

BREAKING NEWS

Editor's note: This is the only info about this matter available at press time. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.robins.af.mil and click on the Furlough Tab.

No decisions yet on cutting furlough days

Despite media reports that say Defense Department civilians may face up to five fewer furlough days, "no decisions have been made at this time," a Pentagon spokesman said July 30.

More than 640,000 civilian employees

are being furloughed one day a week for 11 weeks, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said. These unpaid days are in response to the Budget Control Act of 2011, which mandated significant cuts in the fiscal 2013 defense budget.

The furloughs began July 8. Most employees now have taken four unpaid days, or will have by the end of the week. Christensen said DOD leaders did not

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ROBINS REV-UP

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A Moment in Time

During World War II, Warner Robins Air Technical Service Command served as both a supply depot, and as a depot maintenance and repair facility. Aircraft repaired or overhauled included the B-17, B-24, B-25, B-26 and P-51.

NEWS

YOU CAN USE



Furlough resources event

The Sharing Help and Assistance Resources for Everyone event, scheduled Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be conducted at the Courtyard Marriott in Warner Robins.

S.H.A.R.E is designed to inform families impacted by the furloughs and every Middle Georgian about help and assistance programs which can benefit them in a time of hardship.

Some of the onsite agencies which will be available include: banks, health providers, legal assistance, financial counseling and utility companies, among others.

For more information, call (478) 225-9005.

JSTARS Road Closure

The north end of Perimeter Road is now closed due to an emergency road repair needed to fix a sink hole caused by water erosion. Road closure signage is set up at the intersection of Perimeter Road and Finch Lane and at entrance to the Bldg. 2020 parking lot along Joint Stars Road.

No through traffic is allowed. This portion of Perimeter Road is closed until further notice.

For more information, call Marshall Wall at 497-8935.

SAPR make-up sessions

Make-up training sessions for Airmen who missed the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program Stand-Down Day previously held June 21, will be conducted Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the base theater. A second session will be conducted that day from 2 to 3 p.m.

No reservations are necessary. CAC cards are required and will be scanned.

For more information, call 468-2946.

COBRA TAKEOFF



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Pilots with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, the Marine Corps Reserves' only attack helicopter squadron, take an AH-1W Super Cobra out for a test flight July 25. The Robins detachment is one of three in HMLA-773; the others are located in Louisiana and New Jersey. The "Red Dogs" squadron includes AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and UH-1N Huey utility helicopters, which perform close support functions both overseas and stateside. HMLA-773 falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 49, also at Robins, and is part of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. Both units relocated to Robins in June 2010.

Vintage frequency

1930s-era radio equipment still in operation

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil

A vintage radio vacuum tube technology is still in existence as part of today's defense capabilities.

Repairs on the ARN-6 radio unit happen here at Robins in the 567th Electronics Maintenance Squadron's communication/navigation shop.

The technology dates back to the 1930s. Its reliability and consistency in performance over the years however have made it a useful tool among today's more advanced equipment.

What makes it interesting in today's environment is that it's predominantly used on combat rescue missions on HC-130 and HH-60 aircraft.

Principal components on the system include a radio compass unit, receiver and control box. The radio's direction finding and navigational purposes allowed early pilots to basically pick up on frequencies from towers as they flew to and from destinations.



U.S. Air Force photo by ERNEST FORD

Mark Schacknow, 567th Electronics Maintenance Squadron communication/navigation electronics technician, runs a series of checks on the ARN-6 radio at his test station in Bldg. 640.

"This also allowed pilots (pilot and copilot) to operate the same radio by switching it over between two different control boxes," explained Mark Schacknow, 567th EMXS electronics technician.

An electronics buff since childhood, it could safely be assumed Schacknow joins an

elite group capable of fixing these assets as they arrive for maintenance.

If a pilot wanted to change tuning, a capacitor (the only moving part on the radio) would have to be changed since it picks up different frequencies.

► see **RADIO**, 6

ATAAPS coming soon

Now's the time to get familiar with new pay system

BY ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The new civilian pay system, the Automated Time, Attendance and Production System, or ATAAPS, will go live at the start of the payroll week of Aug. 11.

Now is the time to ask questions of your organization's timekeepers, as everyone affected will need to become familiar with the system.

About 6,000 employees at Robins will migrate to ATAAPS. Units affected include the 78th Air Base Wing, 461st Air Control Wing, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, 638th Supply Chain Management Group, 5th Combat Communications Group and Air Force Sustainment Center Operating Locations.



U.S. Air Force photo by JENNY GORDON

Ken Corley, pest controller, demonstrates one of two bird-scare canons, which are noisemakers that frighten birds away from the path of aircraft.

Pests beware: Base entomology shop team keeps critters, big and small, in their place

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon@robins.af.mil

Pest control at Robins means more than simply spraying for ants, roaches and other creatures that crawl in areas that inconvenience us.

However, with heavy rainfall that has saturated Middle Georgia the last several weeks, controlling the mosquito population on base has kept the 78th Civil Engineer Group Entomology Shop's three employees pretty busy.

Mansur Cooper, shop foreman, explained that he has seen an increase in work orders to spray for ants but has

also kept on top of controlling mosquitoes that like to come out during early evening hours for a meal.

While spraying chemicals is a last line of defense in the department's pest management methods, he stressed education for customers as well, including sanitation inside and outside of buildings.

"It only takes a small amount of water, even a capful, for mosquitoes to have a breeding area," said Mansur, who has worked at Robins the last 13 years.

Mosquitoes develop through four stages: from eggs to larva to pupa and finally to

adults. They can go from eggs to adults in as little as three to four weeks, and may live from two weeks to two months.

Employees can do their part at home too by eliminating areas that collect water, such as buckets, small pools, bird baths, old tires and toys where mosquitoes can quickly reproduce.

Pest control works alongside public health after it's determined where to spray in areas where mosquito counts have exceeded a threshold. The team then moves forward using its portable, ultra-low volume fogger.

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ALL in a Day's WORK

Name: Airman 1st Class Brianna Thompson
Work title: Medical logistics technician
Unit: 78th Medical Group
Hometown: Chester, S.C.
Number of years in federal service: 11 months

What does your work involve at Robins? "I work in medical logistics. As a government purchase cardholder, I purchase pharmaceuticals, medical and non-medical supplies for Robins Air Force Base."

What do you enjoy most about your work? "I enjoy being behind the scenes making a difference in a big way every day."

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? "Medical logistics is the foundation of the medical group. By purchasing supplies, I support 47,000 beneficiaries, doctors, nurses, and all medical personnel, as well as three reserve units."

What prompted your interest in your current career? "I came into the military with an open mind so I did not choose this career field. However, what prompts my interest now is my on-



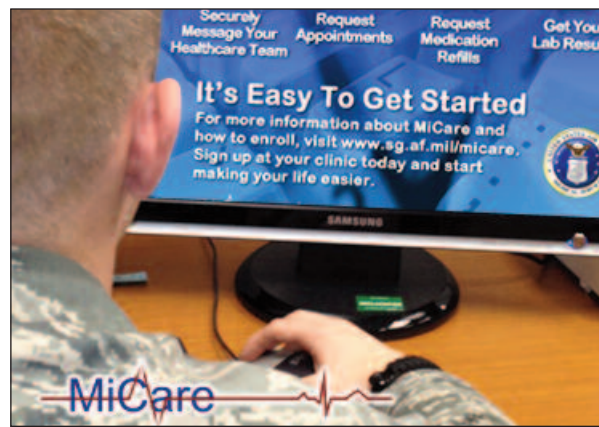
U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

the-job training and learning something new every day."

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? "I'm a kid at heart."

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? "My parents have been the biggest influence in my life. They've always supported my goals and dreams no matter how far-fetched they may have seemed. They have always been there cheering me on and still do to this day."

What is an accomplishment you are most proud of? "Graduating high school, college and basic training. Serving my country and becoming a member of the world's best Air Force."



78th Med Group leads AF in MiCare enrollment

BY CAPT. JONATHAN SEMPLE
78th Medical Group

The 78th Medical Group is moving towards a "Virtual Hospital" through the use of MiCare and we need your assistance in enrolling.

The group leads the Air Force in MiCare enrollment at 39 percent after the initial first year. For their efforts, the team was recently recognized as the 78th Air Base Wing's Innovator Team.

Even with those great statistics, your help is still needed in raising enrollment rates.

What is MiCare (aka Relay Health)? MiCare allows you, the patient, to securely communicate non-urgent medical needs between yourself and your health care team.

Common uses are for medication renewals, test and lab results, to request immunization record copies, view medical records, and access a large library of educational materials all from the convenience of your computer or compatible mobile web browser.

Why is MiCare good for you? MiCare empowers you to be more engaged with your healthcare team regarding your health, treatment plan and preventative services. MiCare is accessible 24

hours a day from a compatible computer device. In addition, you will receive periodic info-only emails through MiCare regarding clinical operating hours and upcoming events. Finally, your information is protected and only accessible by you and your healthcare team through a secure computer connection. MiCare complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

How to enroll? In order to enroll in MiCare you have to be enrolled in the med group and have a primary care manager.

There are two ways to enroll. If you have a valid Common Access Card you may digitally enroll and digitally sign using the electronic registration form. Contact jonathan.semple@us.af.mil to obtain the form. If you do not have a valid Common Access or Card, then you will need to stop into the Family Health check-in window and request enrollment in MiCare, no appointment necessary. This face to face visit is required to validate you are the patient signing up for the MiCare account.

For more information, contact Capt. Jonathan Semple, at 478-327-7686, DSN 497-7886 or jonathan.semple@us.af.mil.

Federal food drive underway

The 5th Annual Feds Feed Families campaign is currently underway across Robins. This year's food drive runs from June 1 to Aug. 31.

Each year Department of Defense employees donate non-perishable food items in their local communities as a way to give back and assist those at risk of hunger.

"This is a great opportunity for federal employees to donate a can or two of nonperishable items to help give members of the local community a hand 'up' versus a hand

'out,'" said Senior Master Sgt. Arthur Cassidy Jr., 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron's deployment and distribution superintendent.

Drop-off locations include the commissary, Bldgs. 594, 210, 220, 221, 222 and 211.

Non-perishable items include canned vegetables, condiments, snacks, juice, paper products and household and hygiene items.

Last year, Robins collected and distributed more than 2,400 pounds of non-perishable food to local food banks in Warner Robins. More than 2 million pounds of food items were



What to know:

For information on Robins' Feds Feed Families efforts, contact Senior Master Sgt. Arthur Cassidy at 468-3868 or Master Sgt. Joleen McCollister at 468-7199.

donated by Department of Defense agencies in 2012.

Feds Feed Families is a government-wide campaign sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management and the Chief Human Capital Officers Council.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Officers, enlisted members offered early retirement

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – Technical and master sergeants, captains, majors and lieutenant colonels in certain Air Force specialties may apply to retire with fewer than 20 years of active service under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

Commonly referred to as the 15-year retirement, TERA is one of several force management programs the Air Force will implement during fiscal 2014 to meet end-strength goals, said Lt. Col. John Barlett, AFPC operations division chief.

To be eligible for consideration, members must have at least 15, but less than 20 years of total active duty time as of Oct. 31, 2013. Applications are being accepted July 29 - Aug. 15, and those approved must be retired by Nov. 1, 2013.

Interested enlisted Airmen and officers who have active duty service commitments or time in grade requirements may be eligible for a waiver, although some waivers may require the member to repay the government.

"ADSCs incurred from technical training attendance can be fully waived with no requirement for repayment, but if you transferred your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member and they have used part or all of the benefits, you may be required to repay those funds," Barlett explained.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

No more redundant inspections: AF implements new inspection system

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force recently implemented a new inspection system, aimed at giving more power to wing commanders.

With the signing of Program Action Directive 13-01, Air Force inspection system Implementation Tiger Team transitions from the planning phase to the execution phase.

The program, which was beta tested by United States Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, aims at empowering wing commanders to run their wing's inspection system. By doing this, each commander will be able to focus on improving mission effectiveness every day, balancing resources and risks without the wasteful peaks and valleys of preparing for inspections. The goal of the new system is to make inspections a nonevent, part of the daily battle rhythm of continuous improvement.

With the new AFIS, it "rebalances authority from functional staffs to commanders," said Col. Robert Hyde, Air Force director of Inspections. "(It) enables commanders to focus on mission readiness, not inspection readiness."

As the Air Force continues to be shaped leaner, the importance of eliminating waste and increasing efficiency is at an all-time high. As the new AFIS is



U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. CAMPBELL

Elbow grease

Senior Airman Kyle Zastrow performs an elbow weld while Senior Airman Isa Holland observes his work in Southwest Asia. Zastrow is using a metal inert gas welder while being trained on welding work. Holland is his trainer and will provide guidance on several aspects of his job during their deployment. Both are members of the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron combat metals shop.

implemented and evolves, senior Air Force leaders are confident the program will reduce manhours significantly.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Kehler lauds capability, credibility of nuclear enterprise

WASHINGTON – Sweeping improvements across the U.S. nuclear enterprise since a 2007 incident have increased the focus on the nuclear mission and raised the bar in terms of standards and performance, the commander of U.S. Strategic Command told reporters July 24.

"In general, I feel much more comfortable today with the level of attention," Gen. C. Robert Kehler said during a Defense Writers Group breakfast roundtable. "I am very confident in the capability and credibility of the forces. And I am very, very confident in our ability to continue our deterrence mission."

Kehler was deputy commander of U.S. Strategic Command during the August 2007 "Bent Spear" incident in which nuclear-equipped missiles were mistakenly transported nearly 1,500 miles on the wing of a B-52 Stratofortress.

Revelation of the incident – defense officials emphasized at the time that the weapons were never unsecured and never at risk of detonating – led to personnel dismissals, organizational changes and heightened performance requirements.

"A lot has changed in the last six to seven years," Kehler said. "A lot has changed organizationally, ... in terms of the intensity of the focus on the nuclear part of our mission, ... (and) in terms of the assessment and evaluation that we put on the units that are involved in all of this."

"And as we say, perfection is really the standard when we talk about nuclear weapons," he said.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR MASTER SGT. DAVID LIPP

Combat training

Senior Airman Cody Jenson, 219th Security Forces Squadron, N.D. Air National Guard, leads a simulated attack on a training building in an effort to clear the building of hostile forces during combat training July 17, in the Military Operations in Urban Terrain village at Camp Grafton, N.D. The personnel are wearing protective gear because they are firing simulation rounds that are similar to paintball rounds.

AFSC leader: 'Don't struggle in silence'

Team AFSC,

The last couple of weeks I've been out and about in an attempt to really understand the furlough impacts. Unfortunately, travel restrictions have prevented spending time at each location, but the messages appear similar across the center. It's easy to see the mission degradation, but I really wanted to understand the first-hand personal impacts. I have been impressed with the depth and frankness of the conversations and stories I've heard. It's clear the furloughs are taking a toll both at work and on the home front.

The implementation of furloughs within the Department of Defense is difficult for a workforce that contributes so much to our Nation's security. Despite the Air Force's steps to mitigate the impact of sequestration, it was not enough to resolve the severe budget shortfall. The furloughs have a direct impact on all of you. Having said that, I want everyone to know just

how proud I am of how you are handling the situation. I'm impressed with the dedication that enables you to separate the furlough mandate from the mission need. It says a lot about the caliber of our civilian workforce and your patriotism. I'm proud to be on the same team with each and every one of our teammates.

I continue to be optimistic that both the Department of Defense and Congressional leadership can step in and reduce the number of furlough days, but currently no agreements have been reached.

If you are struggling financially, all of our communities have been energized to support. Please don't struggle in silence. All facets of the community, to include local charities, state and local govern-



Litchfield

ments, businesses, banks, creditors and counselors, have pledged support during this very challenging time. This is a case where help is available for you: seek it out. Don't let a short-term problem cause a painful long-term solution. Lastly, when times are tough, the wingman principles are needed most. If you see a coworker who needs assistance, please engage.

Much like what happened after some of the traumatic events of the past year, the communities came out with an attitude to be "strong." I'm hopeful that it will only be a few more weeks before we'll be back in step and demonstrating to everyone what "AFSC Strong" can achieve.

Thank you for everything you do for our Air Force and our Nation. Keep 'em flying ... it's what we do!

– By Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield,
Air Force Sustainment Center
commander

FURLOUGH

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"take these actions lightly, or in a matter-of-fact fashion."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel reluctantly made the decision to furlough the civilian workforce, which will save around \$2 billion this fiscal year. "He recognizes the significant hardship this places on DoD civilians and their families," Christensen said.

The guiding principal behind the furlough "was the preservation of the readiness of the force to accomplish the Department's mission to ensure our national security," the commander said. The DOD applied furloughs as consistently as possible across the department,

he added.

When Hagel announced at a May 14 town hall meeting for civilian employees that officials had been able to reduce the originally expected number of furlough days from 22 to 11, he promised a continued effort to reduce the number further, but he emphasized that he could not promise such an outcome.

"I won't promise that," he said. "You deserve fair, honest, direct conversation about this, and I'm not going to be cute with you at all. This is where we are. We'll continue to look at it, (and) we'll continue to do everything we can."

– By Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

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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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On the Fly

Unit wins 'lessons learned' award

The 461st Operations Support Squadron's Mission Support Cell is Air Combat Command's selection for the 2013 General George C. Kenney Award.

The award recognizes the year's most notable lessons learned contributions to the Air Force mission and those whose vision and leadership through the use of the lessons learned process had a significant impact on mission improvement.

The OSS team was recognized for its

work generating more than 50 E-8 C2ISR lessons learned supporting six combat commands and four national-level agencies.

This is the second consecutive year a squadron from the 461st Air Control Wing has brought home the honor.

The 461st OSS competed against eight teams across ACC.

The team will now compete at Air Force level.

A Staff Sgt. Promotion Release Celebration will be Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Heritage Club Ballroom.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Rachel Collins at 241-3609.

Robins Education and Training will host the **2013 Education Fair** on Aug. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Heritage Club Ballroom.

All Robins personnel, retirees and family members are invited to attend.

For more information, call LaShondria Smith at 497-7312.

Robins Family Advocacy will host **'How to Avoid Falling in Love With a Jerk or Jerkette** – Are you the one for me?' a five-session singles class to help participants identify the warning signs of a difficult partner and reduce relationship mistakes.

The classes will be Aug. 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 941, the Professional Development Center. Registration is required.

To sign up, call 497-8398.

The Office of Personnel Management has established an Emergency Leave Transfer Program to assist employees affected by the recent severe storms and tornadoes in the state of Oklahoma.

Due to the generosity of Air Force employees, more than 1,000 hours have already been donated to more than 15 recipients. At this time there are more requests for leave than donated leave.

To donate leave or for those at Tinker who need leave and qualify under this program, contact the Tinker ELTP program manager, Kathye Michaelis, at DSN 339-7516, commercial, 405-739-7516 or tinker.leave.donatio@tinker.af.mil.

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

Sharon Kornegay of AFLCMC. Contact Audrey Fischer at 468-7340.

To have a Voluntary Leave Transfer Program recipient listed here, email Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil.



RADIO

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These are cleaned and relubricated as needed.

The radio compass unit holds amplifier ‘tubes,’ which must be replaced after so many hours of use.

“It was a tube radio that had five stages of tuning, which was designed by Nikola Tesla, designer of the Tesla coil. It was the predecessor to everything we have nowadays,” he said. “Now if the tube wasn’t broken, it usually took a long time to go bad. These vacuum tubes were filled with argon gas, and after putting voltage in there, would glow. So it heats up, which then

makes the amplifiers work.”

Testing is also conducted using an oscilloscope, which is used to see and hear if everything is tuning right on frequency.

“There’s quite a bit of alignment in this radio, so we have to align it through four different bands,” Schacknow continued. “I make sure that when a pilot tunes to a frequency, he’s immediately getting it so he doesn’t have to hunt for it while flying.”

The radios could pick up on any broadcast at the time (AM), with its receiver covering 100 KHz to 1750 KHz in four bands. Its function was also used to monitor weather and other uses.

“Another extra benefit was it allowed pilots and copilots to listen to baseball games, music and other things at the time,” he added.

As long as aircraft are in existence, the technology will continue to be harnessed for its reliability and unique capabilities.

“This system has undoubtedly helped rescue downed troops from World War II, Korea and Vietnam through the more recent conflicts in Mogadishu and Iraq, and still plays an important role in austere environments in Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Elliot Safdie, mobilization augmentee to the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group commander.

101 Critical Days of summer: Water Sports Safety



Summer activities bring risks and water sports are no exception. As in all water sports, much of the danger comes from drowning accidents. The top three factors are: lack of swimming ability, lack of barriers and lack of close supervision; all of which are manageable risks.

Resources for safe water activities:

- ▶ www.uscgboating.org
- ▶ [www.cdc.gov/ HomeandRecreational Safety/WaterSafety/waterinjuriesfactsheet .html](http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/WaterSafety/waterinjuriesfactsheet.html)
- ▶ www.cdc.gov/Features/drowningprevention

Got The Furlough Blues?



IDS Has Answers For You.

Chaplain 926-2821
Financial Management 926-1256
Employee Assistance Program 327-7577

PESTS

Continued from 1

In cases where stagnant water can be difficult to eliminate, small, donut-shaped briquets, which contain an environmentally-safe bacteria called 'Bti,' are placed in strategic areas where mosquitoes lay eggs.

The shop also helps control other types of pests, which John Rourke, pest controller, clarified means more than just insects.

"Pests are described as being anywhere 'they're not supposed to be," he said.

That goes for not only insects, but also alligators, hogs, coyotes, bears, foxes and other wild animals, as well as birds that can pose a threat to human safety. At Robins this is taken very seriously as wildlife presence on

the flight line can pose a direct threat to aircraft landing and taking off.

One method the shop uses is one of two bird scare canons, which are basically noisemakers that frighten birds away from the path of aircraft.

In a nutshell, pest management uses these preventative and corrective measures to keep pests from becoming a significant problem.

The biggest takeaway is for everyone to pay attention to their surroundings, keep your work areas clean and call CE customer service before something becomes an even bigger problem.

"We have a service we can provide," concluded Cooper. "But the key is to try and help us by informing us. We're not the bad guys. We try to cooperate with our customers as best as we can."



U.S. Air Force photos by JENNY GORDON

Above, John Rourke, pest controller, gets the fogger ready for spraying.

Below, Mansur Cooper, Entomology Shop foreman, holds a pack of dunkets used to kill mosquito larva.



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U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Back to school

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Megginson, Airman & Family Readiness Center NCO, shows Chandler Loveland the different backpacks and tells him about the winning ticket that may be inside during the Operation Homefront 2013 Back-To-School Brigade program distribution July 25. Megginson and other volunteers handed out 200 backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies as part of a partnership between the A&FRC, Operation Homefront and various corporate and private sponsors nationwide. Items donated for the campaign include spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, notebook paper, rulers, colored pencils, calculators, and erasers. This program saves military families a major education expense, especially for those experiencing financial hardships.

