helps give the user confidence the mask will work if it is ever needed in a real emergency.

"If you are going through a life or death situation such as nerve gas or some kind of chemical agent, you want to make sure that mask is fitting properly," he said.

The shop has had a significant change in the frequency of testing that is reducing the workload. It used to be that all military personnel issued a gas mask had to come for testing every 20 to 40 months.

Now the user will not have to come in after initial testing unless certain changes occur. Those include losing or gaining 10 percent of body weight, extensive dental work, facial surgery, scarring or disfigurement. All of those can impact whether the mask seals properly on the face.

2nd Lt. Michael Palmer, who is working a rotation in the shop, went through the testing Wednesday, which is the designated day for walk-in testing.

The testing includes having the user move his head up and down and side to side to mimic normal movements. It's intended to make sure the seal remains tight.

A gas mask can make breathing a little more dif-

ficult. "It's not the most comfortable thing in the world," Lieutenant Palmer said, describing what it's like to wear a gas mask.

The shop also tests industrial masks used at Robins. Mr. Brothers said there are over 300 processes on base that require some kind of respiratory mask. Approximately 2,900 people working on base use an industrial mask, Mr. Brothers said, and every one of them has to come in for annual training to learn the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations for mask use.

"Even though you've been out here 20 years you still have to come through respirator training," Mr. Brothers said.

## 78th FSS BRIEFS

### FRIDAY

**Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies Under the Stars** July 24 for a presentation of "The Bee Movie." The movie will start at dark behind the Heritage Club. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

### MONDAY

**The 78th Air Base Wing Summer Sports Day is scheduled for July 30** starting at 7 a.m. Deadline to sign up is July 27. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

**Family Night Bingo will be held July 27** at the community center in the Heritage Club. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. Cost is \$4 per game pack, limit three packages per person. All children receive a door prize. To learn more call the community center at 926-4515.

### WEDNESDAY

**Every Wednesday is "Wacky Wednesday"** with horse races and hard luck games. Both events will begin at 7:15 p.m. Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games begin at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Anyone with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, DOD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or 926-1303.

### UPCOMING

**The entire Robins community is invited!** A First Friday "Ships Ahoy Mate" will be held in conjunction with the Build-A-Boat contest in the Heritage Club ballroom and pool from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7. Call the community center to enter the Build a Boat Contest. Teams need

to sign up for build-a-boat by Monday, Aug. 3. Contestants may build their boats from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with a boat race at 7 p.m., pirates, parrots or favorite nautical character costume contest at 6 p.m., dig for treasures (club members only) at 6:30 p.m. and the best seaworthy award will be at 7:30 p.m. Free swimming held after the boat race. Feature entertainment will be Big Mike and the Booty Pappas. Sea rations will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is free for members and a nominal fee for nonmembers. Join the club during the event to wave the fee. Event sponsored in part by State Farm and Macon Office Supplies. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

**The Japanese art of floral arrangement, Ikebana is coming to the Arts & Crafts Center.** Classes will be held on Saturdays Aug. 8, 15 and 29 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a three-week course for \$67.50. For more information call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

**An Aviation Art Exhibit and Aero Club Open House will be held Aug. 15** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring the works of Jim Balleto and others at the aero club hanger, Bldg. 186 off Perimeter Rd. Free grillin's will be available for the first 100 guests. Aviation artwork will also be on display at the Arts & Crafts Center the week prior and after the open house. For more details call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

### ONGOING

**Register now for youth cheerleading, flag and tackle football Monday – Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.** at the youth center. Cheerleading will be held for children 5 to 12 years old, cost is \$90; Flag football for children 5 to 10 years with sign up by July 28. Tackle football for children 11 and 12 years old; cost is \$55 and sign up by July 17. A sports uniform is included in the registration fee. Bring a copy of physical and birth certificate at the time of

## We all scream for ice cream



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Blanchella Casey, supervisory librarian, makes sundaes for Trevor Rankins and George Brown at an ice cream party Monday to celebrate the end of the "Be Creative @ Your Library" summer reading program. The program was led by Venus Mansourzadeh, library aide, and encouraged children to read books.**

registration. For more information call Ron Hayes at the youth center at 926-2110.

### Outdoor Recreation is offering the following trips:

- ▶ Join outdoor recreation on a tree climbing rendezvous to Panola State Park on Aug. 22. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. with a departure of 9:30 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and deadline to sign up is Aug. 3. A minimum of six people is required for outdoor recreation to host the trip.
- ▶ Go on a Wild Adventure at Lookout Mountain, Ga. Aug. 29 – 31 with outdoor adventure. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. with a departure of 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 29 and return at 5 p.m. Aug. 31. Cost is \$288 per person (10 years and older). Deadline to register is Aug. 6. A minimum of 10 people are required to host the trip.
- ▶ A kayaking trip is planned with outdoor recreation on the Flint River Sept. 26. Cost is \$40 per person and deadline to register is Sept. 7.

▶ Learn history with outdoor recreation on a visit to the Drummer Boy Civil War Museum in Andersonville, Ga. Oct. 3. Cost is \$20 per person and deadline to sign up is Sept. 18. For more information call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

**The Council of College and Military Educators is offering scholarships** to United States service members and their spouses who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees. For more information visit <http://www.ccmeonline.org/nashville10.aspx?session=scholarships>. Application deadline for both scholarships is Sept. 1. For more information call the Education and Training Office at 327-7330.

**Attention active duty members and DOD civilians.** Did you know that your child or children can attend the school age program at the Youth Center?

Do you also know that would include transportation to and from

the following schools for children ages five – 12 years old attending the school age program only: Linwood Elementary, Lake Joy Primary, Lake Joy Elementary, Hilltop Elementary and Bonaire Elementary. Registration will be held now until filled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and registration call Tommy Henson at 926-1795 or 926-2110.

**The Instant Payback club drive has kicked off.** New members will receive three months free dues and zero percent introductory rate for six months. All new members can register on-line at [www.afclubs.net](http://www.afclubs.net) for a chance to win \$250 by completing the on-line survey. Receive discounts on every club meal purchase and cash back (2% on base/1% off base) on everything you buy with your MasterCard. The club drive will end Aug. 15. Sponsored in part by Chase. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. To apply on line go to [www.afclubs.net](http://www.afclubs.net) or call 1-800-569-1285 or visit Horizons.

## Airman & Family Readiness Center 926-1256

**Bldg. 794, 725 9th Street, Suite 100**

**Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

The following classes, workshops and services will be held at the Airman & Family Readiness Center:

### Group Pre-Separation Counseling Briefings:

July 30 - 1 to 2 p.m.

### Conflict Resolution:

July 28 - 3 to 4 p.m. taught by the Military Family Life Consultant

### Veterans Administration DTAP Briefing:

July 29 - 9 to 11 a.m.

### Veterans Administration Benefits Workshop:

July 29 - noon to 4 p.m.

### MilitaryHOMEFRONT

MilitaryHOMEFRONT is available as the official Department of Defense Web site for reliable quality of life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers.

(<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>) as that has information on all military installations worldwide.

### Military OneSource

Military OneSource is provided by the DOD at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status) and their families.

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>. From simple questions to complex issues, you can use Military One Source 24/7. If you don't have a computer you may call 1-800-342-9647; for conversation en Espanol, llame al: 1-8877-888-0727. For additional information call 926-1256.

### Military & Family Life Consultant program

Need to talk? Military & family life consultants are here to listen. MFLCs are available to help service members, spouses, family members, children and staff address the following:

- Deployment/reintegration issues
- Marriage and relationship issues
- Parenting/sibling & family issues
- Communication challenges
- Stress and anxiety
- Depression
- Grief and loss
- Daily life issues

Consultation and training are free and anonymous. No records are kept. Scheduling an appointment is easy; call 478-230-2987.

For more information on services, classes and workshops provided by the Robins Airman and Family Readiness Center visit <http://www.robins.af.mil/library/airman&familyreadinesscenter/index.asp>

## DONATE YOUR LEAVE

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

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

### 78th FSS DIRECTORY

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

Additional information on Services events and activities can be found in **The Edge** and at [www.robinservices.com](http://www.robinservices.com)

### CHAPEL SERVICES

#### Catholic

Catholic masses are at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

#### Islamic

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

#### Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

#### Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

#### Protestant

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

### NOW PLAYING



**JULY 24  
7:30 P.M.  
THE TAKING OF  
PELHAM 123  
RATED R**

Armed men hijack a New York City subway train, holding the passengers hostage in return for a ransom, and turning an ordinary day's work for dispatcher Walter Garber into a face-off with the mastermind behind the crime. As the tension mounts beneath his feet, Garber employs his vast knowledge of the subway system to save the hostages



**JULY 25  
3 P.M.  
THE HANGOVER  
RATED R**

Two days before his wedding, Doug and his three friends drive to Las Vegas for a blow-out bachelor party they'll never forget. But, in fact, when the three grooms-men wake up the next morning, they can't remember a thing. For some reason, they find a tiger in the bathroom and a six-month old baby in the closet of their suite at Caesars Palace.



**JULY 25  
7:30 P.M.  
THE TAKING OF  
PELHAM 123  
RATED R**

Armed men hijack a New York City subway train, holding the passengers hostage in return for a ransom, and turning an ordinary day's work for dispatcher Walter Garber into a face-off with the mastermind behind the crime. As the tension mounts beneath his feet, Garber employs his vast knowledge of the subway system to save the hostages

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



# Air Force heritage activities offer chances to volunteer

## AFMC HISTORY OFFICE

Have some spare time on your hands? Want to give back to the Air Force community? The heritage activities in Air Force Materiel Command are looking for volunteers to help support museum operations.

In addition to the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, AFMC has 14 heritage activities spread over 11 bases.

Activities include field museums, heritage centers, airparks, and historical holdings—each of which offers the opportu-

nity for volunteers.

Volunteers do everything from greeting and guiding visitors to restoring aircraft. All four of the field museums, located at Edwards AFB, Eglin AFB, Hill AFB, and Robins, operate dynamic and educational programs that serve the local public and private school systems.

Volunteers help with student groups, teaching the fundamentals of flight, and talking to them about the aerospace career field. Other volunteer opportunities include helping with collections management, working in the reference library, or washing and

painting aircraft. Below are brief descriptions of the four field museums accepting volunteers:

►The Museum of Aviation at Robins is the second largest Air Force museum (after the National Museum of the USAF.)

The museum's newest exhibit, which recently won a 2009 Air Force Heritage Award, is titled "Down to Earth: the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the Air Invasion of Normandy."

Robins is looking for volunteers in the following areas: greeters/visitor's desks, tour guides,

archives/library, aircraft restoration, education tours and gift shop.

According to Dan Hart, volunteer program administrator for the Museum of Aviation, volunteers are also needed who can work on an as needed basis especially on weekends, when regular volunteers are absent.

For more information on volunteer opportunities available at Robins, contact Mr. Hart at 926-4242 or via e-mail at dan.hart@museumofaviation.org.

►Edwards AFB, Calif., home to the mission of flight test since the 1950's, hosts the AF Flight Test

Museum.

The names of famous pilots and planes resonate throughout the museum, such as the X-1 flown by Chuck Yeager and the XB-49 flown by Glenn Edwards, namesake of the base.

►Eglin AFB, Fla., is home of the Air Armament Museum. The museum displays the history of the development of bombs and missiles. One of its newest additions is the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb, nicknamed the "Mother Of All Bombs" and weighing in at 21,000 lbs.

►The mission of Hill AFB, Utah's Aerospace

Museum is to portray the history of Hill AFB, Utah, through a collection of aviation artifacts. The museum hosts nearly 90 static display aircraft and offers a variety of opportunities for volunteers to handle their "care and feeding."

Additional AFMC field heritage activities are located at Hanscom AFB, MA; Holloman AFB, New Mexico; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

To learn more about AFMC heritage activities, visit the bases' public websites, or contact Laura Romesburg at 937-257-3279 or DSN 787-3279.

## Heart Link offers spouses insight to AF world

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

Robins has a lot of offer families of Airmen.

It has so much to offer, in fact, that sometimes even spouses who have been here for years don't know all that is available.

That is the focus of an upcoming class called Heart Link that is offered by the Integrated Delivery System and hosted at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. The class is aimed toward the new spouses of Airmen who have been married for less than five years, said Tony Pope, community readiness technician.

Even some who have been married to Airmen for more than five years and

have taken the class have said they learned a lot, he said.

"The biggest thing I want them to walk away with is that they know if they run into a problem, they have a place to turn," he said.

Each participant gets a tote bag filled with information about the Air Force and the services provided here for families, and even a book listing of acronyms that can permeate the conversation of anyone who works for the Air Force.

They learn about the various classes and counseling services available and numerous agencies that can provide help. They also get to hear from some top leaders on base.

Although the class sizes are sometimes small, Mr. Pope said the response is overwhelmingly positive. He read a few of the comments from forms that participants fill out at the end of the class which included: "I wish I had done this earlier," "very informative" and "I learned a lot of great information."

The class is held four times each year, and the next one is set for Aug. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the A&FRC. It includes lunch at the Wynn Dining Facility, so participants can see how their spouses may eat. The class has a maximum capacity of 25.

Those who want to sign up for the class can call the A&FRC at 926-1256.

## Robins youth sports opportunities

►Sign up today for the British Soccer Summer Camp to be held Aug. 10 - 14. Cost is \$63 for three to four year olds and \$86 for five to 16. Receive a free soccer jersey when you sign up. For more information call 926-2110.

►Youth fall soccer and start smart soccer registrations runs through July 28 from noon to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday. The cost is \$55 for kids 5 – 18 and the start smart soccer for children three to four years old. Apply in person at the Youth Center or call 926-2110.

## INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

### Final regular season standings

TEAM	W	L	TEAM	W	L
402 EMXG	15	0	78 CS	7	8
116 ACW	14	1	542nd CBSG	6	9
581 SMXS	13	2	402nd MXW	6	9
78 CEG/CEX	13	2	138 MIC	5	10
5th CCG #1	12	3	638 GP	5	10
402 CMXG	11	4	330 CPTS	4	11
116 MXS	9	6	78 FSS	4	11
78 SFS	9	6	5th CCG #2	3	12
HQ AFRC	9	6	330 ASW	2	13
542nd CSW	8	7	78 CCS*	0	15
78 MDG	8	7	78 LRS*	0	15
78 CEG/CEF	7	8			

### ROBINS AERO CLUB

Private pilot ground school registration runs through Aug. 2 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with school starting Aug. 3 – Sept. 25. Cost is \$585 and is due at the time of

registration. Tuition assistance is available to active duty members. Register soon as classroom seating is limited. For more information, call the Aero Club at 926-4867.

# 101



## CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER Defensive Driving

According to U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters, the number of people who died on the nation's roads dropped again in 2007, reaching historically low levels.

Secretary Peters said that in 2007, the overall number of traffic fatalities fell to 41,059, the lowest number since 1994. In addition, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.37, the lowest fatality rate on record, she noted.

The Secretary added that 2.49 million people were injured in highway crashes last year, the lowest since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began collecting injury data in 1988.

The National Safety Council provides these handy tips regarding defensive driving:

▶Never drive drunk and or drugged, wear a seat-belt, and ensure everyone in your vehicle does the same.

▶More collisions occur at intersections than any other location. Cross traffic is dangerous and requires attention to traffic signals.

▶When approaching a green light, be prepared for it to turn red. It may have been green for most of its cycle. Yellow lights mean proceed with caution, not speed up to get through the intersection before the light turns red.

▶When stopped at a red light and it turns green, look left, right and left again before proceeding, even when you have the right-of-way.

▶When driving in wet weather, slow down and do not use cruise control. Wet pavement and cruise control make it far too easy to hydroplane. Reduce speed as conditions warrant; it is not safe to drive at the posted speed limit in all situations. Stay in middle lanes as water tends to pool in outside lanes. Increase your following distance to four or five seconds as road conditions warrant.

▶Anticipate the worst moves that drivers around you could make, and know how to safely react to each move.

▶Do not let your emotions dominate your driving; avoid aggression and do not drive angry.

▶If your windshield wipers are on, your headlights should also be on. Never drive through moving water or puddles that touch your car frame. Should your vehicle begin to skid, do not brake. Hard-steer in the direction you want to go, and use moderate turns until out of the skid.

▶In traffic always have an escape route in mind and maintain situational awareness. Use the three second rule to keep a safe distance from the vehicles in front of you. If someone is following you too closely, slow down. Make a regular habit of scanning your path of travel 12-15 seconds ahead of you.

▶Exercise increased caution anytime you have a limited field of vision, especially in construction zones and around emergency scenes, as other drivers may be distracted and not properly focused on their driving.

▶Slow down and give erratic or dangerous drivers a wide berth.

—78th ABW Safety Office

