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# ROBINS REV-UP

February 28, 2014 Vol. 59 No.8

## NEWS

### YOU CAN USE

#### Force Management Information Fair today

There will be an Information Fair addressing the fiscal 2014 Force Management Programs today from 10 a.m. to noon at the Airman and Family Readiness Center Large Classroom.

The event will bring together several base agencies that can answer questions on support available for members during this time.

All personnel and families are welcome to attend. Agencies will include: A&FRC, Mental Health, Finance, Tri-Care, and Air Force Reserve Command among others.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Amanda Thurber or the Career Development Team at DSN 497-3429 or commercial 478-327-3429.

#### Base Theater and Fitness Center heating projects

Due to a project to repair steam lines, there will be no heat in the Base Theater, Bldg. 909, through April 13.

Another project will result in the shut off of hot water at the main fitness center today through Sunday.

#### Gate maintenance

Routine gate closures allow the installation to safely perform maintenance on vehicle barriers.

The upcoming schedule is as follows: First Tuesday of the month – Gate 14, Russell Parkway Gate, closed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Second Tuesday of the month – Gate 3, Watson Boulevard Gate, closed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Third Tuesday of the month – Gate 1, Green Street Gate, closed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Note:** In case of inclement weather, work will occur on the following Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Robins Technology Exposition Wednesday

The base will host its annual Technology Exposition Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Horizons Event Center.

There will be hands-on demonstrations from more than 25 companies in various areas of technology including wired and wireless headsets, scanners, software, and services, SIPR Hardware Token, Multi-level Security Solutions, Signal and Network Analyzers and more.

Refreshments will be served and giveaways will be available while supplies last.

To preregister and preview the list of exhibiting companies, visit [www.FederalEvents.com](http://www.FederalEvents.com).

## Team JSTARS flexes at Red Flag

BY JENNY GORDON

[jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil)

When it comes to realistic air-to-air combat training, Air Force members who live and breathe aboard some of the world's most advanced military weapon systems got a chance last month to test some of their skills.

Red Flag exercises were conducted in January above the skies of Nellis Air Force Base's Nevada Test and Training Range.

Hosted by Nellis' 414th Combat Training Squadron, this year's exercise included the Team JSTARS platform from Robins which deployed about 80 members for the three-week exercise. That included security forces, air control network squadron, operators and maintenance teams from the 116th and 461st Air Control wings.

"Red Flag was all about planning, briefing, executing and debriefing the scenario

each day. Ideally that can be a 12- to 16-hour work day of two different battle rhythms," said Maj. Marcus Wilson, JSTARS' Red Flag detachment commander, and 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron chief of staff. "Our enablers ensured we're in good position and have quality aircraft to integrate with the mission."

Due to the high operations tempo of JSTARS during the last decade, it was reiterated how crucial it's been for newer warfighters to experience and appreciate the full spectrum of Red Flag training. This year for example provided training on countering cyber threats.

"Red Flag is the pinnacle of air exercises, especially with few opportunities to train with our training partners at that level," said Maj. Gregory Blom, 16th ACCS assistant director of operations, whose Red Flag role was mission crew commander. "We had the

chance to bring out all these airplanes, technologies and capabilities to go up against a robust threat.

"It was an amazing opportunity," he added. "You exercise muscles you don't normally exercise. It's important we get out to train so we can use those muscles when called to do so."

Including E-8C aircrews and maintainers from JSTARS, various aircraft platforms participated from across the military and allied partners such as Great Britain and Australia.

"It was spectacular," Wilson said of the exercise's conclusion Feb. 14. "I can tell you they love JSTARS out here at Nellis. They understand what our capabilities are based on what we've done. They know how we can win our nation's wars in the future."

Red Flag was cancelled in 2013 due to budget cuts and sequestration.

## VIRTUAL EYE IN THE SKY



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Airman 1st Class Mitchel Hooper, an Air Traffic Control Tower trainee, looks at a realistic view of the Robins airfield from the tower's simulation room. Hooper is currently working to receive his control tower operator's certification.

### Training vital for a position in Robins Air Traffic Control Tower

BY JENNY GORDON

[jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil)

First, there's training. Then there's making the critical decisions that impact lives in the air.

Such is life in the tower cab of the Robins Air Traffic Control Tower. But before one has the privilege of making those decisions, one must first validate the acquired knowledge in the tower's simulation room – a one-stop shop for trainees looking to immerse themselves in the world of air traffic.

It's a small, unassuming place filled with five 55-inch television monitors, providing trainees a realistic view of the Robins airfield and airspace.

Located in a room adjacent to the tower,

three control positions stand ready, the same as in the tower cab above.

Trainees must master these positions prior to walking the 100-plus steps up. Although each has a separate role, all three are part of a close-knit team which ensures daily aircraft operations perform smoothly.

Positions include the local controller who controls the runway and 5.5 miles of airspace around the base. The flight data controller acts much like an operator, answering phones and coordinating local or ground control communications. Ground control handles everything on the ground, such as reading clearances to pilots, relaying weather and airfield advisories, and taxiing aircraft to and from the runway.

During training, a deep male voice rings out from an interactive software program

administered from a nearby work station. The software guides trainees through such things as proper phraseology, speaking slowly and deliberately so messages are understood.

"It's basically repetitive," said Robert Harvey, tower simulation system administrator and air traffic control watch supervisor. "So, if a controller doesn't say the correct phraseology to the pilot, the computer will tell them to say it again."

There are 120 scenarios that were developed to assist trainees with situations they may encounter. A new trainee will start with a basic scenario – two to three aircraft – which teaches how to taxi or clear aircraft for takeoff.

► see ATCT, 3



U.S. Air Force photo by BRIAN SHREVE

Robert Bird, electronics engineer at the Electronics Analysis Laboratory, prepares to examine a defective piece of equipment. The lab investigates electrical parts failures that could lead to delay in production.

## Under the microscope: EFA lab masters problem solving

BY BRIAN SHREVE

Staff Writer

What goes on inside any given building at Robins Air Force Base isn't exactly posted on the doors.

But behind every bland façade, every secured gate, lie the countless stories of unsung heroes, quietly playing their integral parts in keeping us safe.

The Electronic Failure Analysis Laboratory – a component of the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group – is no exception.

Here, a staff of two engineers meticulously analyze defective aircraft systems, tracing the precise

source of equipment errors thus preventing problems that could cause delay on the lines and even shut down production temporarily.

When any electronic system fails or raises other questions, it's sent here for examination using microscopic analyses, destructive physical tests and material characterization.

Manning the microscopes are electronics engineers Brent Baumgartner and Robert Bird, a duo with a combined EFA lab experience of more than 40 years; Baumgartner has been in the lab for more than 28 years, Bird for 16.

To call having an eye for detail a job requirement would be a vast

understatement.

These two are able to pinpoint corrosion, electrical overstress and contamination impossible to detect with the naked eye, examining the composition of parts and tracing their origin – essentially a Crime Scene Investigation for machines. Most failures are discovered to originate with the manufacturers.

"It's sometimes frustrating but also good when we're able to successfully help them out," said Bird. "Basically we might be the last hope for these things that they can't figure out how to fix."

► see LAB, 3

# Second Front

## Supervisor Resource Center now available for all civilians

Are you interested in preparing yourself professionally but aren't sure how to fulfill that goal? Do you need to hone your skills but are challenged to find the funds and time needed for development? If so, the Air Force has a solution for you.

The Supervisor Resource Center was created to provide leadership growth opportunities for current and future AF supervisors by leveraging an online learning management system tool called AF e-Learning. This initiative has proven to be so successful that the next generation portal is now ready for rollout.

The Civilian Development Resource Center continues the legacy first created by the SRC. Whereas the SRC focused primarily on supervisory development, the CDRC's focus has been expanded to include all civilians at the tactical level. The site continues to provide thousands of no-cost development resources available on demand any time and any place. Its primary focus is supporting an AF priority – the continuous development of one of its most valuable resources, the civilian workforce. Military counterparts, who are developed via a separate process, also have access to the site as a resource for

their use.

The look and feel of the renamed site reflects a broader focus supporting the development needs for employees spanning each phase occurring in a typical career – new hire, developing employee to journeyman, new supervisor, non-supervisory (individual) leader and seasoned supervisor.

It also provides learning opportunities for those seeking skills development in the AF Institutional Competencies that focus on core proficiencies expected from every Airman.

The site has been re-engineered to help users quickly target customizable learning programs focusing on their individual goals. Navigation has been simplified to assist new users in quickly identifying the right development track for their professional development needs. Thousands of free, online courses, books, simulations, videos, job-aids, roadmaps, links to professional sites such as Harvard Business School and Forbes and much more are available. Additionally, self-paced, no-cost courses are available that help users work toward fulfilling some certification requirements.

Not sure where to begin? The site provides access to the Air Force Institutional Competency Assessment tool that provides feedback to help the individual focus on specific skills needed to improve career performance. A monthly newsletter highlights selected courses, books, and learning tips to assist users quickly focus on assets that will further their development. Have questions? Please forward your inquiries to [ecpd.src.@us.af.mil](mailto:ecpd.src.@us.af.mil).

The Civilian Development Resource Center is a great resource for those seeking no-cost professional development delivered via a flexible platform thus returning valuable time to the user. You may access the CDRC from the AF Portal. At the Portal Main Page, select the "Life and Career" tab followed by the "Force Development" pull down. On the left navigation, select "Supervisor Resource Center." This link is expected to change to "Civilian Development Resource Center" in the near future. Spend some time exploring the many resources available via the site.

– Courtesy 78th Force Support Squadron Formal Training Section.

## Robins Airman named AFSC NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Dominique Williams-Harrington, 78th Air Base Wing network infrastructure technician, was presented the Air Force Sustainment Center Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award by Col. Christopher Hill, 78th ABW commander, during a ceremony Thursday.

Williams-Harrington is credited with many outstanding job performances including managing a \$286 million network supporting six major commands. He also responded to a \$10 million Independent Telecommunications Network outage, recovering 356 network devices

in 47 buildings all with zero mission impact to 4,000 users.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield, AFSC commander, sent out a note of thanks to all of the nominees.

"I want to congratulate our Air Force Sustainment Center annual military award winners," he wrote. "These high performers have gone above and beyond what's been asked of them in supporting their fellow warfighters. A personal 'thank you' goes out to each and every one of the nominees."



### Congratulations to the following Team Robins 2013 fourth quarter awards winners:

- ▶ Airman of the Quarter – Senior Airman Stevie Wakes, WR-ALC
- ▶ NCO of the Quarter – Tech. Sgt. Alison McMahan, 5th CCG
- ▶ SNCO of the Quarter – Master Sgt. Jeremy Lindner, 461st ACW
- ▶ CGO of the Quarter – 1st Lt. Casey Hong, 5th CCG
- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 1 – Kimberly Belisle, 78th ABW
- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 2 – Laraina Jordan, 78th ABW

- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 3 – Lisa Hardegree, WR-ALC
- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 4 – Gnester Brown, Jr., 78th ABW
- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 5 – Timothy Howard, WR-ALC
- ▶ Civilian of the Quarter Cat. 6 – Waymond Smith, WR-ALC

**Editor's note:** *The 2013 Team Robins Annual Awards Ceremony will be conducted March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar. Sign up with your unit ticket POC by Thursday.*

### SE&TM awards

Congratulations to the following 2014 Robins Science, Engineering and Technical Management Award winners:

▶ **Junior Military Engineer:**

1st Lt. Eric Yerly, C-130 Tactical Airlift Division

▶ **Mid-Career Military Engineer:**

Capt. Rich Hanberg, Special Operations Forces and Personnel Recovery Division

▶ **Junior Civilian Scientist and Engineer:**

James Knight, Electronic Warfare and Avionics Division

▶ **Mid-Career Civilian Engineer:**

Rob Frisch, 402nd Software Maintenance Group

▶ **Senior Civilian Scientist and Engineer:**

John Soltis, Special Operation Forces and Personnel Recovery Division

▶ **Chief Engineer:**

Russ Alford, C-5 Galaxy Division

▶ **Career Achievement:**

Mike Fisher, C-130 Tactical Airlift Division

▶ **Technical Management:**

Joey Godwin, 402nd Software

Maintenance Group

▶ **Technical Management Team:**

C-130 Mechanical Systems Team, C-130 Tactical Airlift Division

▶ **Engineering Technician:**

Chris Carlton, C-5 Galaxy Division

▶ **Support:**

Don Foran, 402nd Software

Maintenance Group

▶ **Outstanding Scientist Team**

**Award:** SDC-DATSA Rehost Team,

402nd Software Maintenance Group

▶ **Workforce Development:**

Scientist and Engineer Training Overhaul Team,

Air Force Research Laboratory

▶ **Engineering Achievement Excellence:**

ATE/TPS Hardware Cell Team,

402nd Software Maintenance Group

▶ **Engineering Ingenuity:**

Troy Andrews, 638th Supply

Chain Management Group

▶ **Apex Award for Overall Excellence in**

**Engineering and Technical Management:**

Capt. Rich Hanberg, Special Operations Forces

and Personnel Recovery Division

### Annual Dixie Crow Symposium

The 39th Annual Dixie Crow Technical Symposium will be at the Museum of Aviation March 23 through 27.

The theme for this year's free electronic warfare/information operations trade show is "21st Century Mission Success through ISR & Legacy EW Integration."

For a full schedule of events, visit [www.crows.org/chapters/dixie-crow-symposium.html](http://www.crows.org/chapters/dixie-crow-symposium.html).

For more information, contact Lisa Frugé-Cirilli, symposium chairman, at 478-750-4756 or by email at [Lisa.Fruga@baesystems.com](mailto:Lisa.Fruga@baesystems.com).

## ALL in a Day's WORK



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

**Name:** Maj. Raied Egran

**Work title:** Royal Saudi Air Force liaison officer

**Hometown:** Abha, Saudi Arabia

**Number of years in federal service:** 3.5 at Robins

**What does your work involve?** "I serve as the liaison between the U.S. Air Force and RSAF F-15 and C-130 programs. I meet regularly with staff from the U.S. Air Force and various repair sources in the U.S. to help RSAF solve logistics supply and TCG problems faced by the RSAF."

**How does your work contribute to the Robins mission?** "RSAF is one of the largest foreign military customers of the Air Force. We assist the Robins mission by providing several employment opportunities for strong workers both in the U.S. and in Saudi Arabia."

**What do you enjoy most about your work?** "Since early in my military career, I have noticed the strong connection between the Saudi and United States governments. In my current position, I have the opportunity to support this cooperative relationship. I also enjoy the time I've shared

with a great team of people here at Robins, both USAF and from my fellow foreign liaison officers. I have learned from their particular viewpoints and experiences, and achieved a broader understanding of global F-15 logistics."

**What prompted your interest in your current career field?** "I have had a very strong interest in the field of logistics and supply ever since I made the decision to join my country's military."

**Who has been the biggest influence in your life?** "My father, who was responsible for nurturing my very tenacious work ethic. Without his guidance, I feel I would not have been nearly as successful in life."

**What is the accomplishment you are most proud of?** "Being selected for the position I currently hold is one of the proudest moments of my life. Also, earning a master's degree with a concentration in logistics and supply chain management from Georgia College, while continuing my assigned duties as a liaison officer and being an active husband and father with three wonderful children is perhaps my best accomplishment."

## LAB

Continued from 1A

The EFA lab has been solving seemingly unfixable electronics problems at Robins since 1990 and remains one of only a few in the entire Air Force.

Having the lab on base also serves to provide greater efficiency and convenience, keeping the shops from having to send work to outside labs for assistance.

“And we’re well-equipped for the specifics of our area,” said Bird, “whereas an outside lab might do all sorts of different projects.”

One growing issue is manufacturers sending the wrong parts or even counterfeit parts, according to Bird.

Though most parts sent to the EFA lab derive from the 402nd maintenance shops, it also receives projects from around the

base; at times, projects from other bases are sent here for analysis as well.

If this work sounds complicated, it’s because it is. If it sounds dull, considering the consequences of what might happen if this faulty equipment were not analyzed by the lab may change that perception.

Bird recalled the corroded power supply belonging to a missile system located in South Korea, just one example of how an overlooked component – no matter how small – can be disastrous.

“The system had fired unintentionally,” said Bird. “When we got the power supply here, we were able to pinpoint the reason for the short circuit and make recommendations on how the system could be modified.”

Though this system reached the lab after the misfire, the engineers

were able to use the lesson for preventive measures.

“As a result of them identifying such problems, the Air Force can make checks on the rest of our fleet to prevent future mishaps,” said Jonathan Davis, 402nd Electronics Maintenance Support Squadron supervisor.

The tools of the trade include a scanning electron microscope capable of magnifying samples up to 100,000 times their size, X-rays, several standard optical microscopes and infrared cameras among other pieces of sophisticated equipment.

The workload varies greatly in complexity; some projects can take weeks or months to analyze while some are turned around in less than a day, according to Bird.

“It just depends on what the project is and how complicated it is,” he said. “We stay pretty busy.”

## ATCT

Continued from 1

“As they progress in training, scenarios become more complex,” said Harvey. “While this is an outstanding tool, it only gets you to a certain level – the rest you have to learn upstairs in live traffic.”

Trainees typically start in flight data; learning the functions of the complex local control position takes longest. On average it takes about a year to receive control tower operators certification.

Robins Tower typically averages four to six trainees per year. The current training load is high, with 10 trainees now; two more are

inbound in March.

Classroom training is also incorporated, which includes memorizing the airfield environment, runway, taxiways, types of aircraft here, common emergencies encountered, multiple frequencies and air traffic patterns.

Robins Tower controls anywhere from 22,000 to 24,000 aircraft operations annually. While the base doesn’t have as high a volume of traffic as others, operations can be complex. Macon airport is three miles to the north and close coordination with its tower is essential; transient aircraft and civilian pilots from other local airports also like to fly through the Robins airspace.

“What also makes

Robins complex is the various sizes and speeds of the aircraft we control,” said Harvey. “We have everything from a heavy C-5 to a small UH-1 helicopter, and mix them with fighters that fly two to three times faster.”

Take into consideration the Aero Club’s smaller aircraft, and trainees have a host of weight categories they take into account while controlling traffic.

The simulator also performs additional roles. Harvey can download scenarios that simulate conditions in Iraq or Afghanistan, further preparing members before they deploy. And if someone is getting ready to leave for another base, he or she can load that base’s air traffic environment.

# Around the Air Force

## Shelton announces new space situational awareness satellite program

**ORLANDO, FLA. (AFNS)** – The commander of Air Force Space Command announced a new satellite program during a speech Feb. 21 about the importance of space and cyberspace at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium and Technology exposition here.

Gen. William Shelton told the audience about the new Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program with two satellites being launched on the same vehicle later this year.

“GSSAP will present a significant improvement in space object surveillance, not only for better collision avoidance, but also for detecting threats,” Shelton said. “GSSAP will bolster our ability to discern when adversaries attempt to avoid detection and to discover capabilities they may have, which might be harmful to our critical assets at these higher altitudes.”

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## Airmen, soldiers to provide medical care to thousands of Belizeans during New Horizons 2014

**DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZ. (AFNS)** – Airmen and Soldiers from Air Forces Southern, the 355th Medical Group and the 349th Combat Support Hospital here readied medical personnel, packed supplies and shipped medical equipment that will be used in treating thousands of patients in support of their upcoming deployment to Belize for New Horizons 2014.

“We are so incredibly grateful to the Belizean government for all of the exceptional support they provided in the planning of this exercise, and we look forward to once again joining forces on the ground in a few short weeks,” said Lt. Col. James Smith, the 12th Air Force (AFSOUTH) deputy command surgeon.

During last year’s exercise in Belize, Air Force and Army medical teams worked side by side with Canadian doctors, the Ministry of Health in Belize, as well as Belizean doctors and medical personnel to provide care for more than 14,828 Belizeans during the medical readiness training exercises, or MEDRETES.

A group of highly-skilled professional medical personnel will soon come together once again to provide routine and essential medical treatment to more than 15,000 Belizeans.”

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## U.S. joint capabilities support Thai partners

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA (AFNS)** – The 3rd Wing validated its joint and combined capabilities this week when five C-17 Globemaster III left Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for Thailand to airdrop paratroopers from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, to the joint and combined exercise Cobra Gold 2014.

Cobra Gold, an annual exercise providing tactical, humanitarian and civil assistance, brings together multiple nations cooperating in areas of common interest to



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JOSHUA KLEINHOLZ

## Night flight

Senior Airman Aljon Alfonso, a 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, performs pre-flight checks before his assigned F-15E Strike Eagle heads out for a night training mission during Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Night missions have been integrated into Red Flag to prepare pilots and aircrews for missions in low-light environments.

support the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

“This is the 33rd iteration of Cobra Gold and as we look at the U.S. continuing to partner with our Pacific allies, Thailand in particular, this exercise is what makes it happen,” said Army Capt. Zachary Miller, the future operations planner for Cobra Gold.

“From the top down, this exercise was important to demonstrate to the Thai allies, our friendship and U.S. security cooperation,” said Col. Tony Schenk, the mission commander from the 437th Operations Group at Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

The Air Force and Army planners started working in October to execute the mission, Schenk said.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## Airmen can ‘chat’ live via myPers for personnel support

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS** – Air Force Personnel officials have implemented a live chat capability on the myPers website to allow real-time communication between Airmen and personnel specialists.

Launched in 2012, myPers represents a shift from primarily face-to-face personnel interaction to a process that enables Airmen to handle their personnel transactions on demand and 24/7, from a military or personal computer using a common access card or login identification and password. In 2013, AFPC added the chat feature to ensure the tools available to Airmen keep pace with emerging commercial technologies.

MyPers provides direct online access to reliable, integrated, secure information and answers, enhancing an Airman’s ability to monitor and manage personnel information, said 2nd Lt. Zachary Newman, the AFPC Transitions Branch support officer.

“The chat feature gives Airmen a fast and convenient way to get answers directly from subject matter experts on specific questions that may not be available on the



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN STEFANKO

## Live fire

Airman 1st Class Austin Ballantine, 2nd Air Support Operations Squadron tactical air control party member, receives instructions during a simulated live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr, Germany. The 435th Air Ground Operations Wing establishes expeditionary airfield operations and communications, and provides theater-wide combat support and training.

website,” he said.

The chat feature comes up automatically when members search for key topics like retirement, separation or retraining. Force management is not a topic that generates a chat but Airmen can ask about related questions during a retirements or separations chat.

To read more, visit [www.acc.af.mil](http://www.acc.af.mil).

## Air Force news

# Taking care of Airmen, future roadmap key to AF success

BY RICH LAMANCE

Air Force News Service

**ORLANDO (AFNS)** – Getting top performing Airmen promoted sooner, changing the EPR system, streamlining the enlisted and officer professional education programs and developing a roadmap for the Air Force for the next three decades were some of the topics discussed by the Air Force’s top officer during the 30th annual Air Force Association Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition Feb. 20.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh spoke to an audience of Airmen, members of industry and AFA, providing an update on Air Force issues that ranged from fiscal realities over the upcoming decades to come to aircraft and equipment modernization to issues affecting Airmen today and in the future.

Welsh spoke to Airmen directly about several myths and misconceptions floating throughout the Air Force on the issue of education requirements, both private and professional. He emphasized the having a Community College of the Air Force degree will still be a requirement, but the requirement for bachelor’s degrees and higher will be revised in the years ahead.

For professional military education, he said the current schools aren’t going away, but there will be streamlined versions. “On the right hand side of the page, we’re still going to require Airman Leadership School, we’re still going to have the NCO Academy and the Senior NCO Academy,” said Welsh.

“The only difference is that the NCO Academy and



U.S. Air Force photo by SCOTT ASH

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III delivers his keynote speech Feb. 20, at the 30th Annual AFA Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition in Orlando, Fla. Welsh talked about focusing on the mission, developing and celebrating Airmen, strengthening and embracing partnerships, and living our core values.**

the Senior NCO Academy are going to be blended learning in the future. We’re already doing the beta test on the Senior NCO Academy, and requiring the correspondence course before residency. It will actually shrink the length of the residence course, and it will not repeat the lessons found on the online version. It’s not a CBT type of learning. It’s more involved than that. So, that will be tested this fall, and we’ll go fully operational next spring.”

Welsh said that Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Cody and the MAJCOM chiefs are also looking into the effectiveness of the current EPR, with a primary

focus on Airmen promotion into the senior NCO ranks.

“Let me tell you the guidance I gave him that started all this. I told them I was concerned that a really average tech sergeant can make master sergeant at the same time as a phenomenal tech sergeant. I was concerned that the reality is that your job performance doesn’t have anything to do with it.

“As long as you don’t shoot yourself in the foot, you’re going to get a 5 EPR and it will be WAPS testing and time in service and time in grade that makes the difference. RAND did a study for us that showed a 1.4 or 1.6 percent difference, that’s the impact of your performance when making master sergeant. There’s something wrong with that.”

Fundamentally Welsh said “I want our best tech sergeants to make master sergeant first. There needs to be logical time in service, time in grade requirements, but we need our best performers to be senior NCOs faster so we can use them longer to lead our Air Force. And I don’t know any master sergeant who wouldn’t agree with that. That doesn’t mean we haven’t had qualified people in the past get promoted, it means our best people aren’t moving forward quicker.”

Welsh said that during a mock board held last year, overseen by Cody, there was about a 25 percent difference between who was promoted by the mock board, handled more like a senior master sergeant board, where records are scored, and weighting is based upon job performance versus how the traditional board turned out.

– To read the full story, visit

[www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/47339](http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/47339).

## ROBINS REV-UP

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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

They should be e-mailed to [lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil) and [vance.janes@us.af.mil](mailto: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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To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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# From the Command Down

## AFLCMC commander outlines new focus areas

BY LT. GEN. C.D. MOORE II

Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commander

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – Last fall the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center leadership team from across the country assembled at a strategic offsite with the purpose of assessing progress in delivering on “the revolution in acquisition and product support.”



Moore

Building on our tremendous progress since the organization’s inception in 2012, we’ve set six new focus areas for the coming year.

Those areas are central to our organization’s purpose and our support for the Air Force mission: To fly, fight, and win ... in air, space and cyberspace.

In short, it’s our center’s responsibility to deliver the most cost-effective capabilities to meet our national security needs, and the 2014 focus areas to ensure AFLCMC continues building momentum in delivering to its motto: “Providing the warfighter’s edge!”

As the trend in defense spending continues downward for the foreseeable future, it’s essential to plan and execute an aggressive cost reduction strategy across the AFLCMC enterprise.

In the near term, that means application of rigorous “should cost” methodologies affecting nearly every weapon system – many with life cycles spanning decades. By doing that, we’ve already extracted \$2 billion in savings and expect that number to grow appreciably during the year.

In direct correlation to ongoing efforts to reduce life cycle costs, we

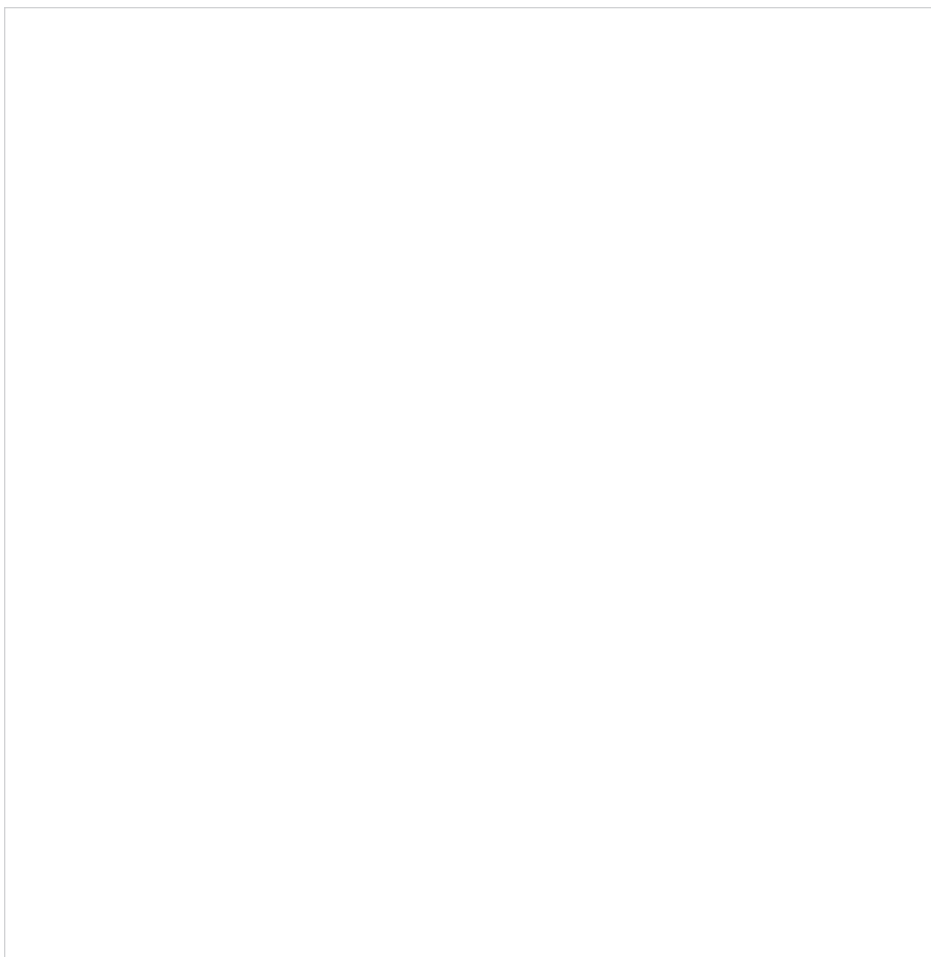
have also established a Product Support Enterprise governance process to help shape new product support strategies and subsequently to drive down weapon system support costs. Here, too, we are having tremendous success.

The next focus area deals with cyber security and mission assurance. Improving the way we support and manage these critical life cycle management responsibilities has far-reaching implications as we work to ensure weapon system connectivity and effectiveness in any environment. Our focus on cyber system security and mission assurance in our design, production, fielding and product support processes is leading to a more resilient and effective system of system capability. The criticality of this mission can’t be overstated.

The next focus area deals with the AFLCMC workforce. Our professional team of civil servants, active duty, guard and reserve personnel, and contractors make it all happen. Recognizing that our center is not growing in numbers, we are focusing on strategic resource management and agile human capital processes. We’re establishing a new way of operating that’s more responsive to growing program demands as we prioritize and align our skilled workforce to deliver capabilities on literally thousands of efforts under our stewardship.

In that light, we’re developing a more flexible way to apply resources for supporting new acquisition efforts and product support responsibilities. We’re taking our objective – right person at the right time – to a new level of flexibility, risk management and resource optimization.

– To read the full story, visit [www.afmc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123400520](http://www.afmc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123400520)



# A Better You



U.S. Air Force file photo

Kelley Denney, Civilian Health Promotion Service registered nurse, checks the blood pressure of Bobby Mosley, a C-130 equipment specialist. The screening was part of a Cardiac Risk Screening at the fitness center annex. The free screening checked employees' blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and body mass index.

## CHPS screenings help Robins keep check on their health

BY HOLLY  
LOGAN-ARRINGTON  
holly.logan-arrington@us.af.mil

With its quick and frequent on-base screenings, the Civilian Health Promotion Service is helping Robins Air Force Base's people make time for their health.

CHPS, an Air Force Materiel Command-wide program since 2005, holds blood pressure screenings in various locations base-wide each week.

While CHPS classes and blood pressure checks are open to Robins' military members and civilians alike, only civil service employees may receive annual cholesterol screenings through the program.

Kelley Denney, CHPS coordinator at Robins, said creating an account on the AFMC Wellness

Web site [www.AFMCwellness.com](http://www.AFMCwellness.com) is one of the best ways to track when CHPS classes and screenings are offered, among other health-related items.

"They create a user ID and password, take the health risk assessment, and then they have their very own account," she said. "With this great wellness support center, persons can log their exercise and their blood pressure and cholesterol measurements.

"The site allows them to track their exercise, learn how many calories they burn doing a particular activity, learn about nutrition and learn about a multitude of other topics to live a healthier, better life."

Free cholesterol screenings will be offered to Defense Department civilians from 8 to 10 a.m. on the following dates

and locations: Wednesday, Base Restaurant, March 13, Fitness Center Annex, March 19, Base Restaurant, and March 26, Fitness Center Annex.

For added convenience, CHPS offers walk-in hours from 8 to 10 a.m. on Mondays, excluding holidays, for quick, individual screenings in Bldg. 207, Room C-119.

Denney said people can also call 497-8030 to schedule organizations for screenings.

"Depending on how many personnel are in your work center, I'll typically schedule a two-hour period," she said.

Denney said CHPS can screen four to five people at a time and is able to test more than 60 people in two hours. It takes only five participants to schedule an organization's screening.

## AFMC promotes chronic pain management awareness

BY GREG CHADWICK  
Air Force Materiel Command  
Wellness Support Center

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – During the month of March, Air Force Materiel Command will promote Chronic Pain Management Awareness. Chronic pain is American's biggest health problem. It affects more individuals than diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined, according to the Institute of Medicine of The National Academies.

Chronic pain is defined as pain that lasts more than three months, or pain that continues when it should not. Examples would include: arthritis, cancer and low back pain. Chronic pain can adversely affect an individual's well-being, and may cause emotional distress with thoughts of fear, despair, and hopelessness.

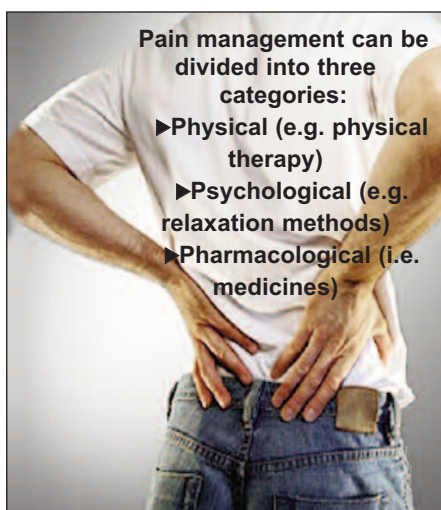
It is important to see a physician as soon as possible when suffering from chronic pain because the condition could worsen if left untreated. The primary goal of pain management is to reduce any disability caused by the pain. Treatment can be divided into three categories:

- ▶Physical (e.g. physical therapy)
- ▶Psychological (e.g. relaxation methods)
- ▶Pharmacological (i.e. medicines)

The treatment of persistent pain may involve one, two or all three of these categories. The use of pain relievers and other medications are the most common methods of treatment.

While medications can help relieve symptoms, there is a risk for some patients to develop dependency or other serious side effects due to misuse or abuse. Prolonged use of opioid (narcotic) pain medications such as oxycodone (OxyContin®) and hydro-morphone (Dilaudid®) increase the possibility of adverse reactions including: gastrointestinal distress, internal organ problems, sexual dysfunction and endocrine problems.

A life threatening side effect is res-



U.S. Air Force photo illustration

piratory depression.

"More people die from overdoses of prescription opioids than from all other drugs combined, including heroin and cocaine," said Steven Callon, Air Force Materiel Command Drug Demand Reduction Manager.

If you or someone you know is struggling with prescription drug dependency or misuse, assistance is available. Civilian employees may contact the Employee Assistance Program for free, confidential counseling services at (800) 222-0364 or visit the EAP website at [www.foh4you.com](http://www.foh4you.com).

Active-duty personnel can contact their local installation Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program, ADAPT, or Primary Care Manager. Military OneSource is another option for military members, spouses and dependents.

For more information, call 1-800-342-9647 or visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Civilian Health Promotion Services will be offering classes on chronic pain management during the month of March. Attendees of the class will receive a self-care handbook on managing pain.

For more information on class times and location, contact your local CHPS team at 497-8030 or visit [www.AFMCwellness.com](http://www.AFMCwellness.com).

# Out and About

FRI 28	SAT 1	SUN 2	MON 3	TUE 4	WED 5	THUR 6
<p><b>ON TAP</b>  <b>Thunder Alley</b>                      Today                      Bowling Center                      Friday Family Night                      12 years and under \$5                      13 years and older \$10                      Includes all the games you                      can bowl in two hours.                      Shoes included.                      For details,                      call 468-2112.</p> <p><b>Lazy Man Ironman</b>                      Monday                      Fitness Center                      Month-long incentive</p>	<p>based program.                      For details,                      call 468-2128.</p> <p><b>PreSeparation Briefing                      (Military retirees)</b>                      Tuesday                      8:30 a.m. to noon                      A&amp;FRC                      This briefing is mandatory                      for all separatees and                      retirees.                      For details,                      call 468-1256.</p> <p><b>Writing a Winning Resume</b>                      Tuesday</p>	<p>9 to 11 a.m.                      A&amp;FRC                      For details,                      call 468-1256.</p> <p><b>UPCOMING</b>  <b>The 14th Annual Travel                      &amp; Recreation Trade Show</b>                      March 20                      10 a.m. to 1 p.m.                      Heritage Ballroom                      Vendors include Universal                      Studios, Wonderworks,                      Panama City Beach                      Convention and Visitors'                      Bureau and more. Prizes will                      be given away.</p>	<p>For details,                      call 468-4001.</p> <p><b>ONGOING</b>  <b>Fit 2 Fight</b>                      Mondays, Wednesdays,                      and Fridays                      11 a.m. to noon                      Fitness Center                      Circuit/Interval Training                      Pre- and post-performance                      evaluations will determine                      success.                      Prizes will be given.                      For details,                      call 468-2128.</p>			

