

Hagel to Make Furlough Decision Soon

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2013 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will make a decision soon on the scope of civilian furloughs in response to sequestration spending cuts, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said today.

Hagel is reviewing analysis on the budget “and he’ll reach a decision in the near future,” Little told reporters. Little acknowledged news reports that some services contend they don’t need to use furloughs to make their sequestration goals. “There are different pockets of money in differ-

ent places for each of the services,” he said. “To be totally straightforward, the math does work for some services to avoid some furloughs, at a minimum. For other services, it is harder.”

► see **FURLOUGH, 2**



May 3, 2013 Vol. 58 No.17

VPP offers vision to meet challenges of 21st century

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When it comes to the Voluntary Protection Program, and in specific Star sites, 52 percent less people go home injured than those working in units not participating in the program, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration statistics.

But, even when folks are armed with that knowledge, some still question the validity of participating in the program and misinterpret the program’s title to mean they can abstain from getting involved.

That’s simply not true. The Secretary of Defense directed VPP be employed across the Defense Department in 2008, and the

requirement is still in place; military members, civilian employees and contract employees are expected to participate.

Employers submit an application for Star assessment to OSHA, which then performs an evaluation. Union support is also required for applicants represented by a bargaining unit. Once recognized, Star sites are exempt from OSHA programmed inspections as long as they maintain their Star status.

According to Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, the program is imperative to the mission.

“People are our most important resource, and we’re committed to protecting them,” he said. “As our units strive to gain Star status,

our people are working together on this compelling vision which will create the culture suited to help us meet the challenges of the 21st century. When our units gain Star status, we’re making a pledge that each and every one of our employees’ health and safety is necessary for success.”

Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander, agreed.

“Designation as an OSHA Star site is truly a major accomplishment,” he said. “It carries with it the distinction that the organization’s health and safety program has been thoroughly scrutinized by OSHA, and deemed as

► see **VPP, 2**

WHAT TO KNOW

VPP principles empower management, labor, and OSHA to work cooperatively and proactively to prevent fatalities, injuries, and illnesses through a system focused on: hazard prevention and control; worksite analysis; appropriate training; and management-union commitment and employee involvement.

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Camellia Gardens

The annual Camellia Gardens Memorial Service – which pays tribute to deceased members of Team Robins – will take place May 23 at 10 a.m. in the tranquil garden across from the Horizons Event Center.

The service, a moving, patriotic tribute to the departed, is a 37-year tradition. The garden memorializes the dead by celebrating their life.

At the garden’s entrance, a brick and mortar wall displays gold plaques with the names of more than 1,600 deceased military and civilian members from Robins who were honored in past ceremonies.

This year’s ceremony is a project of the Team Robins Company Grade Officer Council and the Robins Chapel. For more information about the ceremony, call Staff Sgt. Karriem Oliver at 926-2821.

To submit names for this year’s ceremony visit (<https://org.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/78abw/HC/default.aspx>) and click on the “2013 Camellia Gardens Memorial Service” announcement. Follow the instructions provided. The deadline for submissions is Thursday.

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.

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



U.S. Air Force photos by MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Carthy, 116th Air Control Wing, pressure washes the siding of a local home in Warner Robins. Carthy and four other Airmen from the wing, volunteered with the Rebuilding Together Warner Robins non-profit organization to provide free home repairs to a local low-income household.

Guardsmen team with Rebuilding Together

BY MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

Five Air National Guardsmen from the 116th Air Control Wing, gave up their Saturday to volunteer with Rebuilding Together Warner Robins performing repair and renovation work for a local low-income household.

Rebuilding Together is a national non-profit organization that has been providing critical repairs and renovations for low-income homeowners across the United States for almost 25 years. Saturday was National Volunteer Day for the organization and the Airmen from the JSTARS wing jumped on board to do their part.



Tech. Sgt. Patrick Sweeney, from the 116th Air Control Wing, repairs a kitchen sink.

“I first got involved with Rebuilding Together when I was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base,” said Tech. Sgt. Kerstin Haase, 116th ACW Comptroller Flight. “I wanted to do the same thing in Warner Robins because the

community has given so much to the base and the Air National Guard.”

As the homeowner expressed her gratitude, the team of Guardsmen worked hard throughout the day painting, pressure washing, repairing plumbing fixtures and completing general repairs to enhance the safety of the home.

“It’s nice to be out here today helping a family in our community,” said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Carthy, superintendent of the 116th Comptroller Flight. “I grew up in a house that was in disrepair, and I know what it’s like to have someone come in and help you out. It’s nice to be out here helping someone else and give that back.”

Robins update on VERA/VSIP

BY JENNY GORDON
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As part of the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Program, 392 of Robins’ civilian employees separated from service April 30.

In February, civilian personnel received 880 applications for early retirement or separation, with the office issuing 593 offers of a cash incentive to retire, retire early, or resign.

“I see this as having been a successful effort,” said Stacy Wood, human resource specialist with civilian personnel. “The success of the VERA/VSIP effort will allow the air logistics complex to better position the organization for changes in workload.”

“It’s called right-sizing, and it’s one of many steps in the right direction as we shape our workforce to effectively and efficiently support the warfighter today and tomorrow,” said Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander. “This incentive was planned and implemented with teamwork, transparency and passion throughout the process. Outstanding and patriotic Americans benefitted from this incentive and we wish them God’s speed as they transition to the next chapter of their servant leadership.

“I couldn’t be any more pleased with how this turned out,” he added.

VERA/VSIP provides employees the opportunity to leave federal service, with a separation incentive payment up to \$25,000.

At this time, there are no certain plans for a future round of VERA/VSIP, although the Directorate of Personnel is prepared to use all available workforce shaping tools to meet personnel challenges affecting the mission at Robins Air Force Base.

Robins maintainers prep Travolta’s jet for new home



U.S. Air Force photo by PAUL WENZEL

Maintainers from the 116th and 461st Aircraft Maintenance squadrons helped prepare a twin-engine executive jet donated by John Travolta to the Hall of Fame for its move to the museum.

BY JENNY GORDON
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A Gulfstream G-II once owned by actor and aviation enthusiast John Travolta had a few local hands on its parts in preparation for its new home.

Maintainers from the 116th and 461st Aircraft Maintenance squadrons played a role in getting the plane ready for its move to the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame at the Museum of Aviation.

The twin-engine executive jet was donated by Travolta to the Hall of Fame, and is scheduled to

be moved to the museum Saturday. The plane was named after Travolta’s 16-year-old son, Jett, who died in 2009.

It arrived at Robins in early 2012, and was used as a static display during last year’s air show. In the meantime, it was parked on the airfield by the Georgia Air National Guard.

Maintainers began prepping the plane in early March. Maintenance actions have included completion of a radiation survey and draining oil and hydraulic fluids. The plane’s horizontal and vertical stabilizers and rudder were removed

and will be reassembled once on site.

Shops assisting the Aero Repair and Reclamation section with the project included personnel from electroenvironmental, hydraulics, sheet metal and isochronal inspection.

The A/R team’s expertise has not only provided additional training opportunities for its maintainers, but also gave them a fun opportunity to give back to the community.

“I like his movies and most of

► see **JET, 8**

Page Two

Honoring leadership in the field, at home

330th CTS Airman earns Bronze Star

461st wife earns top spouse award



U.S. Air Force photos by MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

Col. Dean Worley, left, 461st Air Control Wing commander, pins the Bronze Star Medal on Maj. David, from the 330th Combat Training Squadron, during a presentation at Robins April 19. David was awarded the medal for his meritorious achievement and exemplary leadership while deployed in support of operation Enduring Freedom. (Full name of award recipient withheld for security purposes)



Worley presents Jennifer Dalman with the Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award April 19. Dalman, the wife of a 461st flight crew member, received the award for her significant contributions to the Air Force and the 461st Air Control Wing. The award was named after the late Joan Orr, wife of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr. The award recognizes the many significant contributions made by non-military spouses of Airmen.

VPP

Continued from 1

functioning in a world-class status. It also says that management, employees and union representatives are working in an effective partnership to prevent injuries through a variety of avenues.”

Some of those avenues include: formal worksite analysis for the elimination or control of potential hazards; implementation of an effective occupational healthcare program; a plan for routine preventive maintenance; adherence to written safety processes; appropriate safety and health training systems and more.

“I believe our safety and health/VPP have taken on huge challenges and strides in creating an environment that well promotes our workplace free from hazards that threaten the well-being of federal employees,” said Tom Scott, American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 president.

“You can gauge this on several historical data and events, from abating 39 OSHA citations and coming off the top 40 federal worksites with the highest injury rates to having one area (the 402nd SMXG) recognized as a star site and another area (the 402nd MXSG) currently being considered for that same recognition.”

Rusty Adams, International Association of Firefighters Local 107 president agreed.

“The IAF is committed to the safe-

By the Numbers

Robins currently has eight VPP Star site application areas identified among its AFMC units including: the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, 402nd CMXG, 402nd EMSG, 402nd MXSG, 402nd SMXG, AFLCMC-R, 638th SCMG, and the 78th Air Base Wing and AFSC-OLs. To date the 402nd SMXG has achieved Star status and 402nd MXSG is awaiting Star approval based on a February 2013 OSHA assessment. The goal for achieving Star recognition for the remaining AFMC areas is September 2015.

ty and health of our employees,” he said. “Our VPP efforts give us the direct line to affect safety in the workplace. For us this is evident in all three of our sites achieving and maintaining Gold status since 2010.”

The Robins Air Force Base Safe Site Challenge is the local program for implementing VPP tenets across the base. Currently, only AFMC organizations are participating in the challenge, but it’s hoped that all non-AFMC mission partners will eventually join or establish similar programs of their own.

A central theme of the Safe Site Challenge is management-union partnership and empowerment of employees to become full participants in identifying and mitigating hazards in the workplace and at home.

The VPP Office uses checklists to

verify each site's level of progression in understanding and sustaining the Robins Safety and Health system in its area. Site employees are recognized as bronze, silver and gold as they mature in the program.

As of April, all Robins AFMC employees work in one of 345 safe sites. Fifty three percent of those sites have reached Gold recognition and 33 percent are at Silver.

“Even though significant progress has been made through the Safe Site Challenge during the last two years, sustaining VPP culture at the Gold level has had some issues,” Allen Quattlebaum, Robins’ Installation VPP program manager, said.

“Unfortunately some sites are not maintaining their safety and health culture to Gold expectations – complacency has crept in, and we have to overcome that,” Quattlebaum said. “The VPP leadership team is examining ways to beef up Safe Site assessment checklists as well as introduce additional measures to capture and sustain a high safety and health consciousness.”

Those enhanced checklists and measures are expected sometime in the next few months, he said.

Scott added, “The Union (AFGE) emphasizes the need for agency health and safety programs/VPP that prevent injuries and illnesses.

“While we have made huge steps in creating and changing culture throughout the command, I encourage everyone to help do their part in sustaining this trend.”

FURLOUGH

Continued from 1

The general principle so far has been “one team, one fight” inside the department to be consistent, the press secretary said. “That’s an understandable position,” he added.

Still, he said, Hagel is reviewing the DOD budget and the constraints the department is operating under.

“We’re in the middle of a \$37 billion to \$40 billion cut during a six-month period, and we need to look closely at that, but I expect him to make a decision soon,” the spokesman said.

The situation “points out the absurdity of sequestration,” Little said. “You don’t have a lot of choice, in some cases, over where to save money and where to cut,” he added. “The across-the-board cut is forcing some tough decisions. The goal of the furlough so far is to ensure, at least on this issue, there is some consistency.”

When originally proposed, all DOD civilian personnel were going to be furloughed for 22 days during the remainder of fiscal year 2013, which ends Sept. 30. Officials since have reduced that estimate to 14 days. DOD officials are examining requests for exemptions, Little said.

AIR FORCE

THE NEWS FROM AROUND

Civilian pay transitions to ATAAPS

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZ. –

Davis-Monthan has recently implemented a service-wide program which is designed to prepare audit and financial readiness across the Air Force.

United States Air Forces in Europe, Pacific Air Forces, Air Mobility and Air Combat commands have implemented the program known as the Automated Time Attendance and Production System.

By 2014, the whole Air Force will be online with the system.

Kimberly Hervey, 355th Comptroller Squadron ATAAPS project manager, said the manual system provided little audit capability and too much room for errors compared to the new system.

Lt. Col. Simon Scoggins, 355th CPTS commander agreed.

"The biggest thing for ATAAPS is it's prepping us for audit readiness across the Air Force," he said. "In 2017, the Air Force is supposed to be audit-ready. ATAAPS is going to help with that because it's going to automate the process. You'll have that recall ability, to be able to go into the automated system and show accountability and readiness."

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

Reservists ready for wildland fire season

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS)

– No matter the weather, Airmen with an aerial firefighting mission must always keep their skills fresh.

The 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. – the Air Force Reserve's only organization with the aerial firefighting mission – recently held its annual Modular Airborne Firefighting System certification and training, despite the wintery climate around them.

Ten aircrews consisting of reservists and active-duty members of the 52nd Airlift Squadron took part in classroom and ground instruction, held jointly with the U.S. Forest Service. Soon after, C-130 Hercules aircrews and maintenance team members transitioned to the air, performing simulated retardant drops using water.

"This year, we had an updated, more in-depth ground training program," said Lt. Col. Luke Thompson, the 302nd AW chief of aerial firefighting. "We were hampered by weather a little bit, but the end goal is about trying to get our people ready to go when and if they need us. I think we've done that."

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Mobility squadron keeps Yokota people, cargo moving

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – In the civilian world, whenever the U.S. Postal Service needs to ship internationally, they use cargo planes.

In the military, the process is pretty much the same except instead of mail, shipments include ammunition, food, supplies and even people.

On Yokota Air Base, that mission is accomplished by the 730th Air Mobility Squadron.

Just like how a single football player can't win a game by himself, no one section of the 730th AMS can accomplish the whole objective; it's a combined effort between multiple areas.

A different perspective

Senior Airman Adrian Alvarez and Airman 1st Class Steven Adler scan their areas of responsibility during a training exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Training exercises ensure security forces members are able to accomplish all aspects of the mission. Alvarez and Adler are response force members assigned to the 509th Security Forces Squadron.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. NICK WILSON

Everyone has a hand in the mission and almost anything can be shipped.

"We can move anything from explosives, cargo, human remains, classified and hazardous materials," said Master Sgt. Froilan Halli, 730 AMS special planning section chief. "We decide what cargo goes on the plane. When it comes to HAZMAT, we inspect it to make sure it's OK to ship."

Before the pallets of cargo can be loaded onto the aircraft, Halli and the other Airmen in his section balance the cargo weight. That ensures the weight is equally distributed between the aircraft's front, back and sides. If cargo isn't properly balanced, flying hazards are more likely.

The 730th utilizes a wide range of aircraft platforms. It's not just military planes either, civilian aircraft are used as well.

"We're in charge of all cargo – inbound and outbound – in the Pacific in regard to moving it to where it needs to go," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Stanchak, 730th AMS cargo processing operations NCO. "On the commercial side, we use B-747s and DC-8s and mostly move household goods with them. For military, we use planes like the C-5, C-17, KC-10, KC-135, and C-130, and can move anything from beans to bullets."

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

Doolittle Raiders greet, inspire Hurlburt Field Airmen during final reunion

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) –

Known as "The Mighty War Wagon" of the Air Force, the KC-135 Stratotanker has proven to be the core aerial refueling capability for the Air Force for more than 50 years.

With the help of the 418th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards, along with a multitude of testers, the KC-135 Block 45 test team recently completed a series of tests in April to help extend the aircraft's service life for decades.

"There are currently 419 KC-135s and 59 KC-10s that enhance the Air Force's capability to accomplish its primary mission of Global Reach while providing aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. These aircraft also provide mission support including cargo, aeromedical



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. CHRISTINA STYER

Smooth it out

Airmen assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron lay concrete pads in Southwest Asia. The Airmen dug trenches, poured 96 concrete pads and set up Bremer walls throughout the installation to aid in the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's transition from expeditionary to enduring operations.

evacuation, personnel transport, and a variety of other specialized missions," said Maj. John Mikal, 418th FLTS KC-135 Block 45 lead project test pilot.

"Increasing the life expectancy of the current Air Force tanker fleet is critical. Ongoing upgrade programs help to ensure there is no gap in these mission capabilities, while the new KC-46 program starts replacing the aging KC-135 fleet."

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

– compiled by Holly Logan-Arrington

On the Hill

Total force readiness topic of testimony

Senior leaders from the active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve were on Capitol Hill April 24 to discuss the impact of sequestration on Total Force readiness.

In written and oral testimony, they reconfirmed the Air Force's commitment to serving America's long-term security interests by providing airpower and contributing its core missions to the joint team.

They also highlighted sequestration and budget impacts to the Total Force's flying hours, weapon system sustainment, personnel and infrastructure.

"Despite the challenges of the dynamic fiscal environment, the Air Force remains committed to developing and implementing a program that focuses on maintaining readiness levels required to support combatant

commanders in their assigned operational missions," Lt. Gen. Michael R. Moeller, Strategic Plans and Programs deputy chief of staff, said. "However, the fiscally constrained budget has already begun to increase the level of risk in our ability to provide unique Air Force capabilities required to meet our national security requirements."

One impact of sequestration was a significant cut in flying hours. Thirteen active duty units have completely stopped flying – 11 combat-coded, and two training-coded.

Additionally, portions of four combat-coded units have stood down at home station, and will completely stand down when the remainder of the unit returns from deployments. Fifteen additional flying training units and

Nellis aggressors are currently supporting the Air Force Weapons Instructor Course and will stand down when the current 13A course ends in early May. What it will take to return to full readiness remains a question.

"In terms of long term how can we get back to full-spectrum readiness – if we're fully funded, and we have enough time to do it – it would probably take about two years ... It would be quicker if we didn't have operational commitments around the world, but that's not the case," said Lt. Gen. Burton Field, Operations Plans and Requirements deputy chief of staff.

Editor's note:

To read the full story, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123346488>

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
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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.

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.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Air Force.

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On the Fly

Base Community Support Coordinator recognized

Lesley Darley, Community Support Coordinator, was nominated by the Georgia 4-H Military Programs staff and won the State Staff District Award.

Darley was one of four individuals selected from more than 22,000 4-H volunteers in the state.

Amid a challenging fiscal and personnel climate, the Air Force created community support coordinator positions at



Darley

71 Air Force installations, including Robins.

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

As the local focal point for Comprehensive Airmen Fitness, Darley also serves as the installation Community Action Information Board's executive director and chair of the Integrated Delivery System, the working group formed as the action arm of the CAIB.

— from staff reports

Fostering Leadership in People awards

Fostering Leadership in People awards were given to eight individuals April 26.

Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, and mission partners presented the awards given to people who make contributions to improving labor and management relations at Robins.

The latest recipients are:

- ▶ Stuart Bapties, 78th AMDS
- ▶ Bill Simmon, 431st SCMS
- ▶ Kary Eddins, 404th SCMS
- ▶ Veronica Ward, 404th SCMS
- ▶ Russell Turner, 407th SCMS
- ▶ Master Sgt Joseph Torres, 407th SCMS
- ▶ Senior Master Sgt. Myers, 78th OSS
- ▶ Durand Cainion, 402nd AMXSS

Congratulations Diamond Sharp winners

The Team Robins First Sergeant's Council has awarded this quarter's Diamond Sharp Award to the following Airmen:

- ▶ Airman 1st Class Jessica Wynn - 330th Combat Training Squadron
- ▶ Airman 1st Class Joshua Wagner - 78th Comptroller Squadron
- ▶ Airman 1st Class Silvo Ortiz - 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- ▶ Senior Airman Chakindra Coats -

78th Force Support Squadron
 ▶ Senior Airman Shamika Smith - 5th Combat Communications Squadron

Editor's Note: The Diamond Sharp Award program recognizes Team Robins military personnel in the grades of E-1 to E-5 for their professionalism, exceptional dress and appearance, and military bearing.

Robins is celebrating **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, was conducted Wednesday to kick off the month 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.

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.

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, information sessions will be conducted Monday at the following times and locations:

- ▶ 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@merc.edu or call 678-547-6436 for more information.

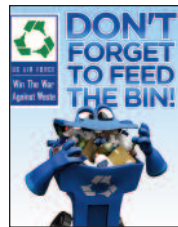
The Robins Education and Training Office is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to determine the current educational needs of the Robins population.

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

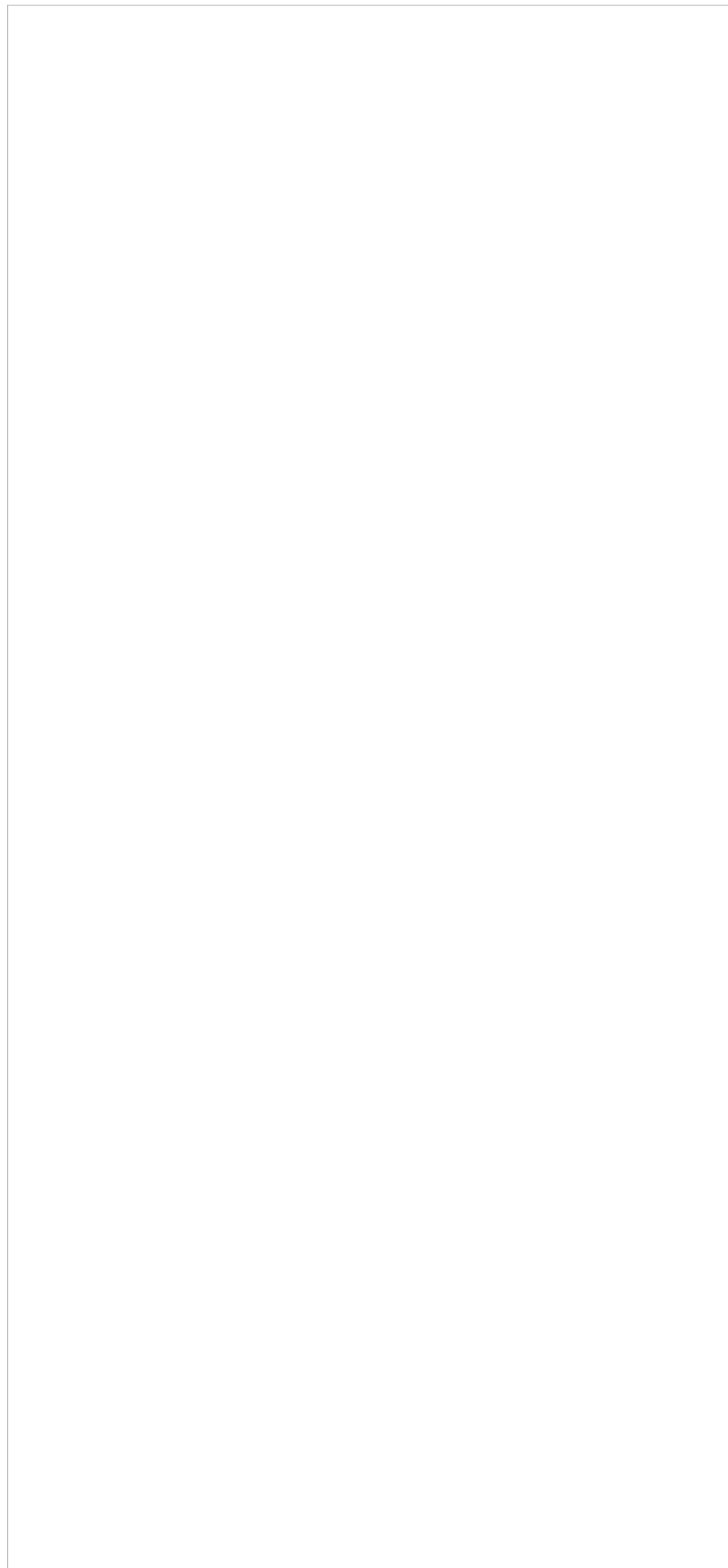
Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center through the Air Force Portal under Training/Education/Force Development and complete the survey.

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.

For more information, call the Education and Training Office at 497-3408.



CHUCK-IT is the latest addition to the Air Force's "Win the War Against Waste" tool kit – designed specifically to support the service's worldwide solid waste management objectives. For more, visit www.afcec.af.mil.





U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Kendall Preston, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron mechanical engineer, and Kevin Bartoe, deputy chief of Special Operations, plant a Live Oak at the tree-planting ceremony conducted at Robins.

Annual tree ceremony in honor of Arbor Day

BY BOB SARGENT
78th Civil Engineer Group

Members of the Robins community gathered at the former parade field near Forest Park Housing April 26 to plant trees in commemoration of Arbor Day.

The base conducts the observance in late April as the capstone of Robins' month-long celebration of the environment.

Organizing a public Arbor Day event fulfills one of the four requirements a community like Robins must accomplish in order to be recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The ceremony began with the Arbor Day Proclamation reading and signing, and Col. Patricia Ross, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander, received Robins' 20th consecutive Tree City USA Award from representatives of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

A central feature of the event involved personal dedications of trees by members of the Robins community.

Many of the more than 100 young trees that surround the parade field have been planted in memory of loved ones who have left us, or to honor significant historical events.

The event also served as an opportunity to showcase how volunteers throughout the this community have come together to take care of the environment – to show pride in their green home.

If you work on base, then you've probably heard of "Robins Pride."

Successive drought years and budget challenges have taken their toll on our natural community, as well as the ability to care for it.

During the last two years many base organizations have voluntarily adopted a dozen green spaces at Robins, including parks, lake shores, and the young forest at the parade field.

Planning for tomorrow

Leaders in government, industry, and academia, met April 19 to discuss potential opportunities for the future of Robins' energy.

The group focused on three main target areas for discussion – how to reduce base energy costs, how to consume less energy and how to increase consumption of renewable energy sources.

James Willingham, Robins deputy civil engineer, attended the session and said he was pleased with the discussion.

"We identified some real possibilities of ways to secure the base's energy future," said Willingham. "It will take a great deal of time and planning, but we certainly have the right minds in the region to do it."

Power the Force. Fuel the Fight.



According to Willingham, the group will reconvene in the near future to follow-up on their initial discussions.

Robins was recently awarded the '2012 Air Force Materiel Command Facility Energy Excellence Award,' for its successes in energy conservation.

– From staff reports

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.

Air Flow

Keep your air filters changed. Dirty filters block air flow and cause air conditioning units to work harder and take longer to cool the home. It also reduces the life span of the unit. Find all your air vents and keep them clear of furniture and clutter, again, blocking air

flow. Air should blow freely into a room.

Shop around

Whether you're buying food, furniture or cars, always shop around for discounts and special buys. Make it a habit to look over the weekly paper and surf the Internet for the best deals.

Fraud

Identity theft is the fastest growing crimes in America. Never give your personal information to anyone who calls or emails you. No legitimate bank, credit card or other business will ever call and ask for personal information such as account numbers and passwords (they already have them).

If you need to verify, call known numbers from your bank statement or on the back of your credit card.

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.

READ THE REV-UP ONLINE: WWW.ROBINS.AF.MIL



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

A 1970 Gulfstream G-II, once owned by actor and aviation enthusiast John Travolta, was donated to the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame last year. Maintainers from the 116th and 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons played a role in getting the plane ready for its move to the Museum of Aviation.

JET

Continued from 1

the guys do, so we were excited when the plane came here,” said Senior Master Sgt. Charles Bynum with the A/R shop that works on the E-8C JSTARS aircraft. “We didn’t have a shortage of volunteers.”

The skill level and average work experience of a Georgia Air National Guard member at Robins is 15 years. Maintainers from the 116th and 461st

AMXS were recent recipients of the 2012 Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award.

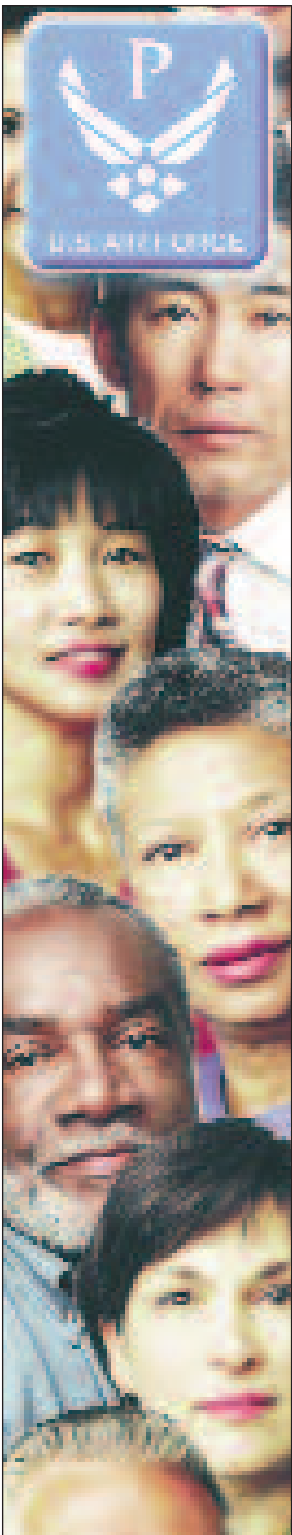
“We do heavy maintenance on flight controls, flaps, ailerons, rudders, stabilizers and landing gear, controls and things of that nature ... heavy maintenance above and beyond the capacity of crew chiefs on the flight line,” he added. “That’s one good thing about the Guard is that we can have someone stay here for 20 to 30 years, and we keep that experience with us.”

This Week in History

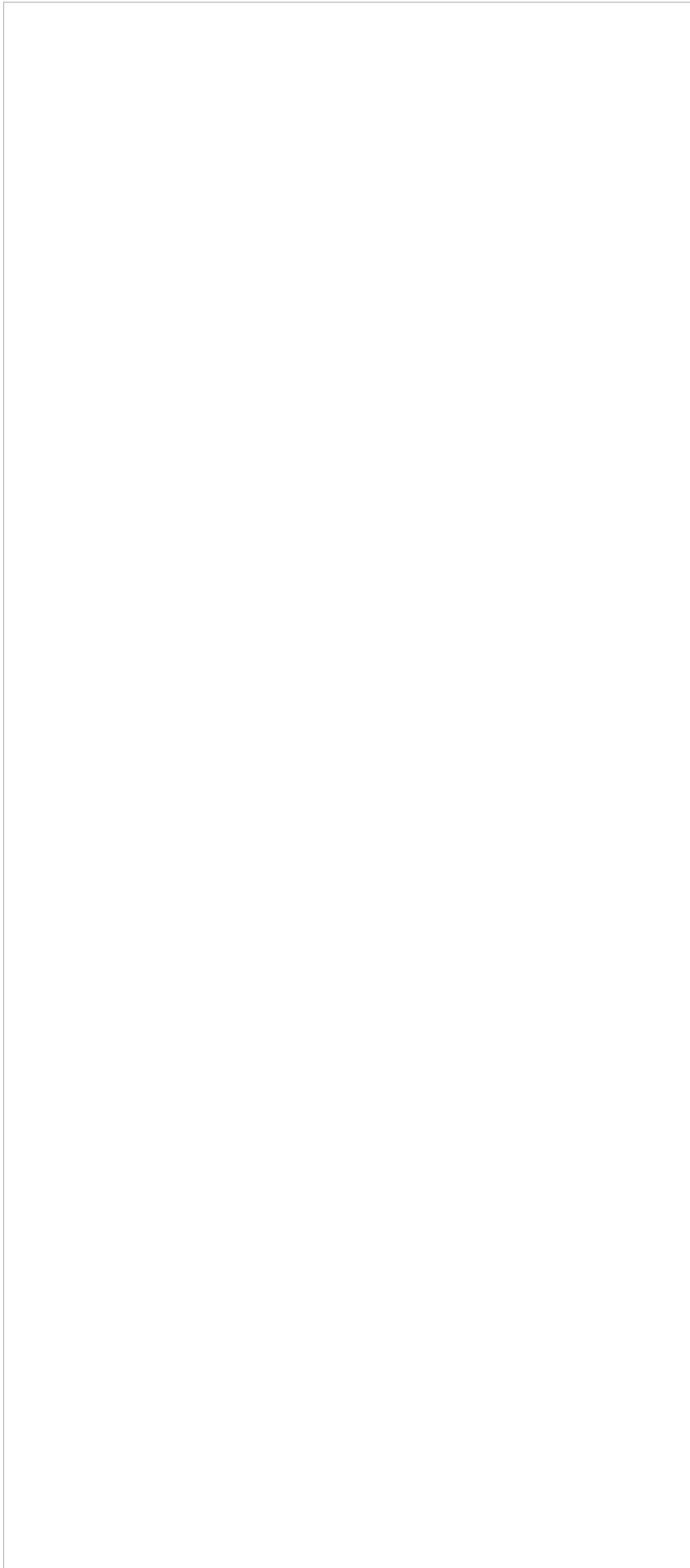


U.S. Air Force file photo

April 30 was the 60th anniversary of the tornado that hit Warner Robins, causing 19 deaths, two at Robins Air Force Base, along with more than 350 injuries. The F4 tornado left hundreds of people without homes and caused more than \$10 million in damages.



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



Spring cleaning a weapon in fire prevention arsenal

BY BASE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Now that spring is here, many will gravitate towards a yearly tradition called spring cleaning. This is the time and opportunity to get rid of all those items lingering around the house and yard.

Spring cleaning doesn't mean tackling the job in one weekend; take your time and determine what you need versus what to get rid of. Of course, only you can decide what stays and what should go. Spring cleanup is very important in maintaining good housekeeping practices.

Here are some helpful hints when doing spring clean up:

- Remove weeds, dead trees and bushes from around homes, fences and sidewalks.



- Store paints, thinners and other flammable or combustible liquids in original containers and away from any heat, sparks or flame. Contact your local environmental office for the proper procedures in discarding unwanted flammable and combustible containers to include herbicides and pesticides.

- Keep the attic free from combustibles.

- Get rid of all newspapers and magazines that are no longer in use. Remove boxes, old furniture and appliances left in the yard or inside the

garage. Recycle cardboard boxes, plastic and glass items, make arrangements to have those discarded items picked up and removed from the premises. Donate serviceable items to charity or better yet, have a garage sale. It does not take long for these items to accumulate.

- Check porch, garage and backyard lights to ensure that they are in working order.

- Make sure electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems are in good working order.

- Maintain custodial supply storage areas, work areas, garages and homes, in an orderly and fire safe condition.

- Good housekeeping and cleanliness are essential in preventing work place and home fires.

For more information, call 468-2145 or 926-2145.

Robins supports motorcycle safety

ROBINS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

Spring has sprung, and motorcyclists need to ensure they're being careful and following some very basic precautions.

Even experienced riders' skills deteriorate when they aren't riding every day. It's that slight deterioration which often gets motorcyclists in trouble when they first venture out after not riding for a while. Here are some basics:

- Remember motorists can form an opinion of motorcyclists by their first few impressions. If they see riders popping wheelies and weaving in and out of traffic at high speeds they could become less willing to share the road.

- Perform pre-operational maintenance on your bike.

- Inspect the tires and wheels and ensure tire pressure is correct. A slight difference in pressure can make a big difference in the way the bike performs.

- Start out by riding cautiously and slowly.

- Make the first ride a short ride and then continue to build your seat time.

- If possible find an abandoned parking lot or area where you can practice turning, braking, etc.

- The Robins Air Force Base Motorcycle Safety Training Range is available anytime there's not a class going on. So stop by the range and practice those important skills riders need.

The Robins Motorcycle Safety Program provides all personnel associated with the base with the

Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider, Experienced Rider and the Military Sport Bike classes free of charge.

All military personnel who wish to ride a motorcycle on base are required to have the MSF class. It is not required, but encouraged for civilians to attend classes. The BRC is designed for beginning riders or riders with less than six months experience, and is either a two-day course when taught during the week or a 2.5-day course when taught on the weekend. The ERC is designed for riders with more than six months experience and is a one-day course.

The MSRC is a one-day course for those who have completed the BRC, ERC and ride sport bikes. Classes are taught one week out of each month. There are a limited number of basic and experienced rider classes taught on weekends.

To sign up for classes contact your supervisor and Unit Motorcycle Safety Representative. Next, visit

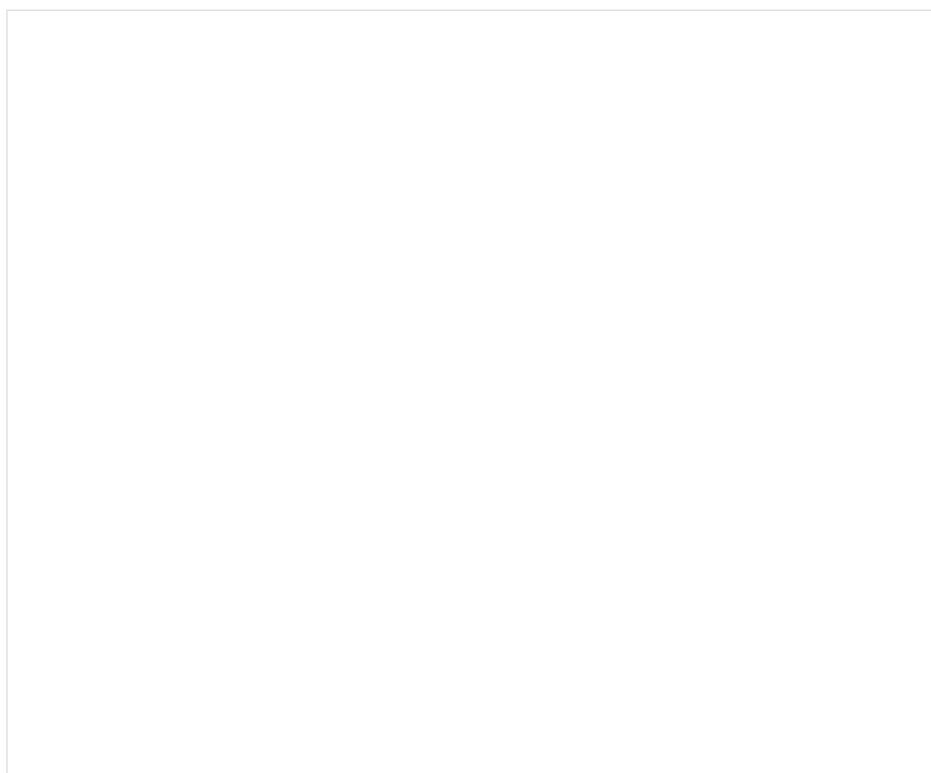
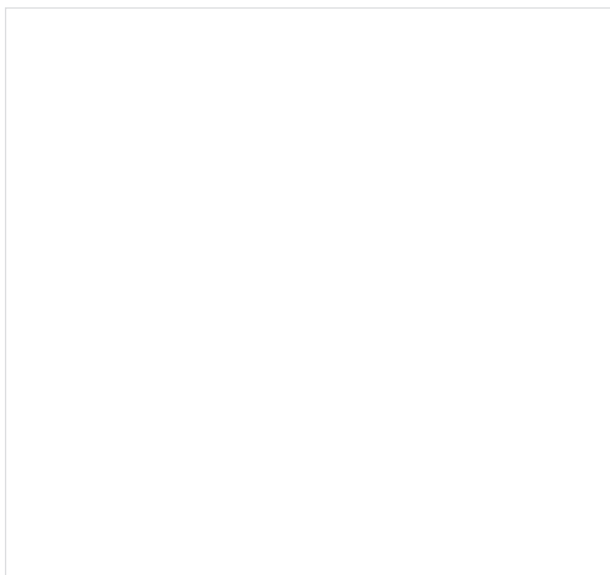
<https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil>, select Safety and then Motorcycle Safety Registration to register for your class. If your unit does not have a MSR or cannot access the Team Robins Home Page, contact Brandon Mitchell, Base Motorcycle Safety Program manager, at brandon.mitchell.1@robins.af.mil or at 472-6271 or 472-2059. The 78th ABW Safety Office is located in Bldg. 215, on the 3rd floor Room 356.

The required gear to ride on any military base follows:

- Minimum of a DOT approved helmet;
- Eye Protection of at least ANSI-Z87.1 or better
- Sturdy footwear above the ankle;
- Long pants;
- Full Fingered leather or abrasion resistant gloves;

- Upper outer garment must be long-sleeved and brightly colored. In darkness it must be reflective.

If wearing a backpack, it must have reflective qualities and a high visibility color.



FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ON TAP

Pizza Depot Special

Today
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pizza Depot
Asian Cuisine
For details,
call 468-0188.

First Friday

Today
5 to 6 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
Food, fun, entertainment
and prizes
For details,
call 472-7864.

Torch Club

Today
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Youth Center
Empowers youth to support
and influence their club and
community, sustain mean-
ingful relationships, develop
a positive self-image, partic-
ipate in the democratic
process and respect their
own and others'
cultural identities.
For details,
call 468-2110.

Give Parents a Break (Deployed Military)

Today
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
CDC East (Bldg. 943) and
Youth Center (Bldg. 1021)
For details or reservations,
call 926-5805 or 926-1426.

Thunder Alley

Today
9 to 11 p.m.
Bowling Center
12 years and younger \$5,
13 years and older \$10
Includes two hours of bowl-
ing and shoe rental.
For details,
call 468-2112.

Cinco Special

Sunday and Monday
All day
Pizza Depot
16" Pizza, chips and salsa
For details,
call 468-0188.

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.

DoL/TAP/VA Workshop (Military)

Monday through May 10
All day
A&FRC Bldg. 794
The five-day TAP
employment workshop is
skill-based for members
and spouses who are within
12 months of leaving the
military.
For details,
call 468-1256.

Fit Factor

Tuesday
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Center Bldg. 1021
Ages 9 to 18
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.

Home School Association Meeting

Wednesday

1 to 3 p.m.
Youth Center Bldg. 1021
For details,
call 468-1795.

UPCOMING

Mother's Day Events Pizza Special

May 12 and 13
Pizza Depot
All day
12" Pizza with two drinks
\$8.75
For details,
call 468-0188.

Bingo Special

May 12 and 13
All day
Heritage Bingo Room
For details, call 468-4515.

Bowling Special

May 12
1 to 8 p.m.
Bowling Center
Moms bowl free with every
paid regular priced game.
For details,
call 468-2112.

ONGOING

Jeopardy - May Fitness Month

Now through June 1
All day
Fitness Center
For details call,
468-2128.

Swim the Great Lakes

Now through June 1
All day
Fitness Center Indoor Pool
For details call,
468-2128.

Quick Turn now serves breakfast

Mondays through Fridays
7 to 9:30 a.m.
For details,
call 468-6972.

AF Spouse Computer Training

A basic computer skills class will be offered to Air Force spouses, May 21 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. Registration ends May 14.

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

**TURN OFF
THE JUICE
WHEN NOT
IN USE**