

This week...

New captains, lieutenant colonels, page A4

Next week...

Electronic Warfare team works to keep foreign militaries protected

ROBINS REV-UP

September 11, 2009 Vol. 54 No.36

Nightclub shooting leads to ban by 78th ABW commander

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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In the wake of the shooting death of an Airman outside of a Warner Robins night club last week, the establishment has been placed off limits to service members.

Col. Carl Buhler, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, declared LaRouge night club off limits until further notice.

Staff Sgt. Clarence Lee of the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron was shot to death outside the club on Sept. 4, according to news reports. Eldridge

Romain LeBlanc, 22, of Gonzales, La., was later arrested and charged with his murder. The shooting reportedly followed an argument between the two.

The order states that service members cannot go into the club or onto its external premises.

The order is made in accordance with Air Force Instruction 31-213, for the "good order, safety and welfare" of service personnel and is effective immediately. Questions regarding the order should be referred to unit commanders.

The club is located at 627 S.

Houston Lake Road in Oasis Plaza, a relatively new shopping center.

The shooting happened just minutes before the 2 a.m. closing time of the club, which opened in February.

A memorial service for Sergeant Lee was held Wednesday at the base chapel.

Robins Remembers



Team Robins members recall events of Sept. 11

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
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There are many dates in each of our lives that stand out, like a wedding day, the birth of a child or the death of a loved one.

Those moments influence our lives, for better or worse, and give us memories that remain with us forever.

One moment in history that has impacted nearly every American is the events of September 11, 2001.

Eight years ago today, there were a series of coordinated attacks upon the United States. On that morning, Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners.

The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade

Center in New York City, killing everyone on board and many others working in the buildings. Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying nearby buildings and damaging others.

The hijackers crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., just outside of Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville in rural Pennsylvania, after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane, which the hijackers had redirected toward Washington, D.C. There were no survivors from any of the flights.

While most Americans watched the horrific events unfold on a television screen, many Robins workers witnessed it firsthand and today have their own personal tales from that fateful day.

"We heard the engine explode. It sounded like an artillery attack. We thought it was the end of the world," said Maj. Wes Cox, commander of the 578th Combat Sustainment Squadron.

Major Cox was in the Pentagon when the plane crashed into the building. Following the crash, he was among those who set up triage in the center of the Pentagon. He said his main desire at the time was to help those who were suffering, but the heat from the blast made it impossible.

"I'll never forget when the firefighters said, 'It's too hot. We can't go in. We have to let them go.' That was the ultimate frustration," he said. "We did the best we were allowed to do, but I still wish there was something more we could have done."

Master Sgt. Quinton Williams, NCO in charge of the Communications Directorate's

► see REMEMBER, 3A



Maj. Wes Cox



Master Sgt. Quinton Williams



Personnel system report released; senior leaders review way ahead

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

Senior defense leaders will use a recently issued report on the National Security Personnel System when they decide what to do with the civilian personnel system this fall.

Last spring, Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III directed that a comprehensive review of NSPS be conducted to ascertain whether the system is fair and understandable to participating employees.

The Defense Business Board's task group report recommended a "reconstruction" of the NSPS. The group was chaired by former Deputy Defense Secretary Rudy DeLeon.

"The leadership of the Department of Defense is committed to fair, transparent processes and personnel systems," said Brad Bunn, the Defense Department's program executive officer for NSPS.

Internal surveys indicated that some employees were

unhappy with NSPS, specifically with regard to performance evaluations.

Other issues cited in the report include pay pools and their lack of transparency, as well as questions about the current pay band structure.

"This process of reviewing NSPS has gone a long way to helping inform leadership what those issues are," he said.

NSPS's pay-for-performance system replaced 50-year-old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

The new system offers a pay-banding construct, where salaries are adjusted and based not only on performance but also on factors such as labor market conditions and changes in duties.

The more than 200,000 defense civilians who have been transferred into NSPS since the system began three years ago, Mr. Bunn said, will be performance rated this fall under current NSPS policies and procedures.

► see NSPS, 2A

Center Judge Advocate office earns distinguished American Bar Association LAMP award

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Judge Advocate office is one of only three in the Department of Defense to win an American Bar Association honor for providing legal assistance to military personnel.

ABA representative John Odom Jr. presented the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Distinguished Service Award in a ceremony here Wednesday.

"Getting one of these awards as an office is a very, very big deal," Mr. Odum told those gathered for the ceremony.

emony. "We are grateful to you for the service that you do for your country."

The award nomination stated that the Judge Advocate office here "developed several major, one-of-a-kind innovations to support legal assistance for warfighters and other eligible clients."

For instance the office developed a guidebook for legal assistance attorneys in the office that addresses Georgia law as it relates to common legal assistance topics, including adoption, consumer law, legal residence and domicile, divorce, child custody, wills and estate planning. The nomination called the book "a

model legal resource within the Air Force."

The Judge Advocate office is made up of 25 attorneys, 10 military paralegals and six civilians. All personnel in the office participate in the Legal Assistance program. The program provides advice on personal legal matters to military personnel, retirees, and their dependents.

Brig. Gen. Dwight Creasy, Air Force Materiel Command's staff judge advocate, attended the ceremony.

"This is an all-in affair for you guys, and that is what is most impressive to me," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

John Odom Jr., ABA representative, presents the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Distinguished Service Award to the WR-ALC Judge Advocate office.

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 34
Last DUI: 5th CBCSS
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

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



TWO-MINUTE REV

BASE TO CELEBRATE AF BIRTHDAY

Robins will celebrate the Air Force's 62nd birthday with a formal retreat ceremony Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. in front of Bldg. 905.

The entire base is invited to attend the event which is being co-hosted by the 78th Air Base Wing, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. The theme for the ceremony is "Flying through the Decades."

The retreat ceremony will feature speeches from three commanders: Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, AFRC; Maj. Gen. Polly A. Peyer, WR-ALC; and Col. Carl Buhler, 78th ABW.

MISSION



Testing

339th FLTS gives seal of approval to PDM aircraft at Robins, **A8**

LEADERSHIP



Technology

AETC commander discusses technology and the workplace, **A6**

HEALTH



Prevention

Base leaders roll up their sleeves for flu vaccination, **A2**

FOLLOW THE LEADERS



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Deryl Israel, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center executive director, gets his flu shot Sept. 10. Senior base leaders here received the vaccinations after the weekly ALC staff meeting.

Mass seasonal influenza immunizations for active duty will take place in the Heritage Club Ballroom today and Sept. 21-25 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Staying healthy is the key to enduring this year's flu season. Everyone should remember to: 1) Wash your hands frequently. 2) Stay home if possible if you are sick; avoid close contact with people who are sick. 3) Muffle coughs and sneezes with tissue instead of bare hands; discard tissues immediately, then wash your hands using soap and water or a hand sanitizer. 4) Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; cold and flu viruses enter your body through these areas. 5) Drink plenty of fluids, exercise regularly and eat healthy.

NSPS

Continued from 1A

The Defense Business Board's report on NSPS is available for public viewing at www.defenselink.mil/dbb/task.html.

"I would encourage NSPS organizations, employees, supervisors and managers to read the report, particularly the leadership in those organizations," he said.

NSPS-covered organizations and employees will continue to operate as usual under current NSPS policies, regulations and procedures.

"Until the Deputy Secretary of Defense's decision and subsequent direction from the Department of Defense is received, we will continue normal business operations for our National Security Personnel System workforce," said Mary Larralde, director of person-

nel. "We are actively engaged in the planning for the upcoming fiscal 2009 NSPS rating closeout. At this time, we are not expecting the report and subsequent decisions to have an impact on the closeout."

Additionally, routine personnel actions for employees moving into existing, reclassified and new positions already under NSPS will continue to be processed under NSPS guidelines.

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

Up-to-date information
about base emergencies
222-0815

Please recycle

REMEMBER

Continued from 1A

network training center, was also working in the Pentagon on September 11.

“We heard a loud boom but we had no idea what had happened or how significant it actually was,” he said. “It took awhile for it to sink in and that it could have been me who died.”

Sergeant Williams said people were frantically trying to evacuate the building and the scene was very chaotic. He said the events

that day changed history and he realizes the significance of being in such close proximity when it happened.

“It constantly crosses my mind,” he said. “It’s important to remember what happened because of the countless number of innocent lives that were lost. We should never forget; it will always be a day to remember.”

Tech. Sgt. David Long, NCO in charge of the executive support staff for the 402nd Maintenance Wing, also was working in the Pentagon.

As fate would have it, he had brought his wife and two of his children to the Pentagon that day for dental appointments.

“People had a lot more dramatic experiences than me, but it was very scary because my family was there,” he said. “As we evac-



Tech. Sgt.
David Long

uated, I couldn’t help but worry that something else might happen.”

Sergeant Long said there are a lot of details from that day that stand out, details that will forever be in his mind. But what stands out the most, and what had the most impact, happened not on September 11, but on the following day, when he returned to work.

“As I was walking into the building, I saw bandages and chalk markings on the sidewalk. I knew that’s where they were treating the injured and that’s when the

severity and significance of the event truly hit me,” he said. “That’s when I started mourning those who lost their lives.”

Sergeant Long said naturally, the mood at the Pentagon changed that day.

“It became more serious, more somber,” he said. “People seemed to be working with more focus.”

There were a total of 2,993 deaths that day. At the Pentagon, 125 people were killed, including 55 military personnel.

To help us remember those who lost their lives

that day, the Pentagon Memorial was built and opened to the public one year ago today. It consists of a landscaped park with 184 benches facing the Pentagon. When the Pentagon was repaired, a private chapel and indoor memorial were included, located at the spot where Flight 77 crashed into the building. Other memorials were built at the World Trade Center.

“A lot of people lost their lives that day and it’s important to keep their memory alive,” Major Cox said.

► IN BRIEF

PARKING LOT CLOSURES

Two parking lot closures have been scheduled for the month of September. The parking lot west of Bldg. 908 will be closed through Sept. 16 for resurfacing and restriping. Also, a portion of the east side parking lot of Bldg. 905 will be closed Sept. 24 through Aug. 4, 2010 to accommodate the construction of the new Command Post facility.

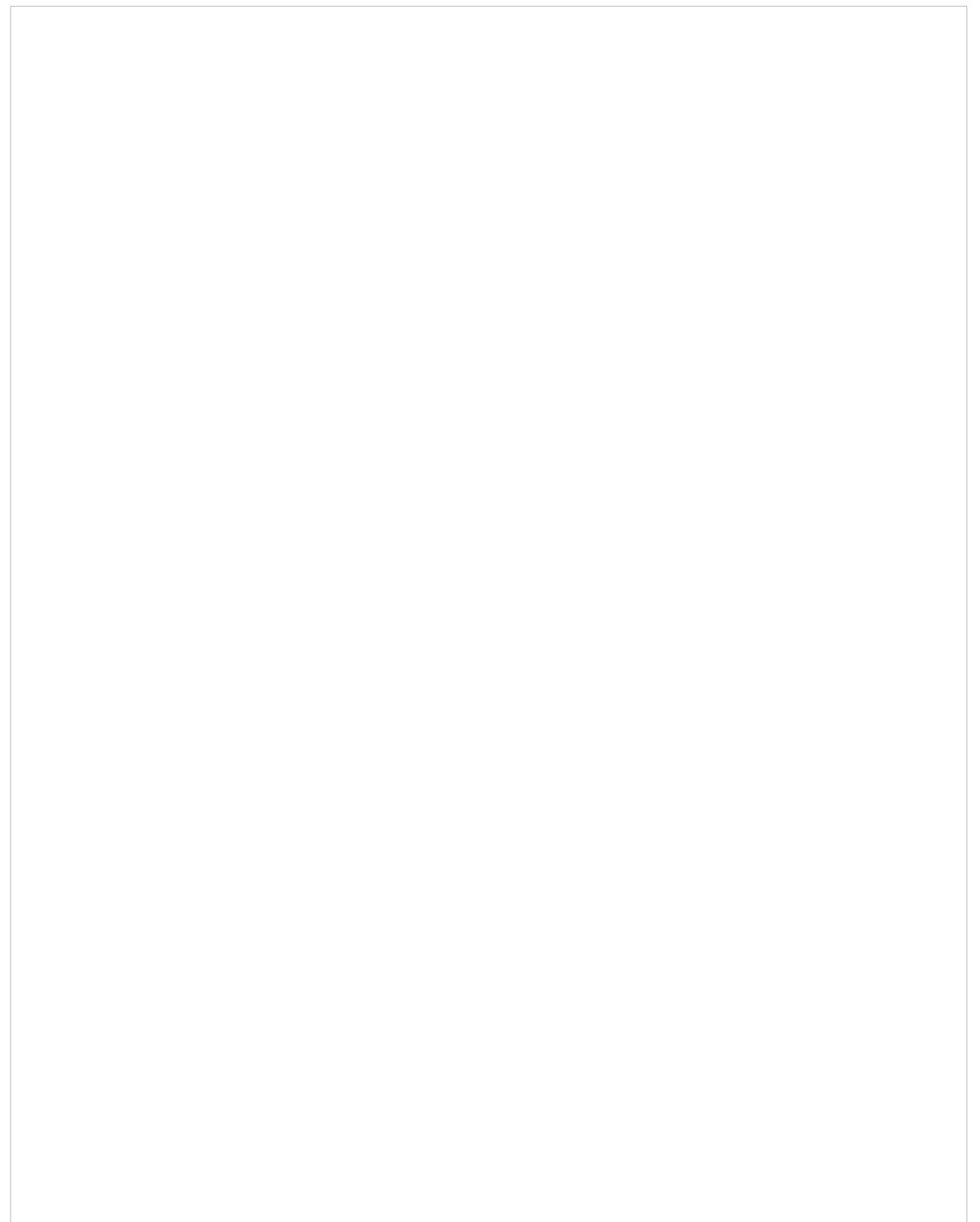
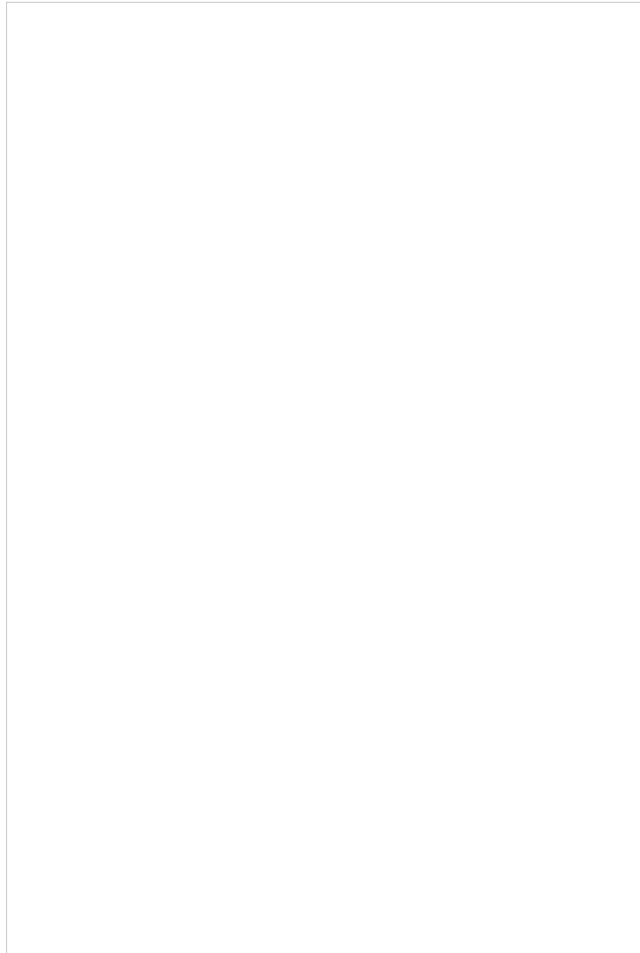
DAY’S END

COMPUTER PROCEDURES

All computer users are required to log off workstations at the end of every work day. Removing the CAC and locking the workstation while remaining logged on prevents automated security checks and updates, and increases the vulnerability of the network.

For more information on changes, appearance and icons click the Blue Star for IT Central Quick Solutions or visit <https://workspace.robins.af.mil/itquicksolutions/default.aspx>.

KEEP ‘EM FLYING AFSO21



ROBINS LT. COLONEL SELECTEES

Richard Antoine
Wesley Cox
Charles Ericson
Joseph Giuliani
Robert Nash
Hollis Payne
Charles Seidel
James A. Smith
James P. Smith
Russell Stilling
Martine Wanzer
William Winstead

ROBINS CAPTAIN SELECTEES

Lance Anders	Kurtis Kuschel
Aaron Bahr	Michael Lebovitz
Jason Baker	James Limones
Latasha Bone	Ronald Major Jr.
Luis Colon	Emily Nolan
Megan Cooper	Michael Orzel
Regina Dyer	Matthew Perry
Casey Gerdes	Kyle Radke
John Gerdes	Joseph Simonetti
Jason Greer	Brian Stewart
Christopher Grover	Gary Sweatte
Bryan Harr	Lee Talmadge
Matthew Harvey	James Trimble
David Heichemer Jr.	Daniel Wilkenson
Christopher Horsfall	Nolan Wolf
Kathleen Kawata	Rebecca Zaborowski

► IN BRIEF

APPOINTMENT OF COMMAND CEREMONY

The 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron appointment of command ceremony will be held in the Bldg. 127 deployment reintegration conference room today at 3 p.m.

2009 POW/MIA RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The 2009 POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony will be held Sept. 17 in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar. Breakfast will begin at 9:15 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. The cost is \$5.

The guest speaker for the event will be Tommy Clack, a retired Captain and triple amputee of the Vietnam War.

For more information call Dave Cowles, 327-3476; Danny Johnson, 926-5702 or Senior Master Sgt. Scott Ward, 926-7904.

END-OF-YEAR RETIREMENT PROCESS

If you are planning to retire at the end of December 2009 or the beginning of January 2010, call your servicing Retirement Specialist no later than Oct. 9 in order to have your retirement application prepared in a timely manner.

This does not apply if you are planning to retire any other time of the year. Once you officially notify your retirement specialist, you will be provided a complete retirement application package and scheduled for a group retirement session.

You will be expected to bring your completed appli-

cation package to this session. Due to a large influx of retirements at this time each year, all retirement group sessions for the end-of-year retirements will be scheduled in the month of November.

Contact your servicing retirement specialist, Cheri Coklow, 327-4484 or Dianne Carroll, 926-2751.

Commentary

"Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others."

— Plato

WR-ALC VISION STATEMENT

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WR-ALC MISSION STATEMENT

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to

78ABW.PARRevUp@robins.af.mil.
Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

DELIVERY

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ADVERTISING

For advertising information, call The Telegraph advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp

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Commander's Action Line

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why I choose to celebrate, share my Hispanic Heritage

At the threshold of another national celebration of Hispanic Heritage, I pause and ask myself 'what this celebration means to me.'

Do I simply go through the motions and robotically participate in the festivities? Do I ever make a conscious thought as to why I should celebrate with my peers? The answer to those questions prompted me to write these words.

To celebrate ones heritage in America is indeed

to honor this free nation. It is a vehicle that allows us to showcase who we are t our contributions to this country. It is a local opportunity to say here we are and this is what we are all about.

We have stood by this nation in difficult times, not as Hispanics but as Americans. We have entertained our fellow citizens through the fine arts and sports, again, as Americans.

You can find us contributing to America's

future as engineers, politicians, scientists, soldiers, and teachers, and as common men or women functioning in the community. Coming from a vast number of Latin American countries including Spain with a strong sense of cultural identity and pride, we have merged into American society as one group with a powerful voice. We have an obligation to America to continue contributing ideas. We also have an obligation to our children to

show them what makes us unique is our culture, and we can't let it wilt because our culture is our biggest contribution to this melting pot we live in.

In short, during this celebration let's show our pride by waving our individual national flags, by singing and dancing our traditional songs, by sharing our food and educating everyone about our heritage. Let's be proud of those Hispanics before us who contributed to the

growth of America (some with the ultimate sacrifice) and pray that we may continue to be an asset to this nation. Let's embrace our brothers and sisters of all cultures by learning from them as we appreciate them learning from us.

After all, at the end of the day we are all Americans.

—This commentary was written by *Angel D. Torres-Reyes, 560th Aircraft Sustainment Squadron.*

Digital natives: collaboration, automation and personal accessibility

I am a digital immigrant. You see, in the summer of 1972, as a senior at the Air Force Academy, I spent \$125 on a small "personal computer."

At roughly \$650 in today's dollars, the small unit was able to do four things: add, subtract, multiply and divide. It was a cutting edge ... calculator.

Although we were only permitted to use it while checking our work, it was, essentially, my introduction to the world of computing.

Today, we cannot accomplish our mission without technology and computing. Unlike me, those entering the Air Force today are digital natives.

These natives don't remember a time when green military ID cards rarely left your wallet, the Military Personnel Flight wasn't "virtual" and black berries were just a seasonal fruit.

This got me wondering. Has our leadership style adapted to take full advantage of the technology through the years? Has technology improved a leader's ability to make a difference?

Let's start by looking at how technology has changed the workplace. Beyond the most noticeable and tangible aspects, like e-mail, PowerPoint and cell phones, I contend that technology has transformed the workplace in three main areas: collaboration, automation and personal accessibility.

Collaboration includes our ability to network, collect and share information. Getting the right information to the right people when they need it isn't always as easy as it sounds. After all, accurate information is a

key element in making objective decisions and objectivity is what keeps our organizations headed in the best direction.

Today's challenge, however, is managing the sheer volume of available information. Technological advancements will only make this challenge greater in years to come.

By automation, I'm talking about technology's impact on the tasks we do each and every day. Historically, automation has been one of the enablers for doing "more with less." Our most expensive asset is our people.

Technology gives us the ability to energize certain efficiencies by replacing manpower with technology. Maintaining the balance of technology and manpower will only continue to be a daily leadership challenge.

Lastly, accessibility applies to our ability to contact anyone, anywhere, anytime through voice and data communication.

There are two key aspects of accessibility: how a leader makes themselves available to others and how you, as a leader, take advantage of the availability of others. It is important that commanders, while making themselves available at all hours of the day, don't foster an environment where subordinates are afraid to get deci-



Gen. Stephen Lorenz
Commander Air Education and Training Command

sions from anywhere but the top.

At the same time, leaders must guard against exploiting the availability of others, especially subordinates. Such exploitation will only reinforce to subordinates that decisions can only come from the top.

Accessibility has also changed how we make ourselves available to others. Many commanders like to say that they have an "open door policy." Don't fool yourself into thinking that issues will always walk through the open door. Leaders still need to escape the electronic accessibility, namely e-mail, and seek human interaction.

A new Airman in the squadron isn't going to raise a concern by walking into a commander's office, but might if the commander is able to interact in their work environment. Leadership by walking around will always be a positive leadership principle.

I like to think that there are three kinds of people when dealing with technology: pessimists, optimists and realists.

The technology pessimists are those people who resist any change due to improved technologies.

Technology optimists jump at the earliest opportunity to implement any technological advancement.

The last category, the technology realist, makes up the lion share of us all.

The realist accepts that change is necessary and works to integrate improvements, but doesn't continually search for and implement emerging technology.

Our organizations need all three technology types in order to run smoothly. It is incumbent upon each of us to understand what kind of technologist we, and those whom we work around, are. This is simply another medium where one size won't fit all.

The leader must adapt their style depending on who they deal with and the nature of the task to be performed.

The pessimist might not "hear" the things communicated electronically. By the same token, resist the temptation to send all correspondence electronically to the optimist, even though their response might be back within seconds.

Always push for the personal touch and realize that your approach will be different for each person.

In essence, leadership is the challenge of inspiring the people in an organization on a goal-oriented journey.

Technology enables that journey and we, as leaders, must successfully manage both the benefits and detriments of that evolution. Ultimately, the leader is still responsible for themselves, their people and the results of their units. It's how they can make a difference in both the lives of their people and in the unit's mission. It's one thing technology will never change.



Where were you when the events of 9-11 occurred?



Linda Hinkle
78th FSS

"I remember, before going to work, writing a long to-do list to complete that day. By the end of that day none of the to dos were crossed off nor did they any longer have any significance. Priorities changed."



Larry Williams
WR-ALC/ENT

"I was working on C-141s here at Robins. The folks in the cubicle next to me were watching it on TV, and I thought they were watching a movie. I deployed to the desert soon after that."



Michele Samuels
78th FSS

"I worked on the 77th floor of Tower 2 until May 2001. I was getting ready to go to the doctor and turned on the TV when the first plane hit so we were scrambling to contact people who worked there. All my former co-workers got out."



Lt. Col. Stephanie Williams
339th FLTS

"In Atlanta, getting ready to fly back to Kansas City. A friend called and said to look at CNN. I found a TV and saw the second plane hit. It was the day that changed the world."

78th FSS BRIEFS

TODAY

A National Kids Day will be held today and Saturday. Schedule of events include: Today, a dance night from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturday a punt, pass and kick at 10 a.m., limbo at 10:30 a.m., 3-on-3 basketball and musical chairs at 11 a.m., table tennis tournament at 11:30 a.m., dodgeball and egg in spoon relay at noon, connect four at 12:30 p.m., free throw contest at 1 p.m., 3-point competition and balloon toss at 1:30 p.m. Join the activities Saturday and receive a one month's free membership. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

Join Horizons for a social hour today from 5 to 6 p.m. First Friday will return Oct. 2. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

THURSDAY

The Robins Officers' Spouses' Club presents "Pretty in Pink Bunko" at the Horizon's Club Sept. 17. The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Club's Sunroom. This function will help promote Breast Cancer Awareness. All attendees are asked to wear something pink. There will be a sign up for the Susan G. Komen walk, as well as a speaker to discuss ways to prevent and detect Breast Cancer. All ROSC members are invited to attend. Reservations must be made by Monday at reserve4you.osc@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining the ROSC, visit www.robinsosc.com.

SUNDAY

A Super Sunday brunch will be held at Horizons from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brunch will include breakfast and dinner entrees, omelet station, carving station, salad bar, dessert and ice cream bar and more. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$14.95 for guests and \$7.95 for children (3 – 10 years old) and children two years and younger are free. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

UPCOMING

78th FSS presents a Taste of Robins at the Heritage Club ballroom, located in Bldg. 956, Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in celebration of the Air Force's 62nd birthday. Free food samples, beverages and birthday cake will be offered to guests while supplies last. A drawing for a 32-inch HDTV, portable DVD player, MP3 player and more will be conducted during the event.

Guests may fill out an entry form for a chance to win and need not be present to win. Jazz and R&B on saxophone will be played by Robin's own Otis Hicks. For more information, please call 926-2670.

A Driven to Cook Recipe Collection is being published for the 4th edition. Have your favorite family recipe published with a short story about it with your name and you will receive a free copy. Collection categories are main street (main dishes), side street (side dishes) and leisure lane (desserts). E-mail your submissions to linda.hinkle@robins.af.mil, sandra.colby@robins.af.mil or sherry.trauth@robins.af.mil by Sept. 20. This opportunity is open to all grades and ranks and family members. For more information call Sandi Colby at 926-9080.

An Operation Kudos (Kids Understanding Deployment Operations) will be held Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Buses will meet promptly at 10 a.m. at the Heritage Club parking lot. This event is open to children ages six – 18 years old (must be accompanied by an adult). Please register by Sept. 14 as this event is limited to the first 100 sign-ups. For more information please contact Senior Master Sgt. Gary Hunkins at 327-7506 or Tech. Sgt. Michelle Main at 327-7691.

Let's Celebrate End of Summer Bash will be held at Robins Park Sept. 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. This event will include rides, attractions, face painting, games

Horsing around



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Horse stalls are available at the riding stables. The stables, near Luna Lake, also offer a lighted riding ring, hot and cold wash rack, horse trails and a pasture. Cost includes a monthly \$15 family membership fee and monthly stable fee of \$97. All base ID cardholders are eligible. For more information call 447-6905 or 926-4001.

and prize drawings. Armbands cost \$5 and gives unlimited access to all attractions. Rides will include a carousel, turbo swing, roaring river water slide, wave of fire slide, rock & joust, lane bungee, rock wall, trackless train, space shuttle obstacle, jungle combo, wacky world, jungle playlite, little tykes city and chip shot challenge. Entertainment will be the Air Force Reserve Generations band and Sugar Creek. An Arts & Crafts fair will be held by the Arts & Crafts Center. Prizes will include an HD TV, laptop, inflatable pool, fishing gear, Blue Ray DVD player, Wii and balance board and more. Festive food will be on sale by base private organizations.

Beverages will be sold by the 78th Force Support Squadron. Sponsored in part by Robins Federal Credit Union, Verizon Wireless, The Home Depot and

USAA. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information call 926-2105.

The Let's Celebrate End of Summer Bash Arts & Crafts Fair will be held Sept. 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Robins Park. Register at the Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. 984 to reserve a space to display and sell crafts at this well-attended event by Sept. 18. Cost is \$10 for table and \$5 for space. For more information call 926-5282.

ONGOING

Youth fall sports registrations are under way through Nov. 2 from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday for cheerleading (ages 5 – 12 years old), cost \$90 and basketball (ages 5 – 18 years old), cost \$55. Registration accepted until teams are full. Volunteer coaches are needed in all areas. To register or for details, visit the youth

center in Bldg. 1021 or call 926-2110.

Tickets are available for military appreciation days at Six Flags over Georgia and White Water. Military Appreciation Days are the following: Air Force on Sept. 19; Navy and Coast Guard Sept. 20; Army Sept. 26 and Marines on Sept. 27. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

The Afterburner, which proudly brews Starbucks coffee, is open Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chill out with the September special of our amazing fruity drinks. Purchase a Grande for \$3.75 or Venti for \$4.25. The Afterburner is located in the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166 on Byron St. The Afterburner offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, pastries and snacks. For more information call 222-7827 or 926-6972.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: What do you know about geography?

Do you think you know a little bit about what's where? Take this quiz, and see how much you really know.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What is Earth's largest continent?

A) Asia, B) Africa, C) Europe, D) Antarctica

Q2: What razor-thin country accounts for more than half of the western coastline of South America?

A) Ecuador, B) Chile, C) Peru, D) Bolivia

Q3: What is the tallest mountain in the world?

A) Aconcagua, B) Qogir, C) Mount Kilimanjaro, D) Mount Everest

Q4: What country is home to Kangaroo Island?

A) Australia, B) France, C) Japan, D) Great Britain

Q5: Which of these African nations is NOT landlocked?

A) Niger, B) Congo, C) Chad, D) Burkina Faso

ANSWERS:

A1: (A) Currently, Asia is Earth's largest continent at approximately 17,300,000 square miles (44,806,812 sq km). Africa comes in second at about 11,700,000 square miles (30,300,000 sq km). However, continental Drift theory suggests that the continents have moved over the years through the process of plate tectonics.

A2: (B) With a toothy coastline of 2,650 miles (4,265 km), Chile accounts for more than half of the western coastline of South America. This razor-thin country is wedged between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes, the Earth's longest mountain range.

A3: (D) At 8,850 meters (29,035 ft), Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world. In Nepal, Everest is called Sagarmatha or "Forehead of the Sky" and in Tibetan it is known as Qomolangma or "Mother of the Universe". In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return to tell about it.

A4: (A) Kangaroo Island is one of Australia's biggest tourist attractions. Located 70 miles (110 km) southwest of Adelaide, it is the second largest of the southern Australian system of islands after Tasmania. Tens of thousands of people visit Kangaroo Island each year, drawn by its natural wonders, beaches, conservation parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The island is also known for its fine wines.

A5: (B) The Republic of Congo is NOT landlocked. Located between Angola and Gabon, it borders the South Atlantic Ocean. Congo is one of Africa's largest petroleum producers and has significant potential for offshore development.

Source: usefultrivia.com

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

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

The following person has been approved as a leave recipient: **Adrien Long**, DPLD. POC is Gayle Bowen 327-9807.

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

78th FSS DIRECTORY

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

Additional information on Services events and activities can be found in **The Edge** and at www.robinservices.com

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

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

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (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

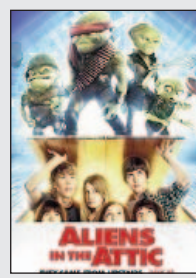
The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. Contemporary service meets at 6 p.m. in the Chapel sanctuary. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel. Religious education meets in Bldg. 905 at 9:30 a.m.

NOW PLAYING



SEPTEMBER 11
7:30 P.M.
FUNNY PEOPLE
RATED R

George Simmons is a famous stand-up comedian, who learns that he has a terminal illness and less than a year to live. When he meets Ira, a struggling comedian at a comedy club where both the comedians are performing, George hires Ira to be his personal assistant and opening act at his performances.



SEPTEMBER 12
3 P.M.
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
RATED PG

Kids on a family vacation must fight off an attack by knee-high alien invaders with world-destroying ambitions. At the same time, the youngsters work hard to keep their parents in the dark about the battle upstairs. It all starts as a meteor shower rockets across the dark galaxy.



SEPTEMBER 12
7:30 P.M.
HURT LOCKER
RATED R

Three members of the Army's elite Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad battle insurgents and each other as they search for and disarm a wave of roadside bombs on the streets of Baghdad—in order to try and make the city a safer place for Iraqis and Americans alike.

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

Testing... Testing 3, 3, 9



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Maj. Jeremy Mickelson, C-130 pilot, talks from inside the cockpit of a C-130 prior to a functional test flight.

Squadron ensures birds are safe, ready for return to roost

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

When an aircraft comes to Robins it is typically here for months and many people are involved in the restoration, but it can't return to action until it gets the seal of approval from the 339th Flight Test Squadron.

The squadron, made up of 48 people, runs test flights on the C-130 Hercules, the C-5 Galaxy and the F-15 Eagle. It doesn't test fly the C-17 Globemaster because Boeing has a contract for that job.

The squadron, which is a reserve unit, has a storied history that dates back to World War II, when it was called the 339th Fighter Squadron. It was credited with killing Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Combined Fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy. A 339th pilot shot down a Japanese bomber in which Yamamoto was being transported.

At Robins since 1988 when it was part of the consolidated 2875th Test Squadron, the 339th FS was redesignated the 339th Flight Test Squadron in 1994.

Today, the C-130 section is the busiest part of the squadron. Maj. Jeremy Mickelson, a C-130 pilot, said a test flight crew is a little different from a normal C-130 crew. A mission crew has two pilots, an engineer, a loadmaster and a navigator. The test-flight crew is the same except it doesn't need a loadmaster, so that position is filled with an extra engineer.

That's because engineers are critically important to the test flight process. All through the flight the engineers are constantly checking systems to make sure everything is functioning properly.

They also spend up to three hours doing a pre-flight inspection to find any problems that can be detected before take off. That's on top of the functional test the maintenance crew does to check all systems following programmed depot maintenance.

Major Mickelson said a test flight is far from a leisurely cruise.

"It takes about two hours, but it feels like about 30 minutes because we are so busy," he said.

On a full functional test flight, they take the planes on the same path each time, first heading toward Milledgeville then toward Waycross and back. The F-15 and C-5 sections also fly different designated paths so that none overlap.

The paths are intended to keep the planes in close proximity to Robins in case of trouble, and also in proximity of local municipal airports in case a plane can't make it back to Robins. That has never happened to Major Mickelson, but every now and then a problem crops up that is serious enough that the crew has to return to base immediately and make an emergency landing.

After a test flight, the team comes back and briefs the maintenance crew on any problems found. Once those problems are corrected, the plane will go for another, shorter test flight, to check specific problems from the first flight. Typically a plane will go through multiple test flights before being cleared to return to duty. Major Mickelson said it's only a couple of times a year that a plane needs just one test flight.

Test flight crews are highly experienced, usually with thousands of flying hours. The engineers must have intricate knowledge of the plane and the ability to detect potential problems before the plane is in the air.

"We will touch a plane two or three times sometimes before we ever get a pilot out there," said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Stansfield, a flight engineer. "These airplanes are torn apart so much and put back together, there are a lot of different things that can go wrong. It's not an entry-level position by any stretch of the imagination."

The squadron also has life-support personnel who manage the helmets, parachutes, oxygen masks and other equipment critical to the crew. Major Mickelson said



Tech. Sgt. Brandi Bray, aircrew flight equipment technician, checks the microphone and headset and does a calibration check on a helmet.

the oxygen masks are especially important because test flights are done at 17,000 feet. If the plane lost cabin pressure the crew would be in big trouble without a working oxygen system.

A critically important part of a flight test is the functional test done on the ground. Dean Huber, a C-130 functional test mechanic, said about a week is devoted to testing, including a full run up of the engines, before planes are turned over to the flight test squadron.

"We try to duplicate everything they do on the flight and try to give them the best aircraft possible," Mr. Huber said. "We know we are dealing with people's lives on a daily basis."

Lt. Col. John Nowak is commander of the squadron, a position he has held since March. A C-130 pilot himself, he said the squadron has a high standard for its flight crews.

"It takes a lot of experience," he said.

"Our flight engineers have to have a minimum of 1,000 hours. Their knowledge has to be extensive to do what we do."

Major Mickelson said one of the things he likes best about the job is also one of the most challenging things about it. At his previous assignment, he flew only one of the more than 20 variants of the C-130. At Robins he flies every C-130 model except one, the C-130J. The flight controls can vary dramatically, which he says makes it an enormous challenge.

Imagine driving someone else's car and trying to figure out how to operate the headlights and windshield wipers. And sometimes, even though you know you are in a different car, old habits can lead to turning the wrong switches.

Major Mickelson said that's exactly the challenge the crew faces as it flies different variants each day, and it's also why a test flight requires full focus from beginning to end.

Base plans activities for Hispanic Heritage Month

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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The Hispanic Heritage Committee at Robins is "embracing the fierce urgency of now."

That's the theme of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month observance, which begins with a picnic on Saturday. The theme is a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. Hispanic Heritage Month is a national observance which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The picnic will be held at Gator Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The picnic is free but guests are asked to bring a covered dish. Hispanic dishes of pork, rice and beans will be served, main-

ly in the style of Puerto Rican, Mexican and Cuban cuisines, said Master Sergeant Jennifer Thompson, who serves on the committee.

Col. Debra Bean, vice commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, will give opening remarks at the picnic starting at 12:30 p.m.

Sergeant Thompson said the picnic and the rest of the observance is a good way to learn the diversity of culture that falls under the umbrella of Hispanic.

"We work with these people every day and may not realize they are from specific Latin countries as opposed to being just grouped together," she said.

An education fair will

be held Sept. 15 at the Base Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables will be set up to represent Latin countries and free food samples will be available.

On Sept. 17 a luncheon will be held at the Heritage Club at 11 a.m. The guest speaker is retired Lt. Col. Alex U. Cruz-Martinez, former chief of the F-15 Production Branch at Robins. Chicken and beef taco salads will be served. To buy tickets contact Senior Airman Steven Flores at 926-5107 or Master Sergeant Josefita Ojeda at 327-0099.

The final event is a banquet Oct. 17 at the Heritage Club. Details of the banquet will be announced later.



A group of young Mexican folkloric dancers perform at last year's Robins' Hispanic Heritage Month picnic.

U.S. Air Force file photo by GARY CUTRELL