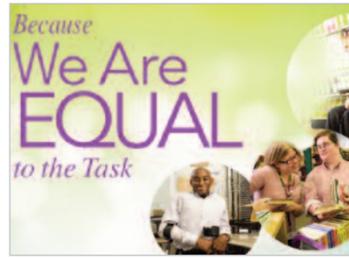


In need of assistance?

With the government shutdown behind us, some employees may need additional help. The Employee Assistance Program, also known as EAP, offers DOD civilians and their household members stress management training, improved coping skills, financial and legal services (through the national service center), supportive counseling and marriage counseling, help with troubled relationships, depression, stress, emotional concerns, substance abuse and more. For EAP assistance, call 497-7577 or 497-7683 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays – Fridays. Employees are seen by appointment only. EAP counselors are located in Bldg. 207, the Occupational Medicine Clinic, Room D160 and D156. For 24-hour assistance, call 1-800-222-0364.



Awareness: Shedding light on hidden disabilities

Page 6

ROBINS REV-UP

October 18, 2013 Vol. 58 No. 40

Government open for business

BY JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

Senate leaders championed bipartisan legislation to reopen the government and remove the threat of government default on its debts.

The legislation is a continuing resolution that provides federal government spending at fiscal 2013 levels. That keeps the sequester-level budget in effect.

The act will keep the government open through Jan. 15 and raises the debt limit through Feb. 7. The act contains a provision for a joint Senate-House committee to work on a budget recommendation for fiscal year 2014. Those recommendations are due Dec. 13.

The legislation includes the provision to pay all furloughed employees for the period of the lapse in appropriations. The act calls for those employees to be paid "as soon as practicable."

Even before the House of Representatives voted,

President Obama signed legislation bringing federal employees back to work after Congress resolved the budget logjam that led to a 16-day shutdown.

President Obama signaled his intent to sign the bill.

"We'll begin reopening our government immediately," he said in a White House appearance. "And we can begin to lift this cloud of uncertainty and unease from our businesses and from the American people."

Obama asked that all political officials take the lesson of the gridlock to heart and work together to solve the nation's problems.

"My hope and expectation is," Obama said, "everybody has learned that there is no reason why we can't work on the issues at hand, why we can't disagree between the parties while still being agreeable, and

make sure that we're not inflicting harm on the American people when we do have disagreements.

"So, hopefully that's a lesson that will be internalized, and not just by me, but also by Democrats and Republicans – not only the leaders, but also the rank-and-file," he said.

As he was leaving the Brady Press Room at the White House, a reporter asked the president if the shutdown might not be duplicated in January.

"No," the president said and left.

Editor's note: For more information, visit www.opm.gov.

Robins returns to normal operations

BY ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the end of the 16-day government shutdown, 'normal operations' have resumed here.

The doors of the Museum of Aviation and other base activities which were temporarily closed are now open. Additionally, community outreach events such as tours have restarted.

The annual Combined Federal Campaign has also picked up where it left off. The CFC office will open Monday and keyworkers may pick up their solicitation materials in Bldg. 995 (behind the former elementary school).

Officials are looking at if, or when, similar activities such as Wingman Day and Triple Ribbon Month will be rescheduled.

"Our entire team is back at work providing world-class warfighter support," said Col. Chris Hill, installation commander.

"Thanks to our great community for their support through this uncertain time," he added.

At one point during the shutdown, more than 4,000 base employees were furloughed.



Taking it to the streets
Bonnie Jones, 638th Supply Chain Management Group director, right, asks employees how they're dealing with the furlough fallout at work and with family. This week, base leaders took to the streets to get the pulse of the workforce. Leaders listened as employees talked about their difficulties and challenges since the furlough began Oct. 1. Pictured with Jones from left is Brian Denman, SCMG program manager; Ryan Evangelo, 410th Supply Chain Management Squadron Automatic Test Systems program manager; and Terry Feagin, 410th SCMS supervisor.



Above left, Col. Patricia Ross, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander, talks to members of the 78th Comptroller Squadron Travel and Military Pay Customer Service Section, including Airmen 1st Class Michael Davis, Carl Wheaton and Kaylee Denning. Above right, Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander, speaks with John Hibbard, 402nd Electronics Maintenance Squadron technician, about keeping the mission going during difficult times.



Hagel stresses workforce's value

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel issued a message to the Defense Department's workforce Thursday, welcoming back employees furloughed by the 16-day government shutdown and emphasizing their value to the nation.

Here is the text of the secretary's message:

Today (Thursday) the Department of Defense is resuming normal operations across the world, now that Congress has finally restored funding for DOD and the rest of the federal government.

This manufactured crisis was an unwelcome and unnecessary distraction from our critical work of keeping the country safe.

I know that each of your lives has been disrupted and affected in different ways. I regret the impact that this shutdown had on so many of our civilian personnel, particularly those who I was previously unable to recall from emergency furlough.

▶ see HAGEL, 7



ONE WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

'An uncomfortable time to be a civil servant'

I'll say it ... this is an uncomfortable time to be a civil servant. Six days of furlough this past summer, sequestration, government shutdown, debt ceiling impacts – it makes me uncomfortable just writing about it.

We may be frustrated with the current situation in Washington; actually, to be blunt – I am really concerned with what's going on in Washington.

This is affecting you and me personally ... our pay, the stability of our careers, and the uncertainty of our future. To be honest, I had just come to grips with 'putting the six days of furlough' behind me.

And, now that we've gotten past the shutdown and the debt ceiling mess, the question in my mind is, "What's next?"

But, if I really look at myself in the mirror – and every morning you and I do just that – and, if we're really honest with ourselves, if we strip away all of the current discomfort: We do what we do because we are obliged to do it.

Long before the current political turmoil, somewhere in

our hearts, we made a choice to respond to an unstated obligation to serve our country as civil servants.

This is an obligation to all who have come before us, in all areas and all ranks of government ... and especially to the men and women in uniform – many of our own family, friends and neighbors – who have given so much for our country ... most recently the 6,748 service members who have lost their lives since 9/11, and the 51,587 service members who have returned wounded.

All of our recent improvements across this center and all of our continued efforts to improve our operations make this country better.

Every time we streamline an operation, reduce flow days and reduce our costs, we're making a direct impact on the effectiveness of our Air Force and our country. I'm not just talking about improving our ability to put bombs on targets, protect our service members, or deter our enemies; I'm also talking about the business side of our operations – cost effective readiness – doing our parts to improve the

financial standing of the Air Force, the Defense Department and our country.

Yes, it's an uncomfortable time to be a civil servant, but I'm doing what I am obliged to do. It's well documented that chasing meaning in life leads to more happiness than avoiding discomfort – the meaning of what we do, the importance of what we do – no one can take that away from you, me or any other civil servant working for the United States Air Force.

So as far as answering the question, what's next? In Washington, I have no idea. For me, I refuse to let the turmoil in Washington define me as an employee. It won't affect my dedication, my commitment, nor my attitude ... I am still immensely proud of what I do for the Air Force and for our country.

20 years of civil service ... and counting!

By Kevin O'Connor

Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex vice director

Second Front

Civilian Flu shot location change

The Houston County Health Department will provide flu vaccinations for \$25 on base during October. The flu shot is free if you show proof of coverage on Medicaid, Medicare Part B, Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO, Aetna PPO, or the state health benefit plan through United Healthcare or Cigna.

Flu vaccine schedule:
 ► Today, FAST FORWARD facility Bldg. 49 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (previous scheduled at the HAWC)
 ► Monday, Fitness Center Annex

Bldg. 301 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. and the Base Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The vaccine is now available for active duty members and their eligible family members at the 78th Medical Group, Bldg. 700.

Vaccination hours are Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on the second and fourth Thursday of each month when the hours are 7 to 11 a.m.

For more information contact the Immunizations Clinic at 497-7921.

Robins to host Military Appreciation Day

Military retirees from all branches of service and their guests are invited to attend Robins' Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 26.

The appreciation day is to inform, assist and honor all retired military members, spouses and surviving spouses, and their family members who have base access.

The event begins with a pay-as-you-go breakfast from 6:30 a.m. at the Wynn Dining Facility.

Door prize giveaways and registration will



begin at 8:15 a.m. with opening ceremonies at 9 a.m.

Col. Christopher Hill, Installation commander, will provide opening remarks at 9:15 a.m.

Retiree activities and briefings will follow until noon.

The briefings will include information about the pharmacy, security forces, immunizations,

Tricare and Services among others.

A pay-as-you-go lunch will be available in the Heritage Club's Pizza Depot.

Vendors' tables will be set up in the Heritage Club from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Retiree Activities office via email at robins.rao@gmail.com or call (478) 284-9879.

Having fun with VPP

To prep for a Voluntary Protection Program assessment, the 406th Supply Chain Management Squadron had a cubical decorating contest.

Employees used about 11 different safety themes as a way to gear up for future Silver recognition.

"The people in the 406th SCMS have taken genuine ownership and pride in their work areas and embraced the VPP program," said Denise Rogers, 406th SCMS deputy director. "In order to promote safety at work and home, promi-

nent displays showed key safety information in the work areas and promoted teamwork."

Coworkers in various cubicles in the squadron's Technical Order Operations Flight decorated their office space, highlighting themes like crosswalk safety, motorcycle safety, skin care, weather-related safety during a tornado, lightning storms and more.

The winning team focused on heart health, addressing risk factors, effects, prevention and symptoms.



U.S. Air Force photos by RAY CRAYTON

A ceremony was conducted Oct. 11 to dedicate the 10-foot by 15-foot American flag which flew over the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation NEW DAWN, the occupation, stabilization and rebuilding of Iraq which ended in December 2011. The ceremony also honored eight 402nd Maintenance Group craftsmen who constructed the case to preserve the flag.

PRESERVING OLD GLORY

Dave Nakayama, 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron director, presents Col. Victoria Reed, a certificate of appreciation. Reed, former 559th AMXS commander who was deployed to Baghdad and witnessed the last chapter of U.S. military involvement in Iraq, secured and donated the flag to the squadron. Reed is currently the commander of the Air Force Metrology and Calibration Center in Heath, Ohio.

The MXG craftsmen who also received certificates are: Charlie Johnson, car-



penter; Steven Grissom, carpenter; John Reynolds, painter; Jason Blount, painter; Janice Derico, fabric preparation; Rhodenia Talton, fabric preparation; Bruce Scott, certificate design; and Duane Price, project coordinator.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Civilian retiree ID card to be replaced

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Retired Air Force civilians who use the Air Force Form 354, Civilian Identification Card, to access Air Force installations have until early 2014 – when the AF354 will be rescinded – to get a Department of Defense Civilian Retiree ID Card or other access credentials, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

The AF354 was a card-stock product that allowed civilian retirees and their eligible dependents to enter an Air Force installation, with installation commander approval, but only for access to limited Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities (access which also applies to current Air Force employees and their dependents).

The card was not issued from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System / Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System, and is not recognized by the Department of Defense under the Personnel Identity Protection Program for DEERS or by other services for installation access, said Ed Yoder, Air Force DEERS/RAPIDS project office.

“The card doesn’t meet the stringent security requirements established by the Department of Homeland Security,” Yoder said. “Installation access requires a secure card with identity vetting and online capabilities, such as bar code scanning.”

Although retired civilians can get a DOD identification card, there isn’t an equivalent for eligible dependents.

“On installations where the commander has approved civilian retiree and dependent access, they can contact the civilian personnel office as a starting point for determining eligibility and for getting a secure access card for their family members,” Yoder said.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

FDA warns against dietary supplement

FALLS CHURCH, VA. (AFNS) – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers to stop using OxyElite Pro, a dietary supplement, because of suspected links to acute hepatitis.

The FDA, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Hawaii Department of Health are investigating reports of acute non-viral hepatitis in Hawaii where 29 cases are linked to a dietary supplement. The FDA urges consumers to stop using the product while the investigation continues. Distributed by USPlabs LLC in Dallas, Texas, the product is sold nationwide in retail stores and on the internet.

“We are urging Airmen to stop using the product until the investigation concludes and results are confirmed,” said Col. John Oh, the chief of Health Promotion, Air Force Medical Support Agency, Air Force Surgeon General.

There have been a total of 29 cases of acute non-viral hepatitis with an unknown cause reported in Hawaii. Eleven of the 29 patients have been hospitalized with acute hepatitis, two have received liver transplants and one person has died. The CDC is also investigating other cases of liver injury nation-wide that could be related.

Symptoms of hepatitis include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay or gray-colored bowel movements, joint pain, yellow eyes, and jaundice.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by OSAKABE YASUO

Training flight

A C-130 Hercules flies during a training mission over Yokota Air Base, Japan. The C-130H provides tactical airlift worldwide. Its flexible design allows it the capability to operate in austere environments. C-130 aircraft are maintained at Robins.

New Defense Health Agency to streamline functions

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) – The government shutdown did not stop the official opening Oct. 1 of the Defense Health Agency, an effort that has been in the works for three decades.

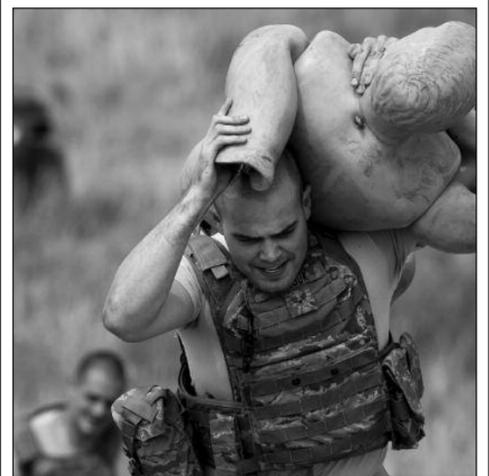
“This day has been a long time in coming, and represents a major milestone in the history of the department and in military medicine,” Dr. Jonathan Woodson, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, wrote in a message to staff.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Douglas Robb heads the new agency, which is to streamline health care among the Army, Navy and Air Force medical departments. The agency is charged with creating common business and clinical practices for the services and integrating functions that each has done separately, such as purchasing medical supplies and equipment.

Robb acknowledged the budget challenges and government shutdown that coincided with the first day of operations for the DHA, saying, “How we deal with and overcome these challenges will be the true test of our character and our strength.”

The military health system provides medical care on the battlefield as well as to service members, their families and military retirees. It is one of the largest health care systems in the world with 56 hospitals, hundreds of clinics and 160,000 employees.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by R.J. ORIEZ

He ain’t heavy ...

Senior Airman Andrew Marosok, 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron, races up a hill with a training dummy while he and his teammates compete in the ruck and pack event in the F. E. Warren Air Force Base Crow Creek Challenge in Wyoming. The annual competition challenges Airmen’s physical endurance and job knowledge.

military operations and performance of mandated duties of organizing, training, and equipping Airmen.

Throughout the year, PACAF Airmen expanded engagements, increased combat capability and improved warfighter integration by participating in more than 25 exercises and humanitarian operations throughout the region.

“Engagement is something we are doing every day across the Asia-Pacific region,” said Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of Pacific Air Forces. “I cannot overstate the importance of working with our allies, partners and the international community to deter aggression and to maintain peace and stability in the region.”

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

PACAF Airmen wrap up busy year

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AFNS) – Throughout fiscal 2013, the key aspect of Pacific Air Forces was engagement as more than 45,000 Pacific Air Forces Airmen conducted a broad spectrum of operations, from humanitarian relief to decisive combat employment, in an area covering 13 time zones and 100 million square miles.

These operations began with the inactivation of 13th Air Force and the operationalization of the Headquarters PACAF Staff, as the Air Force established its benchmark component major command.

This unified structure gives PACAF dual focus: support to an operationalized staff across the range of

Airpower for America

COMMAND AND CONTROL ... TOTAL FLEXIBILITY

Airmen employ the Air Force’s other four interdependent and enduring core missions through robust, adaptable, and survivable command and control systems.

Using the specialized skills of more than 53,000 command and control Airmen, the Air Force provides access to reliable communications and information networks so the joint team can operate globally at a high tempo and level of intensity.

Air Force command and control systems give commanders the ability to conduct highly coordinated joint operations on an unequalled scale using centralized command, distributed control and decentralized execution.

Pervasive and highly interconnected, command and control networks will be extremely contested. The capability to deliver airpower is intimately dependent on the ability to operate effectively in cyberspace, a domain in and through which we conduct all of our core missions and which is critical to many of our command and control systems.

Operations in cyberspace can magnify military effects by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of air and



U.S. Air Force file photo by MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

Capt. Titus, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron senior director, views radar data from a simulated E-8C Joint STARS operator workstation during a recent exercise. (Full name withheld for security reasons.) space operations and by helping to integrate capabilities across all domains. The use of cyberspace to conduct missions is certainly not exclusive to the Air Force; however, it is an essential component of how we ensure our

warfighting advantage.

Getting the right information to the right person at the right time is essential to the American way of war. The nation’s advantage in command and control is under constant attack with new and more capable threats emerging daily in the areas of cyber weapons, anti-satellite systems, and electromagnetic jamming.

Our adversaries are also making advances by electronically linking their own combat capabilities, which creates new military challenges that our forces must be prepared to address. To counter these challenges, the Air Force will field advanced command and control systems that are reliable, resilient, and interoperable. More importantly, we will recruit and train innovative Airmen with the expertise to build, manage, secure, and advance our complex and diverse command and control systems, while at the same time making them easy to use for our own forces.

Editor’s note: This is the seventh entry of a nine-part series from Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark Welsh’s office.

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

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

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

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FROM THE COMMANDDOWN

AFSC cements status as strategic asset, efficiency pioneer

BY BRANDICE O'BRIEN

Tinker Public Affairs

The Air Force Sustainment Center is a strategic asset that's not only gaining attention for its ability to generate airpower, but for its business approach as well.

Listening to Air Force leaders, it's clear the center's successes are the result of teamwork, a guiding leadership model and a resilient belief in the AFSC Way.

In developing the center's strategic vision for cost-effective readiness, AFSC Director of Logistics, Gilbert Montoya, said some challenges were expected. Others, such as the furlough and sequestration, were not.

Montoya was quick to point out that the employees across the center's three complexes, three air base wings and two supply chain management wings have met every challenge.

"... the workforce never lost sight of what was important," he said. "They continued to focus on supporting the warfighter and on pioneering new ways to obtain results.

"From July 2012 through July 2013, we increased our depot aircraft production by 20 percent, cut critical parts shortages by 25 percent, reduced work-stoppage related to parts by 18 percent and sliced backorders by 21 percent," said Montoya.

The logistics director attributed those and other AFSC-wide successes as the product of a commitment to "The AFSC Way."

The AFSC Way is a



deliberate and standard systems approach which enables personnel on any level to strive for the best and meet their goals.

By using common goals, each level within the organization should determine its path forward within the AFSC Way.

The three air logistics complex commanders also cited the importance of the AFSC Way.

"Setting up the AFSC was more than a simple realignment of resources and personnel. It resulted in a whole new way of thinking about sustainment," said Brig. Gen. Gene Kirkland, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex commander. "The integration of depot maintenance and supply chain within a single command created an entirely new culture."

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

"We didn't just combine three cultures, but we created a new culture that leveraged the strength of all three depots."

Prior to merging the supply chain management wings and maintenance complexes under one center, George said maintenance personnel naturally envisioned supply chain employees as a supporting role.

Yet, now that they

build, plan and execute together, both organizations are able to grasp the all-important partnership.

"It has enhanced the level of cooperation and teamwork from two-fold to three-fold," George said.

The change in mindset and effort has proven to be equally successful at the Ogden Air Logistics Complex at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, as well.

"Air Force Sustainment Center organizations maintain production-based metrics that define how well we are doing in meeting customer requirements," said Maj. Gen. Brent Baker, Ogden ALC commander. "Those are reviewed weekly by AFSC organizations, during the AFSC production review, to identify areas of concern as well as benchmark best practices. To date, these improvements reflect a 20 percent increase in production capability across the center, as well as providing data to improve on our production processes."

George said Robins has had several accomplishments. So far in fiscal 2013, personnel produced 162 aircraft. Programmed depot maintenance has had the lowest rate of "work-in-progress" to date. Robins has also reduced its C-130 Hercules flow days by 32 percent.

"These successes reinforce what we believe," said George. "If we do things the right way and create capacity, it will allow decision makers to move workload into that capacity."

— Read the full story at www.afsc.af.mil



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

SHEDDING LIGHT ON HIDDEN DISABILITIES

BY GWEN TRIBBLE

689th Supply Chain Management Group

You likely do not realize that at Robins Air Force Base you may work among hundreds of folks who have hidden disabilities.

Sure, we're all aware of the obvious disabilities, such as blindness, deafness, missing limbs, curved spines, or paralysis resulting in the need for a wheelchair.

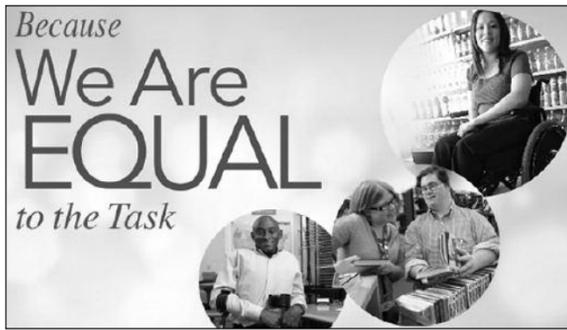
However, there are many other conditions that are equally debilitating but aren't so easily recognized. The people who suffer from these hidden disabilities may be in constant, chronic pain or on numerous medications just so they can function well enough to be productive.

That person who smiles at you when you pass in the hall may suffer from an autoimmune disease that makes every waking moment painful, or may be going back and forth to the doctor for testing in an effort to regulate the medication for bipolar disorder or schizophrenia.

None of these medical conditions are obvious from the person's outward appearance, but that doesn't make them any less real.

Autoimmune diseases such as Sjogren's, lupus, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis share common symptoms such as fatigue, muscle weakness and painful joints.

Then, each of them has individual traits. For example, Sjogren's also causes extremely dry mouth and eyes. Try briefing when you are already nervous and your mouth is so dry you cannot produce saliva no matter how hard you try. Or, as a



victim of lupus, when you have what is known as a flare, and your nose bleeds, you run a fever, and your joints swell, get hot and throb.

MS symptoms are better known due to increased media publicity, but people with this affliction eventually end up unable to walk and, in the last stages, bedridden.

Workers with RA will be unable to hold and manipulate tools over time, but will be in excruciating pain long before the joint deformities become visibly obvious.

Mental and behavioral disorders are prevalent, but societal norms have prevented frank or open discussions regarding people who suffer from bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder or disorders along the autism spectrum, such as Asperger's.

Bipolar disorder is often difficult to diagnose and medications have to be closely regulated to achieve maximum benefit.

Schizophrenia medications have improved during the past decade, but there's still a lot to be learned about this disorder.

Counselors on every military base, as well as in most communities, spend a lot of time with both current and ex-GIs suffering with PTSD.

There was a recent article

in a national magazine about a veteran with PTSD finally being able to attend a fire-works celebration with his family; previously, the sound and the flashing lights triggered painful and alarming physical reactions, symptomatic of PTSD.

Workers with Asperger's may be able to function in terms of accomplishing their jobs, but are seemingly clueless when it comes to social interactions with peers, and may be disruptive in the workplace.

There's an old adage that says, "You never really know someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes." That saying is always going to be true, but one thing all of us can purpose to do is to be kinder to everyone we meet because we may not know what trial, disease or disorder that person is currently undergoing.

The month of October is National Disabilities Awareness Month, and this would be the perfect time to start being kinder to everyone you meet.

If you see a person with a visible disability, help them out when you can. But, by being kinder to everyone you meet, you may be helping someone with a hidden disability, and your kindness will make their day – and their life – brighter.

ALL in a Day's WORK

Name: Robert Frisch

Work title: Program software manager

Unit: 578th Software Maintenance Squadron/ Flight F

Hometown: Warner Robins

Number of years in federal service: 9

What does your work involve at Robins? "Working with 15 professional software engineers/computer scientists who are advancing state-of-the-art, web-based and mobile system applications used by the warfighter and support personnel."

What do you enjoy most about your work? "Quickly and creatively solving problems for the warfighter and my team. There are few things more gratifying than putting something into their hands they can use to make their jobs easier or safer."

How does your work contribute to the Robins/DOD mission? "We are demonstrating that organic software maintenance can do a lot more than just flip bits on 30-year-old boxes. Rather, we can crank out well-received government off-the-shelf iPad apps and web systems on cutting edge hardware in a timely fashion using industry standard best practices and tools while minimizing cost, schedule, and technical data ownership issues."

What prompted your interest in your career? "After I was introduced to a



U.S. Air Force photo by JENNY GORDON

TRS-80 and BASIC in high school, I traded in my Rickenbacker bass guitar (the horror!), bought an Apple IIe, and never looked back. I did a tour in the USAF back in the '80s, went to engineering school at Mercer, worked in commercial industry for a while, but eventually came full circle back to the Air Force as an engineer. It's in my blood."

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? "My father. He taught and reinforced in me the essentials of character and service."

What's something people would be surprised to know about you? "I have not hit 50 yet, but I have three grandchildren and a son who is in Air Force flight school right now."

What's an accomplishment you're most proud of?

"By far, my marriage, celebrating 25 years next year, and the kids we raised. A long-term marriage is one of the most coveted possessions a person can have. You can't buy it, borrow it, inherit it or fake it. It has to be earned. And, I think that has a lot to do with all of our kids being successful and either self-sufficient now or poised to be. As a parent, I could not ask for anything more."

USE YOUR WITS NOT YOUR WATTS

HAGEL

Continued from 1A

Starting today (Thursday), we will be welcoming all of our civilians back to their normal duties.

To those returning from furlough, know that the work you perform is

incredibly valued by your military teammates and by me. I appreciate your professionalism and your patience during this difficult period of time, which came on top of last summer's sequestration-related furloughs. Your managers will have more information about this, but I can assure you that you will be paid in full for the time you were

furloughed during the shutdown.

Now that this latest budget crisis has come to an end, we have an opportunity to return to focusing on the critical work of this department. Unfortunately, Congress did not end the budget uncertainty that has cast such a shadow of uncertainty over this department for much of the year. In the months ahead,

they will have an opportunity to do so. My hope is that they will realize that these kinds of crises do great damage to our people, our national security, our economy, and America's standing in the world. Congress has a responsibility to govern, and it must fulfill those basic responsibilities in order to keep our country strong.

Buckle up ... It's the Law



According to Air Force Instruction 91-207, all motorists and passengers must wear seat belts when operating and/or riding in a moving vehicle. Individuals found not wearing a seat belt in a moving vehicle may be issued a ticket by the 78th Security Forces Squadron.



**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

**ON
ROBINS
IT'S THE
LAW**



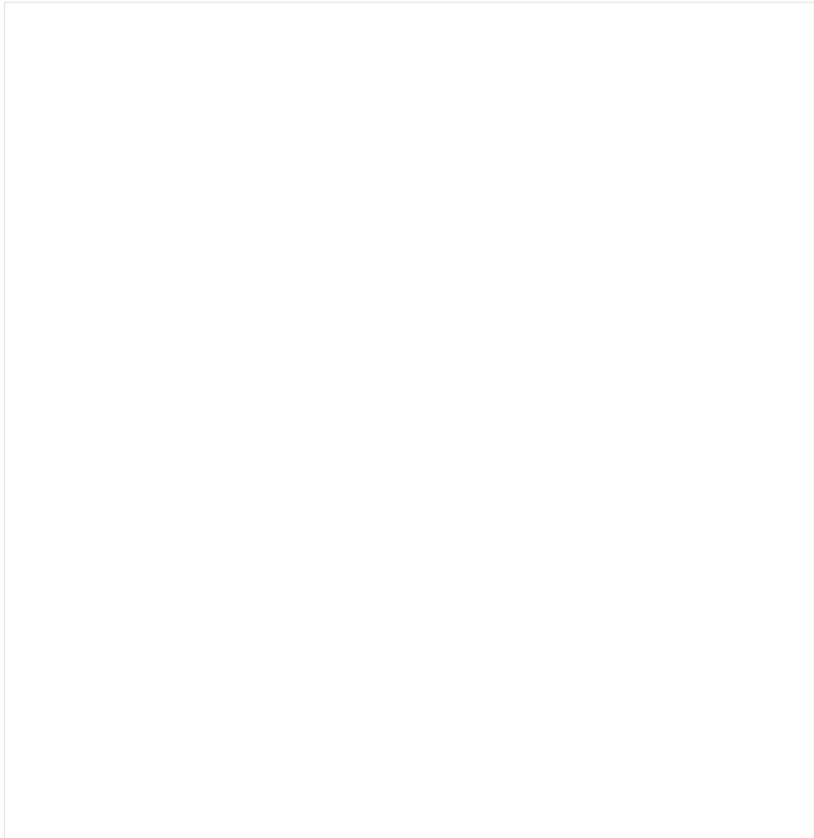
**THINK
GREEN ...**

**PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS
NEWSPAPER**



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Staff Sgt. Mackenzie Thompson, 54th Combat Communications Squadron, RF Transmission Systems, and his wife, Chelsea, portray zombies during a recent Zombie Run. The run is an annual event sponsored by the 5th Combat Communications Group Top 3 in which squadrons compete against each other in a 2-mile run through zombie-infested woods on base. Active duty military, dependents and civilians participate as runners and zombies or serve in other capacities. A trophy is given to the team with the fastest time and also to the selected Zombie of the Year. Inset, a runner is confronted by a Zombie.



OUT AND ABOUT

ON TAP

Boss n Buddy

Today
4 to 5 p.m.
Heritage Club Lounge
Join us for fun food, entertainment and prizes.
For details, call 472-7864.

Friday Family Night

Today
9 to 11 p.m.
Bowling Center
For details, call 468-2112.

NFL Game Day

Sunday
Noon to 8 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
For details, call 472-7864.

Money and Credit Management

Monday
1 to 3 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
Help with budget and savings planning.
For details, call 468-1256.

NFL Monday Night Football Specials

Monday
Heritage Lounge
For details, call 472-7864.



KUDOS Kids Understanding Deployment Operations Rescheduled

Organizers regret to announce, that due to a lack of participation, Kids Understanding Deployment Operations or KUDOS which was scheduled for Saturday, has been rescheduled for April 26, 2014. More information will be released when registration reopens.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

