



**DoD
lauds
C-130 Team**
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Road Closure Update

Warner Robins Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will be closed Thursday through Jan. 28. The closure will allow an electrical bank for the fire pump building to be installed. Signs will be posted to redirect traffic. For more information, contact Stefanie Dawson at 497-2948.



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visits
JSTARS**
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ROBINS REV-UP

January 18, 2013 Vol. 58 No. 2

Airman sentenced in murder of civilian in Macon

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Robins Airman pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced last week in a general court-martial.

The sentence included reduction to E-1, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a dishonorable discharge and confinement for life. However, based on a pretrial agreement in the case, the maximum confinement he will have to serve is 40 years.

Steven Holsey, a 689th Combat Communications Wing senior airman, entered a guilty plea at his court-martial to murder with intent to kill and obstruction of justice in connection with the shooting and killing of a civilian outside the Whiskey River nightclub in Macon in July.

Police said an altercation started inside the club and later spilled into the parking lot, where Holsey shot 20-year-old Anthony Harris Jr.

The military requested and was granted jurisdiction over the case by Bibb County authorities.

According to the Judge Advocates Office, the federal government routinely makes such requests "to maximize (its) jurisdiction over military members" involved in civilian criminal matters.

AF delivers budget guidance to force

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force on Thursday outlined a number of near-term actions it's taking in light of the current budgetary uncertainty.

The actions include curtailing non-readiness or mission essential flying and travel; curtailing or stopping minor

furniture and computer and software purchases; deferring non-emergency facility sustainment, restoration and modernization; and civilian hiring restrictions.

Meanwhile, Robins' parent command – Air Force Materiel Command – explained it's working to determine how best to implement the actions

while ensuring the command's mission is accomplished.

More details will be provided as they become available, it said.

An earlier Pentagon news release quoted Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley as saying all the services are working hard to avoid having a hollow military like that in

the late 1970s and early 1980s.

A hollow military looks good on paper, Secretary Donley said, "but has more units and equipment than it can support [and] lacks the resources to adequately man, train and maintain them, or to keep up with advancing technologies."



In the Heat of Battle

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP
Above, Robins firefighters Daniel Zytowski and John Whitson extinguish a car fire during a training exercise Jan. 10. The exercise scenario involved a two-car accident involving one vehicle on fire with an injured person outside of the car and two injured passengers in the second car.

At right, a simulated victim is removed from one of the vehicles on Beale Drive.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Lesley Darley, Community Support Coordinator, briefs members of the Parents Advocates for Students and Schools during a working lunch Wednesday.

Base introduces Community Support Coordinator

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Amid a challenging fiscal and personnel climate, the Air Force has created community support coordinator positions at 71 Air Force installations, including Robins.

The positions were developed to operationalize the four pillars of Comprehensive Airmen Fitness – mental, physical, social and spiritual.

"Our goal is to ensure the needs of all Team Robins families are met," said Lesley Darley, Robins' community support coordinator. "In order to ensure the voice of the customer is

heard, we've expanded our local team to include representatives from all mission partners, Airman Committed to Excellence and Social Opportunities for Single Airman."

As the local focal point for Comprehensive Airman Fitness, Darley also serves as the installation Community Action Information Board's executive director.

The objective of the CAIB is to identify and resolve issues impacting the readiness of Airmen, civilians and their families. Its focus is to promote a positive way of life and enhance their ability to function as productive Air

Force community members.

Darley is also chair of the Integrated Delivery System, the working group formed as the action arm of the CAIB. The two structures exist at the Air Force, major command and installation levels, combining a multi-disciplinary team working together to resolve and impact readiness issues.

One of Darley's top programs for 2013 is Caring for People, an effort which provides Team Robins the opportunity to work together to identify gaps in services and areas of

► see CSC, 2

Army unit right at home here

BY JENNY GORDON
jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil

Supporting the mission of the Air Force's Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System is the 138th Military Intelligence Company – a detachment of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

The 138th is one of a number of non-Air Force organizations at Robins, including Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, the Defense Logistics Agency and others.

While their uniforms may be different, most of the officer and enlisted men and women of the nearly 90-member Army JSTARS unit work alongside the Air Force in all areas of mission planning and flight coordination.

They provide air and ground combatant commanders with intelligence for surveillance and targeting operations.

A two-year rotation is typical here, but can be extended should soldiers be selected to become instructors in the Combat Training Squadron, the first stop in training before flying. An academic phase lasts about 2 ½ months as soldiers learn to become aircrew members. Sgt. 1st Class Steven Drisker, the Army NCOIC of the CTS, instructs on all aspects of JSTARS flying operations. He, like many in his Army unit, arrived at Robins having never flown as military aircrew.

"It was something to get used to," said Drisker, who will be leaving in June for a new assignment in Arizona.

Sgt. Eric Harder, stationed at Robins for two years, has served as an airborne target surveillance supervisor aboard JSTARS. He explained that working alongside others, with various ranks and experiences both in the Air Force and Army, is unlike anything he has experienced since enlisting.

"What makes us unique in the Army is the fact that we all have the same job here. It's also where we work with the (Air Force) squadrons," said Harder. "This is an assignment I may never get to experience anyplace else."

"We learn as much as we can here, then move on and spread the wealth," added First Sgt. Louis Brown, the 138th's senior enlisted leader.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
The 138th Military Intelligence Company trains and deploys with Air Force E-8C aircrews. The unit was activated in October 2004.

Page Two

DoD Best in Show

The C-130 PDM team from the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex was awarded the 2012 Secretary of Defense Depot-level Maintenance Award, known as the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence. John Johns, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Maintenance Policy and Programs at the Pentagon, presented coins Jan. 10 to 70 people from the C-130 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team, C-130 System Program Office, Defense Logistics Agency and 78th Air Base Wing.



The Annual Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes outstanding depot-level military programs.



8 depot-level teams were nominated for the award in **2012**

The 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, which was among those which contributed to the award, includes more than 1,100 specialists who provide programmed depot-level maintenance and modifications to C-130s.

U.S. Air Force photo illustration by TOMMIE HORTON

WHILE FOCUSING ON DUE-DATE PERFORMANCE, THE TEAM CONCENTRATED ON QUALITY AND SAFETY, NARROWING WORK FOCUS, INCREASING SPEED AND MANAGING INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCORDING TO RICHARD FREY, 560TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON DIRECTOR. THEY DID SO WHILE FOCUSING ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES. THE TEAM USED HIGH VELOCITY MAINTENANCE TENETS AND ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES SUCH AS AIR FORCE SMART OPERATIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

(For photos and video, visit our website at www.Robins.af.mil)

CSC

Continued from 1

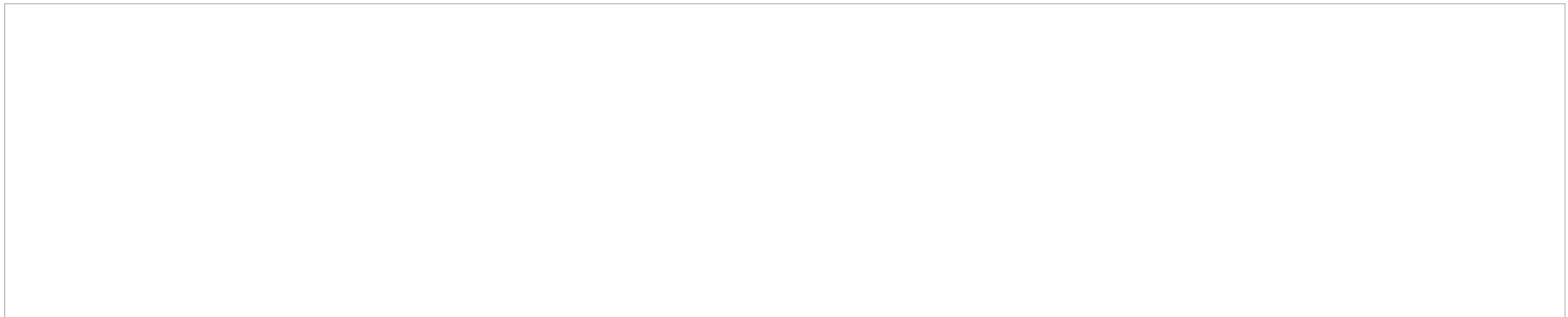
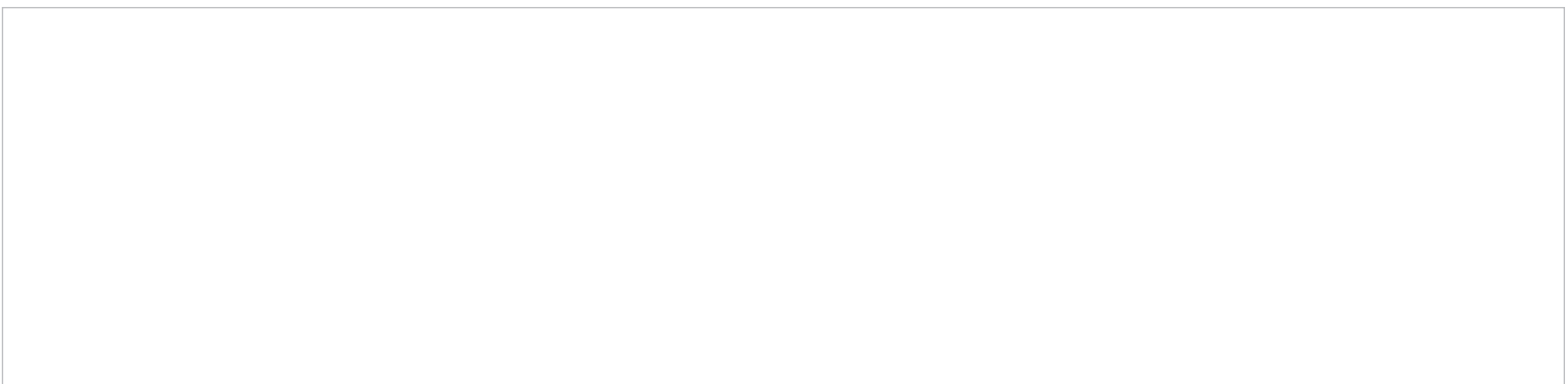
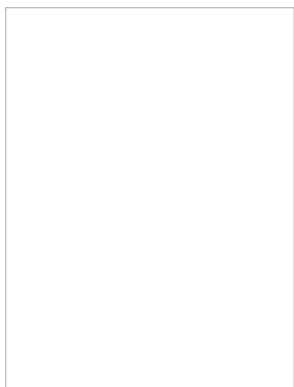
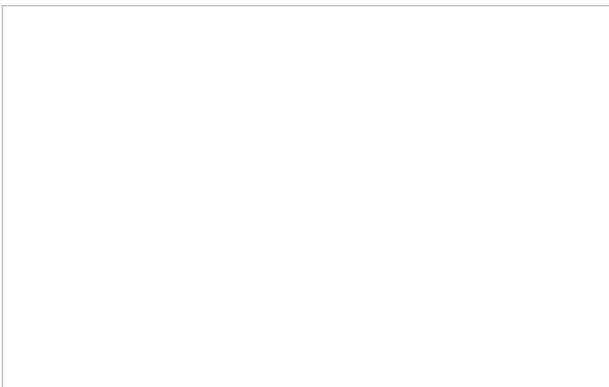
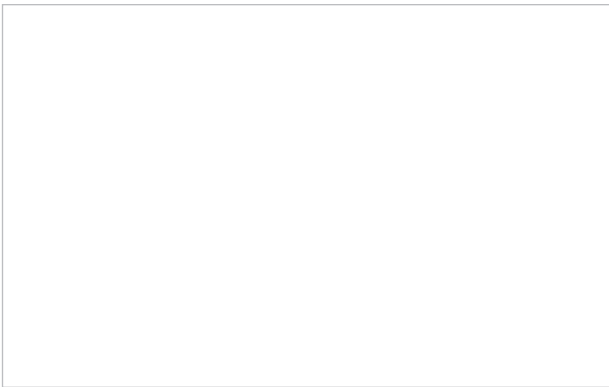
improvement in quality of life programs.

The local Caring for people effort has more than 150 people working to identify issues and propose solutions in the following areas: military child education, deployment support, EFMP support, spouse communication, health and wellness, housing support, Guard and reserve support, family support, fostering resiliency, and higher education.

WANT TO HELP?

The next Caring for People Forum will be March 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested in participating should contact Darley at 497-7692.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



AIR FORCE



Air Force releases new 'vision' document

The Air Force released a new Vision document Jan. 11 outlining the service's vision and way forward.

"Focused on 'Airmen, Mission, and Innovation,' I believe this short document captures what today's Air Force is all about and where I think we ought to focus on for tomorrow," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III in an email to all Airmen.

"We are the greatest air force in the world because of our Airmen – Active, Reserve, Guard, and Civilian – to remain the greatest, we must make our team even stronger," the Vision states.

To read the statement, visit www.af.mil.

The most fearsome weapon is evolving

Marrying the best attributes of two aircraft means great things for warfighter capability.

The first MC-130J Combat Shadow II to be converted into Air Force Special Operations Command's newest variant of the gunship, the AC-130J Ghost Rider, has arrived at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Modifications to the airframe will be completed in 10 months and will be a milestone in the recapitalization of the AC-130H/U fleet.

The AC-130J Ghost Rider will inherit the AC-130W Stinger II's precision strike package, which was developed to support ground forces in overseas contingency operations.

Insurgent activity in urban environments created the need for an airframe that could deliver direct fire support to ground forces and precisely engage enemies with low-yield munitions.

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

New resource helps troops, families plan deployments

Service members and their families now have a new resource to guide them through the deployment journey.

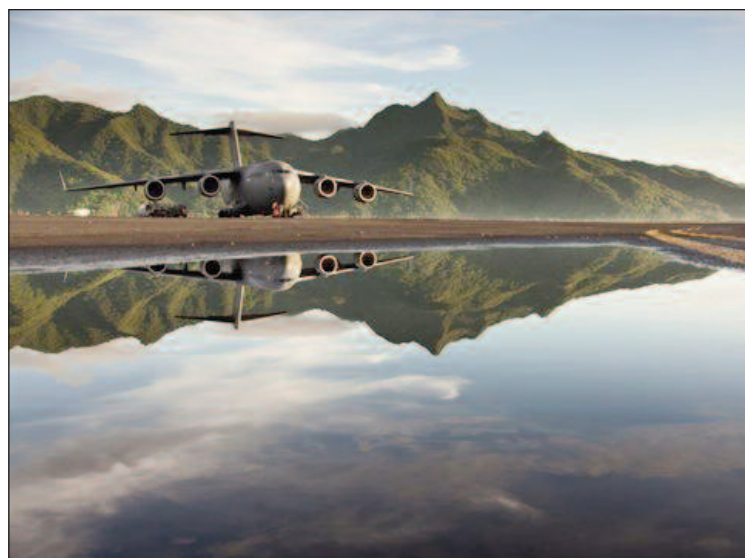
Barbara Thompson, director of DoD's office for family policy, discussed "Plan My Deployment" during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

"This is a new, interactive, online tool which supports service members and their families as they prepare for the different stages of deployment," she said.

The new resource guides users through the ins and outs of deployment from powers of attorney and legal assistance considerations to financial and emotional issues," Thompson said. Other tips and tools address education and training benefits.

Reflection

An Air Force C-17 Globemaster III sits on the runway at Pago Pago International Airport in American Samoa. Tropical Cyclone Evan passed over American Samoa in December, causing 6,000 people to take shelter in evacuation centers and \$4.1 million in damages to infrastructure. The puddle in the foreground is a result of rains from that storm.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. JOHN POLKA

"We modeled this after the very popular "Plan My Move," program which helps with [permanent change of station] moves," she said. "It's the same kind of approach. We look at providing the tools and information, and you tailor it to your individual family's needs."

Plan My Deployment also saves the user's information, so people can exit from the site and return at their convenience.

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

Total Force tanker team completes 50,000 flying hours in 2012

Averaging more than 136 hours a day, the largest refueling squadron in the world flew more than 50,000 combat hours in 2012 using the Total Force Integration model.

"Surpassing 50,000 hours is a significant milestone," said Lt. Col. Brian Gilpatrick, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron director of operations. "It was like having six aircraft airborne 24/7 since the beginning of the year."

Impressive as that is, how they got there with an integrated team of active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen is even more so.

"The 340th EARS is not only the largest tanker squadron in the world, but it is also one of the greatest examples of Total Force Integration," Gilpatrick said. "Each and every year, we have about 1,200 personnel rotate through the 340th from more than 50 units spread across 29 active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve bases."

To learn more, visit www.afrc.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN FIRST CLASS DILLON DAVIS

Training Day

An Airman starts a concrete saw during emergency egress training at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. This training provided firefighters hands-on experience in cutting through aircraft canopies during emergencies.

State of the Air Force is 'strong'

BY MASTER SGT. JESS HARVEY

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS)

– The Air Force's top leaders said today the service has accomplished much while dealing with many challenges in the last year.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III briefed members of the media here on the state of the service and its focus on the areas of force structure, readiness and modernization.

"America's Airmen are focused on their missions, and they demonstrate every day what it means to be members of the world's finest air force," Donley said. "These Total Force Airmen – active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian – are the reason I can say without reservation that the state of our Air Force remains strong."

The secretary dedicated a significant amount of time explaining how the nation's fiscal challenges have affected and will continue to affect the force.

"Our nation's ongoing

budget gymnastics exert costly consequences upon the Air Force and our sister services and create an atmosphere of unease among many of our uniformed and civilian Airmen," Donley said. "Given that we are now into the second quarter of (fiscal 2013), we can no longer live under the uncertainty of sequestration and continuing resolution without taking action."

Prudent planning is required to mitigate budget risks and minimize impacts to readiness, the secretary said, adding that guidance will be provided to the force in a few days to begin planning for the uncertain budget environment ahead.

As part of the planning, Air Force leaders are dedicated to avoiding a hollow force – one that looks good on paper but has more units and equipment than it can support, lacks the resources to adequately train and maintain them, and keep up with advancing technologies.

"We believe the best path forward is to become smaller in order to protect a high quality and ready force that will improve in capability,"



STATE OF THE AF
SecAF, CSAF discuss key issues

Donley said.

In doing this, Welsh emphasized the importance of sustaining the enduring contributions the Air Force provides that will continue to guide the service as it moves forward, no matter what happens with the fiscal realities of the future.

"As we move toward that smaller, more capable and ready force, we have to be careful to protect our whole mission," Welsh said. "If we don't, the entire joint force is affected, and it's impacted in a significant way."

According to the secretary, the service has already suffered great impacts to its

readiness levels.

"More than two decades of war and other operations have had an impact on our readiness, straining our Airmen and their families, reducing opportunities for training and taking a toll on equipment," Donley said.

In order for the Air Force to improve on current readiness levels, Welsh said modernization remains a top priority, recalling a childhood memory of his grandfather's then new, 'sweet' car to help characterize the issue.

"If we were at Minot (Air Force Base) today, I could take you out on the flight line and show you a whole bunch

of 'sweet' B-52s," Welsh said. "And in 2028, when we deliver the last KC-46 tanker, we'll still have about 200 'sweet' KC-135s on the ramp. And they'll be about the same age then – 60 – as my grandfather's car would be today."

The difference is, he said, his grandfather's car has an antique license plate on it today, while America's Airmen will be flying these aircraft in 2028, in contingencies and combat zones around the world.

Which is why modernization isn't an option, Welsh said, "It doesn't matter if we get smaller. We have got to figure out how to make modernization happen."

During the briefing, the general also took time to highlight the recent release of the Air Force Vision Statement, which embraces innovation as almost a genetic trait of every Airman.

"I believe that's true. In order for us to be successful, I think it has to be true," Welsh said. "We intend to remain the world's greatest air force, powered by Airmen and fueled by innovation."

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil and vance.janes@robins.af.mil

Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. For information, call Lanorris Askew at 472-0806.

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U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS
Capt. Robert, (Last name of the crewmember withheld for security purposes.) 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, briefs Gen. Mike Hostage, Air Combat Command commander, about flight deck operations on the E-8C Joint STARS here. Hostage toured the aircraft during a two-day visit to Team JSTARS Jan.7 - 8.

SHARING VISION FOR FUTURE Top general visits JSTARS Airmen, Soldiers

BY TECH. SGT. REGINA YOUNG
 116th Air Control Wing
 Public Affairs

Team Joint STARS welcomed Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command, here Jan. 7 - 8.

During his visit, Hostage received a Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System operations briefing, observed aircraft maintenance tasks, toured one of the aircraft and attended a breakfast dedicated to Team Joint STARS enlisted members.

Hostage also shared information on topics relevant to current and future Joint STARS missions and interacted with wing members during a question and answer session.

Hostage emphasized the combatant commanders' increased demand for Joint STARS communication and surveillance capabilities during his all-call. He also described his vision to the 116th and 461st Air Control wings and the 138th Military Intelligence Company.

"JSTARS pioneered the Total Force Initiative." Hostage added. Joint STARS was the first "blended"

ONE OF A KIND

Robins is the only location for the Joint STARS aircraft, which provide command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to combatant commanders around the globe.

wing of its type combining Air National Guard and Regular Air Force personnel in 2002.

Hostage thanked Team JSTARS members for their service and underscored their positive impact to the U.S. Air Force.



Left, Dancers perform a high energy routine.

U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Kick up your heels

Tops in Blue, the Air Force's ambassadors to the world, performed a free concert Saturday to a packed house at the Warner Robins Civics Center.

The troupe has been performing for 55 years.



Tops in Blue paid homage to Michael Jackson with a medley of his hits.



The performers prepare to take the stage with their traditional 'all hands in cheer.'



An audience member checks out her program prior to the start of the show.

On the Fly

Robins Family Housing wins award

Robins Family Housing has been named as the 2012 Property of the Year and Maintenance Team of the Year by the Middle Georgia Apartment Association.

The housing community was developed and is currently managed by the Military Housing Division of Hunt Companies, Inc.

"This, I believe, is a direct result of the partnered processes Hunt and the Air Force have in place, and it's great to

see," said Otis Hicks Jr., 78th Civil Engineer Group director. "The community management and maintenance teams at Robins Family Housing exemplify the saying 'Making a difference, Making it better.'"

The awards were based on criteria such as work orders performed, community outreach, resident satisfaction surveys and property improvements.

"This honor is a result of our outstanding customer service philosophy

and dedication to excellence to serve those who serve us," said Nikki Summers, Robins Family Housing community director.

"We are extremely pleased MGAA is recognizing Robins Family Housing for these prestigious awards," added Robin Vaughn, Hunt's Public Private Venture Division co-president. "It is always our intent to provide the highest and best level of satisfaction for the families living and working at Robins."

AF officials reschedule MilPDS upgrade

Air Force officials will now perform a major upgrade to the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS, in March.

The upgrade is the most ambitious MilPDS project to date. The Air Force Personnel Center is upgrading both the main application and database to bring the system to industry standard.

To do this, the current system will be turned off, its data copied and migrated to the next software version, and then upgraded to another version.

Hardware will be physically transported to the Defense Information Services Agency in Ogden, Utah, loaded to its environment, validated and turned on.

The migration will occur over a 23-day peri-

WHAT TO KNOW

For a list of personnel actions and completion dates, visit https://myPers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/22729

od. During that time, the electronic personnel data will not be available.

Some human resources systems will be available, however, although they will contain February's data.

The 78th Military Personnel Section is prepared to provide seamless personnel support, especially critical pay actions, before, during and after the migration.

Base-Level Service Delivery Module POCs and Commander Support Staff should begin pulling rosters (alpha, gains, losses, EPR/OPR, etc.) and saving them in prepara-

tion for the transition. The MPS recommends that each member review his or her records in virtual MPF and contact the MPS as soon as possible with any needed changes or updates.

Members should determine now if they are going to need any personnel support, actions, or updates between now and February to keep issues from arising.

For more information, contact:

►Customer Service at 472-6862.

►Career Development at 472-6863.

►Force Management Operations at 472-6861.

►Personnel Systems Management at 78mss.a1wps.hrsys@robins.af.mil

►Military Testing at 497-7358.

Equal Opportunity refresher training for supervisors will be conducted in the Heritage Club Ballroom Tuesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

EO refresher training for employees will be Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1 to 3:30 p.m., also in the ballroom.

The EO office will be closed Tuesday through Thursday. The office will re-open Jan. 25.

For more information, contact Susan Carey or Jeanette Draughorne at 468-2131.

The following **leadership classes are scheduled for January:**

►Carl Unholz will present "Diversity" Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 905, Room 245.

►Karan Fowler will present "Five Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace" Jan. 31 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 905, Room 123.

Please view the Robins Splash Page and click on Team Robins for any changes in the class schedules.

A Total Force Command Chiefs Panel will be conducted Feb. 1

at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Club. Panel members will include Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen Buckner, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command command chief; Sergeant

Maj. Christopher Edmondson, senior enlisted leader of the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron; First Sergeant Louis Brown III, senior enlisted leader in the 138th MI Company (JSTARS); and Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Bowen, installation command chief.

The event is open to all enlisted members.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Shon Barnwell at 497-1935 or Master Sgt. Alena Lampkin at 472-8364.

The Robins Commissary will close Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. so it can perform a "reset" as part of the Defense

Commissary Agency's ongoing effort to enhance the shopping experience.

To make the changes easier for customers, stores will have aisle layout maps as well as generic item locators available on their Web pages.

Store web pages are under the locations link at <http://www.commissaries.com>. They include store hours, contact information, store news and special customer service features.

The Science, Engineering and Technical Management awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of scientists, engineers, and technical teams to the mission of the Complex and to aerospace power. This year's awards will be presented at a breakfast

Feb. 5, at 9 a.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar. Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander, will be the guest speaker.

The Complex has nominated 90 of its best technical people for the SE & TM awards in 19 categories. Local winners will be submitted to Air Force Material Command for competition across the command and the Air Force. AFMC winners will be announced and recognized by senior leadership during a banquet in the spring.

The Robins Tax Center is preparing to help service members and eligible family members file 2012 returns.

The center – which will operate from Jan. 28 to April 16 – will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. It will be in Bldg. 995 – a trailer next to the old Robins Elementary School.

For eligibility and list of necessary documents visit <http://www.robins.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123332457>.

The Airman's Attic is seeking volunteers for the following hours: Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For information, call Diane Weeks at 816-550-8123.

Don't Drink and Drive



Prearrange a non-drinking wingman to be the sober driver

Call a taxi service to take you home (have taxi numbers handy)

Remember, even a slight "buzz" can significantly weaken your perceptions and abilities



FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

<p>UPCOMING Boss N' Buddy Today 4 to 5 p.m. Heritage Lounge Members Free Guests \$5 For details, call 472-7864.</p> <p>Single Airman Tandem Skydiving Sign-up by Feb. 11 Event is Feb. 23 For details, call 468-4001.</p> <p>Atlanta Rocks! Rock Climbing Trip Sign up by Feb. 22 Event is March 9 \$55 per person For details, call 468-4001.</p> <p>ONGOING Quick Turn</p>	<p>now serves breakfast Mondays through Fridays 6 to 9:30 a.m. Open to all Team Robins members For details, call 468-6972.</p> <p>Golf Annual Membership Drive Now through March 31 E1 – E4 \$250 a year E5 and above, DoD civilians and contractors \$350 a year For details, call 468-4103.</p> <p>Fairways Grille Breakfast Special Every day in January: stuffed french toast with bacon or sausage and coffee or juice, \$5.95 For details, call 923-1717.</p>	<p>Golf Twilight Special Every day in January 2 to 4:30 p.m. Golf Course Pay \$20 and play 18 holes with cart For details, call 468-4103.</p> <p>Fit 2 Fight Through Feb. 2 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11 a.m. to noon Fitness Center For details, call 468-2128.</p> <p>Atlanta Hawks tickets on sale February and March game tickets on sale at ITT Prices depend on location and opponent For details, call 468-2945.</p>	<p>Golf Shoot Out Open to anyone with a USGA handicap \$2 per attempt Qualifying tournament each month For details, call 468-4103.</p> <p>FSS Wireless Hot Spots Participating facilities include the Golf Course, Base Restaurant and Afterburner. Heritage Club, Horizons, Library and Bowling Center.</p> <p>Remote Control Bowling Ball Available for Wounded Warrior Program and those with special needs. For a fee, it can also be used as a novelty for parties. For details, call 468-2112.</p>
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Aero Club turns profit last year

BY JENNY GORDON
 jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil

The Aero Club flight school at Robins recorded a profit of just under \$5,000 last year.

“What helped us is the fact that we had a little bit lower maintenance on the planes the last 12 months,” said Harry S. “Skip” Piper, Aero Club manager and mechanic with over 45 years in the aviation world. “We also had increased membership due to increased ground school students, and we increased rates to be more compatible with the local area.”

The cost of ground school is currently \$605, which includes tuition, books and kit. Club dues are \$30 per month.

Robins is one of 22 Air Force Aero Club locations; four are overseas. There are four Piper Warriors and one Piper Aero aircraft owned by the Air Force that call the base home.

Ground school classes – the first step in obtaining a private pilot’s license – are offered every other month. The next class begins in February. About 10 students enroll in each session, with about one-third moving forward to the flying

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Aero Club members: 85; **Current students:** 19.

Where to start: Schedule a Discovery Flight to see if you’d like to enroll in ground school. If you’d like to enroll, obtain a third class medical exam, join the club and learn to fly, and prepare for a written exam and FAA check ride.

Interested? Ground school classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Budget an estimated 8 -12 months and about \$6,000 (includes aircraft rental and instructor fees) to obtain a private pilot’s license.

For more information, call 926-4867.

portion to receive a private pilot’s license.

Academic training includes safety, aircraft knowledge and weather. For the course, a Jeppesen System Kit includes a course syllabus, log-book, slide rule, plotter and books. All this prepares students for a written exam.

While it takes a commitment of time and money to successfully obtain a pilot’s license, the rewards are unlike any other.

“Flying an airplane is physically easier than driving a car,” said instructor Lewayne Davis, who joined the Aero Club when stationed here in 1968. “No matter who started where – all pilots began just like us with a desire,” he added.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Tech Sgt. Lance Buckless uncovers a Piper Warrior 3 at the Robins Aero Club. Buckless works as a mechanic at the club and is also a student.



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