

The Department of Defense has cut the number of furlough days most of its civilian employees were projected to take during the next several months from 22 to 14.

The reduction in the number of days was con-

firmed during a press conference Thursday by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

A follow-on email from Air Force personnel officials said the days would be “implemented during the last seven-plus pay periods of the current

fiscal year.”

**Editor’s note:** This is the only information regarding this matter available at press time. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil) and click on the Sequestration Tab.

# ROBINS REV-UP

March 29, 2013 Vol. 58 No.12

## Base wins top AFMC Facility Energy Excellence Award

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – General Janet Wolfenbarger, commander, Air Force Materiel Command, announced during the Energy Management Steering Group March 26 that Robins captured the command’s 2012 Facility Energy Excellence Award. Hill Air Force Base, Utah placed second place, and Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., placed third.

“This award is the result of efforts by everyone on base,” Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, said. “Congratulations to Team Robins. Together, our efforts to foster greater

energy awareness and reduce energy use paid off in measurable results.”

These sentiments were echoed by Terry Landreth, Robins Energy Office supervisor.

“I’m very proud of the energy team and all of their hard work,” he said. “But this is a basewide award, and I’m grateful to everyone who has incorporated energy conservation into their daily activities,” he said.

The Facility Energy Excellence Award provides an objective assessment of installation energy programs, and recognizes efforts in promoting energy reduction, changing the energy

culture, and the performance of installation facility energy managers.

Culture change was weighted at 80 percent, recognizing that the key to energy conservation truly resides in each individual’s actions and in active leadership at all levels across the enterprise. Energy reduction was weighted at 15 percent, and water reduction was weighted at 5 percent; these categories capture actual, tangible gains made in energy conservation.

The award acknowledges accomplishments from January 2012 through

► see **ENERGY**, 6

## Solar farm proposed at Robins

**BY JENNY GORDON**  
[jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil](mailto:jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil)

Robins could one day be home to a solar photovoltaic plant.

Georgia Power, in cooperation with the Georgia Public Service Commission, is encouraging new solar development opportunities to help increase the state’s solar generation.

The Air Force is offering 57 acres of property here as a potential site for a commercial plant. It is part of a program known

► see **SOLAR**, 6



U.S. Air Force photo

The new F-15SA advanced fighter aircraft soars during its first test flight Feb. 20. The test flight took off from a Boeing facility in St. Louis facility and was deemed a success.

## F-15SA aircraft takes first test flight

**BY JENNY GORDON**  
[jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil](mailto:jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil)

A successful first test flight of the new F-15SA advanced fighter aircraft was conducted Feb. 20 at a Boeing facility in St. Louis.

The test flight was part of the RSAF F-15 Fleet Modernization Program, a \$29.4 billion foreign military sales agreement – the largest in U.S. history – with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that includes the purchase of 84 new F-15SA aircraft.

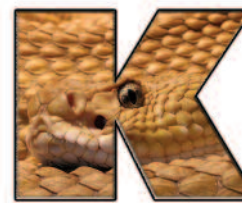
The sale also includes converting the kingdom’s current fleet of 70 F-15S aircraft to the F-15SA standard, as well as providing munitions, spare parts, training, maintenance and logistics support.

The F-15 System Program Office at Robins benefits from the sale, with \$10 billion of the defense package executed from here.

Col. Robert Stambaugh, F-15SA Security Assistance program manager at Robins, explained that a total of three aircraft will undergo flight testing by a flight test program team at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

“The Wright-Patt team, along with Boeing, have done a tremendous job beginning an ambitious flight test program. I expect that success to continue, and set up the Robins team for success with the equally-challenging Conversion Program,” said Stambaugh.

Initial delivery of the first new aircraft will be in 2015, with conversion kit installations to be performed in the kingdom starting in 2016. The program will continue until 2021.



### DID YOU KNOW

Studies show that on average fewer than 10 people are killed by snake bites each year in the United States.

If you’re bitten try to stay calm. If the snake is venomous, the toxin will spread throughout your body faster if your heart rate is accelerated. Get medical help immediately.



## WATCH YOUR STEP

Heeding simple advice will keep you, pets safe

**BY HOLLY J. LOGAN-ARRINGTON**  
[holly.logan-arrington@robins.af.mil](mailto:holly.logan-arrington@robins.af.mil)

When Debbie Peters, a monitor for Readiness Based Leveling and Readiness Spares Packages in the 420th Supply Chain Management Squadron, moved to Crawford County more than 10 years ago, she didn’t realize some of her closest neighbors would be snakes.

After three years of living in the country, one of Peters’ dogs came too close for comfort with one of those neighbors.

“When I arrived home from work one Friday afternoon, my dog, Heidi, was barking at something inside the fence,” she said. “I could tell by the way she was acting that it was something out of the ordinary. I figured it was either a frog or a snake, and was hoping it was a frog. When I got close enough to see what the dog was all excited about, I saw a coiled up rattlesnake.”

Fortunately, Peters’ brother came to the dog’s rescue and it escaped injury.

Other pet owners, however, may not be so lucky.

Bob Sargent, the natural resources manager for the 78th Civil Engineer Group’s Environmental Management Branch, said when a pet is bitten, it’s important to know what kind of snake you’re dealing with.

“Try to identify the snake, because that will determine the appropriate treatment, such as what antivenom, if necessary, to use, when you get the pet to a veterinarian,” he said.

Keeping the animal calm and promptly taking it in for medical care is paramount, Sargent said.

Sargent recommended ways to protect one’s pet from encountering the slithering creatures.

“Confine your pet to areas to that you mow,” he said. “Pets are most often bitten by snakes when they roam into wild areas, such as weedy fields and forests.”

Even though your dog is kept in a fenced yard, danger can still exist if precautions aren’t taken.

“Remove wood, stumps, and rock piles from your yard and fill in old burrows,” said Sargent. “If you’ve got a rodent problem, then you stand a good chance of having a snake problem.”

Sargent said good housekeeping is the best way to make one’s yard uninviting for snakes.

“Get rid of snake habitat and attractants, and you’ll greatly reduce the risk of having a snake problem,” he said.

About 30 snake species are native to Middle Georgia; however only 10-12 of these species are usually seen.

► see **SNAKES**, 2

## Airman shares story, urges others to support AFAF

**BY JENNY GORDON**  
[jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil](mailto:jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil)

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign has special meaning for Staff Sgt. Derriel Morris, an operations controller in the 461st Support Squadron’s Maintenance Operations Center.

During his seven-year career in the Air Force, one of the fund’s charitable affiliates – the Air Force Aid Society, which is housed in the Airman & Family Readiness Center – assisted the Missouri native during times of uncertainty and stress.

Last year, due to personal circum-

stances following his return from deployment, he became severely in debt.

“I had no way of really catching up on my bills; I lost the house I was in at the time. I had to figure out a way to get back on top of all my finances,” said Morris.

Taking his first sergeant’s advice, he spoke with a financial counselor and applied for an AFAS loan. Within a matter of days after finishing the paperwork,



Morris

he received a check to immediately begin catching up on his outstanding debt.

It wasn’t the first time AFAF helped him out.

The first time was right before his son was born. A \$500 loan enabled him to put a down payment on a vehicle so he wouldn’t have to continue walking to work. On another occasion, he was able to get a loan which helped him replace food and other items in his home which were destroyed during a burglary.

Overall, Morris said he has received about \$8,000 in assistance.

Since then he’s been a regular contributor to the campaign, which provides sup-

port for members of the Air Force family. It also supports charitable affiliates such as the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, the LeMay Foundation and Air Force Enlisted Village.

At Robins – just through the AFAS, the official charity of the Air Force – a total of 116 forms of emergency loan assistance and four grants were provided in 2012. There was also support provided to various educational and community programs such as Bundles for Babies, Car Care, Give Parents A Break, childcare for permanent change of station moves,

► see **AFAF**, 2

# Page Two

## Discussions continue on base, community partnerships

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

An effort is underway to discuss forming public-public and public-private partnerships between Robins Air Force Base and local communities and entities.

The community partnership initiative is exploring ways the base, businesses and governments can collaborate to reduce operating and service costs.

In fiscal 2013, the Air

Force received funding to explore these opportunities using Robins and a number of other installations as test bases.

Examples of existing partnerships include emergency response capabilities with fire, law enforcement and emergency services.

Three meetings have taken place since February, bringing together base organizations, local businesses, governments, educational institutions and private companies to iden-

tify additional potential partnerships.

An initial planning meeting included breakout groups among participants to share information on existing partnerships and needs and capabilities, focusing on support services, education and workforce development, base operations support and recreation activities.

Working groups met this week to further define and discuss local opportunities.

## SNAKES

Continued from 1

“Cottonmouths and banded and brown water snakes prefer swampy habitats, as well as weedy lakeshores and streams,” Sargent said. “These species are common on Robins Air Force Base and in Middle Georgia.”

Hognose snakes, black racers, corn snakes, gray rat snakes, and copperheads prefer to live in forests, but they do wander into other habitats.

Some species can be found in a variety of



### WHAT TO KNOW

If you're going to spend time in forests, wear high leather boots. If you're going to visit swampy areas, invest in a pair of snake chaps. All non-venomous species of snakes are protected by state law.

habitats, including urban and suburban areas.

In the Warner Robins area, it is not unusual to

find garter snakes, blackracers, brown snakes, and ringneck snakes living close to people's homes.

There's no need to panic over a snake sighting, Sargent said.

“Just walk away,” he said. “Contrary to what people often tell me, snakes are not fast. In fact, the fastest snakes in Georgia only travel about 6 miles per hour.

“Snakes prefer not to encounter us,” he added. “Often they will either freeze in place or crawl away in an effort not to be seen or to avoid harm.”



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

## Bringing down the house

Contractors bring down a house March 18 on Chief's Circle. Four of the five housing units on the circle are being demolished due to age and the cost to maintain them. The other unit will remain in place for base use. In addition to the selected homes, all of the asphalt drives and roads will also be demolished. The resulting free space will be a green area. The scheduled completion date for the work is April 15.

## AFAS

Continued from 1

Youth Employment Skills, and the Heart Link spouse orientation.

Throughout the Air Force, AFAS provided more than \$17.8 million in direct assistance to more than 40,000 members and their families last year through emergency help, and education and community programs.

Now that the six-week campaign has approached its mid-point, Morris said he encourages his fellow Airmen to remember how important a role it could someday play in their lives or in the lives of someone they know.

“The money doesn't just come out of nowhere,” he said. “You never know when something may happen — when you may need help.”

## LOCAL CAMPAIGN STATS

Robins' 2013 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign reached its halfway point this week. Total donations to date: \$42,488.

The six-week campaign ends April 12. The theme is “Commitment to Caring,” with Robins' goal of \$78,833.

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, as well as support for various community programs and educational funding.

To donate, primary unit project officers include:

- ▶ Tech Sgt. Jehu Forte, 461st ACW
  - ▶ 2nd Lt. Diana Hall, 78th ABW
  - ▶ Master Sgt. Thomas Williams, 689th CCW
  - ▶ 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
- Those interested in applying for aid must meet eligibility guidelines, and complete an application by visiting <http://www.afas.org>.

# AIR FORCE



NEWS FROM AROUND THE

## DoD requires more base closings

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** – The Defense Department possesses more real estate than it needs and is looking to close additional bases and installations in the United States and abroad, a senior DoD official told a House panel March 14.

Air Force leaders agree, according to Kathleen Ferguson, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

“While we have no recent excess infrastructure capacity analysis from which to draw, our capacity analysis from 2004 suggested that 24 percent of Air Force basing infrastructure was excess to our mission needs,” Ferguson said.

Since the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, which brought very few changes to the Air Force and only 3.4 percent reductions to the entire DoD, the Air Force has reduced its force structure by more than 500 aircraft and active-duty end strength by nearly 8 percent, Ferguson said.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## Congress reviews equipment needs of Air Force, Army reserve forces

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** – Lt. Gen. James Jackson, chief of Air Force Reserve, joined other Reserve and National Guard senior leaders on Capitol Hill last week to testify and answer questions.

The Air Force and Army reserve component flag officers went before the House Armed Services Committee's Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee led by Chairman Michael Turner (R-Ohio) and Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.).

Jackson, who also commands Air Force Reserve Command, and the other senior leaders spoke about the need to update and replace their combat-worn equipment.

They were questioned about modernization and equipping strategies, new initiatives, program changes, and potential impacts from the Budget Control Act's initial \$487 billion in DoD cuts and Sequestration's additional \$600 billion in cuts to defense programs.

“The money from this committee is the primary way we upgrade our combat equipment and aircraft,” Jackson told the committee.

“This funding has resulted in better targeting, self protection and communication capabilities for our combat forces in Afghanistan and previously in Iraq,” he added.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## Air Force announces energy achievements, strategic plan

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)**– From aviation operations to installations and ground vehicles within the homeland and abroad, energy is essential for Air Force operations and key to the United States' national and economic security.

“The Air Force is fundamentally a global force that the nation relies on for Global Vigilance, for Global Reach and for Global Power. We have to be ready to project American influence anywhere in the world on a moment's notice,” said Dr. Jamie Morin, acting under secretary of the Air Force, during a media roundtable in the Pentagon with Dr. Kevin Geiss, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for energy. “Having those capabilities and using those capabilities requires energy – it requires a lot of electricity and even more so it

## Falcon crew

**Crew chiefs perform maintenance checks on an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Red Flag 13-3 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. About 23 crew chiefs from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., participated in the exercise. They worked around-the-clock maintaining 79th Fighter Squadron jets, so the pilots were able to fly and get the training they needed during the exercise.**



Photo by STAFF SGT. KENNY HOLSTON

requires a lot of gas.”

The roundtable, held March 21, focused on highlighting recent Air Force energy consumption achievements, as well as current initiatives under the new Air Force Energy Strategic Plan.

It should come as no surprise that the Air Force is the largest single consumer of energy in the federal government.

In fiscal 2012, the Air Force spent more than \$9 billion for energy, with more than 85 percent of those energy costs dedicated to aviation fuel. That amounts to 8 percent of the Air Force budget.

To read more, visit [www.amc.af.mil](http://www.amc.af.mil).

## 16 specialties work together, build one clear picture

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Controlling 250,000 square miles of air space over Afghanistan is no easy task, but it's just another day for the Airmen of the 73rd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron.

The 73rd EACS supports the enduring airpower mission through air control and data support by making sure constant radar feeds, radio communication and datalinks are available from various sources on Kandahar Airfield.

“We are the eyes of the warfighter in RC-South,” said Capt. Bonita Allen, the 73rd EACS commander. “We have one mission and that is to provide an accurate air picture to the decision makers.”

The squadron uses two radar systems to gather the information from the designated area of responsibility and then transmits the information to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center in Southwest Asia.

While members of the unit are split up geographically due to their mission, the members at KAF are responsible for the functionality of the radar systems, ground-to-air communications systems and the equipment necessary to send that data to the Combined Forces Air Component commander.

“Every person here supports the mission of the radar, radio, and datalink systems, whether powering them, supplying them with parts or sending the feed to Southwest Asia,” said Tech. Sgt. Tyler Hand, 73rd EACS Radar and Communications Systems Flight chief.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN DENNIS SLOAN

## Fill 'er up

**Airman 1st Class Nicholas McCracken, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, transfers liquid oxygen to a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Charleston – Air Base, S.C. The 20-step process of transferring LOX to the aircraft can take more than an hour. Liquid oxygen helps distribute breathable air to aircrew and passengers when they are more than 10,000 feet above sea level. The C-17 can hold approximately 155 gallons of LOX.**

“Our unit is designed to be able to be picked up and put down somewhere and be completely functional,” he said.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

– compiled by Holly Logan-Arrington

## AFPC News

# MilPDS upgrade complete

BY DEBBIE GILDEA

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The Air Force has successfully upgraded and transferred the Military Personnel Data System to the Defense Information Systems Agency Defense Enterprise Computing Center, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

“We're pleased that the MilPDS upgrade took less time than anticipated, and we're well on our way to getting information updated in the system,” said Joe Thele, Air Force Personnel Operations Agency director. “The quick turn and successful upgrade is due to the meticulous planning and hard work of our Total Force team.”

MilPDS is the primary records database for personnel data and actions that occur throughout every

Airman's career. MilPDS is also used to initiate pay actions, maintain Air Force accountability and strength data and support a host of interactions with other Air Force and Department of Defense processes and systems that rely on personnel data.

AFPOA and Air Force Lifecycle Management Center teams worked closely with the Defense Manpower Data Center, AFPC, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Space Command, and base personnel teams to develop a comprehensive plan to bring down the old personnel data system, upgrade it, and stand it back up. March 4, AFPC Commander Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart hit the button to shut down MilPDS for what was expected to be 23 days.

However, the upgrade was accomplished in 17 days.

Active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel agencies are working hand in hand

with base force support squadrons and military personnel sections to update personnel data and transactions in MilPDS.

“This upgrade and transfer being accomplished in less time than expected is a testament to the strides we've made to work together for the good of all three components of the Total Air Force,” said Thele.

Additional information will be provided once updates are complete.

For more information about this and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.

**Editor's note:** This story is one in a series of articles to inform and educate total force Airmen about how they will be affected by the Military Personnel Data System upgrade.

## ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

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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](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil) and [vance.janes@robins.af.mil](mailto: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.

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air

Force Base, Ga.

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# On the Fly

## Spouse professional license portability

BY TERRI MOON CRONK  
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department officials recognize an unemployed spouse can affect a service member's retention, so efforts continue to allow spouses' professional licenses to transfer from state to state, a Pentagon official told American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Marcus Beauregard, chief of DoD's states liaison office, noted that certain occupations such as nursing and other medical positions require licensing. And when a military family moves to a new state, he added, obtaining a license can take several months.

Because licensing can become a barrier to spouses seeking employment,

### WHAT TO KNOW

In Georgia, a bill has passed the House and is currently being considered by the Senate to make it easier for spouses and certain military veterans to get professional licenses from the state.

The bill would let veterans who gained military certification as electricians, plumbers or other trade specialties and military spouses who have a professional trade license from another state, apply for an immediate Georgia license, bypassing the usual testing and application process. A board of government and licensing agency leaders would have the final say.

Beauregard said, the Defense Department is leading an initiative for states to recognize

job licenses that come from other states.

Three mechanisms are in place to expedite licenses, he said:

►The spouse can present his or her previous license to the new state for acceptance if the requirements for the occupation are "substantially equivalent";

►The new state can issue a temporary license so the spouse has an opportunity to fulfill the requirements of the state through education and training.

►Expediting the state's process for military spouses to obtain a new license.

#### Editor's note:

To read the full story, including licensing following an overseas assignment, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story>.

## Test proctors needed for local schools

If you're looking for a great opportunity to do some volunteer work that has a tremendous impact, here's one such opportunity.

Robins partners with Houston and Peach county schools each year to provide test proctors for the Criterion Referenced Competency Test and End of Course Tests.

This year local schools are in need of more than 300 test proctors.

Active duty personnel don't require a background check. However, if civilians or spouses are interested in volunteering, they must successfully complete a background check application and screening prior to volunteering in schools.

Training is provided for all proctors.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for as many shifts as possible; however, the

schools will accept volunteers who can only proctor for one day.

**Note:** Those interested in volunteering should contact Renee Daughtry, Robins' school liaison officer, at 327-5524 or by email ([renee.daughtry@robins.af.mil](mailto:renee.daughtry@robins.af.mil)) by Monday.

#### Volunteers needed in Houston County:

CRCT April 15 through 19 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at elementary and middle schools (times vary by school).

EOCT April 29 through May 3 from 7:15 to 11:30 a.m. at high schools.

#### Volunteers needed in Peach County:

CRCT April 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Byron Middle School only).

## Senior Airman Below-the Zone

Congratulations to the following Senior Airman Below-the-Zone Promotion Board selectees for April through June:

►Airman 1st Class Sarah Acuff, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron

►Airman 1st Class Landan Lee, 461st Air Control Networks Squadron

►Airman 1st Class Mariano Trejo, 461st Air Control Networks Squadron

►Airman 1st Class Zachary Morris, 78th Operations Support Squadron

#### The Robins Chiefs Group

is accepting applications for its academic scholarship program.

An applicant must be an enlisted military member (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or retired) or the dependent of an enlisted military member (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired, or deceased) assigned to or retired from Robins.

Any enlisted rank or branch of service is eligible. In the case of retired or deceased sponsors, the applicant must have remained in the Robins area. Applicants must have applied to, been accepted at, or currently attend an accredited institution of higher learning on a full-time basis.

For more information, visit the Robins Chiefs Group's website at [www.robinschiefsgroup.org](http://www.robinschiefsgroup.org), or send an email to [info@robinschiefsgroup.org](mailto:info@robinschiefsgroup.org).

**The following leave recipient has been approved** through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

Michelle Price of HQ AFGSC. POC is Wilmon

Bolden, who can be reached at 781-3288.

To have a leave recipient listed here, email Lanorris Askew at [lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil).

Space permitting, submissions will run for two weeks.

#### The 78th Security Forces Squadron Crime Prevention Program

is available to organizations for various unit events. To schedule an appearance or to request additional information, contact Staff Sgt. Santina Simpson at 472-1997 or Staff Sgt. Michael Garza at 472-1980.

If you enroll in the **Robins Transportation Incentive Program**, you'll now get a debit card instead of vouchers.

The federal program offers financial benefits to individuals who share rides in vehicles carrying eight or more passengers.

The maximum amount refunded had been \$125 per month.

This month the amount will go back up to \$245 per month, where it was about a year ago, according to Staff Sgt. James Hess, TIP manager.

TIP helps to offset commuting costs for active duty members and civilian employees, while reducing pollution and traffic congestion, preserving the environment, and expanding transportation alternatives.

Debit cards will only work with a merchant account; they cannot be used as ATM cards, and funds can't be used outside the program.

Robins TIP is managed by the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

There are now 750 participants.

# Attention pharmacy customers TRICARE copayment changes

**Med c's  
message**  
AFMS - Robins - 78th  
Medical Group  
Like us on Facebook!

**BY 78TH MEDICAL GROUP**

New TRICARE copayments for prescription drugs are now in effect.

Per the fiscal 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, TRICARE was required to increase copays on brand name and non-formulary medications not filled at military clinics or hospitals.

However, there was no increase to generic medications, or medications filled at military clinics like the Robins pharmacy. The Robins Pharmacy can refill prescriptions from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on the second and fourth Thursdays when it closes at 11 a.m. for training.

Customers normally receive the fastest service first thing in the morning during business hours.

For more information, contact the pharmacy at 327-8023 (DSN 497-8023) or visit [www.tricare.mil/Costs/PrescriptionCosts.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/Costs/PrescriptionCosts.aspx)

**Prescription Cost Increase Summary:**  
Per 30-day supply -

At a Military/Robins Pharmacy (no changes):

▶\$0 copayment for up to a 90-day supply of most medications.

▶Not all medications are available at military pharmacies. Call first to check availability.

▶Non-formulary medications are not usually filled at military pharmacies.

**At Network Pharmacies:**

▶\$5 for generic formulary medications (no change)

▶\$17 for brand-name formulary medications (\$5 increase)

▶\$44 for non-formulary medications, unless you establish medical necessity (\$19 increase)

If you want to have a 90-day prescription filled, you will pay the copayment for each 30-day supply

**For Home Delivery:**

▶\$0 for generic formulary medications (no change)

▶\$13 for brand-name formulary medications (\$4 increase)

▶\$43 for non-formulary medications, unless you establish medical necessity (\$18 increase)

## SOLAR

Continued from 1

as Enhanced Use Leasing.

The proposed site would be off of Marchbanks Drive, on the southwest side of the base.

An Industry Day, hosted by Robins and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center out of Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., is scheduled for April 4 at the Museum of Aviation for potential developers to learn more about Air Force energy develop-

ment opportunities and EUL programs and processes, and visit the local site.

“This is a great opportunity for the base to participate in a renewable energy project,” said Dave Bury, Base Energy manager.

## ENERGY

Continued from 1

December 2012.

The cultural change component included energy program leadership, action plans, energy investments and energy awareness. “Culture change” continues to be one of three pillars of the Air Force vision to “make energy a consideration in all we do.” The other pillars are “reduce demand” and “increase supply.

Energy reduction was assessed by measuring the actual reduction in energy and water intensity as reported to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, and compared with the previous year’s consumption.

“Each of these installations built a robust Energy Management Program focused on energy reduction and energy culture,” said Col. Jeff Todd, AFMC Deputy Director of Communications, Installations and Mission Support. “Their efforts display great achieve-

ments in energy reduction and promotion of cultural change at the Installation level and, subsequently, the MAJCOM.”

“This competition is about conserving energy, reducing demand, and changing culture which

results in the reduction of our energy footprint while also helping to improve our energy security posture,” he said. Together, let’s continue to make energy conservation a consideration in all we do.”

WE SUPPORT AFSO21





Lt. Col. Dee Ketterer, Air Force Reserve Command, works on a Habitat for Humanity house. Team Robins members joined with other volunteers March 16 on a Habitat for Humanity Women Build Project. They're building a house at 126 Orchard Way in Warner Robins.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# Women's Work

## Base recognizes changing roles of females on and off duty

Clockwise from right, Brigid Petrie O'Hearn, 577th Software Maintenance Squadron director, was the Women's History Month Luncheon guest speaker.



Peyton Etheridge, a 7th grader at Huntington Middle School, reads her winning "Women's History Month" essay during the luncheon.



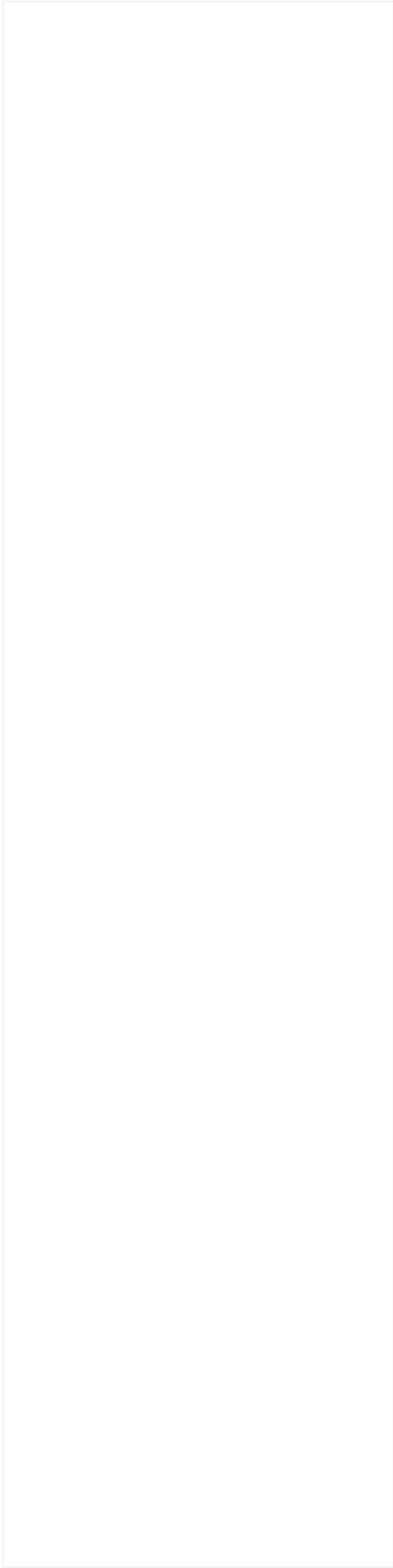
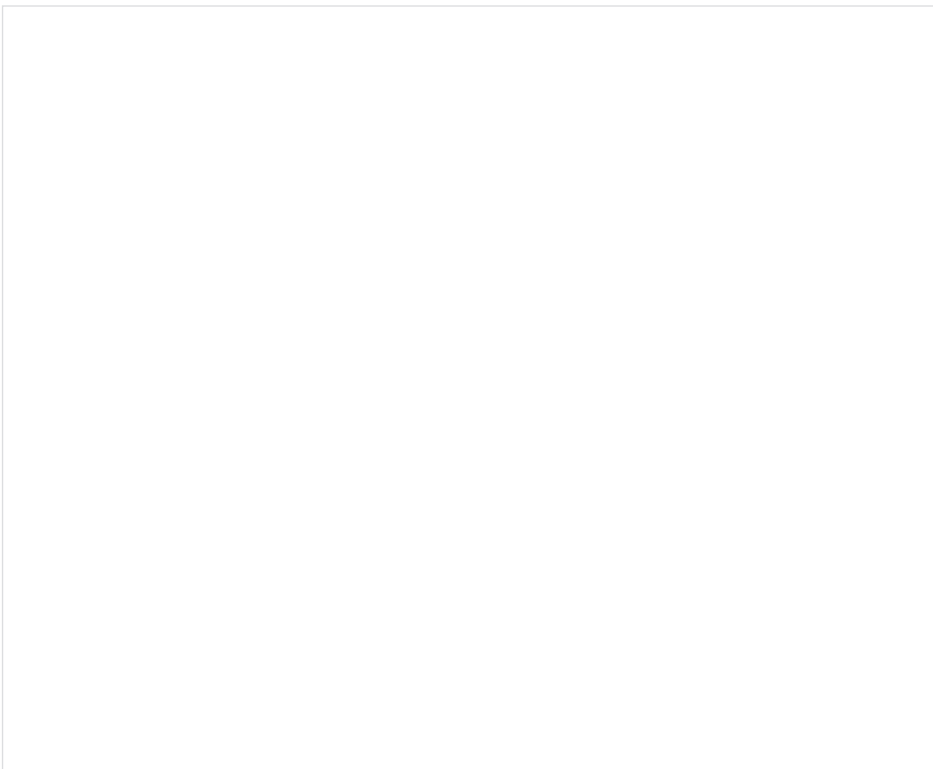
Front to back, Lt. Col. Libby Melendez and Lt. Col. Dee Ketterer, AFRC, and Michelle Hopkins, 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group, put a window in place March 16 on a Habitat for Humanity house.




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FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ON TAP

#### March Madness Regionals

Saturday and Sunday 3:30 to 9 p.m. Heritage Bar  
Come and watch the games with us. For details, call 472-7864.

#### Robins Commissary

Open Easter Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call 472-7618

#### Summer Camp Requests for Care

Applications accepted Monday through April 26 weekdays, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lottery drawing April 29. Parents of selected youth will be notified April 30. For details, call 468-2110.

#### School Break Extended Hours

April 1 through 5 Noon to 3 p.m. Youth Center \$5 Members \$8 Non members

For details, call 468-2110.

#### Golf tips from the Pro

Tuesday 5 to 6 p.m. Pine Oaks Golf Course Pay \$5 for all of the range balls you can hit and get free tips from the PGA head golf professional. For details, call 468-4103.

#### Bowling Movie Day

Wednesday 2 to 4 p.m. \$6 per person includes three games, shoes, movie and popcorn. For details, call 468-2112.

#### Auto Hobby Shop Safety/Equipment Class

Wednesday 5 to 7 p.m. This class must be completed before using the Auto Hobby Shop. For details, call 468-2049.

#### Digital Photography

Thursday

5:30 to 7 p.m. Arts & Crafts Center For details, call 468-5282.

### UPCOMING

#### First Friday

April 5 5 to 6 pm Heritage Lounge Food, fun, entertainment and prizes. For details, call 472-7864.

#### March Madness Final Four

April 6 3:30 to 9 p.m. Heritage Bar Come by and watch the game with us. For details, call 472-7864.

#### Hook Up 2 Bowling

Children \$89 Adults \$119 Learn the fundamentals of bowling in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. For beginners, former bowlers or occasional bowlers. For details, call 468-2112.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON

## Travel Show draws hundreds

Tonya Vonier, Alpine-Helen Convention and Visitors Bureau, speaks with two attendees March 21 during the Information Tickets and Travel and Recreation Show in the Heritage Club Ballroom. The show included 37 vendors, various prizes and giveaways. More than 400 people attended the annual event.

### Robins AFB Chapel Protestant and Catholic

## Easter Worship Schedules

#### Our Lady of the Skies

Daily Mass – Noon

Friday - Good Friday Liturgy – 7 p.m. Designated Offering for Peter's Pence

Saturday - Holy Saturday Mass – 8 p.m. Reception to follow in the annex

Sunday - Easter Sunday Mass – 9:30 a.m.

#### Protestant Worship Services

Sunday - Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m. Robins Chapel lawn - bring lawnchairs or blankets. Breakfast will follow in the Annex.

Sunday - Easter Celebration Service – 11 a.m. in the Chapel Sanctuary



## Fit & Healthy Family Fair and Picnic

Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robins Youth Center

Bring your own picnic and blanket!

#### Fun Fitness Activities:

Free Throw Contest  
Freeze Dance  
Zumba  
Karate

#### Vehicle Demonstrations:

Hum-V  
Fire Truck  
Police Car

#### Family Fun!

Inflatables  
Games  
Face Painting  
Moullage Paint  
Costume Photo Booth

#### Health Fair and Workshops

1 p.m. Egg Hunt and many more surprises

Free and open to all with base access. For more details, call 472-7271

## WE SUPPORT AFSO21



## Money-saving tips to survive budget cuts

**BY HOLLY J. LOGAN-ARRINGTON**  
holly.logan-arrington@robins.af.mil

With furlough days staring federal civilian employees in the face, the Department of Defense is not the only one looking at forced cutbacks.

Some employees have already begun thinking of ways to trim costs; they try to imagine 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 has some people scurrying for ways to spend less and save more.

The following tips are aimed at helping readers craft a new way of living to help them through the federal budget crunch.

Furloughs will no doubt take their toll, but with the following tips, people could have a better financial mindset on the other side.

### Don’t waste food

Families throw away 10 to 25 percent of food they’ve purchased.

Instead, use last night’s leftovers as tomorrow’s lunch or make a chicken salad from the leftover baked chicken you had for dinner. Check the pantry and fridge for items nearing expiration and plan to use them, not waste them.

### Save gas

Accelerating and braking quickly reduces gas mileage 5 percent around town and 33 percent on the highway, so let up on the gas pedal. Tire pressure, air filters and spark plugs also play a major role, so keep your auto serviced.

### Use window shades

During cooler weather, open blinds (especially the southern windows) and let the sun warm your home. In the summer, close those and drapes, if you have them, to keep your home cooler.

**Editor’s Note:** *The accompanying tips are provided by the Robins Airman & Family Readiness Center. See more helpful info at [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil) under the sequestration tab.*

*Positive workplace relationships enable everyone to perform at their very best*



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