



Going green to bring back forests

Page 3

BREAKING NEWS

Robins officials to begin issuing furlough notices

The base will start issuing administrative furlough notifications Tuesday to most of its civilian employees. Federal employees are given at least 30 days notice before they are furloughed. Base officials are still determining how the furloughs will be implemented. The Department of Defense has directed that civilian employees be furloughed for up to 11 days, or roughly one day a week, between July and September. Affected employees will see their salaries decrease by about 20 percent during the furlough period. The decision to furlough civilians is the result of sequestration, which triggered roughly \$46 billion in automatic defense budget cuts for fiscal 2013.

ROBINS REV-UP

May 23, 2013 Vol. 58 No. 20

‘A PAINFUL DECISION’

Letter to all civilian Airmen from SECAF, CSAF

BY SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
MICHAEL DONLEY AND
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
GEN. MARK WELSH III

Confronting significant budgetary challenges in response to deep, across-the-board sequestration cuts, the Air Force has taken a variety of painful actions to close our budget gap.

We have significantly reduced expenditures on many support contracts, stood down numerous flying squadrons, canceled professional continuing education, and greatly constrained travel.

However, those actions don't fully close our budget shortfall, and we regret that we

must now begin to implement a civilian furlough.

After an extensive review of all options with senior Department of Defense leaders, Secretary of Defense Chuck

Hagel announced his decision to direct furloughs of up to 11 days for most DOD civilians.

None of us are happy to be in this position. Implementing a furlough is an ugly task that will adversely affect our civilian Airmen and the vital missions that they



Donley



Welsh

carry out every day.

We recognize and regret the hardships this will create for you and your families, but the budget choices that we have faced during this extraordinary year have forced a long series of painful decisions.

As you may know, we plan to begin the furlough period on July 8 at the rate of one furlough day per week.

While the current plan is to continue these furloughs through the end of the cur-

rent fiscal year, Secretary Hagel stated his intent to decide later this year whether our budgetary situation permits us to end furloughs early. In the meantime, we will keep working to manage the impacts of these sequestration reductions on our military readiness while also striving to take care of you.

You are highly valued and integral to our combat support capabilities. Without a doubt, we could not be the world's greatest Air Force without you.

During this challenging time, we are counting on each and every one of you to stay focused on your critical national security missions, and we thank you for your service to our Air Force and our nation.

NEWS

YOU CAN USE



Camellia Gardens Memorial Service today

The annual Camellia Gardens Memorial Service will pay tribute to 59 deceased members of Team Robins today at 10 a.m. in the tranquil garden across from the Horizons Event Center.

Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, will deliver the memorial address, the base honor guard will deliver a 21-gun salute and taps will be played. The service is a 37-year tradition rooted in a partnership between Robins, the Middle Georgia Camellia Society and the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce. The three teamed in 1976 to establish and dedicate the garden.

At the garden's entrance, a brick and mortar wall displays gold plaques with the names of 1,896 deceased military and civilian members from Robins who were honored in past ceremonies.

For more information about the ceremony, call Staff Sgt. Karriem Oliver at 468-2821.

Installation commander hosts Retreat Ceremony

A Memorial Day Retreat ceremony will be at 4 p.m. today outside of Bldg. 905. The event will be hosted by Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander. The parking lot will be closed all day.

All Team Robins units are invited to participate. Troops should begin lining up at 3:30 p.m.

Robins – The place to live, learn, work and play

Flight improves work process

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

The F-15 flap and ailerons shop, part of the 574th Structural Repair Flight, now enjoys a standard work process that has contributed greatly to its success in returning items back to the local supply chain.

About a year ago the shop was using a larger workspace in Bldg. 189. Today it's been reconfigured for greater efficiency into two rows of work stations used by sheet metal mechanics who inspect and make repairs to crucial aircraft parts.

The self-contained workspace saved about 30 to 40 percent on square footage, and also allowed for easier communication among workers.

But perhaps the greatest efficiency resulted in its standard of work. In the past, each mechanic would work by themselves on one asset at a time, ordering their own parts and performing inspections and other duties.

"Now when we come to work, we do one type of operation. It's made things better, and we're able to get parts out more quickly," said John Goodwin, a sheet metal mechanic at Robins for the last four years.

From the front of the shop's queue, each aileron or flap gradually makes its way down the line, where each mechanic performs one duty during a shift.

Once repairs are made on bearings, brackets or pinholes, and inspected for cracks and corrosion, each part is sent to the paint shop and returned for final inspection. Two assets are produced each day from the line.

A year ago there were 56



U.S. Air Force file photos by ED ASPERA

Above, O.V. Reece Jr. is creating a new DATA plate, which holds current information on modifications and serial numbers for F-15 flight controls. Right, a sheet metal mechanic demonstrates a repair doubler that is being predrilled for installation on F-15 aileron flight controls.

pieces of work-in-progress with 38 back orders. Today the shop is down to less than 20 pieces and zero back orders.

"This shop reacted very positively to the changes we wanted

to implement," said Will Tsao, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex's AFSO21 office.

"Without buy-in from the mechanics, this effort would not have been successful."



Future CE changes could impact entire base

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

Due to a \$4 million funding deficit, the 78th Civil Engineer Group is preparing for possible cuts to its operations during the next several months which will impact the entire installation.

"It's something everyone will have to deal with as we're trying to keep the budget within the spending limits we now have," said Terry Landreth, 78th CEG Energy Office supervisor.

Since summer temperatures can result in higher electric use, thermostat settings may be set back to warmer-than-normal settings in order to stay within budget.

That's one example the base population may notice, said Landreth.

Funds are available to respond to emergency work orders, defined as protection of life and property, said Scott Hastings, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron director.

What that translates to is preventive maintenance programs that were taking place will no longer happen.

HVAC units that require routine filter or belt changes will not happen regularly. However, if there are safety deficiencies, those will be corrected immediately.

Routine work orders, such as for dripping faucets, toilet repairs, signage replacements, pot hole fixes or painting are just a few examples of maintenance actions that will be stopped. Street sweeping will also be eliminated.

The 78th CEG will continue to provide safe drinking water for the base, since water that originates from on-site drinking wells are treated to ensure safety.

Refuse, ground maintenance and custodial contracts will be maintained at current standards.

"Everyone is encouraged to maximize recycling as this returns revenue to the base while simultaneously reducing disposal costs," added Lex Stokes, 78th CEG Asset Management director.

However, due to contracts awarded late in the fiscal year, centralized drop-off locations may be used for refuse.

Reimbursable customers will not be affected by potential changes.

Page Two

Tremendous teamwork leads to recertification

■ Traceability, reliability and accuracy lead to lab's success

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

The Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory here has successfully passed recertification by the Air Force Metrology and Calibration Program.

A team from the program's Laboratory Certification Branch visited support areas in Bldgs. 645, 229, 158 and 162 earlier this month.

Following a challenging two-year journey through several personal tragedies experienced within the 569th Electronics Maintenance Squadron, including the sudden death of its flight chief, David McNeal, the team pushed forward, dedicating their successful efforts in his honor.

Carol Pagura, squadron director, said all maintenance actions can be traced back to calibration.

"The accuracy of our weapon systems depends on the traceability, reliability and accuracy of the calibrations we perform here, so it's really very complex work," she said. "To pass the inspection, we had to pass six critical



U.S. Air Force photo by PAUL WENZEL

Dave Thomas, 569th Maintenance Squadron calibration technician uses specialized tools to check equipment dimensions.

areas, each pertaining to a particular function. That required a tremendous amount of teamwork."

Those critical areas included the management system, the measurement capability assessment, the quality program, facilities, environmental control system, and proficiency testing program.

Labs here measure and calibrate

thousands of items with accurate, precise measurement capabilities, providing support for not only customers from the complex, but from bases across the eastern United States.

For example, the organic internal capabilities in Bldg. 645 support unique test equipment at Robins, such as the Versatile Depot Automatic Test Station.

Among other things, the VDATS

tests Identification Friend or Foe – electronic signals which help identify aircraft.

"It's important for the warfighter that I make sure what I'm testing is accurate," said technician Mitchell Lawson.

One hundred twenty technicians perform various PMEL functions, from calibration of hearing protection, conservation and radar measurements to calibration testing for torque wrenches and gauges used for aircraft jack stands.

Each test function is critical, ensuring a reliable, accurate product that's traceable through the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory and National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Efforts to ensure the squadron could continue to maintain high standards wouldn't have been possible without the strong partnership between union and management representatives.

"It was critical that PMEL pass this inspection – not just for PMEL or the Electronics Maintenance Group – but for the base as a whole," said David Tucker, division steward. "I think we have a strong partnership here, and we work together every day trying to solve small problems and manage situations so that we can litigate them at the lowest level to alleviate unnecessary grievances. We are all proud of PMEL."



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

A candlelight vigil was conducted May 16 at the Robins Chapel with a memorial service honoring law enforcement members who have given their lives in the line of duty during the past year. The guest speaker was Sheriff David Davis from the Bibb County Sheriff's Office in Macon.

POLICE WEEK



‘You Matter’ campaign expanding message

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The “You Matter” campaign is currently expanding its message to include, “I Matter, You Matter, We Matter.”

The four components of the campaign will still remain, to include leadership involvement, peer resiliency and support, a suicide prevention sub-committee to the Integrated Delivery Services, and increasing education and awareness.

“We’re expanding the

message a bit to look beyond,” said Lt. Col. Philip Bascom, 78th Medical Group Mental Health Clinic Flight commander. “There is a sense of personal responsibility that comes with the expansion of the You Matter Message to ‘I Matter, You Matter, We Matter.’ It moves the message from a personal one, to that of being a good Wingman and to being a healthy organization.

“The community has a personal stake in the ‘I



Matter, You Matter, We Matter’ message,” he added.

“We can focus our attention on things we can do to improve ourselves, watch out for fel-

low employees, and improve the organizations in which we live, learn, work and play. Specifically our community and as individuals we should focus on bal-

ancing social, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness opportunities.”

Quarterly walk-about to Robins worksites by mental health professionals are being conducted on a regular basis.

Teaming with other organizations to provide opportunities to encourage those who need help to seek help, and to bring the expanded message to the population.

“We’re reminding people there are pro-

grams for everyone that can help care for them,” said Bascom.

Editor’s note: *The campaign was created to engage the base community in reaching out to those who may be affected by thoughts of suicide.*

This was done through promoting communication and team-building among units and coworkers, and encouraging those who need it to seek help through base support agencies.

They did it his ‘Way’



U.S. Air Force photos by RAYMOND CRAYTON
Above, Deryl Israel and his wife, Jeanne, stand in front of the new sign for the road named in his honor.

Right, retired Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, left, and Col Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, unveil the sign during a ceremony May 17. Israel, served as the last executive director of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center which was inactivated in 2012.



Bringing forests back to life

Often when people move into an area to build homes or businesses, members of nature’s family are forced to move out.

But, a natural reforestation project here is paving the way for nature to come home to the former Crestview Housing area, east of the fitness center, where houses were demolished about five years ago.

Bob Sargent, 78th Civil Engineer Group natural resources manager, said the move allows nature to rebuild its forest habitat at no cost.

“It benefits the environment because it promotes forest and wildlife diversity, and saves tax dollars because we don’t have to maintain it,” he said. “There are numerous fallen trees on the site. To some this might be unsightly, but to nature, fallen trees represent nutrients returned to the soil, hollow logs and branches for animals to find shelter and raise young.”

Sargent said it will take several years, but the forest will eventually take over again.

“This saves money, supports Air Force guidance which encourages bases to return unused land to its natural state when possible, and provides habitat for wildlife such as birds,” he said.

— Holly Logan-Arrington

THE AIR FORCE



Active-duty officers sought for attaché duty

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – Active duty line of the Air Force captains, majors and lieutenant colonels interested in attaché duty could find themselves on an international affairs team in Switzerland, Venezuela, Burma and others, but those interested must submit their applications by June 20 to be considered, said Air Force Personnel Center officials.

AFPC and the Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs Office are accepting applications for senior defense official/defense attaché, air attaché and assistant air attaché duty at nine locations, with tour lengths ranging from 18 to 24 months, said Maj. Carl Wood, AFPC International Affairs Assignments.

"Attachés officially represent the secretary of Defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff to the host country defense ministry," he said. "They help build and sustain relationships between the U.S. and host country, provide critical advice to the U.S. ambassador and country team, and directly support our efforts to fight global terrorism."

This year, two duty locations have C-12 Huron aircraft assigned, so the attaché for those offices must be fixed-wing pilots. Only rated officers who are regional or political affairs strategists may apply for the C-12 positions, the major said.

Attaché applicants must be active duty senior captains, majors or lieutenant colonels. Air operations background, foreign language skills and experience in the region are highly desired, but not mandatory.

Applicants must have taken the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test, and each applicant and all immediate family members must be U.S. citizens. Candidates must also have their assignment functional manager's hard-copy or e-mail release to compete for attaché duty.

Applicants selected for an interview will be notified by July 25. They (and their spouses, if applicable) will be interviewed in Washington D.C.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

OC-ALC to undergo external audit

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – From May 28 through 31, the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex will receive a four-day external Aerospace Standard 9110 surveillance audit.

Auditors from the Great Western Registrar will perform a Quality Management System inspection of the OC-ALC, excluding the 76th Software Maintenance Group. A major difference for this audit is that the certification now resides solely with the OC-ALC.

This should be a seamless transition for the production technicians. All changes are at complex leadership level with new roles and responsibilities. Tinker was granted its original ISO9001:2000 certificate more than 11 years ago. The latest transition was to the AS9110A in August 2012.

In accordance with AS9110 Aerospace Standard

Some gave all

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody places a service crest on a wreath in honor of Airmen's sacrifices during the inaugural Armed Forces Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Va.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. TIM CHACON

QMS, the organizations must demonstrate an ability to consistently provide products that meet customer statutory and regulatory requirements.

The goal is to enhance customer satisfaction and product quality through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement, applicable requirements and assurance of conformity for the customer.

OC-ALC Quality Manual 90-107 defines how the OC-ALC meets the AS 9110 QMS requirements, which basically follow the applicable Air Force publications and technical data.

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

DOD seeks leadership program candidates

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – Department of Defense officials are seeking active duty Air Force majors and major-selects for the academic year 2013-2014 Executive Leadership Development Program.

Applications are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by June 10. Program orientation is slated for August, and the first event will be held in October, said Master Sgt. Teresa Dixon, the AFPC officer developmental education superintendent.

"This program is designed specifically for highly motivated officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, commitment to public service and integrity, and who have an interest in moving into senior management positions," she said.

Participants function in a simulated environment where they focus on real-life situations that involve short deadlines and require thoughtful decision-making, Dixon said.

Military members remain in their current assignments throughout the program, with the exception of 95 days spent in training, briefings and trips to learning environments.

Because participation is not associated with a permanent change of station, those selected will not incur an additional active duty service commitment.

In addition to grade requirements, applicants must



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

Fill 'er up ...

F-35A Lightning II pilots navigate their aircraft toward a KC-135 Stratotanker to refuel near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The initial cadre of Air Force F-35 instructor pilots at the 33rd Fighter Wing trained with others to qualify in aerial refueling for the joint strike fighter. The KC-135 is assigned to the 336th Air Refueling Squadron, March Air Force Base, Calif.

have completed Squadron Officer School and intermediate developmental education, and must have successfully commanded a flight or higher level organization.

For complete application instructions, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "PSDM 13-43" in the search window.

Commander's message

Memorial Day a time to reflect on service and sacrifice

GEN. JANET WOLFENBARGER
Air Force Materiel Command Commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Throughout my Air Force career, I've often reflected on what it means to serve.

I'm proud of the work we do and the sacrifices we make every day so all Americans can continue to enjoy our many freedoms.

However, each Memorial Day I'm sharply reminded of just how great the sacrifice is for some.

Since the founding of our country, more than one million American Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Airmen have given their lives in defense of our great nation.

These heroes deserve to be remembered ...

and honored.

I plan to stop wherever I am and whatever I'm doing on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. for the National Moment of Remembrance.

I hope you will do the same. Take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices these individuals and their families have made; remember the lives lost in service to our country.

When the Moment of Remembrance is over, and we go back to our hectic lives – whether dealing with budgetary challenges or simply lamenting the fact that even 3-day weekends pass too quickly – let's keep those fallen warriors in mind.

Ours is a great nation founded on the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us and all who serve today. Thank you for your service – have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.



ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

HOW TO CONTACT US

Robins Public Affairs
620 Ninth Street, Bldg. 905
Robins AFB, GA 31098
468-2137
Fax 468-9597

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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.

The appearance of advertising, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

INTERNAL INFORMATION CHIEF
Geoff Janes

EDITOR
Lanorris Askew

PHOTOGRAPHERS
**Sue Sapp
Tommie Horton
Ed Aspera
Misuzu Allen
Raymond Crayton**

STAFF WRITERS
**Jenny Gordon
Holly Logan-Arrington**

On the Fly

Environmental work at service center

Drilling and groundwater well installation began at the AAFES fuel station and tire center at Bldg. 922 this week in support of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Performance Based Restoration contract.

Well installation is the first phase of remedial system expansion with the purpose of expediting cleanup, which will help reduce long-term Air Force Operation & Maintenance funding requirements.

Some parking will be unavailable during the project for personnel safety and property protection reasons.

Drilling will continue through June 14, but this date can change based on weather and other issues.

From that point, additional environmental construction activities will be spo-



radic through August.

The 78th Civil Engineer Group has coordinated with the Commissary, Exchange and Fuel and Tire Center to minimize impacts to mission requirements and the base population.

For more information, contact Gary Cox at 327-9269.

—from Staff Reports

Robins is celebrating **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** with the following events:

►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.

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.

The Robins Equal Opportunity office will be conducting EO Refresher Training June 25 and 26 at the base theater. There will be two Supervisors' Sessions June 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

There will be two Employees' Sessions June 26 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Sign up for any of these classes, on the portal, on the Robins Homepage or by calling the EO office at 468-2131.

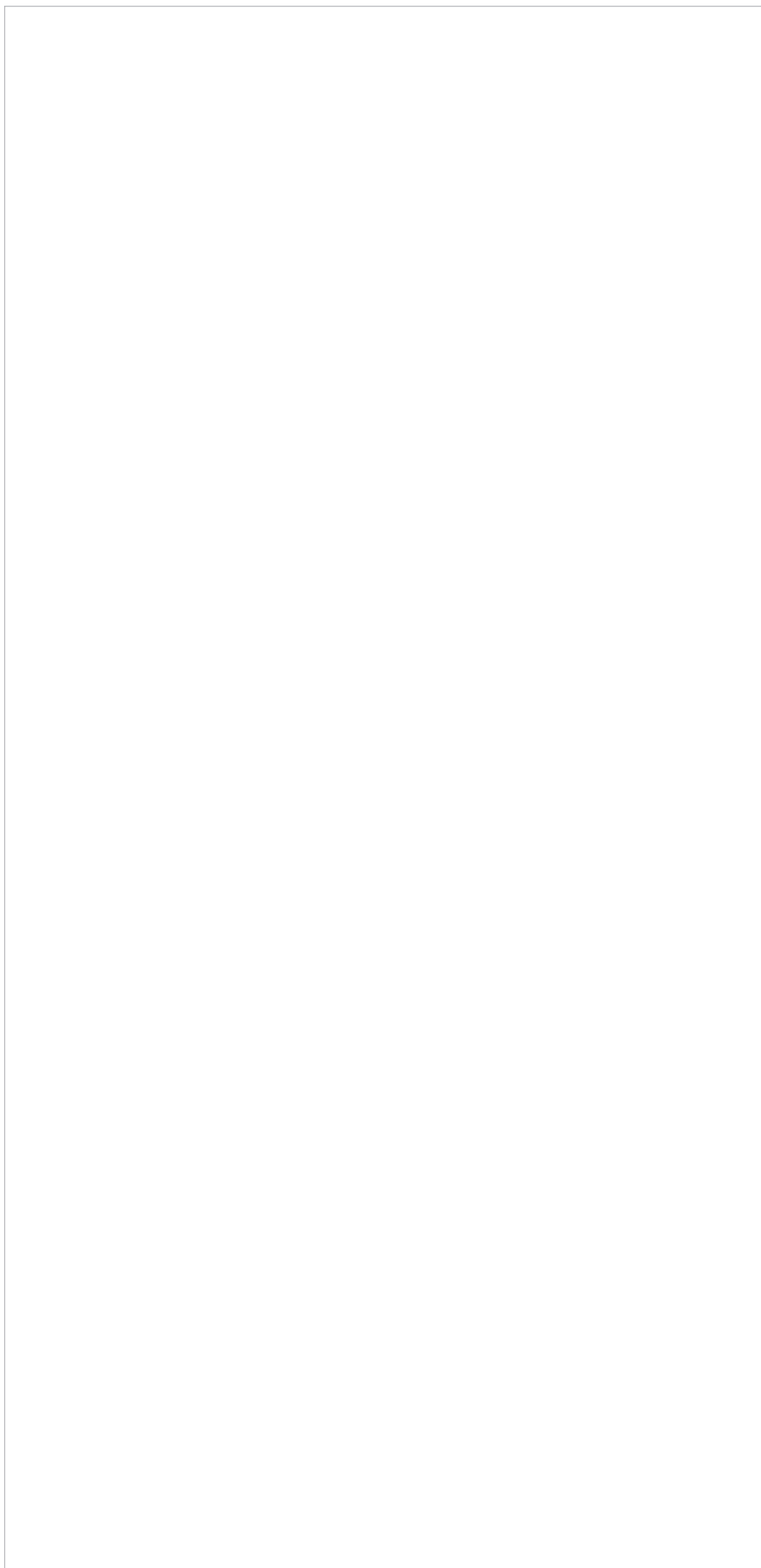


U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Going home

Through a collaborative effort between Robins and the local community, a Gulfstream G-2 jet formerly owned by John Travolta, was moved from the base to the Museum of Aviation Sunday. Shown here, Members of the 116th and 461st maintenance squadrons tow the aircraft to its new home with assistance from the 78th Civil Engineer Group, 78th Security Forces Squadron, Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, Museum of Aviation, the Georgia Department of Transportation, Houston County Sheriff's Department and the City of Warner Robins.

Safety saves lives. Start your savings account today.



Awareness is key in preventing the spread of STDs

BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARL CORBETT
Public Health Technician

Symptoms can present as early as three days post exposure or go unnoticed and include abnormal discharge and painful urination.

Unnoticed symptoms often go untreated and can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, or in worst cases, lead to permanent damage of reproductive organs.

The only 100 percent effective protection is being abstinent (which includes abstaining from oral and anal sex); however, vaccination, condoms and reduced number of sexual partners can decrease your chances of

Did you know that the majority of Sexually Transmitted Diseases reported locally occur in people ages 20 to 23, and nationally half of people aged 15 to 24 will become infected each year?

Take the time to talk to your health care provider and get tested.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the two STDs most reported to medical providers. Both infections can occur simultaneously or independently.

Med c's message

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

contracting an STD.

Knowing your STD status and complying with treatment if infected is crucial to stopping the transmission of STDs.

If you think you're infected or want to get tested, discuss your concerns with your health-care provider.

For questions, information or free condoms contact the 78th Medical Group Public Health Clinic at DSN: 497-8019 or commercial 327-8019.



VA, veteran groups announce initiative to reduce claims backlog

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion today announced a new partnership to help reduce the compensation claims backlog for veterans.

The effort, called the Fully Developed Claims Community of Practice, is a key part of the VA's overall transformation plan to end the backlog in 2015 and process claims within 125 days at 98 percent accuracy, VA officials said.

The VA can process fully developed claims in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim, officials said.

“VA prides itself on our ongoing partnership with organizations that represent veterans throughout the claims process,” said Allison Hickey, the undersecretary for benefits. “A fully developed claim is the most effective way to ensure a veteran's claim never reaches the backlog and is the basis for this new initiative between VA and what we expect will be an ever-increasing number of veteran service organizations and others who represent veterans at various points of the claims process.”

The new initiative “takes a common-sense approach to working smarter to better serve injured and ill veterans,” said Barry Jesinoski, the Washington Headquarters executive director for Disabled American Veterans.

“DAV is pleased to be working with the VA to help improve the disability compensation system,” Jesinoski said.

Claims are considered to be fully developed when veterans submit all available supporting evidence, such as private treatment records and notice of federal treatment records, to VA officials at the time they first file a formal claim and certify they have no more evidence to submit.

The fully developed claims program supports the sharing of best practices across veteran service organizations that help thousands of veterans each year with their compensation claims, to identify up

front all evidence necessary to support a veteran's claim.

Veterans then certify they have no additional evidence to submit, and VA can process the claim in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

Last month, the VA announced an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for veterans who have waited one year or longer.

On April 19, the VA began prioritizing claims decisions for veterans who have been waiting the longest by providing provisional decisions that allow eligible veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits quickly. With a provisional decision, a veteran has a year to submit additional information to support a claim before the decision becomes final.

On May 15, VA officials announced that the department is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices through the end of fiscal 2013 to help eliminate the backlog, with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans filing fully developed claims.

As of May 17, the paperless claims processing system known as the Veterans Benefits Management System, or VBMS, has been deployed to 46 out of 56 regional office locations, and about 18 percent of VA's current claim inventory is in an electronic format, officials said.

Claims for wounded warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with the DOD through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, officials said. On average wounded warriors separating through IDES currently receive VA compensation benefits in two months following their separation from service.

(Information courtesy of a Department of Veterans Affairs news release)



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Counselor Connection

Lessons learned from EEO

In a recent case, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission took a different approach to the mixed-case jurisdictional problem involving a so-called “constructive discharge.”

In *Maurice W. Blount v. Secretary of Homeland Security*, the Commission solved the jurisdiction issue by finding the complainant’s disability retirement was not a separate constructive discharge claim, but instead a consequence of a failure to accommodate. As a result, the jurisdiction issue goes away because removing the constructive discharge makes it a nonmixed case.

A mixed case is when an employee who has been subjected to an action within the jurisdiction of the MSPB – for example, a removal or suspension of greater than 14 days – claims that the action was taken for reasons that are impermissible under EEO law. The employee can elect to pursue the matter in the first instance through the EEO process as a “mixed-case complaint” or take the matter directly to the MSPB as a “mixed-case appeal.”

An employee who elects the EEO process goes through counseling, filing a formal complaint, an investigation and ultimately receives a final agency decision. If the employee is dissatisfied with the FAD, he or she can file an appeal with the MSPB and request a hearing. Although there are some exceptions, hearings in mixed cases fall within the jurisdiction of the MSPB and not the

EEOC.

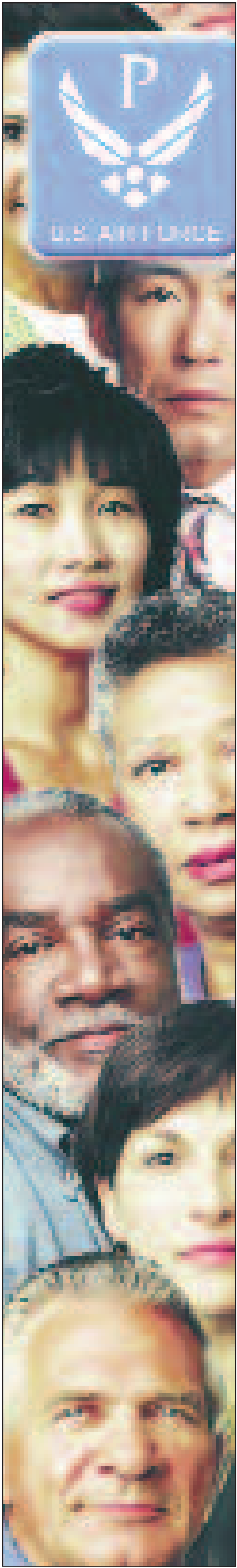
In the Blount case, the complainant claimed that after suffering a stroke the agency failed to accommodate him by allowing him to work at home during his recovery.

During the investigation, the complainant expanded his claim to include an allegation that the agency’s failure to accommodate him caused him to apply for and receive disability retirement. The commission’s administrative judge retained jurisdiction over both claims.

The Blount case represents an interesting approach to the mixed case jurisdictional problem. Essentially, the commission “unmixed” the case by finding that the retirement was not a separate action, but a direct consequence of the failure to accommodate.

Because there was no longer a claim that was arguably within the jurisdiction of the board, the case fell entirely within the jurisdiction of the EEOC. In addition to reinstatement and back pay, the commission upheld a \$200,000 compensatory damage award by the judge, but struck down a 21-year front pay award due to its reinstatement order.

**78th ABW/EO
706 Ninth Street
Bldg. 936
Robins AFB GA. 31098
Commercial- 926-2131
DSN: 468-2131**



WINGMEN WANTED

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



FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ON TAP

All-day Family Day

Friday
Bowling Center
Bring the family, bowl three games – with shoes– for \$5 per person until 8 p.m.
For details, call 468-2112.

Pizza Depot Special

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

Torch Club

Friday
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Youth Center
Empowers youth to support and influence their club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.
For details, call (478) 926-2110.

Life Skills Sessions for Teens

Friday
6 to 8 p.m.
Ages - 13 through 18
Sessions cover healthy lifestyles, nutrition, public speaking, citizenship, use of public transportation, job searches and more. For

scheduled sessions, contact the Youth Center at 468-2110.

Armed Forces Golf Championship
Saturday
Pine Oaks Golf Course
Open to all Active and Retired Military personnel.

All-day Robins Lanes Summer Strike Force
Sunday through Aug. 4
Weekly prize drawings to include \$250 cash.
Grand prize - \$500
Visit the Bowling Center for a list of weekly prizes.

Adult Watercolor
Monday
10 to 11:30 a.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. 984
To preregister, call 468-5282.

Writing a Business Plan
Wednesday
1 to 3 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg 794
For details, call 468-1256.

PreSeparation Briefing (Retirees)
May 30
12:30 to 4 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg 794
This briefing is mandatory for all separating retirees.

For details, call 468-1256.

UPCOMING

Pizza Depot Special
May 31
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pizza Depot
Asian Cuisine
For details, call 468-0188.

Power Hour - Character/Leadership/ Life Skills/Arts

May 31
6 to 7 p.m.
Youth Center
For details, call 468-2110.

ONGOING

Swim the Great Lakes
Now through June 1
Fitness Center Indoor Pool
For details call, 468-2128.

Summer Leagues now forming

Through May 31
Bowling Center
Come in and sign up for our Summer Leagues at the front counter.
For details, call 468-2112.

Quick Turn now serves breakfast
Mondays through Fridays
7 to 9:30 a.m.
For details, call 468-6972.

Interagency Military Pass waives day-use fees at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation sites

The Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced they will continue to accept the America the Beautiful Federal Recreation Pass Program's Interagency Annual Pass for military members at its more than 2,500 USACE-managed recreation areas nationwide.

Additional information on the Federal Recreation Pass Program is available at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/annual.html>.

This is for active service military personnel and their dependents. This also waives camping fees for those on mid- or post-deployment (reintegration) leave to support Overseas Contingency Operations.



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

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 all month.

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.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER