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Robins colonel lands spot in Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program, page 5A

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Heart Link tour gives military spouses a deeper look inside Air Force

ROBINS REV-UP

November 13, 2009 Vol. 54 No.45

Robins Fitness Center gets 5-star recognition eighth year running

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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The Robins Fitness Center is one of 39 in the Air Force to win 5-Star Fitness Center Recognition this year, but it is the only base to have won it for eight consecutive years.

David Quinn, director of Force Support Services, said the Robins Fitness Center has won the recognition for all eight years that the 5-Star program has been in place.

The base learned of the honor in a letter from Air Force headquarters last week.

To win 5-Star recognition, a fitness center must meet all prerequisites and have at least 90-percent total point value in each of five

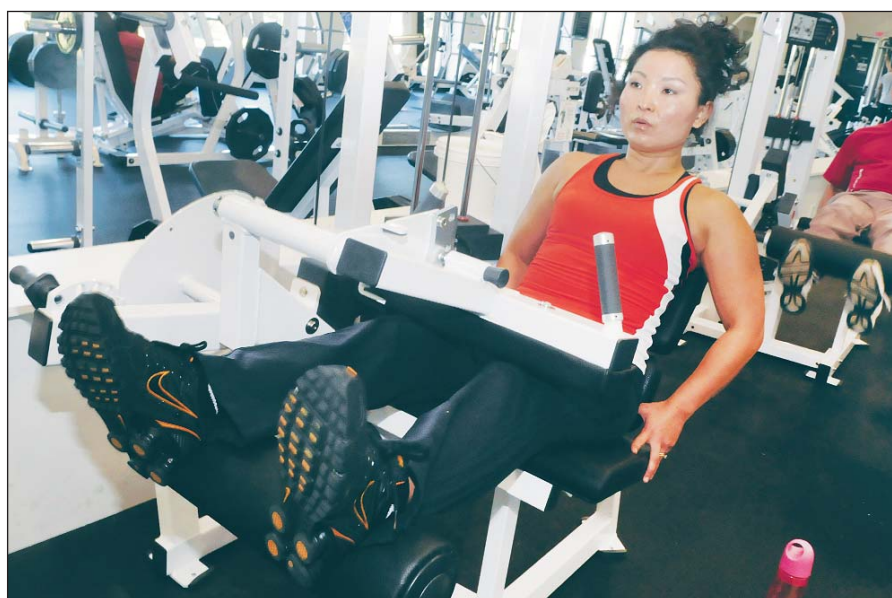
categories. The categories are customer service, facility, training, programs and operations.

Lesley Sparks, fitness center director, credited the award to the hard work and dedication of the staff.

"The staff has done a lot of hard work so it really feels good," she said. "The staff has done it year after year."

Another 30 bases won 4-Star recognition this year, which means those fitness centers scored at least 90 percent in four of the five categories.

Formal recognition and plaques will be presented Dec. 1 at the Air Force Fitness and Sports Awards Ceremony in Orlando, Fla..



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Kim Stone, Fitness Center trainer, works out on a new seated leg curl machine. The Fitness Center is one of 39 in the Air Force to be recognized as a 5-star center.

Remembering our veterans



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Maj. Gen. Polly A. Peyer, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, visits Wednesday with retired two-star Army general Bruce Staser at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin. General Peyer and about 60 Robins military members met with veterans at the center in recognition of Veteran's Day.

Team Robins pulls together, surpasses 2009 goal for giving

BY TECH. SGT. VANNIE MILLER
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Combined Federal Campaign

Combined Federal Campaign donations here recently helped Robins Air Force Base surpass its goal of \$1,375,000, according to base officials.

The campaign had helped the base \$1,427,515 as of Nov. 3, according to Paul Nagle, CFC director.

According to Mark Wallentine, 2009 CFC Chairman, this year's success is attributed to the generosity of the men and women of Team Robins and the support provided by the monitors and key-workers, who played a pivotal role in actually raising the money.

Furthermore, the CFC staff extended a word of thanks to Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer and her command staff for their support during

this year's campaign.

"This year we made the focus of our campaign more local," said Wallentine. "The 78th Air Base Wing videographers, Paula Moore and Ed Aspera made a great local video. We were able to feature local recipients who the campaigns actually helped."

Wallentine admitted that everyone who gives to the combined federal campaigns does so for his own reasons. He said he personally thinks that the people here are a generous group.

"With nearly 2,000 organizations to choose from, the reasons for giving

are almost as diverse as the donors," Wallentine said.

Considering the totals received to date, it is too early to tell how much this year's donations will exceed last year's total.

"Although solicitations conclude on Nov. 13, we will be able to accept donations until Nov. 30," Wallentine said. This allows the payroll information to be completed by the January deadlines.

Working on this year's campaign has created in him a great sense of gratitude and humility, Wallentine said.

"I am truly moved by the generosity of the Robins Community and blessed to be a small part of this very large local charity effort. On behalf of the ultimate beneficiaries of these donations, I say thank you."

Robins Airmen dedicate personal time to AADD program

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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It's just before midnight Friday, Nov. 6, at the temporary home of the Airmen's Ministry Center here, and seven people are waiting for the phone to ring.

There are a lot of things they could be doing this time of night. They could be out on the town having fun, perhaps returning home from the movie theater, or they could even be home in bed asleep.

Instead they are volunteering their time to take phone calls from Airmen who are

in need of some help after having a little too much fun themselves.

They are the Friday night/early Saturday morning crew for Airmen Against Drunk Driving. Using their own vehicles and at their own expense, they will head out into town when called to give rides to Airmen who have had too much to drink.

As of last Friday, AADD had registered 527 "saves" for the year, with a save meaning that they had given an Airman a

ride home, and potentially saved a DUI, an accident, a life, a damaged career and an awful lot of expense.

Chief Master Sergeant Jimmy Johnson, who works in the Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, was volunteering for the second time.

"It's just the right thing to do," Johnson said when asked why he volunteers. "There are just too many Airmen getting killed out there in alcohol-related acci-



dents."

AADD is an integral part of efforts on base to combat drunk driving. The service is in operation around the clock, seven days per week, but for most of that time calls to the AADD number simply go to a cell phone carried by a volunteer. It's only on Friday and Saturday nights, from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., that a crew stays on hand at the Airmen's Ministry Center to ensure a prompt response to requests for rides.

They travel as far as North Macon,

► see AADD, 2A

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 21
Last DUI: 78th SFS

— courtesy 78th Security Forces

To request a ride, call 222-0013.



TWO-MINUTEREV

Finance Office closure dates

The 78th Comptroller and Contracting Squadron's Finance Customer Service window will be closed on the following dates:

Nov. 20 — Closes at 2:30 p.m. for a squadron commander's call
Nov. 27 — Closed all day for AFMC Family Day.

HEALTH



X marks the spot

Radiology department gets to the bare bones of it all, 1B

COMMENTARY



Honoring the ultimate sacrifice

Robins staff sergeant learns life lessons during honor guard duty, 6A

AWARD



Annual award winner

Contracting officer enjoys tackling problems, 3A

OSHA to present 402nd SMXG with Star Site award

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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The 402nd Software Maintenance Group on Tuesday will become the first government organization at Robins to be named a Star Site by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Star Site is the highest level of Voluntary Protection Program recognition awarded by the OSHA. The only other work area

at Robins to have been declared a Star Site is the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Maintenance and Operation Section in First Support Services, which is operated by a contractor.

An OSHA auditing team spent three days in the SMXG in early June, touring eight separate facilities, reviewing hundreds of records, and interviewing many of its 900 employees. Once the team's work was completed June 4, it announced that it would rec-



ommend the group be recognized as a Star Site.

The designation was contingent upon approval by OSHA officials, and that approval has since been granted.

In a ceremony to be held at

10 a.m. Tuesday at the base theater, the Star Site award will be presented.

Melanie Clearman the VPP program manager at Robins, said earning the recognition is a "very big deal," and puts Robins on track for its ultimate goal of having the entire base declared a Star Site.

She said the 402nd SMXG is the first maintenance operation in the Air Force Materiel Command to become a Star Site.

Brig. Gen. Lee Levy, com-

mander of the 402nd Maintenance Wing, called the 402nd SMXG's Star Site recognition a "first start" for the wing's goal of becoming a Star Site.

"To become a Star Site is a huge, huge achievement," he said. "I think the beauty is that this isn't a management initiative, this is an employee initiative."

Chris Moore, deputy director

► see STAR SITE, 3A

Mediation sound alternative in resolving disputes, grievances

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
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Employees who have issues with management and are looking for an opportunity to resolve disputes before they escalate to formal grievances can turn to the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program.

"It's a very, very good program," said Bob Caviness, who manages the ADR program at Robins. "This is the only alternative employees have to really sit down with management and resolve disputes prior to them proceeding formally."

When employees have an issue, they file an AFMC Form 913, which starts the grievance process. But, before the process becomes formal, employees are offered the option of resolving the issue informally through mediation.

Caviness said some people do not understand the ADR program and opt not to use it. So instead of taking the opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion with management with the assistance of a trained mediator, they are relying solely on the decision of someone from an outside agency to make a decision concerning their grievance.

One reason the Air Force loves ADR is it saves money. Caviness estimates that if all the dis-

putes at Robins that were resolved through ADR had gone to arbitration, it would have cost the government about \$5 million.

Another big advantage of resolving disputes informally is it is a speedy process, whereas a prolonged formal grievance ties up resources and can lead to employee inefficiencies and distractions that can impact the quality of performance.

Dennis Walker, an attorney with the Defense Logistics Agency, is one of about 45 trained and certified mediators. He said the direct involvement of employees and management resolving disputes together can enhance long-term relationships and improve future communications.

"There is healing power in mediation," he said. "And it's not just about getting an agreeable answer. People improve their relationships. I've seen two parties come to mediation separately because they weren't speaking and then leave together, discussing other work issues. Even when parties don't settle, they are still getting along better."

But, he said, in order for mediation to be successful, both parties must have an open mind and be flexible.

"You have to come into it in good faith," Walker said. "If you go into mediation in good faith, you have the best odds of

resolving your problem. You need to have an open mind to listen to the other side and be willing to come to a mutual agreement."

He said the mediators always remain neutral, and it's important for the parties to view them that way.

"You aren't a decider or a judge," he said. "You are just helping two parties come to an agreement. It doesn't work unless the parties perceive you as neutral."

Walker, who has mediated about 30 cases since becoming certified in 1998, said there is little downside to using the ADR process. If negotiations break down and no resolution can be found, the grievance would still proceed to the formal process.

"If you don't get an answer you like, you haven't lost anything," Walker said. "Both parties have to agree. And with a successful resolution rate of about 70 percent, your odds of getting a favorable resolution are much better through negotiation than proceeding with dispute. You can't argue with the math."

The nature of disputes varies, but cases often involve appraisals, leave issues and overtime. "Those are the big three," Caviness said. "But regardless of the issue, we work hard to ensure all disputes are handled correctly."

Government aims to hire more veterans

President Obama signed an executive order Nov. 9 aimed at hiring more veterans to work in the federal government.

A government-wide Council on Veterans' Employment will be chaired by Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

The order calls on each federal agency to establish a veterans employment program office designed to help

veterans get through the maze of paperwork as they apply for positions in the federal workforce and mandates that agencies train personnel specialists on veteran's employment policies.

It also calls on agencies to work with the Defense Department and VA to develop and apply technologies designed to help disabled veterans.

— from Air Force News

AADD

Continued from 1A

Perry and Byron, or generally in about a 20- to 25-mile radius, said Airman 1st Class Jason Byrd, president of AADD.

Byrd said he got involved because he saw the need, and because AADD was seeing a decline in participation. The group has since improved its volunteer base, although it could always use more. The seven volunteers on Friday was a good number, but for Saturday night they only had three on the schedule.

They have been trying to get different units on base to participate as a group, with an entire unit agreeing to handle the rides for a given night. Byrd said it's a good way to promote unit camaraderie while helping other Airmen.

The group that was on hand last Friday night hadn't taken a single call by midnight, but Byrd said that is to be expected. Most of the calls start coming in around 2 a.m., which is about the time that bars close.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering can contact AADD at 222-0013, which is also the number that Airmen can call when they need a ride. For those who may just find themselves with nothing to do on Friday or Saturday night, walk-in volunteers are also welcome.

On one recent night they were concerned that they only had two volunteers scheduled, but several more just showed up out of the blue to help handle the load. Civilians with a Department of Defense identification card can also volunteer.

Airman 1st Class Ashley Kramer was volunteering for the first time last Friday. She was out with friends this summer when the person driving had too much to drink, and they



U.S. Air Force photo by WAYNE CRENSHAW
Airman 1st Class Jason Byrd (left) and Capt. Al Curtis wait by the phone. Airmen whose ride plans have fallen through following a night of drinking can call AADD for a help.

Agencies begin DUI crackdown

Houston County now ranks among the most dangerous counties in the state for motorists, and law enforcement agencies are beginning a 90-day DUI crackdown to combat that deadly trend.

According to a release from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Houston County is in the state's "Deadly Dozen List" for having an unusually high number of traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities.

A "Thunder Motorcade" held Nov. 6 began a 3-month campaign to crack down on drunk drivers, speeders and unbelted motorists in Houston County.

The Thunder Taskforce will deploy a combined operation of about 100 law enforcement officers to include Houston County deputies, and police officers from Perry, Centerville and Warner Robins. Other participants will include law enforcement agencies in the Middle Georgia Traffic Enforcement Network, Georgia State Troopers and Governor's Office of Highway Safety units. — By Wayne Crenshaw

called AADD and got a ride home. Kramer said she had only had a couple of drinks herself, but she didn't want to take any chances.

She was a bartender in college so she's had plenty of experience seeing the kind of trouble people can get into when they have too much to drink.

"People come in and have one or two drinks and then they just don't stop," she said. "When you get past a point, you don't have common sense."

Capt. Al Curtis of the 78th Force Support Squadron said that while volunteering for AADD at another base, he picked up one of his own Airmen. It was awkward for both of

them, he admitted, but he said Airmen should not be worried about that possibility when they call AADD.

"I'm happy that you would make the right call and have us come pick you up at a bar rather than make the wrong call and make us have to pick you up at the county jail Sunday morning," he said. "That awkward conversation is something you can laugh about later on."

Due to renovations being done on the Airmen Ministry Center, the center and AADD will operate out of Bldg. 937 through Jan. 13. The building is on the corner of Macon and Ninth streets.

Gunship Production Team nabs partnership award

Robins' C-130 Gunship Production Team was recently named the winner of the 21st Century Partnership Team Quality Award for the Jan. 1 through June 30 timeframe.

The C-130 Gunship Production Team's efforts were focused on multiple production and materiel support processes impacting flow days on AC-130H and AC-130U aircraft inducted for programmed depot maintenance. These processes included aircraft stripping, inspection, repair, buildup and operational testing accomplished prior to air-

Team improves PDM process for high-demand aircraft

craft delivery, as well as support processes involving availability of material, components, tooling, support equipment and engineering assistance.

C-130 gunship aircraft are low-density, high-demand assets managed by the Air Force Special Operations Command. They play a crucial role in execution of the overseas contingency operations. Reduction in PDM flow days was a top priority for the AFSOC and

one of the key elements to improvement in the aircraft's availability to the warfighter.

"The C-130 gunship is one of the most important assets available to commanders in the war zone," said Gary Rutledge, chief of the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's A Flight. "It is a limited asset that is needed as soon as maintenance is completed."

The team's actions stemmed from a foundation

of integrated process improvement tenets like Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century and LEAN, as well as high velocity maintenance principles.

Central to the team's approach was design and implementation of a standard daily gunship production network to improve predictability, enhance workload potential and provide a framework for synchronizing support resources.

Results from the team's efforts included 100 percent of the gunships being delivered ahead of schedule. — *from staff reports*



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN JULIANNE SHOWALTER

The AC-130H Gunship aircraft, seen here jettisoning flares as an infrared countermeasure, is a strong candidate for AFSO21 maintenance initiatives because it's always in high demand.

Contracting supervisor enjoys solving problems

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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June Nelson doesn't mind having a problem to tackle.

As a contracting officer at Robins for 23 years, solving problems is what she does for a living.

"Contracting has always been challenging in the sense that you are trying to put together a solution to a problem," she said. "You have a requirement and meet with the requirements team and work together to determine what will be the best way to solve it. Whether it's a quick-fix contract or something totally different, it's kind of like putting pieces of a puzzle together."

Her efforts in her job won her the Civilian of the Year Award last year in Category VI, which is for first-line supervisors.

She started out as a contract specialist and has worked her way up to become the chief of Major Programs and Services Contracting Branch in the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing. The contracting division staff of 67 supporting the 642nd Combat

Sustainment Group and 742nd Combat Sustainment Group is responsible for the purchase of almost every vehicle and support equipment that might be seen on the flightline.

Among the items the unit deals with are fire trucks, water trucks, generators, compressors and automated test sets.

Although there are contracting courses offered in some colleges, Nelson said that for the most part people learn the craft on the job. Typically trainees will come in and learn the basics, then get some routine assignments before gradually moving up to more complex contracts, dealing with large corporations such as Boeing and Lockheed.



U.S. Air Force photo by WAYNE CRENSHAW

June Nelson was the 2008 Civilian of the Year.

But they must complete contracting courses to be certified for the job. A typical hire will also have a college degree in business.

"It's good to have a natural curiosity about things, and willingness to look at things and question it because things are not always what they seem on the surface," she said.

STAR SITE

Continued from 1A

of the 402nd SMXG, said officially getting the award next week will be exciting for the group.

"Achieving this designation exemplifies the professionalism and high standard of excellence commonplace across our workforce," Moore said. "Our folks truly understand this program and have not only transformed our workplace and culture into a hazard-free and safety-conscious environment, but more importantly, have taken these practices out into their personal lives where hazards are ever-present."

The 402nd SMXG has a core VPP team led by Mike Scott, but Scott also said the true VPP team is the group's 900 employees.

All 15 individual sites in the group had already achieved Gold Site status, a designation in the Commander's Safe Site Challenge aimed at helping units meet Star Site requirements, he noted.

To emphasize the importance of safety, the group has bulletin boards in which photos of family members and even pets are posted to remind workers why they should be safe. Work areas also have boards where employees can anonymously alert leadership to safety hazards. Each computer also has a safety "dashboard" where team members can track VPP related information.

Some of those improvements, along with the Commander's Safe Site Challenge, were cited in the evaluation as "best practices" by the OSHA team.

Air Force finishes safest flying year in history

BY TERRY WALKER

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Fiscal 2009 was the safest flying year in the 62-year history of the Air Force. There were only 17 Class A mishaps.

The next best year was fiscal 2006 with 19 Class A mishaps. A Class A mishap is one where there is loss of life, an injury resulting in permanent total disability, the destruction of an Air Force aircraft or property damage or loss exceeding \$1 million.

According to William C. Redmond, Air Force Safety Center executive director, regarding destroyed aircraft specifically, the Air Force matched its safest year — fiscal 2006 — with eight destroyed aircraft, down from 15 in fiscal 2008.

“When we looked at our emphasis areas for fiscal 2009, ‘back to basics’ and ‘training rules of engagement discipline’, the results were great because they were only a factor in one Class A Mishap,” Redmond said. “That’s the lowest we’ve ever seen.

“At the commander level, at the Airman level, at the maintenance level, supervisors and the command and wing safety teams are really doing their jobs.” he said. “It’s back to basics and compliance is king from what we are seeing.”

Col. Sidney Mayeux, Air Force chief of flying safety, echoed these thoughts.

“For years we have

been saying at Air Force level ‘go back to basics,’” he said. “The beauty of the last year is that Gen. Norton Schwartz, our chief of staff, and (Maj. Gen. Frederick Roggero), our chief of safety, have put a quantifiable, tangible definition to ‘back to basics’ and it’s endorsed from their level down.”

“It’s a culture of discipline and compliance,” the colonel said. “By paying close attention to mission training rules, rules of engagement and adherence, we’re finding that Airmen with 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 flying hours are taking the time to go back to basics, to remember the basic rules. It helps them remember what they should be doing and when they should be doing it, to reinforce the basic standards and requirements. But it also provides a basic foundation that helps them to smartly recognize those rare occasions when deviating from the rules might be the better option.”

What happens, Mayeux said, is that “we end up with smarter aviators. They are following the rules up to when they have to make a risk decision and are making smarter risk decisions. I’m very proud of the Air Force’s performance this year in aviation safety.”

Redmond said they also saw mission prepara-

tion and systems knowledge improve over the previous years.

“It was a factor in only three fiscal 2009 mishaps,” he said. “Guidance and procedural adherence — following the rules all of the time in the air — was very good last year also.”

The colonel noted that there was a tremendous improvement in between fiscal 2008 and 2009 in knowing personal limits and ejection decisions.

“People did get out of the jet when they had a problem,” he said.

Interest in safety with respect to unmanned aircraft also was growing.

“It’s a pretty exciting time to be here at the safety center,” Redmond said, “because we’re systematically institutionalizing and beginning to codify unmanned aircraft

systems. As our Air Force changes, as the UAS become a major part of our operations, with the varied number of platforms and the effects on how we work, we’re trying to grow a system safety culture that meets the UAS responsibilities just like we have for the manned aircraft.”

There are many variables. Unmanned aircraft can fly for 24-hours. They have a fleet of controllers instead of one. These controllers work through problems such as weather from 2,000 to 3,000 miles away.

“We have done a lot of work to change our procedures from manned versus unmanned aircraft,” said Redmond. “It’s a different problem set for us.”

He explained the human factors

in unmanned aircraft are different from manned aircraft.

“It takes a new approach, not a new approach to safety, but a very solid approach to systems safety and an individual look at UAS from a human factors perspective to meet the requirement for what those future crews are going to be,” Redmond said. “We’re pretty excited about that.”

Mayeux said, “We’re seeing great dividends across the Air Force. We have said for years that safety is the commander’s program. Roggero is saying that safety is a leadership issue to be embraced at all levels. We’re holding each other accountable to make sure we’re making the right decisions. I think it is working.”



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER BOITZ

F-16 Fighting Falcon "Aggressors" fly over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex during a combat training exercise. Fiscal 2009 was the safest flying year in the 62-year history of the Air Force.

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

C-130s arrive in Poland

Ramstein Air Base Airmen delivered the base’s last E-model C-130 Hercules Nov. 2 to Powidz Air Base, Poland, marking the aircraft’s end of 38 years of service to the U.S. Air Force but the newest addition to the Polish air force’s blossoming fleet of strategic airlifters.

C-130 tail No. 1299 touched down and, as the aircrew exited the aircraft, Polish air force Brig. Gen. Tadeusz Mikutel, the 33rd Air Base commander, and Lt. Col. Mieczyslaw Gaudyn, 14th Airlift Squadron commander, welcomed the American Airmen with warm greetings and a firm handshake.

Airmen stops robbery

An Air Force recruiter stopped a robbery in progress while attending his unit’s annual training conference Oct. 29 in Louisiana.

Staff Sgt. Cesar Munoz, a recruiter with the 344th Recruiting Squadron stationed in Killeen, Texas, subdued two assailants attempting to mug an elderly man at the Sam’s Town Hotel and Casino in Shreveport.

Sergeant Munoz and his wife, April, had just left the squadron’s annual promotion party at the hotel and were heading to the casino. The party had featured a Halloween theme, so Sergeant Munoz entered dressed as Elvis, complete with white sequined jumper, sideburns and gold sunglasses.

Robins colonel lends hand to new program, overseas bound

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

The Department of Defense plans to turn hundreds of military personnel into experts on the fight in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, and one Robins officer will be among the group.

Lt. Col. Tom Ficklin has vacated his position as the 78th Mission Support Group's deputy commander to participate in the fledgling program, known as Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands, or APH.

"I am very excited," Ficklin said. "I think it's important to seek out opportunities where you can step up and make a difference and become a strategic game changer."

The aim of the program is to assemble about 300 specially-selected military men and women – mostly officers – from all branches of service who will culti-

vate proficiencies in counterinsurgency.

"The APH program will enhance continuity and focus ... by developing and utilizing our best Airmen," said Gen. Carrol Chandler, vice chief of staff, in a memo about the program. "These Airmen will immerse themselves in the language and culture of the region, becoming a select and elite cadre."

APH participants will be vested in the program for a period of three to five years, requiring multiple rotations between their home stations and the AOR. At any given time, half the participants will be in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

Ficklin is currently undergoing a four-month specialized training program in Rosslyn, Va., that includes language and culture immersion. Once completed, he will deploy to Afghanistan for 365 days, where he will serve as the International Security

Forces' theater head of contracts. He said having a core cadre of servicemembers that remain focused on local issues for an extended period rather than constantly rotating new faces will create continuity and improve relations with foreign leaders.

While many of the program's participants were selected or assigned, Ficklin joins the team as volunteer.

"Part of the appeal was I knew they would teach me a language, and I've always wanted to learn another language," Ficklin said. "Another neat thing is that senior leadership supports this program 100 percent. I believe I'll have the chance to do things outside my assigned duties, based on my unique background and experience."

He said being away from his family – he is married with four children – on a regular basis for six- or 12-month deployments will be difficult. He is grateful they have been supportive of him volunteering for this unique opportunity.



Lt. Col. Thomas Ficklin

► IN BRIEF

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS

The Middle Georgia American Society of Military comptrollers will host its monthly luncheon Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Horizons Club ballroom.

The guest speaker will be Alvin Tucker from ASMC headquarters.

Cost is \$10 for members or \$11 for non-members. Those interested must RSVP with a ticket representative by Monday. For more information call Staff Sgt. Kerstin Haase at 201-1227.

EDUCATION PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

►The Physician Assistant Training Program is accepting applications for fiscal 2010.

Active-duty enlisted Air Force members are eligible to apply for two years of undergraduate Physician Assistant training. Selectees train for one year each at Ft. Sam Houston in

San Antonio, TX and at an AF hospital. They graduate with a Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska and are commissioned into the Air Force Biomedical Sciences Corps as a first lieutenant.

Critical dates for fiscal 2010: Submission of completed application is Jan. 25. Selection board will convene March 16-17 and the projected release date is April 23.

Applicants should call DSN 665-2775, or visit the <https://kx.afms.mil/afbsced> Web page for specific application details.

►The Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program offers active-duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in this high demand academic major. Upon completion, students will be commissioned after passing the National Council Licensure Examination and then attend Commissioned Officer Training and the Nurse Transition Program. NECP students will complete their degree at a col-

lege or university with an AFROTC detachment or a college/university that has a "cross-town agreement" with that college/university.

Critical dates for fiscal 2010: Notification of intent to apply is Feb. 26. Transcripts for academic evaluation are due March 26. Completed applications are due April 23, and the selection board is scheduled to convene May 11-13.

For more information call Robins Education and Training at 327-7304.

ASSE MEETING

The American Society of Safety Engineers has established a Macon section of ASSE to serve military, government, and civilian safety professionals in area.

The new section meets every third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Jocks and Jills, 5680 Sheraton Drive. ASSE membership is not required to attend.

For more information contact: Marshall Huckaby at marshall.c.huckaby@conus.army.mil

PLEASE RECYCLE

Commentary

“You get the best out of others when you get the best out of yourself.”

— Harvey S. Firestone

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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.PARevUp@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

The Robins Rev-Up is published 50 times a year on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter part of the week and the first and last Fridays of the year. To report delivery issues, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

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

DELAYS ENTERING THE GATE

I usually ride my bike through Gate 5 before 8 a.m. and I usually sail through the gate.

Today I happened to go to the scenic 5K route for a jog so I went through the Russell Gate in a car. The traffic stopped way before the gate was visible and it took me 14 minutes to get through.

As soon as I went through, I noticed there was only one guard at each of the three lanes to check ID. I am wondering why during rush hour Russell Gate would not have more guards on duty?

COL. BUHLER RESPONDS:

The goal of our military and civilian guard force is to safely process all vehicle and pedestrian traffic on base as expeditiously as possible.

The latest traffic study revealed that during peak times (4:30 to 9 a.m., Monday - Friday) almost 20,000 vehicles enter the base. The 78th Security Forces Squadron mandates all lanes are open and fully manned during these peak traffic periods. On occasion, circumstances arise which temporarily reduces the number of Security Forces personnel available to check credentials for entry, but those situa-

tions are the exception, rather than the norm. On the morning of Sept. 18 when you entered the Russell Parkway Gate (Gate 14), the gate supervisor had to conduct an emergency post rotation of two of his personnel due to an unforeseen circumstance, and this led to the delay.

The manning deficiency was corrected shortly thereafter.

We appreciate your concern and understanding of our safety and security practices at installation entry control points.

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

I believe it would be more beneficial for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, if the program was treated as a 501C-3 designation. From a donor's viewpoint, donating earned leave has a monetary value. In the private sector, if someone is sick, many times a special tax deductible, 501C-3 account is set up for donations.

Although we as government employees are already "rewarded" by knowing we have had the opportunity to help someone in need, I feel we should have the same opportunity given to those in the private sector: the ability to deduct from our income taxes, the "value" that was given as a "charitable" contribution.

COL. BUHLER RESPONDS:

Thank you for your inquiry on the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. This is a very important program that Robins is proud to be part of.

This program helps federal employees who have medical emergencies and are without the availability of paid leave. It allows them to receive transferred annual leave from other employees with the concurrence of respective management officials. Leave donated under the VLTP is transferred on an hour-for-hour basis, rather than on dollar value of the leave donated, in accordance with the U.S.C.

Robins is responsible for administering leave policies and programs for its employees using the guidelines established by The Office of Personnel Management. Unfortunately, Robins does not have the legal authority to treat the VLTP as a 501C-3 designation. OPM provides government-wide leadership on leave policies and programs for federal employees. If you'd like to provide your suggestion to them, they can be reached at 202-606-1800, as your suggestion would require a change to the current law governing the VLTP.

For more information, contact your servicing human resources specialist in employee relations at 222-0601.

“Voluntold” is not always a bad thing...

My name is Staff Sergeant Garreth R.W. Laney and I just finished a 90-day rotation with the Honor Guard. I served with the Honor Guard because it was what I was "voluntold" to do. I use the word "voluntold" rather than "volunteered" because Honor Guard was not something that I, at the time, had planned. When the rotation started, I was an active coach for my son's baseball team, a bowling youth coach, and on top of all else, a dedicated family man.

Being a ceremonial guardsman has been a great honor. I had the opportunity to honor fallen comrades, post our nation's colors and support the United States Air Force. In the beginning, I didn't see the opportunity that lay in front of me. However, my experience with the Honor Guard was life changing. Some of us realized it during the rotation and some of us didn't realize it until the rotation was over. In my case, it was during and the feeling was bitter sweet. Here you are, providing a service for a person that has passed away, but it is so much more than that. You have to be there for the family on one of the worst days of their life. I was able to do a ceremony that, hopefully, left a lasting impression on family members and that made me feel good about the service that I was providing. Sometimes I got a



courtesy photo

Staff Sergeant Garreth R.W. Laney, Honor Guard member, rehearses dressing the flag prior to a funeral detail in Peachtree City.

little upset at myself because of everything in my life that I thought I was missing. Those things were actually small in comparison to what just happened to that family. You begin to feel their grief and it saddens you. It's then, that you truly appreciate the standards and traditions that Honor Guard teaches each and every one of us that serve.

I feel that my Honor Guard experience has made me a better

NCO for several reasons. First, I pay more attention to details. This is something that we all lose a little along the way. At any ceremony, function or funeral every movement is vital. Second, coordination is the key to success. If you have not properly coordinated with the point of contact then it can make you look like you don't know what you are doing. I find that when everyone is "on the same page" then the detail will

run smoothly. And last but not least, I had the opportunity to be the NCOIC for several details. In my career field, staff sergeants usually do not get the opportunity to supervise Airmen. I was able to utilize all the tools that I had learned in Airman Leadership School. I was also given the opportunity to share the mentorship I received from past and present supervisors. I dealt with several different personalities and feel that has given me the ability to communicate and better understand others and their point of views.

I would like to close by saying, I originally looked at the Honor Guard as something that I was "voluntold" to do and felt it was something that kept me away from my family constantly for 3 months. But hindsight is 20/20, and all of that pales in comparison to what it actually is. Honor Guard is one of the greatest experiences that I have had thus far in my career. I can honestly say that no one will ever truly understand or appreciate the ceremonial guardsman's uniform until they have worn it themselves. I will openly volunteer at any time to wear the uniform again and represent the United States Air Force.

— Staff Sgt. Garreth R.W. Lane
is assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing here.

OFF THE CUFF!

What's your tip for freezing the holiday weight gain?



Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Norris
78th MDOS

"Maintain your exercise program during the holidays even if you take off on leave."



Tech. Sgt. Christina Williamson Haupt
78th MDOS

"Watch what you eat. Don't let the desserts get to you."



Master Sgt. Arlo Southall
78th MDOS

"Be mindful of what time you eat. Don't eat too late."



Tech. Sgt. Cathie Wright
78th MDOS

"Have a buddy to support and encourage you not to over eat."

X-ray vision

Radiology technicians help early diagnosis

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

An X-ray image is still pretty much the same today as it was when Master Sgt. Arlo Southall entered the radiology career field in 1995.

How that image is produced, however, has changed quite a bit.

Today Southall is the radiology section chief at the Robins medical clinic, where X-ray images are digitized and kept as computer files.

When he first started in the field, X-ray film was developed with chemicals, much like photographers developed film before digital cameras made dark-rooms obsolete.

Of the three X-ray machines in use at Robins, two create plates that are inserted into another machine that, in a dry process, creates a digitized image that can be viewed on a computer screen. A third X-ray machine doesn't even require a plate. The images it takes go directly to a computer.

One of the biggest advantages of that, Southall said, is the archiving. With

it all being kept on computer, any image can be instantly located.

"It's about a million times easier," he said. "You aren't trying to locate missing films."

They can still produce a film if necessary, or they can put the images on a CD if a patient needs to take them to another doctor off base.

In 1999 Robins became one of the first in the Air Force to convert to digitized X-ray imaging, also known as the Picture Archiving Communications System, or PACS.

The area employs 13 people — six military members and seven contractors. They are all called radiology technologists. Airmen are needed in the field, in part because they are required in combat zones to make X-rays of battle injuries. They also have two interns from the radiology program at Middle Georgia Technical College.

It's up to a doctor to look at the images and make a diagnosis, but experienced technicians can usually spot anomalies, Southall said. They do not



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Staff Sgt. Maurice Hazelton and Angie Eubanks perform quality control of some X-ray images.

discuss their observations with the patient, however. That's strictly left to the physician.

When their regular radiologist is out, a radiologist at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas can look at the images via computer and give a diagnosis.

They also operate two fluoroscopy machines. Instead of taking still images, those take moving pictures. Barium, a white liquid that shows up on X-ray, is used to show the physician how fluid is moving through the body. Someone with swallowing

problems, for example, might ingest barium and the fluoroscopy would allow the doctor to see how it moves through the throat.

The radiology area here also does ultrasounds and mammography. Tech Sgt. Stephanie Norris said it's gratifying to be a part of the all-important early detection of breast cancer.

"There's a lot of patients I've done the mammograms on who have ended up having breast cancer and we are the first ones to help diagnose it," she said.



A back X-ray is viewed in the radiology clinic.



Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Norris takes an X-ray of Deana Scarborough's hand.

Special Olympics coming to Robins Bowling Center

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

The Robins Bowling Center will help the city of Warner Robins play host to a state Special Olympics event.

The annual Special Olympics Master's Bowling Tournament will be held at Russell Parkway Bowling Center and the Robins Bowling Center for the next three years, starting in August 2010.

The tournament will take place over a weekend, said Robins Bowling Center director Dan Bueno.

"We're excited about it," Bueno said. "It's a great opportunity that the Special Olympics has chosen the city of Warner Robins."

The tournament is expected to draw approximately 600 participants and 200 volunteers.

Special Olympics Georgia offers sports training and competition opportunities to children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The announcement that Warner Robins had been chosen for the bowling tournament was made at City Hall on Thursday. About 30 city, base and Special Olympics officials were present for the announcement.

"This is very special in so many ways," said Mary Therese Tebbe, chairman of the Warner Robins Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We are here to help you have the grandest event ever."

Warner Robins Mayor John Havrilla said he appreciated the participation of the base. He also said Warner Robins was a good choice for the tournament because of its family atmosphere and enthusiasm for sports.

Louis Maxwell, a Special Olympics powerlifter, also spoke at the announcement.

"Most folks think I am out there to win but I just like seeing the faces of all the other athletes," Maxwell said. "I've been doing this for a long time and I really enjoy it."



Bowlers play at the Robins Bowling Center on Tuesday.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

78th FSS BRIEFS

TODAY

Place your order for a Thanksgiving Carry – Out Special now – Nov. 20. Cost is \$59.95 and includes an 18 – 20 lb. roasted whole turkey, 8 lbs. cornbread dressing, 1 qt. giblet gravy and 1 qt. cranberry sauce. Final day for pickup is Nov. 25. Orders must be picked up by 3 p.m. For more information or to place your order call 926-6972.

SATURDAY

Texas Hold'Em will be held in the Heritage Club Lounge today and Nov. 21 with a Base Championship Tournament to follow Dec. 5. Texas Hold'Em will not be held Nov. 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Sign-ups will begin at 1:30 p.m. and games will start at 2 p.m. Entertainment fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. For more information, call 926-2670.

SUNDAY

Every Sunday watch all the play-by-play NFL football action on the Heritage Club multiple television screens and three new high definition plasma televisions with satellite. Doors open at noon and games begin at 1 p.m. There will be prizes, food and beverage specials all season long. For more information call 926-2670.

MONDAY

The Arts & Crafts Center is now offering sewing classes on Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. For more details on this class and more call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-3004.

THURSDAY

The Base Restaurant will be serving a customer appreciation Thanksgiving meal Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dine at the main restaurant or purchase a meal at one of the snack bars or mobile trucks. Meal includes sliced turkey, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, giblet gravy, roll and cranberry sauce for \$2.25. For more information call 926-6972.

UPCOMING

There will be a Turkey Trot 5K Race Nov. 20 beginning at 11 a.m. For details contact the Fitness Center at 926-2128.

Private pilot ground school will be conducted Jan. 4 – Feb. 26. Cost is \$585 and is due at the time of registration. Register soon as classroom seating is limited. For more information, call the aero club at 926-4867.

The Youth Center is now accepting registration for Thanksgiving Camp Nov. 23 – 25. Current shots are required. Space is limited. For more information please call 926-2110.

Horizons will host a Thanksgiving Day Buffet Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enjoy home-style turkey, ham, stuffing, pies and much more. Open to all ranks and grades. Cost is \$12.95 for members, \$14.95 for guests, \$7.95 for children (3 – 10 years old) and free for children 2 years and younger. Reservations are required for parties of 10 or more.

For more information on the best Thanksgiving buffet in Middle Georgia, call 926-2670.

ONGOING

Enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights at the Biltmore Castle and Estates Dec. 27 – 29. Tour the home, adventure through the gardens or partake in wine tasting. Cost is \$450 – 2 per room, \$600 – 3 per room or \$740 – 4 per room. Register by Nov. 23. For more information call 926-4001.

Jump start your New Year's resolution and avoid those holiday pounds! The Biggest Loser Competition will be held Dec. 1 till Feb. 26. Open to all Base ID card holders. Contact the Fitness Center for details at 926-2128.

The Horizons front entrance renovation is complete. Please stop by and see the improvements. For more details, call Horizons at 926-2670.

Tops in Blue



U.S. Air Force photo by GARY CUTRELL

Tops in Blue, a variety show put on by 27 performers, seven technicians and two stage directors, performed in Warner Robins on Nov. 5. The participants are all active-duty Air Force personnel and the show travels from city to city where there are Air Force bases.

Walking with poles will take place – Nov. 30 at the Fitness Center Annex. The winner of this incentive program will receive a set of customized Nordic walking poles. For more information call 926-2840.

Are you driving home for the holidays? Be sure your vehicle is in tip top condition. The Auto Hobby Shop has trained professionals to service and maintain vehicles. Get an oil change, tire rotation and balance, vehicle safety inspection and free car wash token all for \$46 – a \$70 value! For more information call 926-2049.

The annual base Holiday Food Drive has begun. The 78th Force Support Squadron will be collecting canned goods to make holiday gift baskets for families in need. Collection boxes are located throughout the base. If you know of a Robins family in need, come by the community center, Bldg. 956

and fill out an application. All applications are confidential. For more information call 926-2105.

Hunting season is open now through Jan. 15, 2010. Hunting requires a valid Georgia state hunting license and hunting safety class offered by outdoor recreation. Cost is \$10 for archery hunting and \$30 for gun and archery. For class times and dates call 926-4001.

The Afterburner, which proudly brews Starbucks coffee, is open Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. November's specials are the Red Eye (one shot of espresso fused with Starbucks' world class blended coffee), Cross Eye (double shot of espresso fused with Starbucks' world-class blended coffee) or the Black Eye (triple shot of espresso fused with Starbucks' world-class blended coffee). The Afterburner is located in the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166 on Byron St.

It offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, pastries and snacks. For more information call 222-7827.

The Pine Oaks Lodging now offers wireless high speed internet access available in all rooms. Room reservations may be made up to two weeks in advance or you can register online at www.robinservices.com. For more information call lodging at 926-2100.

Stalls for horses are available at the riding stables. The stables, near Luna Lake, offer a lighted riding ring, hot & cold wash rack, horse trails, stalls and pasture. Cost includes a monthly \$15 family membership fee & monthly stable fee of \$97. All base ID cardholders – active duty, reserve, ANG, retired military, DOD civilians are eligible. For more information call 447-6905 or 926-4001.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: What do you know about holidays?

Do you think you know a little bit about holidays? Take this quiz, and see how much you really know.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What holiday was created by a vote of the United Nations General Assembly in 1981?

- A) United Nations Day, B) International Peace Day, C) World Youth Day
D) International Earth Day

Q2: In what year was Father's Day first celebrated?

- A) 1810, B) 1860, C) 1910, D) 1960

Q3: What holiday celebrates the end of slavery in the United States?

- A) Sweetest Day, B) Freedom Day, C) Kwanzaa, D) Juneteenth Day

Q4: What British holiday is named after a man who tried to blow up a government building?

- A) Guy Fawkes Day, B) St. David's Day, C) Sadie Hawkins Day, D) Bobby Levin Day

ANSWERS:

A1: B. In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 3667 declaring an International Day of Peace. In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution 55/282 declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence.

A2: C. The very first Father's Day celebration took place in Spokane, Washington in 1910. A woman named Sonora Smart Dodd came up with the idea while listening to a Mother's Day sermon. Having lost her mother at an early age, Sonora was raised primarily by her father and thought he deserved a day of appreciation. Because her father was born in June in 1910, she chose June 19, 1910 to hold the first Father's Day celebration. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made it official, proclaiming the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

A3: D. Juneteenth Day celebrates and symbolizes the end of slavery in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. But, it was not until June 19, 1865, when General George Granger rode into Galveston, Texas with his troops and issued Order Number 3, that all slaves were finally freed.

A4: A. That's right! In 1605, Guy Fawkes conspired in the Gunpowder Plot to blow up King James the First and members of both Houses of Parliament. He was caught red-handed in the cellar below the House on Nov. 4, 1605, tortured and executed. Guy Fawkes Day is still celebrated in Britain every year on Nov. 5 with bonfires, fireworks and the burning of the "guy", usually a grotesque effigy.

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: **Melanie Farris**, HQ AFRC. POC is Clyde Huddleston 327-1402.

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 (Jumua) 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



**NOVEMBER 13
7:30 P.M.
THE INFORMANT
RATED R**

What was Mark Whitacre thinking? A rising star at agri-industry giant Archer Daniels Midland, Whitacre suddenly turns whistleblower. Even as he exposes his company's multi-national price-fixing conspiracy to the FBI, Whitacre envisions himself being hailed as a hero of the common man and handed a promotion. But before all that can happen, the FBI needs evidence.



**NOVEMBER 14
7:30 P.M.
ALL ABOUT STEVE
RATED PG-13**

When Mary is set up on a blind date with handsome cable-news cameraman Steve, she thinks the chemistry is undeniable - that Steve is "the one." Steve, on the other hand, thinks Mary is crazy.

Mary then begins to pursue Steve relentlessly as he crisscrosses the country, covering breaking news stories.



**UPCOMING HALLOWEEN 2
RATED R**

A year after narrowly escaping death at the hands of Michael Myers, Laurie Strode is at the breaking point, pushed to the edge by Dr. Loomis' revelation that she's Michael's sister. Little does she know, the unstoppable killer is back in Haddonfield and, driven by visions of their dead mother, he is determined to bring about a bloody family reunion.

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

YOAFF photo contest



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Torrance McGee selects his picks for winners in the Year of the Air Force Family photo exhibit at the Airman & Family Readiness Center Nov. 5. The YOAFF campaign, which runs through June 2010, was started to help remind people of the Air Force's long tradition of taking care of its people. The aim is to help members of the Air Force family to reach their goals, both personal and professional, while maintaining a wartime ops tempo.

IN BRIEF

ROBINS ANGEL TREES

It's Angel Tree time again!

The Robins Officers' Spouses Club in conjunction with the First Shirts will be setting up trees full of angels at the Robins Base Exchange and the commissary. Each angel represents a wish of a member of a Team Robins family.

Take an angel and then

return it with the requested item to the gift boxes located in the front entrance of the BX or commissary. All Angel Tree contributions can be turned in at any time through Dec. 11.

For more information, send an e-mail to the Angel Tree POC-Darla-at-OSC@gmail.com.

WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE THRIFT SHOP

The Robins Officers' Spouses' Club has a limited

number of Official White House ornaments for sale at the Thrift Shop, located in Building 945 (corner of Macon and 10th St.). Normal Thrift Shop hours are Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 to 6 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Thrift Shop will close for the holidays Dec. 18, and will re-open on Jan. 6. For more information send an e-mail to robinsosc@gmail.com re: ornaments.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Chief Master Sgt. Harold Hutchison, 78th Air Base Wing command chief, talks with Karin Winward of American Legion Post #172 during the event.

Robins says thanks

Retirees honored during appreciation day



Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Ernie Munson, Retired Military Activities Office director, addresses retirees and their family members and gives away gifts donated by the Robins Commissary and various Warner Robins community merchants.

TURN OFF THE JUICE WHEN NOT IN USE

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

Native Americans have been vital to many U.S. military successes

BY STAFF SGT.
STEPHANIE CADET
78th MDSS

“Ne-he-mah”, an ideal which many Navajos made the ultimate sacrifice to protect. Navajo Code Talkers used this word to represent America; the literal translation is “our mother.”

This is just one example of hundreds of words that the Navajos used to help our country fight the Japanese in World War II.

Throughout history, many different Native American tribes have helped America defeat its-foes.

The Navajo were enlisted into the military as “Code Talkers” during World War II and played an integral role in tactical operations. Why did America decide to bring Navajo code talkers into the war and what was their significance during this conflict? And finally, why is it important to recognize the amazing accomplishments of the Navajo code talkers?

In 1942, Phillip Johnston, a man who had lived amongst the Navajo for more than 20 years, realized that the Navajo had a specialized skill that

would be extremely beneficial to the United States military and its quest to defeat the Japanese.

The Navajo spoke a complex language that was only used on Navajo lands. Another special characteristic of the language is that it was never written and it was incoherent to anyone outside the tribe. Johnston recommended that the U.S. Marine Corps consider a new program utilizing this unique language. Consequently, under the leadership of Major General Clayton Vogel, the U.S. Marine Corps established the Navajo Code Talkers Program.

The United States needed a way to send messages across the radio expeditiously and without fear of it being intercepted by enemy forces.

The Navajos developed “Navajo Code.”

They created a dictionary consisting of military terms not already in their language. For example, they used “whale” in place of “battleship.” Up until the inception of this new program, it took 30 minutes to encode, transmit, and decode a message.

The Navajo’s shattered this time by being able to do the

same task in just 20 seconds in a simulated combat situation. In the battle of Iwo Jima, six code talkers were able to flawlessly transfer over 800 messages. Before the program was ended, it recruited and enlisted an estimated 400 Navajos.

It is important to recognize the accomplishments of the Navajo nation in American history. In 1995, former President Clinton realized this importance and designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

This is essential in acknowledging and celebrating the rich history of not just the Navajo Code Talkers, but all Native Americans.

The Navajo Code talkers played an instrumental role in World War II. Had they not sacrificed and enlisted in the military, our country may not be where it is today. Embracing diversity and knowing our history allows us to appreciate each other and recognize all contributions to making America the greatest nation on earth.

*Sources include :
www.d e o m i . o r g ,
www.yvwiisdinvnohii.net/
history/usmccode.htm and
www.history.navy.mil.*

Native American Heritage Month Events

► Today the movie “Brother Bear” will be shown at Robins Park. The movie will begin at dusk, which is expected to be at approximately 6:30 p.m.

► On Nov. 16 a luncheon will be held at the Horizons club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Plainsmen Drum and Dance Troup. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by contacting Capt. Lurie Walton at 926-5705.

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

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COMMANDER KILL A WATT SAYS CONSERVE ENERGY

