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a culture of
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ROBINS REV-UP

April 26, 2013 Vol. 58 No.16

Robins unit tops in DoD for green efforts

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 78th Civil Engineer Group at Robins has won the Department of Defense's Environmental Quality – Industrial Installation Award for 2012.

The award recognizes the environmental program at a heavily industrialized post or base which ranks above others in a number of areas, including air quality, hazardous materials and waste management, pollution prevention, green procurement, natural resources, restoration and water quality.

"This is a great accomplishment for Team Robins," said Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander. "We understand the importance of a healthy and safe environment and are committed to ensuring compliance with all environmental procedures."

The awards honor outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships that promote quality of life and increasing efficiencies with-



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Nelson Rosa, Ground Treatment Plant operator, changes oil in a chemical feed system at the groundwater treatment facility.

out compromising mission success.

Among the unit's notable achievements was a suc-

cessful Qualified Recycling Program – a two-time winner of Air Force Materiel Command's QRP Award.

During fiscal 2012, the program recycled more than 2,000 tons of recyclable materials, diverted 53 percent solid waste from landfills and generated more than \$960,000 in total revenue.

Additionally, the base groundwater treatment plant was the first industrial wastewater treatment facility in Georgia to receive the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Platinum Award. The plant has removed more than 34,900 pounds of contaminants from water on the installation.

This is the first time the base has won the DoD award. However, its commitment to environmental excellence has shown through receipt of many other recent environmental honors, including its 20th consecutive Tree City USA Award and the Air Force Gen. Thomas D. White Award - Environmental Quality in the industrial category.

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Community Assessment Survey's '.com' address approved for use

The community assessment survey is in full swing. When you receive your invites to participate, it will ask you to click on a ".com" web address.

There have been some concerns voiced about it being a ".com" address, but it is the proper address, and is secure.

Team Robins members who are asked to participate are encouraged to do so.

The assessment is designed to assist chaplains and people working in installation-level Airman and family readiness centers, family advocacy programs, health and wellness centers, mental health clinics, and child and youth programs to better meet the needs of service members and their families.

"We need to make sure our programs are meeting the needs of Airmen and their families," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. "This survey is one way we can learn how well we're doing that. It's every Airman's responsibility to provide some honest feedback to help."

Topics covered in the survey include personal and family adjustment, individual and family adaptation, community well-being, deployment, resiliency, post-traumatic stress, and help-seeking stigma.

The survey will be available until May 30 and is completely anonymous.

A notification letter, including a link to the Web-based survey, will be sent to work email addresses of everyone selected to participate. Spouses will be sent a postcard in the mail with the Web link.

The information will help make community-wide program planning and resource allocation decisions, which ultimately enhance the quality of life, readiness and retention of Air Force personnel.



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Expeditionary Depot Maintenance team members train at Warrior Air Base April 18.

Realistic training simulates host of scenarios for battle damage unit

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil

Handpicked from throughout the Air Force, members of the Expeditionary Depot Maintenance team from Robins train all year to remain ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

The highly-specialized aircraft battle damage repair unit trains five times a year to remain proficient in their skills. Its mission is to repair aircraft as quickly as possible and get them back in the air.

About 63 people now make up the maintenance team, which includes engineers, electricians, sheet metal and fuels systems specialists, and crew chiefs who perform structural



Staff Sgt. Daniel Carpenter, Expeditionary Depot Maintenance team member, simulates on-site repairs during aircraft battle damage training at Warrior Air Base.

▶ see TRAINING, 2

Aviation Week Award lauds WR-ALC for excellence

BY TIM KURTZ

Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex

The innovation and hard work that spurred a renaissance in aircraft production has earned the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex another major award.

The complex was honored with the 2013 Aviation Week Military Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of the Year Award on April 16. Doug Keene, WR-ALC vice director, accepted the award for the complex at Aviation Week's MRO Americas Conference and Exhibition at the World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The annual awards honor aviation entities from around the world for outstanding achievement and innovation in aviation MRO. The awards are presented by Aviation Week & Space Technology in four categories; airline, independent, supplier and military.

The complex won the award on the strength of its 98 percent on-time delivery rate for aircraft in 2012 – a dramatic increase in efficiency following a 47 percent rate in 2011.

"We are humbled and honored to receive this great recognition," Brig. Gen. Cedric George, WR-ALC commander, said.

He deemed the Aviation Week MRO Award as "a recognition of our relentless focus on speed, quality and safety across our production machines. What we are doing is working so we must stay focused on delivering cost effective readiness to our sons and daughters in harm's way."

▶ see MRO, 2

LIKE NO OTHER:

MWDs build strong bonds with their handlers, add value to mission



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Senior Airman Ian Bailey, 78th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog trainer, and his MWD, Soyer, share a quiet moment for a photo shoot, prior to training.

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

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Sometimes it takes almost losing something to realize its value.

That was certainly the case for Staff Sgt. Ian Bailey, a military working dog handler with the 78th Security Forces Squadron's Military Working Dog Section here.

Bailey, who has been with the 78th SFS/S3D for a little more than a year, had a heart-racing moment that nearly cost him his 6-year-old German Shepherd MWD

Soyer's life.

"I was on a mission early one morning in southern Afghanistan, and we were required to cross a river," he said. "Before we started to cross, we started taking enemy fire. After a few minutes of returning fire, we pressed across the river while still taking enemy fire."

Then, the unthinkable happened.

"While crossing the river, my dog was washed down stream so I had to dive in the river to get him out," he said. "That was the scariest moment in my career to this point. It helped

me realize why I love what I do. I truly care about my dog."

Like most military working dog teams, Bailey and Soyer were matched based on a combination of aspects: their personalities, work tempos and how well they interacted.

Those factors – coupled with monthly refresher training and daily playtime – all combine for a rock-solid bond between the handler and the MWD.

Bailey had good reason beyond

▶ see MWD, 8

Page Two

Home, Not Alone project nears completion

BY JENNY GORDON

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A Team Robins project is underway that will assist veterans in the local community.

Home, Not Alone is a volunteer-driven effort to build a transition home for veterans who require physical therapy, mental and occupational therapy services, and job search assistance.

“There’s definitely a need,” said Master Sgt. Scott Barton, project volunteer coordinator. “For the build, we’ve been utilizing our free time on the weekends in order to give back to our community.”

A team of 29 base volunteers first began working on the build in mid-March, which is being funded through donations. To date, 65 individuals have committed their weekend time to the Linda Drive project with more than 350 man hours of volunteer effort.

The home, owned by Lighthouse Ministries, has undergone demolition and is ready for its next phase of reconstruction.

Up to six residents will live in the two-story house once it’s ready. Their stay will range from short-term to long-term, and will be on a case-by-case basis depend-



U.S. Air Force photo by LAURIE FLORES
Cherry Garner, (right) general contractor and foreman for the home project, and two other team members assess the extent of work needed to be done in the home and discuss the plans for the renovation.

ing on their needs. Occupational therapists will be on site for therapy and administrative duties.

Pre-screening for the home’s occupants is currently being conducted by the Carl Vinson Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Dublin. The application list includes Vietnam-era through Operation Enduring Freedom veterans in need of assistance.

Once the home is completed later this summer, veterans can immediately move in.

Base organizations participating in the project include Air Force Reserve Command; 5th Combat Communications Group; 78th Communications Directorate; 78th Security Forces; Air Force Sergeants Association; Robins Top 3; Network 56; and Airmen Committed to Excellence.

To learn more about volunteering, contact Master Sgt. Barton at 926-4924 or Staff Sgt. Kevin Beaver at 327-9292.

VA reps ready to assist on base

BY JENNY GORDON

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Department of Veterans Affairs representatives at Robins are now delivering VA’s enhanced benefits briefings and stand ready to assist the military community transitioning out of the service.

“We’re empowering service members with VA information, where to find it and how to apply for the benefits they’re interested in,” Michael Caldwell, a representative with VA, said.

The team on base includes Rudy Lamothe, Christina Kelly and P.D. Anglea, who are located in Bldg. 380. Hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 327-6986.

The Benefits I Briefing includes

detailed information on education, health care, compensation, life insurance, home loans and other VA benefits and services.

VA Benefits II provides supplementary information to expand and reinforce what is covered in the VA Benefits I, and provides an overview of the disability compensation process and an introduction to the eBenefits portal, VA’s web-based benefits application system.

Both briefings are highly interactive and include practical exercises, videos of personal experiences, and a question and answer session. A participant guide and the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors Handbook is provided to participating service members.

The online web portal eBenefits (www.ebenefits.va.gov)

allows members to sign up and take charge of their benefits. By using this feature, members can not only apply for benefits, but also check the status of a claim appeal, find important documentation, learn about education benefits and employment, and more.

The VA team will serve as an important on-site resource for veterans who need accurate, up-to-date information on available resources.

“Another takeaway from this is service members can schedule ‘individual assistance’ sessions with VA representatives on site to receive additional VA benefit information,” said Caldwell. “It will also provide additional support for members who may still be unsure on how to move forward when transitioning out of the military.”

Base kicks off APAH Observance

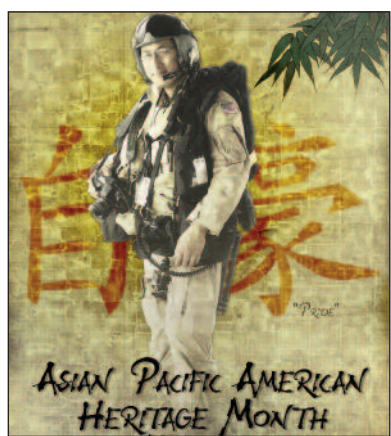
Robins is set to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a number of planned events.

The theme of this year’s observance is “Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion.”

According to observance committee members, APA Heritage Month was first established in 1977 when Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta, and Senators Daniel Inoue and Spark Matsunaga introduced resolutions asking the President to declare the first 10 days of May (the month when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 1843) as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week.

In 1978 President Jimmy Carter made it an annual event and in 1990, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

A proclamation signing by



Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, is planned Wednesday to kick off the month. The signing will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Exchange.

Other scheduled events:

►A golf tournament is set for May 10 at Pine Oaks Golf Course. The cost is \$30 per person. Tee time is noon. Deadline for names and handicaps is Feb. 1.

Point of contact is Master Sgt. Rebecca Hancock at 497-7620.

►Volunteers will visit local schools as part of a youth program.

POC is Kristine Butler at 497-0329.

►The APAH Fashion Show is May 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Exchange. Committee members and volunteers will model traditional clothing from their culture as the emcee explains significant meanings behind each traditional outfit.

POC is Vivian Siu at 472-0686

►A Finale Dinner is scheduled for May 30 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Club. Guest speaker will be Col. Roy Agustin, Air Force Reserve Command. Cost is \$20.

POCs are Master Sgt. David Miller, at 497-6060 and Senior Master Sgt. Dwain Earhart at 497-1499

— from staff reports



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON
Handpicked from throughout the Air Force, members of the Expeditionary Depot Maintenance team from Robins train all year long to remain ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

TRAINING

Continued from 1

maintenance work on damaged planes.

The team’s most recent training exercises were conducted at Warrior Air Base – used as a simulated deployed environment.

The week-long event allowed evaluators an opportunity to identify what types of deficiencies existed, how members reacted to various situations such as simulated insurgent attacks and chemical attacks, and how members adapted and overcame barriers.

“What we want to see is if they can make the hard decisions, and also make the right ones,” said Tech Sgt. T.J. Barb, an EDMX team member since 2003.

“There is no other unit that has the capability to do what we do. We like to say we don’t get ready – we stay ready,” he added. “We’re a small unit with a great respon-

sibility. It’s a great feeling to know we may have made a difference somewhere in the world, allowing someone to come home, but also making it impossible for a tyrant to gain advantage on any particular day. That’s what we’re here for.”

Sharing in the unique challenges that exist while deployed, Tech Sgt. Mike Reid has been training with the team for the past six years.

“It’s something new every time,” he said.

Training also includes a group of engineers who deploy with an EDMX team when aircraft experience heavy damage at a location.

“We really get to put our school work to use right away,” said 1st Lt. Eric Baker, an engineer and exercise evaluator who will deploy later this year. “This is extremely practical training where we can see an end result in a matter of hours. Young lieutenants don’t get opportunities like this very often.”

MRO

Continued from 1

“Each member of this complex shares in this honor – a team award for a team victory,” the general said. “It was earned through a unified determination, a focused vision and a championship effort. As a commander, I couldn’t be prouder of our people.”

AW&ST noted WR-ALC’s application of Critical Chain Project Management and Theory of Constraints methodologies since 2005 as a foundation for the dramatic resurgence.

“Typically, military MRO organizations try to deal with missed delivery deadlines by pushing even more aircraft into production,” the AW&ST award announcement article said, “but Warner Robins tried the opposite last year -- by reducing the work in production to get more done. The MRO focused on the C-130 and F-15 squadrons, the Commodities Maintenance Group, and the test program squadron in the software maintenance group. As a result, it returned 25 percent more aircraft to the Air Force with the same resources.”

Lee Ann Tegtmeir, Aviation Week MRO chief editor, presented the award to Keene at the Atlanta conference. She said the innovative practices utilized by the MRO awards winners are important examples that have widespread effect in the aviation community.

“We salute the MRO of the Year award winners for their pioneering achievements and value-adding accomplishments,” Tegtmeir said in a press release. “Their dedication to asking the right questions and developing innovative solutions inspires all of us in the aviation aftermarket industry.”

Aviation Week publishes magazines and online editorial content for the global aviation, aerospace and defense industries.

AIR FORCE

THE NEWS FROM AROUND

Reserve, Guard leaders discuss fiscal 2014 budget

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The top leaders from Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force Reserve and National Guard were on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., Wednesday to provide statements and answer questions regarding their fiscal 2014 budget proposals.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., the chairwoman of the full U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense, and Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., the subcommittee's ranking member, led discussions and listened to testimony from Reserve and National Guard leaders.

"In an increasingly limited fiscal environment, reservists remain efficient and cost-effective solutions to our nation's challenges," said Lt. Gen. James Jackson, the chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and Air Force Reserve Command commander at Robins.

In written and verbal testimony, Jackson outlined how the president's fiscal 2014 budget request would fund Air Force Reserve requirements of about \$5 billion. It provides for the operation and training of 34 wings, funds 102,212 flying hours, maintains 362 aircraft, and provides for the readiness of 70,400 reservists.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

AFSPC ops leader highlights command's new warfighter role

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. – When the message went out months ago that Airman Leadership School might be offered in blended learning again through a satellite program there was a colossal, "Please do this!" response to Master Sgt. Kirk Hayes and his Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center teammates.

The I.G. Brown Training and Education Center at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., strives to make training convenient and cost effective for the Air Force. The huge response from the field meant they uncovered a huge need. Now they had to dust off a shelved program and begin anew.

"Interest far surpassed what we thought it was going to be," said Hayes, superintendent of the Satellite EPME program.

The TEC is the Air National Guard's primary force development center. Its 85 Total Force staff members teach an average 18 EPME courses and host more than 40 professional continuing education courses each year.

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

Sniper ATP-SE makes operational debut with Dyess bombers

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – B-1 Bombers from the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, received a significant upgrade to their targeting capability April 15, becoming the first operational platform to employ Lockheed Martin's Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod-Sensor Enhancement modification.

Building on the technology of legacy ATP pods, sniper pods in the new ATP-SE configuration pro-

Angel Thunder

Airmen wait to load a victim of a simulated aircraft crash during exercise Angel Thunder 2013, April 13, at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Angel Thunder provides personnel recovery and combat search and rescue training for combat aircrews, pararescuemen, intelligence personnel, battle managers and joint search and rescue center personnel.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN TIMOTHY MOORE

vide an even greater capability via new enhanced sensors, a two-way data link, advanced processors and automated non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance modes.

"Sniper-SE incorporates the greatest set of upgrades to the advanced targeting pod since its inception," said Capt. Artur Kosycarz, 337th Test and Evaluation Squadron Sniper-SE rated project officer. "Standardized across the combat air force, Sniper-SE equipped jets will be able to execute a myriad of mission sets with capability in the realm of maritime operations, ISR and video data-link."

A new facet to the modification is the pod's Net-T, or network tactical capability, which enables a point-to-multipoint networking architecture that, when employed with other platforms, provides beyond line-of-sight range capability allowing operators, analysts and decision makers access to real-time situational awareness data.

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

Doolittle Raiders greet, inspire Hurlburt Field Airmen during final reunion

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) – Three Air Force legends spoke to dozens of Airmen April 18 here, marking the 71st anniversary of when they and their fellow Airmen turned the tide of the U.S. war effort. The visit also marked the last public reunion of the Doolittle Raiders.

Retired Lt. Col. Richard Cole and Edward Saylor and former Staff Sgt. David Thatcher served alongside 77 fellow U.S. Army Air Corps Airmen taking off in 16 B-25s in the April 18, 1942, bombing over Japan known as the Doolittle Raid.

The raid – designed and led by then-Lt. Col. James Doolittle – served as the first air raid by the U.S. military in response to the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, while both bolstering the morale of the American public and instilling doubt among the Japanese people.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Col. William Holt, 1st Special Operations Wing vice commander, before introducing the Raiders. "In my 22 years in the Air Force, I never imagined I'd be standing in front of three Doolittle Raiders. Without a doubt, this is the highest honor I've had."

After the three Raiders entered the squadron through a sword cordon from the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard, the Airmen in the audience opened



U.S. Air Force photo by JOHN VAN WINKLE

Warrior Games

Retired Senior Airman Brandon Bishop practices a volley during sitting volleyball practice at the Warrior Games training camp April 15, at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. Volleyball is one of the seven events Air Force athletes will compete in during the 2013 Warrior Games May 11 through 16 at the Air Force Academy and U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

the discussion by asking questions about their memories and impression of the raid's architect.

"Colonel Doolittle was a very persuasive individual," said Cole, who also served as his co-pilot on the lead aircraft. "He was very charming. He treated everyone with respect and was very polite. He was a team person, and it vibrated throughout all 80 people."

Cole also described Doolittle's dedication to his Airmen as a testament to his leadership.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

– compiled by Holly Logan-Arrington

AFSC news

RIF has negligible impact to AFSC

Air Force Sustainment Center Personnel

The Department of Defense issued a memo this week authorizing the use of 'Reduction in Force' measures to balance overages in manpower. This is part of the personnel cuts under the fiscal 2012 force restructure.

While this news seemed to be alarming to many, these measures should not impact our civilian employees at Robins, Hill and Tinker Air Force bases. There should also be little impact to our AFSC folks at Scott and Langley Air Force bases. Previous rounds of personnel reductions left some bases in an over-manpower position, and this authority gives those bases the ability to



Marshall

balance and place employees in vacant positions.

In other news, we've received no further guidance relative to furloughs.

While we're hearing that our Air Force is doing everything possible to reduce the number of furlough days even further, the current plan is to continue to furlough up to 14 days, beginning in the June timeframe.

I know the discussions on furloughs, sequestration and RIFs are stressful topics.

Let's continue to support one another as good wingmen. Again, I want you to know how proud I am that everyone continues to do their job and help our warfighters remain ready to fight. Gen Litchfield and I will do our best to keep you all up to date as information becomes available.

Thank you for all you do for our Air Force and our nation.

– This message was written by

Ross Marshall,

Air Force Sustainment Center executive director

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 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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To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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On the Fly

Future leaders shine

Robins Youth of the Year announced

The Robins Air Force Base Youth of the Year is Alexis Jefferson. She is the daughter of Chief Master Sgt. Morris Jefferson, Air Force Reserve Readiness Management Group Financial Management Superintendent, and Ivette Jefferson.

Alexis, 17, is a junior at Veterans High School.

She serves as Secretary of the Keystone Club, teen character and leadership club and is a member of the base Teen Council.

Alexis recently competed in Atlanta against other military youth from the State of Georgia for Military Youth of the Year honors, where she was named first runner up in the competition.

Youth of the Year is a Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program for club members which promotes and celebrates service



Jefferson

to club, community and family, academic performance, moral character and life goals.

Students complete Ambassador's Training

Erin and Abby Butikofer, Brendan Kennedy, Taysia-Lynn Arneho and Kasey Bair, members of the Robins Air Force Base Keystone Club have completed Ambassador's Training in conjunction with the National Keystone Conference recently held in Atlanta.

The group received training on teen retention, resiliency and the six pillars of character.

The individuals will facilitate sessions to Club peers on lessons learned during the training and will also help facilitate training sessions at the Air Force Keystone Conference Training in San Antonio, Texas, tentatively scheduled in July.

More than 1,800 teenagers from across the nation and overseas bases attended the National Keystone Conference.

The Mobile Vet Center will be at Robins from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Exchange. Everyone is invited to tour the vehicle.

The center features a 38-foot counseling center with two private offices; satellite communication and Internet service with VA medical centers; video conference and tele-health capabilities; flat screen TVs for training and educational videos; wheelchair accessibility; and a full-time social worker or counselor.

MVC services are provided free.

For more information on the MVC, visit www.va.gov/rcs.

Through its partnership with Robins, Mercer is offering a Master of Science in Organizational Development and Change for those interested in advanced leadership positions in the public or private sectors.

The only offering of the eight-week program for 2013 begins in May and will prepare students to lead others effectively and identify innovative solutions to challenges in a variety of professional settings, including the non-profit, public, health care, military and technology sectors.

For details about the program, infor-

mation sessions will be conducted at the following times and locations:

May 6

- ▶ 9 a.m. in Bldg. 905 room 120
- ▶ 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Club, front atrium
- ▶ 1 p.m. Bldg. 301, Engineering Conference Room, (Located near the snack bar or follow signs near door 460, at the northeast entrance of building).

If you are unable to attend, contact Stephen Jenkins at jenkins_sd@mercer.edu or call 678-547-6436 for more information.

The Robins Education and Training Office is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to determine the current educational needs of the Robins population.

Completing the survey determines what degree programs, colleges, universities and other instructional learning formats best meet Robins' needs.

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center through the Air Force Portal under Training/Education/Force Development and complete the survey.

For those who don't have a base ID card, visit the Education Office in Bldg. 905 to complete a survey. The survey will end May 31.

Clinic no-shows cost big bucks, access to care nightmares

BY LT. COL. CHRISTOPHER PAIGE

78th MDOS commander

Missed appointments cost Robins Medical Group an average of \$170,000 per month, and no-shows have been on the rise since January.

If left unattended, the cost per year could reach as high as \$2,088,000.

During the month of February, 464 appointments were no showed throughout primary care, dental and specialty care clinics.

No-shows affect the installation's ability to carry out missions.

A corrective plan is a top priority for Col. James Dienst, 78th Medical Group commander, who said the financial loss

only tells the first part of the story.

"When a patient misses a medical appointment this directly translates to missed opportunities to provide exceptional care for that member ... and others."

Patients suffer because once a missed medical appointment is gone, it can't be retrieved, and there's a cascading effect.

One missed appointment takes away on average three appointment slots – the patient's original appointment, the patient's make-up appointment, and an appointment missed-opportunity for another patient who could have had those slots.

Missed appointments push access to care further out. This in turn frustrates patients who need medical care delivered in a timely manner, often a critical element

of wellness.

"Our goal to meet our patient's needs becomes hampered when patients fail to show or cancel an appointment," said Dienst.

Captain Jonathan Semple, 78th MDG Group Practice manager reports the Air Force goal is to have a no-show rate of less than 5 percent.

"The clinic has an automated appointment system reminder that calls patients about their appointments," he said. "The patient has the ability to accept the appointment or cancel it right then and there.

"Further, patients are able to cancel appointments up to two hours prior to the appointment without it being considered a

no-show."

To cancel or reschedule an appointment call Central Appointments at 478-327-7850 or DSN 497-7850.

Semple reminds patients to make sure their current phone numbers are updated in the patient registration system, which can be done simply by stopping by any clinic desk.

The MDG appointment supervisor reports that patients are grateful when they hear there was a cancellation and can take a newly-opened appointment slot.

"Providing world-class healthcare to our nation's heroes and families ... anytime, anyplace is our mission ... We need everyone's assistance to keep us on track," said Dienst.



U.S. Air Force photos by ED ASPERA

Above, 6-month-old Colbie Flint is very attentive as Lt. Col. Gerald Hall, pediatric nurse practitioner, reads to her while her mother looks on.



At right, 6-month-old Ezra Gangi, kicks up his heel after receiving his new book.

Oh Baby ...

Reading program prescribes a healthy start

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

The Reach Out and Read program at Robins received a nod this month following a visit from representatives with the Governor's Office for Children and Families.

The 78th Medical Group's pediatric unit hosted visitors with a tour of its facilities and learned how the program has played an important role for military families.

The reading campaign began at Robins in 2011 and is part of the national Reach Out and Read program. By partnering with medical providers, the program seeks to develop critical early reading skills in children beginning at 6-months old as well as encourage families to read together.

Every child who visits the base clinic for a wellness visit receives

a free, age-appropriate book, from 6-months old all the way up to five years of age. For example, bright board and cloth books are given very early on, all the way up to books with letter and number recognition with fewer pictures for older children.

The books serve as an important developmental tool during wellness exams, and are used to assess how children are growing and learning.

Including Robins, Georgia military installations that have implemented the program include Fort Benning, Fort Gordon and Fort Stewart.

The program first began in 1989 at then-Boston City Hospital, and has reached all 50 states with nearly 5,000 program sites distributing 6.5 million books per year. A total of 4 million children are served annually through program sites.

Operation Military Kids a success

Team Robins members hand out dog tags to military students

In April the armed forces celebrates Month of the Military child. The month-long celebration thanks military children for their service and recognizes them for their strength, sacrifices and the hardships they face.

On Wednesday, Perdue Elementary School students from military families were shown how much their sacrifices are appreciated.

Team Robins members handed out dog tags to the students. Chief Master Sgt. Gary Hunkins, 78th Air Base Wing chief enlisted manager, delivered the morning announcements at the school before the dog tags were handed out.

During his announcements, he thanked the military students for their strength and the sacrifices they make as children of military parents.

The dog tags have been a big piece in our Month of the Military Child celebrations in the schools. Georgia 4H, Operation Military Kids has provided 3,000 dog tags for all of the active duty military students in Houston County elementary and middle schools as well as a couple of our local private schools.



U.S. Air Force photos by ED ASPERA

Above, Tech. Sgt. Jessie Jackson, 78th Air Base Wing command chief executive assistant, delivers a military dog tag to Ethan Roy at Perdue Elementary School Wednesday.

Left, Renee Daughtry, Robins School Liaison Officer, hugs Peyton McCaskill, as she receives her dog tag.

A little information about blood suckers

BY ASHANTI WHITE

Spring is officially here and with it comes one of the biggest offenders known to man – mosquitoes.

Many of the mosquito species are just nuisances and don't bite.

The three main categories in Middle Georgia are Anopheles, Culex, and Aedes – sadly are all biters.

The female mosquito is the only one which bites, and without blood her eggs can't be fertilized.

With cases of West Nile Virus increasing each year in Georgia – 13 in 2010, 22 in 2011, and 78 in 2012 – everyone should take precautions to minimize their exposure to mosquitoes.

Ways to minimize exposure are to unclog gutters, dispose of old tires in the yard and to empty outdoor flower pots regularly.

Standing water creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes and should be eradicated if possible.

Between early evening and morning hours is when mosquitoes are mainly out, so be mindful of dress and where you choose to exercise outdoors.

Long sleeved shirts, socks, long pants tucked into the socks, light colors, and wide-brimmed

hats to protect the ears and neck are some examples of protective dress.

DEET is a repellent that can be used and is highly recommended.

From spring to fall, the base Public Health Flight sets mosquito traps at designated locations across the base.

They count and identify the number of insects present to determine if spraying is needed in the immediate area.

Fogging is only done when there are 25 or more mosquitoes in the traps; any use of chemicals should be the last resort.

Although these little blood suckers can be annoying, they're vital to the environment as they aid in waste elimination, plant growth, and are a food source for fish and other aquatic animals.

Med c's message

AFMS - Robins - 78th Medical Group
Like us on Facebook!

SAFTEY TIPS

►Empty standing water in old tires, buckets, plastic covers, outside toys, air conditioning drain outlets, or anything capable of pooling water.

►Remove clutter from carports and porches.

►Change the water in animal feeding dishes and troughs, bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least twice a week.

►Make sure outdoor faucets are tightly shut off to eliminate dripping.

►Keep swimming pools treated and circulating, and rain gutters unclogged.

►Wear head nets, long sleeves and long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito populations.

►Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight" and in good repair.

For more information, call the Public Health Flight at 497-8019.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

AFMC embraces Every Dollar Counts initiative, new culture of savings

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON

AFB, Ohio – Air Force Materiel Command leaders are pledging their support for a new money-saving Air Force initiative dubbed Every Dollar Counts.

In the wake of sequestration and reduced budgets, the initiative calls on Airmen to submit their money-saving ideas as part of a new culture of savings.

“This is an opportunity to respond to a tough situation with creative, lasting solutions,” said Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, AFMC commander.

As part of the initiative, there will be a month-long open call for innovative, cost-conscious ideas.

From May 1 to June 1, Airmen can submit their proposal via the Airmen Powered by Innovation websites while at home, the office or on their smart phone. Links to those sites will be released soon.

Both uniformed and civilian Air Force members can participate in the call for ideas and share their creative and efficient ways to save money and time.

“We’ve asked all AFMC organizations and Airmen at every level to contribute ideas,” said Wolfenbarger. “Our command is filled with many bright minds and I’m confident we’ll see that reflected in the submissions.”

Along with collecting Airmen inputs, the initiative is intended to kick off a cultural shift during a time of shrinking budgets.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Spencer said, “We stopped flying one-third of Air Force active duty combat-coded fighter squadrons in April, and



we’re projected to slow down or stop the flow of aircraft and engines in the depots.”

Furthermore, he said, the Air Force must trim about \$11 billion in the last half of fiscal 2013. Additionally, our overseas contingency operations funding is almost \$2 billion short so we have to make up that difference as well.

And the challenge is compounded by the sequester timeline, which officially began March 1.

“We have to squeeze a year’s worth of cuts into about six months,” Spencer said of the Air Force budget. “So there’s a lot of money to be taken out of our budget in a short period of time ... I’ve never seen anything quite like it.”

The initiative’s call for ideas includes those that might not have previously been considered.

“Airmen Powered by Innovation means go into that file of good ideas that were maybe ‘too hard to do,’ pull them out and submit them, Spencer declared. “If it’s a good idea and requires an Air Force Instruction change, then we’ll see if we can do that.”

Spencer wants Airmen to submit their ideas regardless of the

idea’s potential savings.

“Whether it’s \$500, \$1 million or \$30 million, we want to hear it because those dollars add up,” he said.

“We’re taking every angle we can to manage our money and ‘buy’ as much mission as we can,” he said. “In that sense, every Airman, whether they’re at a wing or headquarters can help.”

The Every Dollar Counts initiative does not just focus on wings but includes those large centrally managed accounts as well.

“The Centralized Asset Management Office at Wright Patterson manages the money we spend on flying hours, sustaining space operations and depot operations – more than \$16 billion – so we’re taking a close review of that account to determine how we can stretch those dollars,” said Spencer.

The general expressed optimism in quickly finding solutions through ideas.

“Innovation is what we’re all about,” Spencer said. “This is our family, and we’re going to get through this because we’ve got great Airmen to help see us through this.”

Money-saving tips to survive budget cuts

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.

Car Insurance

Check to see if you are getting all discounts possible such as safe driver, good student, over 50, anti-theft device, etc.

Raising your deductible can also help you save. An

increase from \$200 to \$500 could save collision costs up to 30 percent.

Caution: *You need to have the deductible in your emergency account.*

Save at Restaurants

Many serve the same entrees for lunch and dinner. Typically portions are a little smaller, but you can save up to \$10 ordering from the lunch menu. Drink water with a lemon instead of a soda or tea, and then skip desert and save your waistline too.

Property Tax

In many locations home values have dropped, but, unless you have contested the amount, you are still paying the same taxes as before. Review your tax statement and contest it if your home has lost value.

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

MWD

Continued from 1

their bond to be concerned about the loss of his four-legged partner, especially in a deployed environment.

Soyer provided protection that stretched beyond a flak vest or helmet. His skills were honed early in the canine’s life.

At about 2 years old, MWDs undergo a three-month training course at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where they learn to do a number of tasks. Among them is detection and patrol, which protects the Air Force mission and service members alike.

Staff Sgt. Cal Rogers, a MWD trainer in the 78th SFS/S3D, said the dogs offer skills their human counterparts can’t bring to the Air Force mission.

“Military Working Dogs provide a level of psychological and

physical deterrence that no other system in the Department of Defense can provide,” he said.

“The presence of a single K9 team can, in many cases, de-escalate a situation in which a suspect is hostile. K9 units, through their unique senses, have the ability to detect and deter potential dangers to the installation that human abilities alone could miss.”

People shouldn’t let these German shepherds’ admirable work and come-pet-me eyes fool them.

“Members of the public should be aware that MWDs aren’t pets, and are trained to defend both their handler and themselves when they feel threatened,” Rogers said. “You should always stay at least 9 feet away from a MWD and its handler and avoid any sudden movements that could be perceived as suspicious or threatening. Do not attempt to pet an MWD at any time.”

Rogers said the more than 12 K9S on Robins are ‘force multipli-



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Senior Airman Ian, Bailey, 78th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog trainer, and his MWD, Soyer, train for civil aggression with Senior Airman Jenny Trudel as the decoy.

ers.’ Unlike their human partners, however, MWDs remain assigned to Robins until their careers end.

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

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- ON TAP**
Summer Camp Requests for Care
 Deadline for applications is today. Lottery drawing will be Monday. Parents of selected youth will be notified Tuesday. For details, call 468-2110.
- Pizza Depot Special**
 Today 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Heritage Lounge BBQ ribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, cole slaw \$6.95 members \$7.95 guests For details, call 468-0188.
- Soft PK Division Golf Tournament**
 Today Noon to 5 p.m. Pine Oaks Golf Course For details, call Sheri Tilley at 472-1542.
- Torch Club**
 Today 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Youth Center Empowers youth to support and influence their club and community, sustain meaningful relationships, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others cultural identities. For details, call 468-2110.
- Jazz Set at the Heritage**
 Today 6 to 8 p.m. Heritage Lounge Stop by and relax after a long day at work. For details, call Sharon Royster at 472-7864.
- Thunder Alley**
 Saturday 9 to 11 p.m. Bowling Center 12 years and younger \$5, 13 years and older \$10. Includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. For details, call 468-2112.
- Adult Watercolor**
 Monday 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg 984 To preregister, call 926-5282.
- Fit Factor**
 Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Youth Center Ages (9 to 18) For details, call 468-2110.
- FTAC/Financial**
 Tuesday Professional Development Center FTAC students learn how to manage their money and support savings. For details, call 472-0177
- 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.
- ONGOING**
Auto Hobby Shop Safety/Equipment Class
 Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m. Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This class must be completed before using the Auto Hobby Shop. For details, call 468-2049.
- Pee Wee League Bowling**
 Saturdays Noon to 2 p.m. Bowling Center For details call, 468-2112.
- Quick Turn now serves breakfast**
 Mondays through Fridays 7 to 9:30 a.m. Open to all Team Robins 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.
- Legoland Florida Tickets**
 One day \$54 per person Two days \$62 per person For details, call 468-2945.
- Remote Control Bowling Ball**
 Available for Wounded Warrior Program and those with special needs. For details, call 468-2112.

AF Spouse Employment Computer Training

A basic computer skills class will be offered to Air Force spouses, May 20 through June 20 in the Airman and Family Readiness Center Bldg. 794.

Sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society and supported by Middle Georgia Technical College, the training is offered to help active-duty Air Force spouses meet the unique challenges of the military lifestyle by providing employment skills training. This training is free,

and each spouse will receive a certification of completion – a great addition to a resume. Interested applicants must register in person, present their dependent I.D. card and not be PCSing during the class duration. Class space is limited to 25 spouses.

For more information, call DSN 468-1256 or commercial 926-1256.



GET OUT AND PLAY! with PLAYpass

The PLAYpass program has been extended through December 2013. To get your PLAYpass, stop by the 78th Force Support Squadron Marketing Office in Bldg. 983, at the corner of Tenth and Warner Robins streets, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more details, call Venus Mansourzadeh at 468-6559.

FITNESS CENTER

Bldg. 826 • DSN 468-2128 or Comm. 478-926-2128
 Bldg. 301 Annex • DSN 468-2840 or Comm. 478-926-2840

May is Air Force Fitness Month

Come out and celebrate a healthy lifestyle with us as we host a wide assortment of activities that will keep you moving throughout the month. Enjoy taking part in specialty classes, tournaments and clinics May 1- 31. Check out www.robinsfss.com for calendar of events.

Swim The Great Lakes
 May 1- 31

Wingman Sports Day
 May 31 at 7 a.m.

May Family Fitness Saturdays
 May 4 - 25 at 8 a.m.

American Kids Fun Run /Fitness Expo
 Saturdays, May 18 at 8 a.m.

Fitness & Sports Council Meeting
 May 22 at 1 p.m. at HAWC Classroom

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