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ROBINS REV-UP

March 15, 2013 Vol. 58 No.10

Software team now tests wiring in minutes, not days

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

Testing complex electrical wiring systems inside aircraft mainframes may sound a bit intimidating, but for a team from the 580th Software Maintenance Squadron here, it's just another day at the office.

The team uses the Automatic Wire Test Set not only to support aircraft wire testing across multiple Air Force platforms, but Navy ships as well. The joint procurement effort for the sets rolled out in the fall of 2010.

Since then, software development for the test set has been maintained by the SMXS team, along with groups from C-5 and F-15 shops, to support ongoing field testing and the design and building of the tester's cables that hook into wire systems inside various aircraft.

"What's really interesting about this is we can go to an aircraft, connect to a system – and test all the wires in a matter of minutes," said Jacob Lunce, SMXS Flight J project manager for the system.

In the past, wire testing of

various systems would sometimes take up to a week or more when done with a hand-held meter.

"It's a major time savings," he added. "This tester can basically do what you can't do by hand, which takes this testing to a whole new level."

The team goes out on the flight line or to maintenance facilities at other bases about once a month to conduct tests. Since the tester is relatively new, Lunce explained that



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Jikai Feng, test developer, connects cables from the tester to a C-130. Robins Automatic Wire Test Set Team has developed software to automatically test aircraft wiring systems in minutes, whereas manual testing can take up to a week or more.

► see SOFTWARE, 10

SEQUESTRATION

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Tentative furlough dates

In accordance with guidance from the Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs, the following is the tentative furlough timeline:

- March 21 through 25 – Proposed notices delivered.
- March 28 through April 1 – Reply period ends (seven calendar days from the receipt of notice).
- March 29 to April 24 – Decision letters delivered.
- April 26 – Furloughs begin (extends 11 pay periods between April and September).

The base has set up an email address for employees with questions concerning furloughs. Send questions to robins.furlough.ans@robins.af.mil. For money-saving tips, see page 2.

What's available

The Robins Airman and Family Readiness Center offers these resources:

- Financial Readiness and Budget Planning;
- Family Services;
- Personal and Family Readiness;
- How to Adapt to Change;
- Coping with Job Uncertainty.

To contact the A&FRC, call 926-1256, or visit www.robins.af.mil/library/airman&familyreadinesscenter/index.asp.

The Family Advocacy Program offers the following:

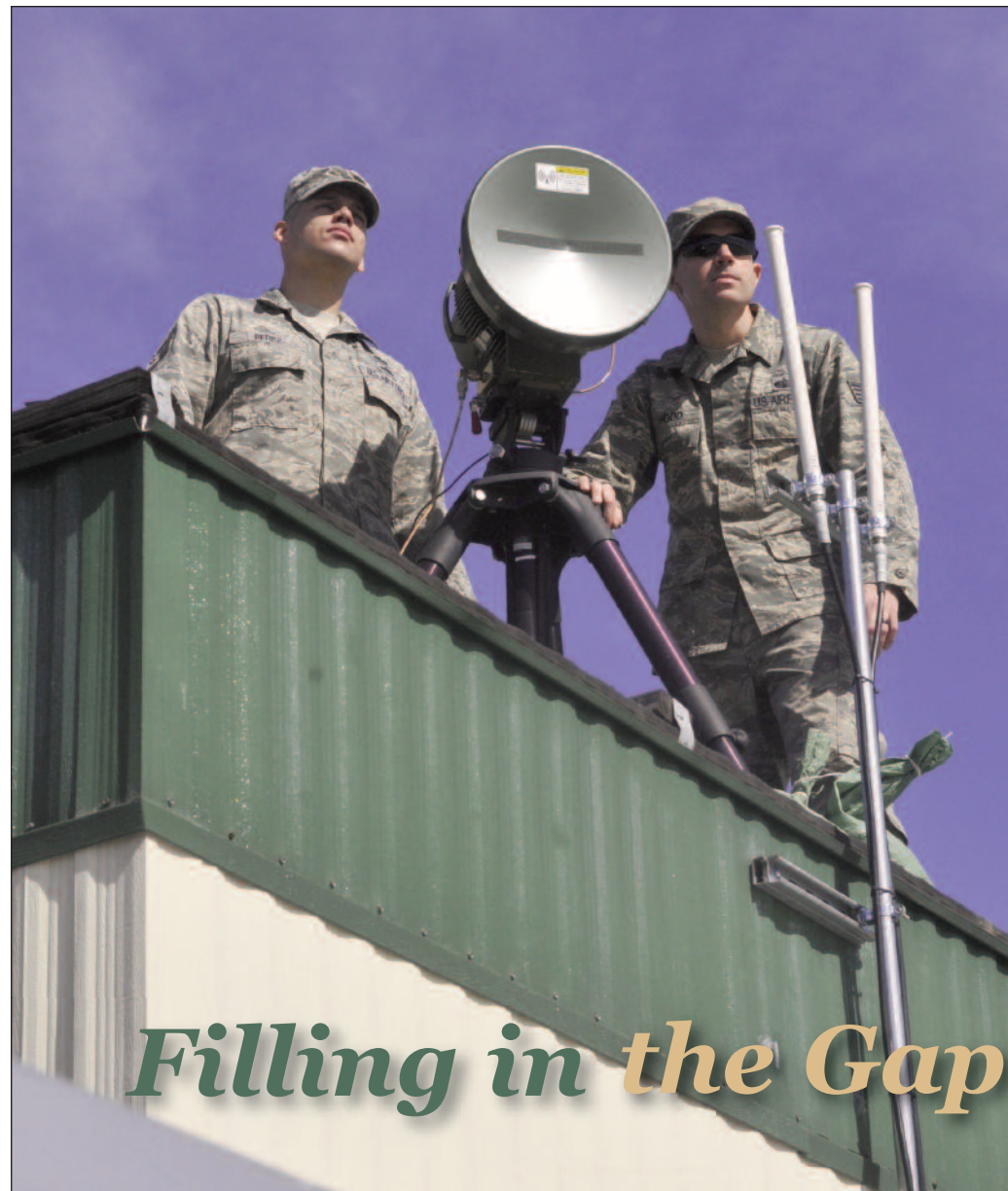
- Outreach and Prevention Programs;
- Anger Management;
- Family Advocacy;
- Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program.

Point of contact is Rosalyn Battle at 327-8398.

For information about the Exceptional Family Member Program, contact Renee McFeeters at 926-1259.

To learn more about the Employee Assistance Program, contact Jamie Tillit at 327-7577 or Lynn Irvine at 327-7683, or visit the website at www.FOH4you.com.

For a comprehensive list of resources and information, visit www.robins.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

L-R, Staff Sgts. Aviel Perez and Travis Hood, 53rd Combat Communications Squadron cyber transport craftsmen, perform a preventive maintenance inspection on a radio frequency module antenna.

5th CCG assists during wireless upgrade

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

When the call comes, members of the 5th Combat Communications Group stand ready to deploy within 72 hours.

That call can also be right here at home, with the assistance of the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron – one of four mission squadrons whose military members specialize in complex combat communications equipment and networks.

It's been almost a year since the squadron began supporting the base information technology network on the flight line – special-

ly maintenance and scheduling personnel with the 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Normally a deployable combat unit, the prospect of helping here is a welcome opportunity.

"While they're upgrading their wireless infrastructure, we're filling the gap," said Flt. Lt. Tom Gallagher, 53rd CBCS Operations Flight commander. "It was a situation where the base needed help; we were asked and immediately supported."

Two radio frequency antennas, are temporarily mounted on top of two trailers on the

► see CCG, 10

New complex plating shop safer, more efficient

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

The Advanced Metal Finishing Facility – the newest building in the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex – will boast a multitude of improved efficiencies and processes once it's up and running later this year.

But, one of the new facility's greatest benefits will be reduced worker exposure to hazardous chemicals due to increased automation during the plating process.

"Bottom line, environmentally it's much cleaner and safer for the workers," said Jim Cunningham, 402nd Commodities Maintenance Support Squadron process engineer.

At nearly 98,000 square feet, the facility will replace the existing plating shop in Bldg. 142, which performs a variety of chemical surface treatments for aircraft parts. The treatments include everything from cleaning and etching, to inorganic finishes such as anodize and electroplated chrome.

Overhead cranes and joists, situated in a staging area between 'wet' and 'dry' process areas, will be part of the automated process. Basically that means the processes occurring in all nine of the tank lines will be controlled remotely – keeping workers from having to physically immerse parts into individual tanks.

"We're going from a manual plating shop to a predominantly automated plating shop," he said.

Chemicals will not only be remotely added to tanks, but a

► see METAL, 10



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

L-R, Nancy Moody, John Shoenfelt and Tracy Barnes, human resource specialists, go through a stack of employee paperwork for the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Program.

Latest VERA/VSIP round results in more than 400 buyouts

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
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Robins is offering 403 civilian employees a cash incentive to retire, retire early or resign.

During a two-week window in February, civilian personnel received 880 applications for early retirement or separation. The office issued 593 offers, with 403 workers accepting, one undecided and 189 declining. Those accepting will leave government employment no later than April 30.

The offer comes through the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive

Program, or VERA/VSIP.

The two programs work together to provide employees the opportunity to leave federal service, through regular retirement, early retirement or resignation, with a separation incentive payment of up to \$25,000.

Stacy Wood, a human resource specialist in civilian personnel, said the overwhelming majority of accepted offers came from the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex.

"The main reason for this round of VERA/VSIP was to better align the complex workforce with the incoming workload," he said. "As our workload has decreased, the workforce needed to be shaped so it's the

right size to match the workload."

In addition, he said a VERA/VSIP goal was workforce shaping, taking some of the vacancies created by the departures and restructuring them with a workforce with skills that better match the anticipated workload.

Despite the timing of the VERA/VSIP effort, it's not related to sequestration.

"They're two distinct and unrelated efforts," Wood said. "VERA/VSIP is about shaping the workforce to align with future requirements, while sequestration is budget driven."

There are no plans for another round of VERA/VSIP, although that is subject to change.

Page Two

Tuition Assistance program suspended

Due to sequestration, the Secretary of the Air Force approved the suspension of Military Tuition Assistance effective March 11.

The suspension applies to all components, including the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard on extended active duty orders. The Air Force has had to make difficult choices to preserve readiness to include cancellation of training and education programs.

According to officials, military tuition assistance requests that were in the queue by 6 p.m. eastern time, March 11, will be processed by the Air Force Centralized Office.

Airmen may still continue to pursue their educational goals with applicable VA education benefits that include: the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty; Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve; Reserve Education Assistance Program; the Post 9/11 GI Bill; federal grants and federal financial aid.

National Guard Airmen may also be eligible for their state’s individual tuition assistance benefits. Airmen currently enrolled in courses approved for military tuition assistance are not affected, and are allowed to complete current course enrollment.

The Robins Education Office will continue to provide educational support to Airmen, including education and

WHAT TO KNOW

For information on alternative funding sources, handouts have been developed by the Robins Education Office in Bldg. 905. Call the customer service desk at 497-3884 to schedule an appointment or visit for walk-in service.

vocational counseling, academic testing, credentialing, and transcripts of their military training and experience. The staff is available to provide guidance on the various avenues and assist military members in achieving their academic goals.

Information on alternative funding sources is also available by visiting the DANTES Web Site at www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Resources/Resources_Main.html#FinAid to access the Financial Aid Information and Student Guide page to learn more.

Also, check for available scholarships at: www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Counselor_Support/Online_Scholarships.html.

Contact your Veteran’s Administration representative to find out more information on utilizing your GI Bill Benefits by calling 1-888-GI Bill 1 or visit the website at www.gibill.va.gov.

Money-saving tips to survive budget cuts

BY HOLLY J. LOGAN-ARRINGTON
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With the potential for furlough days staring federal civilian employees in the face, the Department of Defense is not the only one looking at forced cutbacks.

Some employees may have already begun thinking of ways to trim costs as they try to imagine what life will be like walking the “money’s tight rope” when many don’t have a big financial safety net – if they have one at all.

Just the anticipation of living on less money may have some people scurrying for ways to spend less and save more.

The Robins Rev-Up will be bringing readers tips on how to craft a new way of living that can help people beyond the federal budget crunch.

The potential furlough period could be a long six months, but with these tips, people will have a better financial mindset on the other side.

Want vs. Need

The key to changing spending habits is to first determine a want vs. a need. We need food, lodging and transportation. Most things that fall outside of these areas are wants.

Evaluating each purchase as a want or need and establishing a solid, realistic budget can help you deal with the upcoming projected cuts.

ing projected cuts.

Coming up with a plan

Creating an accurate spending plan is just as vital as differentiating a want versus a need. The plan should include categories such as housing, transportation, food, savings and debts. Give each category a limit and don’t spend beyond the set limit. It’s important to track every penny you spend per pay period, then double it to figure your monthly expenses. Knowing how much is coming in and how much is going out will help determine where you can cut costs, prioritize bills, and build savings. Your savings – regular and emergency – should be part of your financial plan.

Planning the family menu

Once the mortgage, car payment and insurance are paid, take a hard look at the food bill. Most families overspend on their food bill because of dining out.

Plan all meals (to include lunches) and make a list of needed items. When at the grocery store, only buy what is on the list. Never go grocery shopping while you’re hungry. You’re likely to buy more than you intended, if you do.

Editor’s Note: *The accompanying tips are provided by the Robins Airman & Family Readiness Center.*

Norovirus: Not your average flu

BY CAPT MELANIE MULDROW
78th AMDS Public Health Flight

Have you or someone you know recently been sick with food poisoning or the stomach flu? Well, it’s possible it was norovirus.

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes sudden gastroenteritis – inflammation of the stomach and intestines – and is not related to seasonal flu.

Recently, there have been an increased number of cases reported in Georgia, including the Warner Robins area.

Symptoms usually include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and some stomach cramping.

Sometimes people also have a low-grade fever, chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue.

Most people get better within a day or two, but can continue to be contagious the first three

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information, visit the CDC’s norovirus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus>

days after recovery.

Young children, the elderly and people with other medical illnesses are most at risk for severe or prolonged infection.

Anyone can get norovirus.

It can spread quickly through contaminated hands, surfaces,

food and water. People with norovirus shed billions of virus particles in their stool and vomit, and can easily infect others. There is no vaccine to prevent norovirus infection and no drug to treat it.

If you have norovirus illness, drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration. If you or someone you are caring for becomes dehydrated, call your health care provider.

What can you do to help

protect yourself from norovirus?

Be sure to wash your hands with soap and water often, wash fruits and vegetables, cook food thoroughly – especially shellfish – clean and disinfect surfaces with a bleach-based cleaner and wash and machine dry laundry.

If you’re sick, don’t prepare food or care for others, and discuss work attendance with your supervisor.

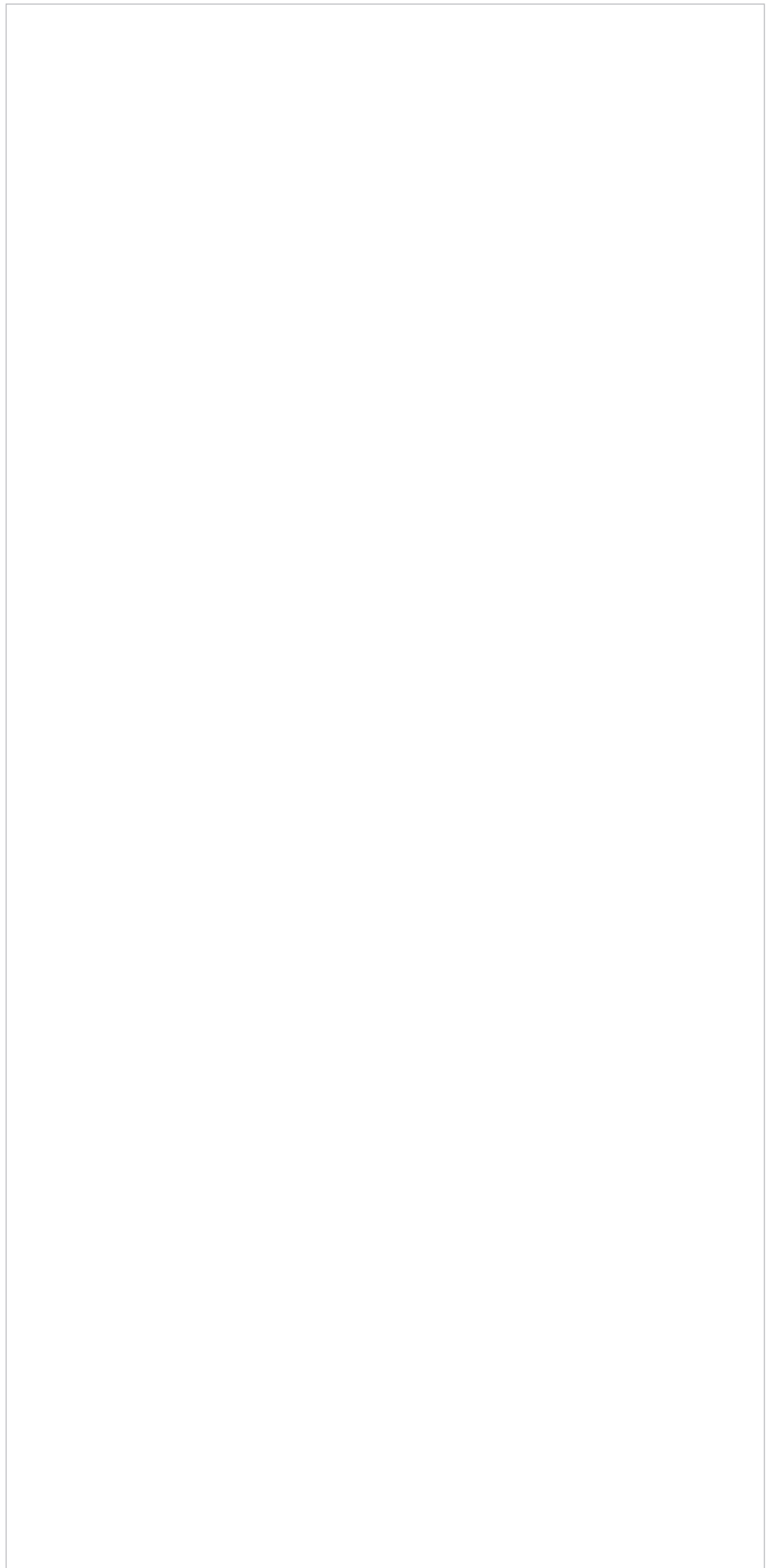
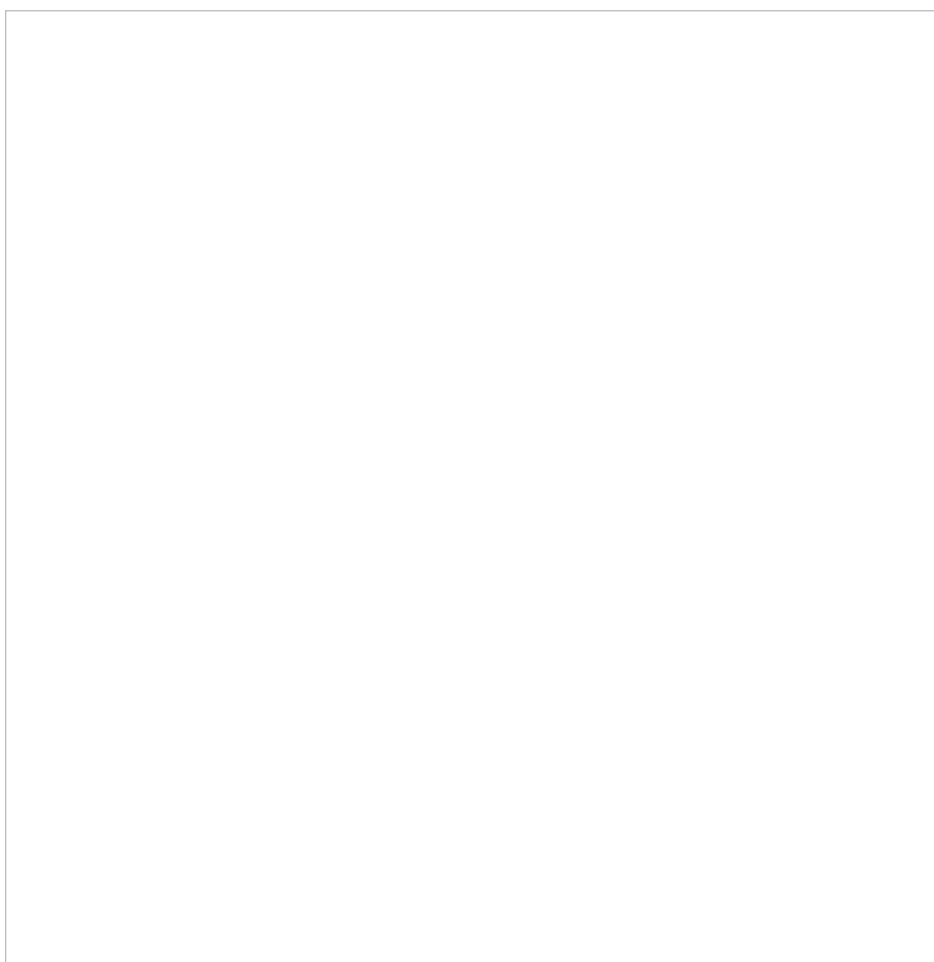
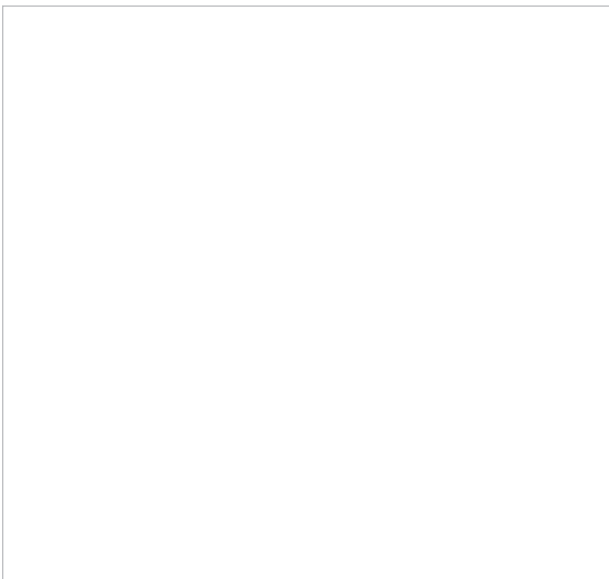
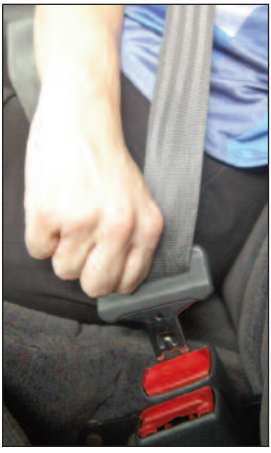


Congratulations AFRC major promotees



Michelle Coumbs Cheri Guikema
Allan Fields Pauline Orcutt

Buckle up ... It’s the Law



NEWS FROM AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Budget cuts threaten defense industrial base, official says

WASHINGTON – Large and sudden U.S. spending cuts and an unstable budget environment promise long-term damage to a critical segment of the defense industrial base, the Defense Department's top maintenance official recently told a congressional panel.

John Johns, deputy assistant secretary of defense for maintenance policy and programs, testified last week before the House Armed Services readiness subcommittee, along with officials from industry professional associations.

The defense industrial base, or DIB, is the worldwide industrial complex whose companies perform research and development, design, production, delivery and maintenance of military weapons systems to meet U.S. defense requirements.

A critical component of the DIB is the defense sustainment industrial base, whose companies support fielded military systems from procurement to supply-chain management, along with depot and field-level maintenance and equipment reuse and disposal.

During the hearing, the panel sought to assess the viability of the defense sustainment industrial base and implications for military readiness given two major fiscal constraints: the nation's budget crisis and many months of Defense Department funding through a continuing resolution that freezes fiscal 2013 spending to fiscal 2012 levels.

To read more, visit www.amc.af.mil.

C-130 maintainers keep 'em flying

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Every day, Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are performing essential repairs to C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft.

C-130s generally spend a year here while crews rotate in and out.

Tech Sgt. Michael Raver, 455th AMXS dedicated crew chief, said the crews currently deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., may be from different squadrons at home, but they're all a team out here.

"We all come together to do our thing," Raver said. "We're the system specialists, anything from changing tires to refueling to doing the everyday inspections."

While perhaps not as glamorous as the F-15 Eagle fighters Raver once worked on before cross-training to cargo aircraft, Raver found a certain charm in them. He said many of the aircraft earn themselves nicknames.

For example, he pointed to one C-130 and said it was dubbed 'Gizmo' after a character in the movie Gremlins, "because we're always chasing gremlins around it."

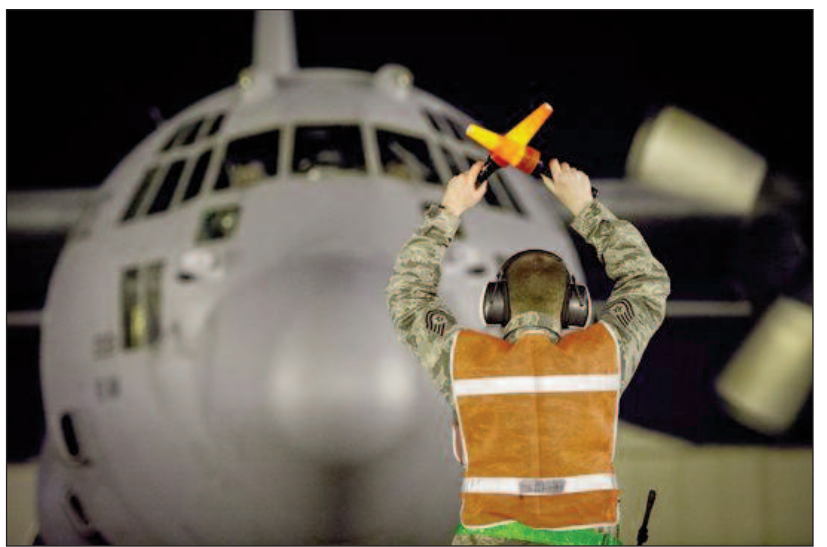
To read more, visit www.amc.af.mil.

Afghan, coalition forces celebrate Afghan air force women

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFNS) – Afghan and coalition partners gathered March 7 for a celebration of gender integration in the Afghan air force during an International Women's Day event hosted by the

Getting ready

Tech. Sgt. David Drain, 305th Aerial Port Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., marshals a C-130 Hercules in Alexandria, La., in support of Joint Readiness Training Center aeromedical evacuation training. Service members at the training center are taught combat patient care and aeromedical evacuation in a simulated combat environment.



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. JOHN NIMMO

AAF at Kabul International Airport.

About 275 people attended the event, which featured speeches by Afghan and U.S. officials, including Afghan Lt. Col. Latifa Nabizada, the first female helicopter pilot in the history of Afghan aviation, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, the Air Forces Central Command director of mobility forces.

"You and your sisters have courageously chosen to take action, to work outside the home, to speak out, defend your nation and your families, and say no to threats of corruption, abuse, and exploitation," Van Ovost told the audience, which included dozens of Afghan women. "Together, you defy the extremists that wish you and your nation harm, those who want to restrain progress and turn back the clock on you and your families."

"Over the last four years we have made the Afghan air force your home," Maj. Gen. Abdul Wahab Wardak, the commander of the AAF, told women in the audience. "The door is open to join."

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

Nellis pilots take first step toward F-35 operational testing

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Two officers from the operational test community are among the six pilots in the first F-35 Lightning II pilot training course after an Air Education and Training Command decision to start training here in January. Lt. Col. Benjamin Bishop, the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron director of operations, is one of the students who flew their first sortie in March. He will transition his F-15E Strike Eagle warfighting skills to the F-35 before he returns to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., next month.

"It's exciting, an honor to be a part of the future of airpower," he said. "The aircraft performed as I expected. It's a different feel and a different aircraft to get used to, but both are easy to fly. Like any new aircraft, it's a different system to learn and I'm getting used to the basic maneuvers."

According to Nellis officials, four F-35s will begin arriving soon. The 422nd TES will add the F-35A to its list of aircraft they execute command-directed operational test and evaluation for like the A/OA-10



U.S. Air Force photo by SAMUEL KING JR.

Ride the lightning

Lt. Col. Benjamin Bishop completes preflight checks before his first sortie in a F-35A Lightning II at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Bishop is among the first pilots who began official training in the aircraft in January.

Thunderbolt II, F-15C Eagle, F-15E, F-16CM Fighting Falcon and F-22A Raptor hardware, software, and weapons upgrades prior to combat Air Force release. The squadron conducts tactics development, foreign materiel exploitation and special access programs to optimize system combat capability.

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

Air Force Sustainment Center News

Visit to Capitol Hill

BY LT. GEN. BRUCE LITCHFIELD

Air Force Sustainment Center commander

As was discussed in Ross Marshall's (Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center executive director) message a week ago, I went to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and their professional staffs to talk about the impacts of sequestration.

I wanted to make sure they fully understood the impacts to our workforce, our mission and the communities. During the last several weeks, I have received notes and comments about the impacts a 20 percent pay reduction will have on the majority of our workforce. The information you provided was very useful in articulating the real pain that will happen if the furlough goes into effect.

On the day I visited, a bill was passed by the

House of Representatives to provide the Department of Defense with a budget for the rest of the year.

Many of the congressmen I visited were hopeful this would start the dialog to reach a budget compromise that would mitigate the need for furloughs.

Your sustainment senior leadership is actively engaging with local community leaders to find ways to support our workforce if furloughs do occur. All facets of the community, to include local charities, state and local governments, businesses, banks, creditors and counselors are looking for ways to mitigate the financial burdens. I have been approached by many banks and businesses which are looking to set up programs



Litchfield

that support alternate payment schedules for loans or bills. Our communities are taking a proactive stance to help.

Maybe the most important thing I want to convey ... You're not alone, and we will get through this difficult time together. If you need help, reach out and let someone know. I can't think of anytime where wingman support is more critical and when the network for support is more energized.

Your leadership team will provide updates as events change. Our commitment is to ensure everyone has the best information possible.

Finally, I want you all to know just how proud I am of our professional workforce. We have a tough, demanding mission that is fueled by the innovation, dedication, and motivation of each and every member of our team.

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

HOW TO CONTACT US

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to the requested Friday publication.

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.

DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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Force Base, Ga.

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On the Fly

Robins officer snags AFMC honor



Morris

First Lt. Mike Morris, 78th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Operations Flight commander, is the Air Force Materiel Command 2012 Col. Derrel L. Dempsey Airfield Operations Officer of the Year Award winner.

Morris, who oversees the base's airfield management and air traffic control facilities, is credited with orchestrating more than \$29 million in construction projects and creating a new pilot liaison program which has been key to airfield safety.

He will now go on to compete at Air Force level.

The **Finance Office will close** today at 1 p.m. for an official function. The office will re-open Monday at 8:30 a.m.

For emergencies, contact Master Sgt. Pablo Rivero at 478-550-2910.

Robins is celebrating **Women's History Month** with the following events:

►A luncheon is scheduled March 26 at 11:30 a.m. at Horizons Event Center. Brigid Petrie O'Hearn, 577th Software Maintenance Squadron director, will be the guest speaker. Deadline to purchase tickets is today. The cost is \$15. POC is Tech. Sgt. Jessica Colunga at 241-3025.

►An "All Women Home Build" is scheduled for April. Volunteers will work with Habitat for Humanity to give a needy family a home. POC is Waymer at 241-3025.

A **Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program workshop** will be March 22 and 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Airman & Family Readiness Center Bldg. 794.

PREP is one of the most comprehensive and well respected divorce prevention and marriage enhancing programs in the world. It is a skills and principles-building curriculum designed to help partners say what they need to say, get to the heart of problems, and increase their connection with each other.

PREP is a prevention program for couples who are thinking about getting married, newlyweds and couples who have been married for a long time. Register now. Seating is limited.

For more information, call the Family Advocacy Program at 327-8422.

The following **leadership class is scheduled for March:**

►Karan Fowler will present "Five Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace" March 27 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Contracting Directorate's Executive conference room in Bldg. 301 East Wing.

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

To reach the 78th Security Forces Base Defense Operations Center for non-emergency calls dial 468-2187.

When dialing E911, which is also used as the Crime Stop hotline, callers are requested to state whether the call is in reference to an emergency or a crime stop notification to ensure proper routing.

Migration of the Military Personnel Data System will continue through March 27. During this period MilPDS will be unavailable, however provisions have been made to handle critical transactions through the Military Personnel Section. For more information, call MPS at 497-7337.

EAP Management Coaching is now available for managers and supervisors. The program focuses on maximizing a manager's strengths to improve performance and enhance his or her quality of life.

For more information, call 497-7577.

Congrats Team Robins award winners



Senior Airman Angelica Longo
Airman of the Year



Paula West
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 1



Senior Airman Andrew Hust
Ceremonial
Guardsmen of the Year



Vanessa Screen
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 2



Tech. Sgt. Ryan Starkey
NCO of the Year



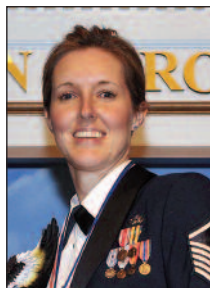
Warner Meadows
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 3



Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Taylor
Senior NCO
of the Year



Gnester Brown
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 4



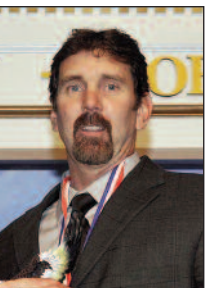
Master Sgt. Charisse Bruce
First Sgt. of the Year



Clay Kernell
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 5



Captain Gilberto Perez
CGO of the Year



William Arnett
Civilian of the Year
Cat. 6



Air Force Parent Pin Program

yourguardiansoffreedom.com

Giving back, Georgia guardsman taking the heat for his community

BY TECH. SGT. REGINA YOUNG

116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

Like other military members who choose to volunteer, a 116th Air Control Wing noncommissioned officer is stepping up for his community.

Master Sgt. Todd, from the 129th Combat Training Squadron, recently graduated from level-one firefighter training, a course giving volunteers the basic information about fires and fire skills.

“When a woman in a laundromat was having unexplained chest pain, I didn’t know what to do so I reached for my wife – a nurse for more than 23 years,” said Todd. “It really impressed me ... both my wife’s interaction with the woman and the first responder’s ability to save a life.”

That incident, and the encouragement from a fellow guardsman who has been a volunteer firefighter for many years, prompted Todd to embark on his journey.

Since Todd graduated from training, he said he has realized that being a volunteer firefighter is a lifestyle change.

At the end of the day when the Guard uniform comes off, Todd is ready at a moment’s notice to don his fire-



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Todd, a full-time Guardsman with the 116th Air Control Wing, completed level-one fire fighter training to become a volunteer fire fighter in his community.

fighter attire, join the department and respond to a call for help in his community.

“I love my job with the JSTARS aircraft, the mission and what we are doing in the world,” said Todd. “It’s the right time in my life to do more in the community.”

Editor’s note: First names of flight crew members are not used for security reasons.

AFAF rolls into second week

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

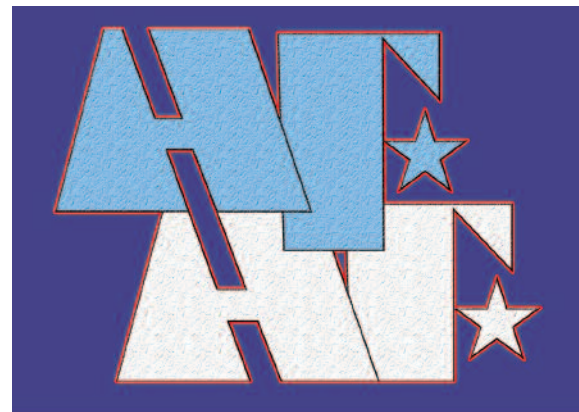
The Robins 2013 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign has completed its first week with donations of \$7,815.

The theme is “Commitment to Caring,” and this year’s goal is \$78,833.

The AFAF raises money for charities which provide support within the Air Force family.

They include the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, the LeMay Foundation, Air Force Enlisted Village and the Air Force Aid Society.

In 2012 through the AFAS, the official charity of the Air Force, Robins was able to provide 116 forms of emergency loan assistance and four grants.



WHAT TO KNOW

Those interested in applying for aid must meet eligibility guidelines, and complete an application by visiting the Air Force Aid Society website at www.afas.org.

It also provided support for community programs and educational funding.

To donate to the AFAF, primary unit project officers include:

- ▶ Tech Sgt. Jehu Forte, 461st Air Control Wing
- ▶ 2nd Lt. Diana Hall, 78th Air Base Wing
- ▶ Master Sgt. Thomas

Williams, 689th Combat Communications Wing

▶ Senior Master Sgt. Lisa McCarthy, AFRC

▶ Staff Sgt. Vernon Pifer, WR-ALC

▶ 1st Lt. Greg Cappuzzo, AFLCMC

▶ Master Sgt. Thomas Sorken, 339th FLTS

▶ 1st Lt. Yvonne Johnston, 638th SCMG

What constitutes government vehicle misuse

Many people have heard the term “Vehicle Misuse,” but not everyone is clear on what defines vehicle misuse. According to AFI 24-301 “Providing a government vehicle solely or principally to enhance the comfort or convenience of member(s) is not permitted.” Basically stopping at the ATM, lemon lot, TIP office, Airman’s Attic, etc., is not permitted and is an example of vehicle misuse. Another type of vehicle misuse is blatant misuse, meaning you knowingly misused the vehicle, i.e.; trips to the bank, lunch or shopping.

Military members, civilian contractors, and DoD civilians have the responsibility to stop and report vehicle misuse either through the Vehicle Operations Office at 926-3493 or 468-4628, or through GSA directly via its email address at howsmysdriving@gsa.gov.

The information needed to complete a report is time, place, vehicle type, license plate number and the reporter’s name and contact info. The punishments are severe – whether it is through the UCMJ for military or through applicable laws for civilian personnel.

So do yourself and the government a favor, if you aren’t sure if it’s legal or authorized, get clarification or just don’t do it. It’s not worth the punishment just for the sake of convenience.

Watch
your
SPEED ...
WE ARE



**WINGMEN
WANTED**
AIRMAN AGAINST
DRUNK DRIVING –
335-5218;
335-5236;
335-5238

SOFTWARE

Continued from 1

the Robins team was the first group ever to take charge of the tester's programming capabilities as well as its cable design.

"We are pioneering this effort," he said.

Once the AWTS team receives a customer requirement, which can also come from highly-specialized systems inside Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft, C-130s or even HH-60 helicopters, the team takes a system's engineering data (technical orders, wiring diagrams, etc.), learns the system and programs it into the tester line by line by using their software. The process can take several months.

Once it's ready, the tester is unpacked with its cables, and hooked into hundreds of different wiring components.

Looking on a computer screen, a continuity test for example can easily detect whether a wire's electrical resistance is good or bad and needs to be replaced, or if wire faults are also identified.

To date, the tester has



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

L-R, Efran Rangel and Jikai Feng, test developers, run a test on a C-130. Robins Automatic Wire Test Set Team has developed software to automatically test aircraft wiring systems in minutes, whereas manual testing takes weeks.

experienced a 100 percent success rate, but there's always room for improvement, said Lunce.

"This can turn an inexperienced maintainer into a super-experienced troubleshooter because it does all the work for you," he explained.

Using the tester for preventive maintenance is something else he'd like to see happen. For example, testing the integrity of a plane's wiring system over time and incorporating it as a tool with inspections can lead to finding problems early.

That only leads to less time planes are on the ground for maintenance.

Since 2010, about 30 to 40 tests have been run on various aircraft.

With each new test comes a better understanding of how to best support the aircraft and maintainers.

Maintainers, who may be reluctant to test the new equipment, quickly adopt it as a supplemental tool when they realize the benefits – especially in the present atmosphere of doing more with less, and tighter deadlines.

CCG

Continued from 1

flight line, and provide a network connection allowing the maintenance squadron to continue its mission.

Periodic preventive maintenance inspections on the equipment have ensured the support has been reliable and seamless.

"This equipment works the same here as it would

in a deployable environment," said Staff Sgt. Travis Hood, a 53rd CBCS cyber transport craftsman.

Providing high data communications to its users, the antennas can provide services up to a three-mile range. While downrange, that means core communication can be established not only in the middle of a base, but outlying areas that need it as well.

"The 5th Mob is always happy to support our mission partners as everything we do relies on teamwork," said Col. Bill Waynick, 5th CCG commander. "The 559th AMXS mission plays a vital role in the sustainment of the Air Force air mobility mission, which is a critical component in our ability to deliver combat communications and airfield systems worldwide."



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Front, Jim Cunningham, 402nd Commodities Maintenance Support Squadron process engineer, and Harold Livingston, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Advanced Metal Finishing Facility quality assurance examiner, stand in the staging area where aircraft parts will be prepped before being loaded onto an assembly line for 'wet' processing.

METAL

Continued from 1

new air ventilation system, along with barriers, will be in place between each assembly line to protect workers from cross-exposure of fumes from nearby tanks.

An in-house waste water treatment plant will also be located on the basement level to collect and treat waste fluids.

Waste water will be reduced from 50 to 90 percent by recycling rinse water and process steam and reducing evaporation as part of the dedicated plant's efforts.

The new facility will also use advanced spill containment coatings and redundant protection layers to protect soil and groundwater.

The unique construction project, which has been in the works the last several years, has a total investment of \$67 million, and includes a two-year transition plan from shutting down the old plant in Bldg. 142 to operating new equipment in what will become Bldg. 20128.

"We will have a period of time where we're actually running both shops," said Cunningham. "The

idea is we'll set a line up in the new facility, get it running reliably, and once the line is established, we'll shut down the equivalent processes in the old facility."

There is still much work to be done in the new building. Its assembly lines for metals treatment include a total of 153 small and large tanks.

The larger tanks are sized to process much larger C-5 and C-17 parts, and now have a capacity of up to 7,600 gallons.

That is an increase from the maximum 1,800 gallon tanks housed in the old facility.

**THINK OPSEC!
PRACTICE IT AT
WORK, HOME, EVERYWHERE.**

**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

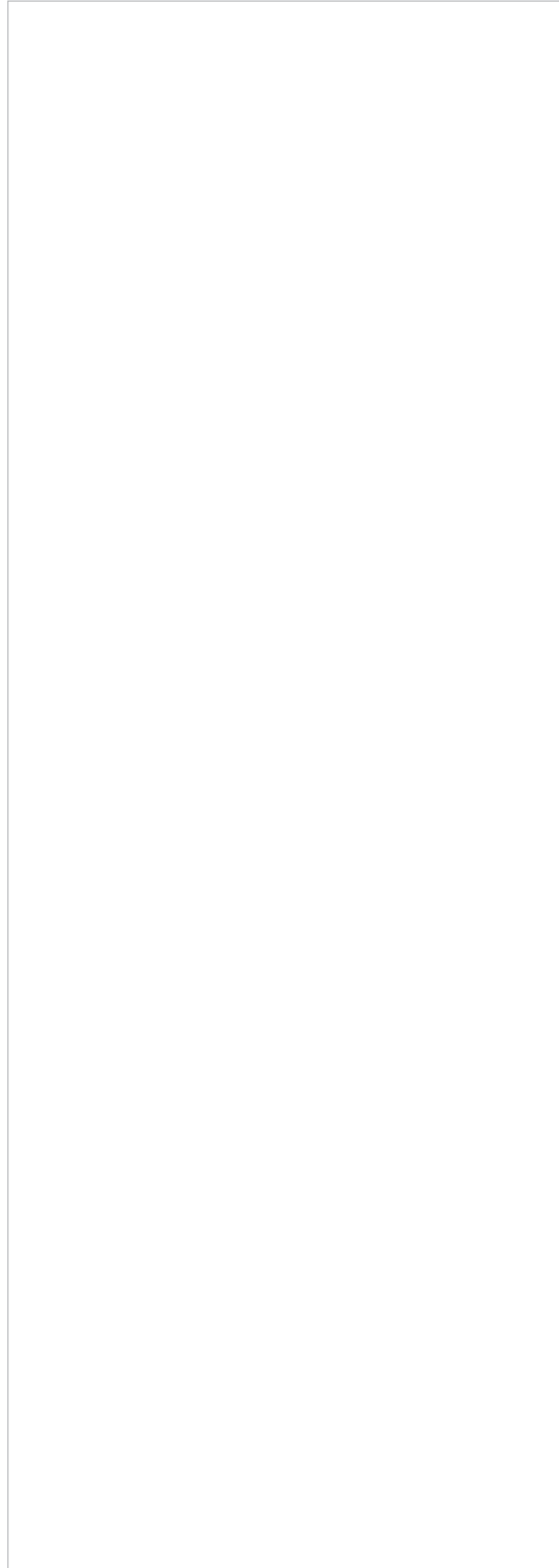
**ON
ROBINS
IT'S THE
LAW**

ROBINS REV-UP

Base discusses budget challenges with community

Team JSTARS honors

**READ
THE
REV-UP
ONLINE
AT
www.robins
.af.mil**



**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY?
CALL 468-EYES**

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ON TAP

Boss N' Buddy

Today
4 to 5 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
Members Free
Guests \$5
For details,
call 472-7864.

St. Patrick's Green-Head Pin Day

Sunday
1 to 8 p.m.
Bowling Center
Roll a strike with a green-
head pin and receive that
game for free.
For details,
call 468-2112.

Money & Credit Management

Monday
1 to 3 p.m.
Airman & Family
Readiness Center
For details,
call 468-1256.

Fairways Grille Weekly Special

Monday through Thursday
baked chicken, mashed
potatoes, vegetable and a
drink for \$6.95
For details,
call 923-1717.

ITT Travel and Recreation Show

Thursday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Heritage Club Ballroom
Prizes to be given away
For details,
call 468-2945.

UPCOMING

Atlanta Zoo

Sign up by March 22
April 20
\$70 to \$74 per person
Outdoor Recreation,
Bldg. 914
For details,
call 468-4001.

Home Alone Workshop

March 28
5:30 to 7 p.m.
Youth Center
For details,
call 468-2110.

ONGOING

Air Force HOOPS

Now through April 8
Win up to \$5,00 in cash.
Pick up a game piece at
Robins Lanes or the Pine
Oaks Golf Course.
For details,
call 468-2112
or 468-4103.

Quick Turn

now serves breakfast
Mondays through Fridays
7 to 9:30 a.m.
Open to all
Team Robins members
For details,
call 468-6972.

QuickShot Bingo

Mondays through Fridays
at all Base Restaurant
snack bars
6 a.m. to close
For details,
call 468-6972.

Golf Annual Legoland Florida Tickets

1 day \$54 per person
2 days \$62 per person
For details,
call 468-2945.

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 item
for parties.
For details,
call 468-2112.

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



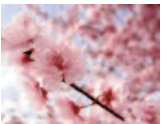
Local Community Festivals

Local community partners will be hosting festivals that provide some FREE entertainment for individuals and families. Below links will provide more information.



DUBLIN

St Patrick's Day Festival now through March 24.
To find out more, visit www.dublinstpatricks.com.



MACON

Cherry Blossom Festival today through March 24.
Visit www.cherryblossom.com for more details



PERRY

Dogwood Festival April 13 and 14.
To read more, visit
www.perrygeorgiachamber.com/dogwoodfestival.

Editor's Note: No federal endorsement is intended or implied.

Now through March 31

**You've Chosen the Air Force as a Career
Now, it's Time to Choose AF Club Membership**

**Sign up now and get free dues for the first three months
plus an instant-win scratch card worth \$5 to \$100**

**Pick up an application at the Club
or online at www.AFclubs.net**