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hundreds



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ROBINS REV-UP

June 6, 2014 Vol. 59 No.22

Base hosts 'cool' aircraft for global NASA mission

BY JENNY GORDON
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A NASA ER-2 high-altitude research aircraft has been flying from Robins to North Carolina since early May to assist in gathering rainfall measurements.

The ground validation field campaign known as the Integrated Precipitation and Hydrology Experiment is taking place through June 15, and is co-led by NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement mission, in conjunction with Duke University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrometeorological Testbed.

The six-week mission has sent the ER-2, with an aircrew support team of 10, to gather data to help predict weather conditions in mountainous regions, in this case the Appalachians. A routine mission includes the plane flying over thunderstorms in Asheville, where ground radars have been placed to measure rainfall.

"The plane acts as if we're a satellite looking down. We're essentially looking down through thunderstorms, picking up microwave energy which can tell you the temperature and so forth based on the noise

and background of everything," said Tim Williams, a NASA research test pilot. "It's a very cool system."

Many of the same instruments used on the plane are also in use by the GPM mission's Core Observatory satellite, launched last February by NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Once data is collected, it's analyzed, furthering the forecasting of global precipitation and snow.

The aircraft has performed 12 missions to date, with a typical mission lasting about six and a half



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON
Stuart Droce, ER-2 pilot, dons a space pressure suit. These suits can save a pilot's life in case of a loss of cabin pressurization at the aircraft's flying altitude of 65,000 feet.

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NEWS

YOU CAN USE

AFAF Campaign final tally

According to campaign officials, 528 donors raised 88 percent of the Robins 2014 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign goal of \$68,504.

The theme of the campaign, which ran March 24 through May 2 was "Commitment to Caring."

Duck Lake closed until further notice

A broken pipe in Warner Robins on Monday sent sewage into storm drains which pass through the base and, subsequently, the lake.

Base Civil Engineer, Public Health and Bio-Environmental officials are monitoring the situation.

Dash for Trash continues

Dash for Trash, a 60-day initiative, which runs through June 14, is aimed at helping the Robins workforce and the planet by gathering and disposing of unwanted materials and hazardous wastes.

Participating personnel are asked to quantify and categorize any obsolete materials in their workplaces and refer to a list of contacts, which can be found on the Robins home page at www.robins.af.mil, for assistance in discarding the rubble.

When workstations have too much trash or clutter for garbage or recycling containers, these contacts from the 78th Civil Engineer Group will provide directions to a facility to turnover the materials or make other arrangements to have them removed.

Though any trash will be accepted, the cleanup is focused on four targeted categories: General refuse and wood pallets; recyclables; hazardous waste and any unused government equipment such as furniture and computer components.



Relic Restorer

U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Gary Gilbert, electrician, pulls new wiring through the recently updated electrical conduit. After being dormant for many years, the Alert Facility is primed for a new life and mission. The renovation project is a multi-command and multi-agency effort.

Cold War-era alert facility on a new mission

BY JENNY GORDON
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A building that was once part of the former Strategic Air Command's ground alert program at Robins during the Cold War is slowly gaining a new outlook on life.

Renovations are currently being performed in Bldg. 12, located in the alert apron also known as the 'Christmas tree,' named for its resemblance to a herringbone configuration.

Work has been ongoing the last few months and is scheduled to be completed later this year. Demolition is mostly complete and rebuilding of the interior is underway, according to David Trescott, 78th Civil Engineer Group project manager.

The 339th Flight Test Squadron, which performs functional check flights here on Air Force weapon systems, will relocate there from Bldg. 125.

"The 339th Flight Test Squadron is eagerly anticipating our move to Bldg. 12," said Lt. Col. Dan Badia, 339th FLTS commander. "Operating out of Bldg. 12 will consolidate all 339th operations under one roof while complying with AFI space requirements. While we will be isolated from the industrial area, we hope to still maintain an outstanding relationship with the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group."

"The renovation has been a multi-command and multi-agency effort," he said.

Both lower and upper floors involve the replacement of all finishes, as well as removal of several interior partitions, new

roof installation and HVAC replacement.

The lower floor will provide spaces to directly support flight operations, including lockers and restrooms, equipment storage and parachute packing operations, with most of the original spaces being retained.

The upper floor will support the squadron's administrative functions.

It was in these areas where sleeping quarters and full kitchen services were located to support the alert Airmen who were stationed there many years ago.

On watch

When the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) began a buildup of its intercontinental ballistic missile program during the 1950s, the U.S. became

▶ see ALERT, 6

HITTING THE ROAD: Base motorcycle classes prepare summer riders

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Kevan Pierre, DLA Distribution traffic management specialist, cruises down Byron Street on Robins Air Force Base Wednesday.

"Get your motors runnin', head out on the highway."

But first, it's wise to be prepared and to learn from the best right here on base.

The Robins Motorcycle Safety Training program is in its peak season, with anyone born to be wild – or those at least interested in finding out if they are – flocking to the MST Range for classes.

A two-day basic rider course is offered for the novice biker as well as a one-day experienced rider class, BRC-2. The program is working to get instructors certified for an advanced rider course, according to Donald Johnson, senior rider coach for more than a

decade.

Johnson is also the director of the Robins Riders Motorcycle Group, the base's official motorcycle club.

"We're trying to give people a training progression that covers all my riders," he said. "We have different types of riders – sport bike riders, cruisers and sport tours – so we want to make sure we're able to give everybody training all the way up the line."

Requirements for the courses include a base ID, permit and perhaps most importantly, a motorcycle, as they are not provided by Robins.

Johnson said it's imperative that riders learn on his or her own or borrowed motorcycle because problems could arise if students were to learn the basics on a different sized bike than those they would be riding later.

The motorcycle classes take place once monthly and are free of charge to all active duty military personnel, dependents and Robins civilians.

The Motorcycle Safety Training Range – located near the PAVE PAWS radar site – is open for riders at all times unless classes are in session.

One crucial component of the training is the safety rules specific to Robins riders, which are a lot different than they are for "downtown folks," Johnson said, particularly when it comes to clothing.

Under Air Force Instruction, while riding on the installation, sturdy, above-the-ankle footwear, robust pants and long outer garment sleeves are required; a state regulation helmet, eye

▶ see ROAD, 7

Second Front



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

The Georgia Department of Corrections Special Operations Section demonstrates Cell Extraction at Horizons Event Center during the military career fair May 30.

Below, May Wells, Goodwill recruiter, talks with a potential job applicant at the Heritage Ballroom May 30 during the civilian career fair.

Career fairs deemed a success

Nearly 900 job seekers made their way to Robins May 30 where the base played host to two career fairs.

A civilian career fair, in the Heritage Club Ballroom, paired almost 600 job seekers with 32 vendors who in traditional job fair fashion collected resumes and provided general information about their respective organizations.

The military career fair, at the Horizons Event Center, allowed the Georgia Department of Corrections to reach out to more than 270 registrants – mostly military – in a less than traditional manner.

“The Georgia Department of Corrections event was unique in how it was conducted,” said Garret Gordon, Installation POC for both events. “They brought in a team of 180 representatives who collected and screened resumes, gave interviews and were able to offer positions on the spot.”

The organization also set up displays and gave live demonstrations of various areas of the career field including riot formations and cell extractions.

According to Jeffrey Lee, GDC Employment Services Unit manager, his organization completed 74 interviews and offered 47 positions translating to 17 per-



cent of the people who walked through the door leaving with a job offer in hand.

Lee also said they took in an additional 35 resumes and about 40 applications, and a better cross-section of that profile will be available soon as they tally everything up.

“I can say that this has been the best military career fair we have done yet in terms of positions offered to potential employees,” he said.

Although numbers are not currently available for the civilian vendor job offers, Gordon said vendors and job seekers all voiced positive comments about the experience and volunteers from the 78th Force Support Squadron performed exceptionally.

“Overall I think we provided a great service for our civilians, military, retirees and their family members,” he said.

CCAF Spotlight



**Tech. Sgt.
Richard DiMaggio**

UNIT:
16th Airborne Combat
Control Squadron

TIME IN SERVICE:
14 years, 8 months

HOMETOWN:
New Orleans, LA

CCAF DEGREE:
Aviation Operations

Who or what motivated you to meet with an education office counselor?

I felt the need for higher education since it can always be used in my Air Force and personal career goals. I am trying to be a role model for my family to inspire them to attain higher education as well.

How did you go about pursuing your Community College of the Air Force degree?

CLEP, DANTES and traditional classes assisted me in obtaining all of my education goals including my CCAF degree. It takes discipline and motivation as well.

What are your educational plans now that you have completed your CCAF?

I graduated with my Bachelor's in Business degree on May 31 and I may pursue my Master's in Business in the future.

Editor's note: The Robins CCAF Graduation Ceremony for the October 2013 and April 2014 classes will be June 27 at 3 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar.

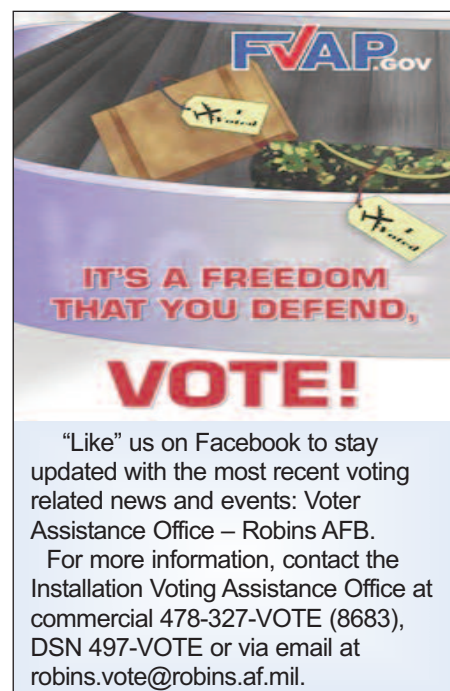
Base VAO offers voting tools, information

Armed Forces Voters Week, June 30 through July 7, reminds Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines to register to vote on time so they may be a part of the election process.

With thousands of local, state and federal positions up for election, AFVW is part of an overall plan to ensure that service members and their families have access to the information and tools they need to vote. The goal of this event is to deliver Federal Post Card Application forms to all unit members and their voting-age family members.

During the week, the Robins Voters Assistance Office and Unit Voting Assistance Officers will participate in local community events and have information tables displayed in various locations throughout the installation. This is a great opportunity for voting officers to meet Airmen and their family members, distribute voting resources and answer general voting questions.

Voters from all 55 states and territories can use the Federal Voting Assistance Program online Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot automated assistant to vote for at least all federal candidates. Voters can also register using an absentee ballot which comes attached with a registration form obtained from the VAO or UVOA.



“Like” us on Facebook to stay updated with the most recent voting related news and events: Voter Assistance Office – Robins AFB. For more information, contact the Installation Voting Assistance Office at commercial 478-327-VOTE (8683), DSN 497-VOTE or via email at robins.vote@robins.af.mil.

The voting program works to ensure service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so – from anywhere in the world. It assists voters through partnerships with the Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice and election officials from 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

BAH recertification update

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs

The effort to recertify those Airmen and their families receiving Basic Allowances for Housing is still in effect and on track at Robins with nearly a 45 percent completion rate thus far.

As of Monday 1,343 BAH recipients had been recertified out of nearly 3,000 who needed to still do so, according to Jeffrey McClain, 78th Comptroller Squadron Financial Management chief.

“We’re doing well only two months into the process, to be almost halfway complete,” he said. “But we can’t emphasize enough the importance of getting this done, that everyone affected by this initiative get in here and recertify.”

Airmen may visit the FSO offices to recertify or Bldg. 905 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each Monday.

Certifiers from the 78th CSFSO visited each unit in March in order to ease office foot traffic and parking woes, as well as make the process easier for BAH Airmen, thus marking the first time recer-

tification has been carried out en masse.

McClain said FSO is currently working with first sergeants to plan a second visit to the units in the hopes of recertifying the remaining individuals.

This one-time recertification concerns the with-dependent rate entitlement of BAH, which includes military members married to civilian spouses and any children or parents claimed as dependents.

The goal is to have all Airmen and their families who are affected to be recertified by September, McClain said.

Next month, those whose documents still haven’t been recertified will be notified via email and required to deliver the paperwork to the FSO within 30 days.

Recipients who fail to respond within that time period will have their BAH reduced to a single, without-dependent rate, which would be restarted based on the date they recertify, said McClain.

“We certainly don’t want to have to reduce anyone’s BAH unnecessarily,” he said. “But it’s important that they have to get over here and recertify.”



Live icon on a desktop near you

A Helping Agencies Icon debuted May 30 to most government computers here. Computer users who didn’t receive the icon, or who want to view it from off base can access the icon at www.robins.af.mil

The icon provides Team Robins members one-click access to a list of helping agencies including the services they offer and contact information for each. The list also contains direct links to a number of

associated websites and brochures.

The icon is a collaborative effort between the 78th Medical Group, 78th Communications Directorate and Installation Public Affairs Office.

Conference Center closure

The Robins Conference Center will be closed Saturday through June 29 to have the roof replaced.

The center’s staff will contact affected organizations and offer the opportunity to reschedule at a later date or to provide a list of alternative sites which may be available.

The closure is a must due to safety concerns where falling debris could occur during demolition and installation.

Around the Air Force

Nuclear deterrence medal approved for total force Airmen

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – The Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, approved Tuesday by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James, is among several incentives focused on attracting and retaining high-caliber Airmen in the nuclear mission, Air Force Personnel Center officials said May 30.

The medal, intended to recognize Airmen dedicated to national strategic nuclear deterrence objectives, may be awarded to eligible active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Airmen.

Eligibility criteria and submission instructions are under review and being finalized by Air Staff and AFPC personnel specialists and will be available following leadership approval.

For more information about Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Air Force mental health programs encourage seeking help

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The number of Airmen seeking mental health care has increased over the last five years – and this is a trend Air Force leaders encourage, according to a lead psychiatrist with the Air Force Surgeon General office.

A mental health encounters report issued by the Air Force Medical Operations Agency noted that the number of mental health appointments scheduled by Airmen rose from 18,858 in 2008 to 33,274 in 2013.

“Since 2008, we’ve seen a gradual rise in the number of mental health visits for active duty, both in the Military Treatment Facilities and in purchased care – and we consider this positive news,” said Col. (Dr.) John Forbes, the director of psychological health, Air Force Medical Support Agency in Falls Church, Virginia. “There are likely many reasons for this increase such as more availability of providers, better access, reduced perception of stigma, acceptability of evidence-based treatments, and need.”

Forbes said the stresses of deployment and ops tempo could be driving the need for care, but those types of problems represent the minority of issues leading people to seek mental health care in the Air Force. He said rates of Post-Traumatic Stress and depression have both remained at less than about 1 percent of the active duty population.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

AF posts fiscal 2014/15 voluntary force management program updates

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – Air Force officials have posted updated personnel system delivery memos for fiscal year 2014/2015 voluntary force management programs, Air Force Personnel Center officials said recently.

The PSDM 13-64 describes enlisted program



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. NADINE BARCLAY

Combat Hammer

Airman 1st Class Steven (left) and Airman 1st Class Taylor, 432nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron MQ-9 Reaper crew chiefs, prepare an MQ-9 Reaper for flight during exercise Combat Hammer, May 15, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. Reaper crews flew a week-long mission, where they released the GBU-12 Paveway II and AGM-114 Hellfire munitions.

updates, including updated provisions regarding Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit transfer recoupment requirements, limited active duty service commitment and Palace Chase program updates and updated ADSC waiver tables. It also clarifies and updates the application window and retirement or separation dates for the enlisted voluntary programs, and for Airmen assigned overseas.

The PSDM 13-65 describes officer program updates, including an updated ADSC waiver table, application window and mandatory separation and retirement dates for those approved for retirement or separation through the voluntary programs, and clarification on Air Reserve component programs.

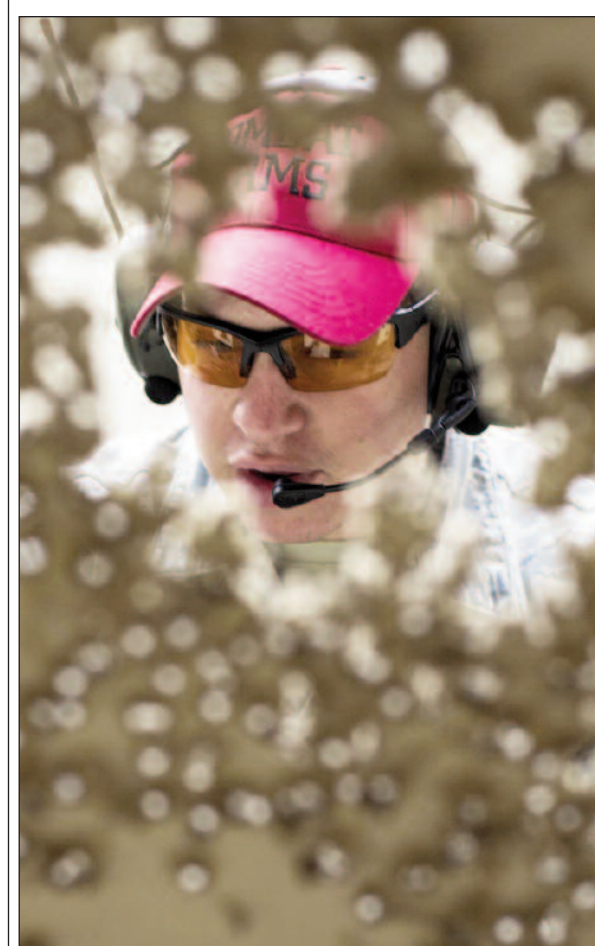
To read more, visit www.afpc.af.mil.

Permissive TDY allowed for voluntary force management separation

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – Airmen who separate under voluntary and involuntary force management programs may be eligible for permissive temporary duty.

Airmen should check their separation orders to ensure the statement is included in the remarks block. The statement should read “Member separating voluntarily under Force Management program and may be eligible for PTDY according DODI 1327.06. SPD Code may not convey this benefit; however, MPS is authorized to permit.”

An SPD code identifies entitlements and benefits associated with types of separations. The benefit is new for voluntary FM separations and a new SPD code is being developed. In the interim, a statement is added to the separations orders. “If you’re separating under a voluntary force management program and your orders do not include that statement, please contact the Total Force Service Center to get your orders corrected,” said Lt. Col. Rick Garcia, AFPC separations and retirements chief.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RYAN CALLAHAN

On target

Senior Airman Donald Bacha, a 23rd Security Forces Squadron combat arms training and maintenance instructor checks a target during M4 carbine qualifications at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Airmen attempting to qualify on the M4 carbine fired a total of 196 shots.

A look back

Allied air forces paved way for D-Day

BY STAFF SGT. RYAN CRANE

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS) – The mention of “D-Day” conjures iconic images of men storming a beach riddled with barbed wire, smoke and craters created by German mortar batteries; of men advancing toward machine gun nests and acts of heroism as they made their way inland to secure a foothold in mainland Europe.

However, without the efforts made by the allied air campaign in the months prior, D-Day would have never been possible.

“The Allies disrupted aircraft production,” said Billy Harris, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa historian, “but more importantly, they inflicted severe losses on the Luftwaffe in air-to-air combat as it tried to defend the factories. Allies also hit airfields within 350 miles of the beachhead with 6,700 tons of bombs, and the Germans withdrew many of their fighters to protect Germany.”

The figure of 127 downed Allied aircraft during the battle of Normandy may pale in comparison to the estimated 10,000 Allied casualties from the ground, but the casualties surely would have been much higher had they not conducted such a successful air campaign in the months prior.

The planning for D-Day, dubbed “Overlord,” began more than two years prior when the Combined Chiefs of Staff approved the general invasion plan

Museum of Aviation exhibit

In remembrance of D-Day, the Museum of Aviation is inviting visitors to come walk through its D-Day exhibit this weekend.

The interactive exhibit, which opened to the public in 2008, tells the story of the 507th parachute infantry regiment, the 61st and 442nd Troop Carrier Groups that ferried them to Normandy and the 325th Glider Regiment that fought alongside them.

The exhibit includes a re-creation of the planning room used by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and leaders of the allied forces, an actual C-47 aircraft fuselage with its skin cutaway to see paratroopers ready to drop into France, a room full of artifacts from D-Day and a small theater which shows two films: a documentary on the 507th and an award winning special 20-minute dramatic film created for the Museum of Aviation called “Papa Said – We Should Never Forget.”

The museum and the exhibit are free to the public and open every day including weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 478-926-6870.

that would ultimately be carried out by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who took over as the commander of the European theater just a few months prior to the invasion.

From the beginning of planning it was recognized that the air component to the invasion was going to

be critical. From experience, the Allies knew facing an air adversary over the battlefield was not going to be successful, so they planned on crippling the Luftwaffe in strategic stages leading up to the invasion.

The Allies had the perfect combination of warfighting planes to deal a devastating blow to the German air arsenal.

“Both the P-47 and P-51 were veritable workhorses during the war,” Harris said. “The sleek, highly maneuverable P-51 proved ideal for long range escort missions and an equal match to the Luftwaffe’s fighters. Pilots who flew it praised its maneuverability and visibility during close order engagements with enemy fighters.

“The heavier P-47, also capable of short and medium-range escort and formidable foe during dog-fights, proved ideal during interdiction missions,” he said. “Capable of carrying half the bomb load of a B-17, the P-47 Thunderbolts of (the) Ninth Air Force inflicted significant damage on enemy ground forces throughout the Normandy campaign.”

The air campaign had three stages: disable the Luftwaffe; cut off main supply roads; and once the invasion began, focus on battle field interdiction and close air support.

To read the full story, visit www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/485137

ROBINS REV-UP

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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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ALERT

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more vigilant in ensuring American interests were protected both here and abroad.

A student of history can appreciate the significance of worldwide events of more than 60 years ago, including its contribution leading to the construction of Bldg. 12 and the compound that surrounds it, which included supporting structures as well as the alert aircraft apron.

The building and alert apron's mission back in the day was its role in supporting the military's ground alert program with both B-52s and KC-135 aircraft on station.

According to the 78th Air Base Wing History Office, Robins was one of 65 Air Force installations supporting the SAC ground alert program.

Workers began construction on the Robins facilities to be used by SAC in 1957-1958.

B-52 aircraft began arriving at Robins in February 1959, via the 4137th Strategic Wing.

The SAC alert compound included the standard 70-man crew readiness facility – known as Bldg. 12 – and its associated herringbone alert apron next door.

“The alert facility included billeting, space rotations with living quarters for Airmen who participated in exercises in preparation for real-world scenarios,” said Bill Head, Robins historian.

For example, the 4137th SW went on high alert during the Cuban missile crisis during October 1962, with eight B-52s on ground alert, and stayed on alert at Robins until early 1963 when it was then redesignated the 465th Bombardment Wing, according to archives.

On the eight-to-nine alert apron configuration, its design was one of two standard designs used for SAC alert aprons during the late 1950s, measuring 2,000 feet long and covering 31 acres.

There were three of these special aircraft parking areas, or Christmas tree alert aprons constructed in Georgia during that time; the other two were at

Turner AFB in Albany, and Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, according to the history office.

Turner's apron has been demolished, while the other has been modified from its original design. Robins' alert apron remains intact.

Other facilities in use as part of the ground alert program here included the B-52 and KC-135 nose docks, Bldgs. 2067 and 2081; a munitions storage area that included nuclear munitions storage igloos, Bldgs. 94, 97, 98, 105 and 106; and an administration facility, Bldg. 107.

SAC alert

SAC was established in March 1946. With Russia's marked progress in developing intercontinental ballistic missiles, SAC had been “planning for the day when its aircraft would have only 15 minutes in which to become airborne after detecting an ICMB attack,” as described in “The Development of Strategic Air Command” from the Office of the Historian at Headquarters SAC, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

The belief at the time was that in order to safeguard nuclear deterrence, SAC bombers and tankers would be placed on “alert with weapons loaded and crews ready for immediate takeoff.”

The goal was to place one-third of the command's aircraft on ground alert at all times, in order for ready and immediate retaliatory response due to any Soviet aggression, according to Offutt's “SAC and the Alert Program: A Brief History.”

According to records, in November 1957, Gen. Thomas Power, then SAC commander-in-chief, informed the press that SAC had “aircraft at the end of runways, bombs loaded, and crews nearby ready to take off within 15 minutes.”

It was described that there were 1,528 bombers and 766 tankers that were on alert in 1957, with the goal of 33 percent of SAC aircraft on alert by 1960.

At Robins, following the Cuban Missile Crisis, the 4137th SW stayed on alert at Robins until 1963 when it was



U.S. Air Force file photo
B-52 aircraft began arriving at Robins in February 1959, via the 4137th Strategic Wing. The Alert Facility and alert apron's mission was its role in supporting the military's ground alert program with both B-52s and KC-135 aircraft on station.

redesignated the 465th Bombardment Wing. According to base archives, the 19th Bombardment Wing moved to Robins “without personnel or equipment” in July 1968, absorbing the resources of the 465th BW.

With no more bombing missions, the

wing was redesignated the 19th Air Refueling Wing in October 1983. The unit deactivated in May 2008, becoming the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

After the Cold War ended, SAC was inactivated in 1992.

U.S. Air Force photo by RAY
CRAYTON

A NASA ER-2 high-altitude research aircraft sits on the Robins flight line. The aircraft and crew are gathering data to help predict weather conditions in mountainous regions.



NASA

Continued from 1

hours until its return to base.

Prior to leaving for each flight, test pilots must wear a space pressure suit because the plane flies at an altitude of 65,000 feet. These suits can save a pilot's life in case of a loss of cabin pressurization at that altitude.

The ER-2 maximizes space for equipment use from its pods to even the wing tips. While in the air, the plane carries instruments such as a radiometer that measure frequencies and microwave bands, various radars and a lightning

detector.

This mission will help contribute to advancing the understanding of Earth's water and energy cycles and also extending current capabilities of using satellite precipitation. Campaigns such as these allow scientists to monitor rainfall from a variety of conditions and geographic regions. Past campaigns included 2009 rain studies in Brazil, a 2010 experiment to study high-latitude, cold and light rain in Finland, and the 2012 experiment in Ontario, Canada, to support snowfall measurements.

The ER-2 is one of two aircraft based out of NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, Calif.

ROAD

Continued from 1

protection, and full-fingered gloves must also be worn, as well as a reflective top.

All active duty Airmen must follow these strict guidelines on and off base.

The classes also include an orientation of local roads and hazards unique to the areas surrounding Robins and training of the proper mindset involved with operating a motorcycle.

"We try to instill in them that it's not just about their lives, but that their lives affect a lot of other people," said Johnson. "For a lot of people, when they recognize that fact, they change their ways of riding."

Class sizes are based on the number of rider coaches – all volunteers – available. Each coach is limited to six students for full-sized ranges like the one at Robins. There are current-

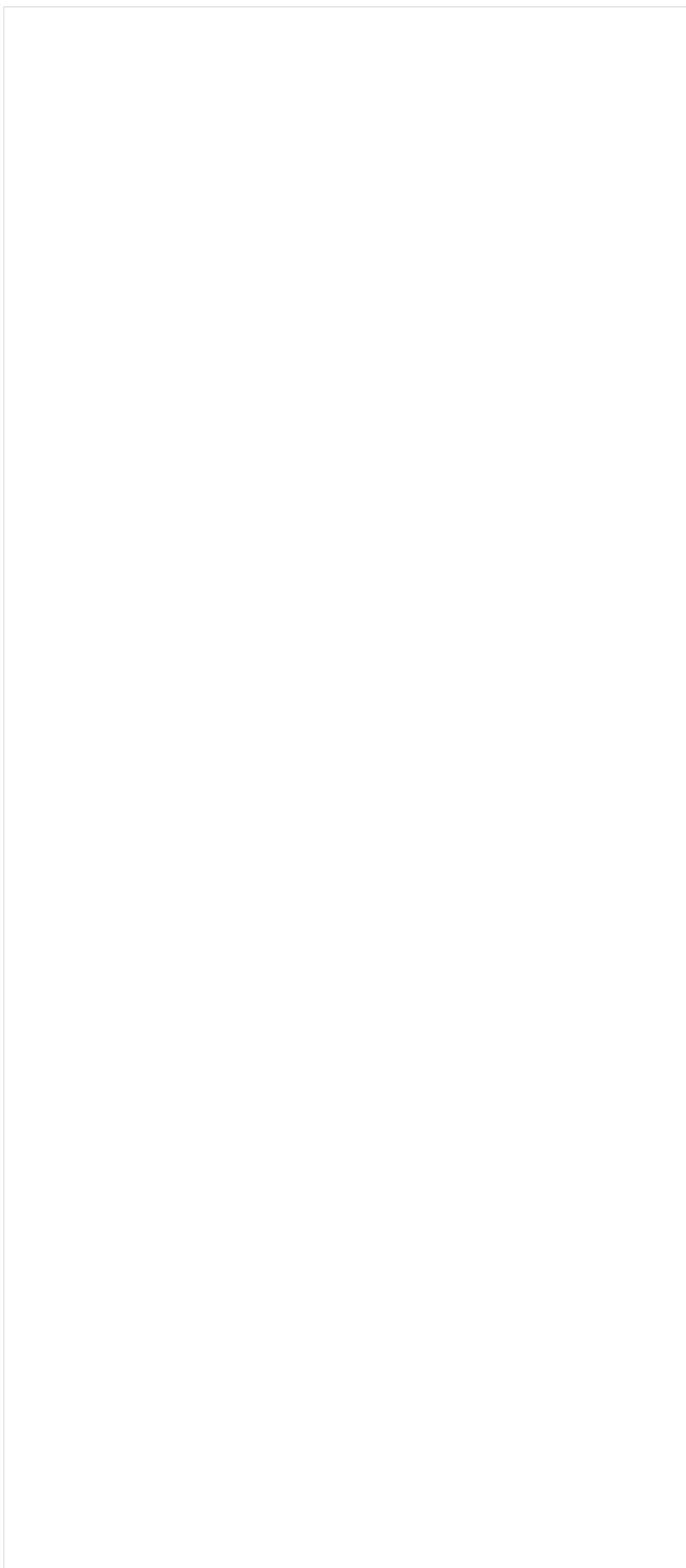
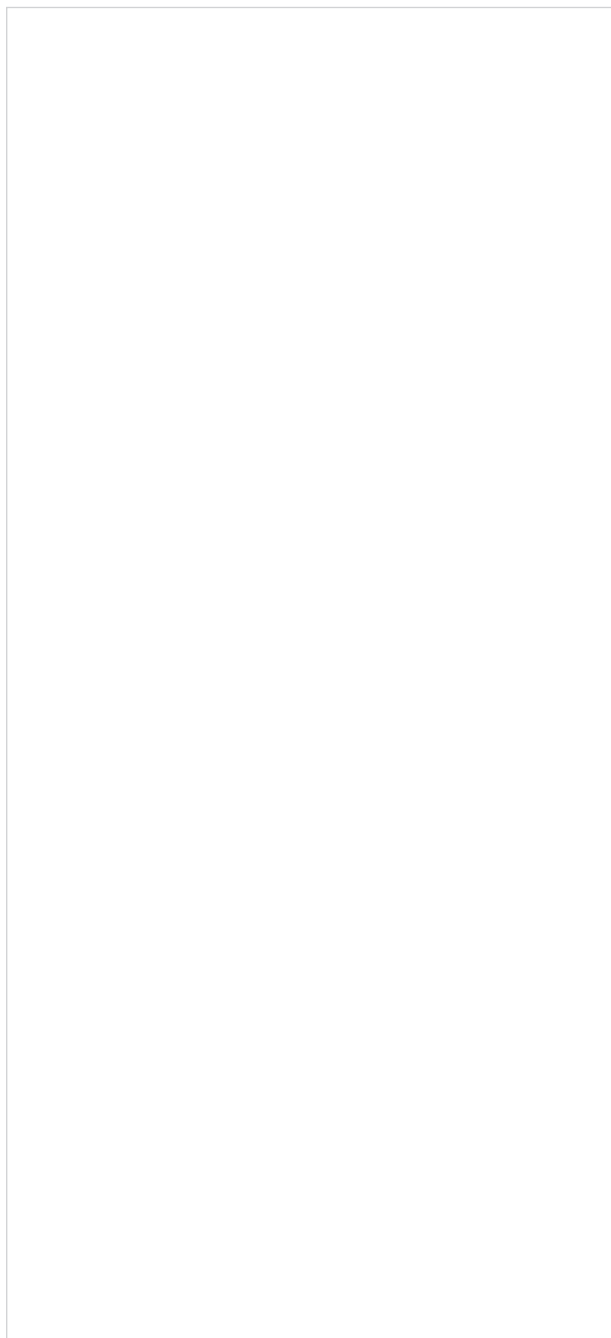
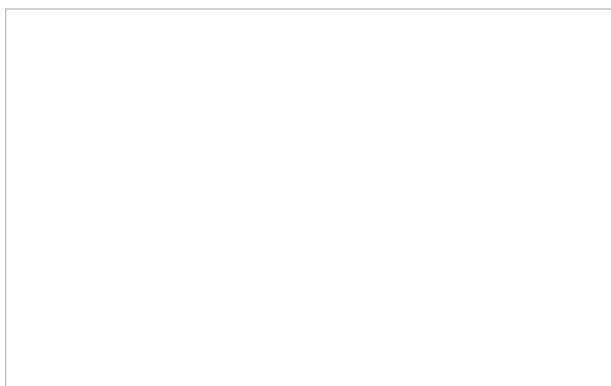
ly 12 rider coaches teaching the courses.

Johnson added that a primary incentive for motorcyclists receiving their training at Robins is that they save a lot of money while acquiring more experience than they would taking required courses off base.

"Downtown, it's going to cost you \$250 to take a basic riding class. If you take it here on this installation, you pay nothing. You then pay \$10 to take the road test, and you're done," he said. "And here we teach the same classes, but we teach a lot more because we're allowed to do a lot more and because we have to follow the curriculum more closely."

This month, Robins motorcycle training will be June 19 through 20. Those interested may sign up via the Robins home page at www.robins.af.mil, or by visiting the 78th Air Base Wing Safety Office, in Bldg. 215.

USE YOUR WITS NOT YOUR WATTS



A Better You

Have medical questions? Call TRICARE Nurse Advice Line

BY 78TH
MEDICAL GROUP



Sometimes it is difficult to know if and when to seek medical help for acute health problems, so having professional help at a moment's notice is invaluable.

The Military Health System's new Nurse Advice Line for TRICARE beneficiaries does just that. As of May 16, TRICARE beneficiaries enrolled at Robins can call the NAL toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The NAL is a team of registered nurses who are available to answer a variety of urgent healthcare questions. They can help you decide whether self-care is the best option, or if it is better to see a healthcare provider. There will always be a live-person on the line to address beneficiary concerns.

The NAL offers a variety of solutions for all

TRICARE beneficiaries.

For pediatric issues, the NAL will route the beneficiary to a pediatric nurse. If follow-up is necessary or requested, the NAL will call the beneficiary back to check the child's status a few hours later.

The NAL will make same-day appointments with the beneficiary's primary care manager for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who are enrolled to Military Treatment Facilities. If a same day appointment is not available, the NAL will redirect the beneficiary to the closest urgent care center, and advise the PCM that an urgent care referral is needed so the patient does not have to worry about paying any point of service co-pays. All other

TRICARE beneficiaries who are not enrolled to a MTF will receive professional health advice about their urgent health concern and when to seek urgent care.

When calling the NAL, a customer service representative will verify the beneficiary's eligibility through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System. Beneficiaries with an acute health care concern or question will be connected with a registered nurse who will ask the beneficiary a series of standard questions to determine the next steps and allow the NAL nurse to provide the best advice possible.

Beneficiaries can still call their PCM or clinic, but the NAL is another option for beneficiaries to access the care they need and want in a timely fashion. To access the NAL, dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273); Option 1.

SPLASH: Swimming safety tips

The 101 Critical Days of Summer are here and while more than 90 percent of families with young children will be in the water at some point this summer, almost half plan to swim in a place with no lifeguard. An American Red Cross survey shows almost half the adults surveyed on water safety had an experience where they nearly drowned, and one in four knows someone who has drowned. With so many planning to be in, on or near the water, it's important to follow the basic water safety:

- ▶ Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- ▶ Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.

- ▶ Ensure everyone in the family learns to swim well.

- ▶ Never leave a child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.

- ▶ Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.

- ▶ Know your limits. Don't overextend yourself. Take breaks and don't get fatigued far from shore.

- ▶ Alcohol Impairs. Don't drink and swim.

— Courtesy Air Force Safety Center

Out and About

THINK OPSEC: PROTECT VITAL INFORMATION

FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THUR
6 7 8 9 10 11 12

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

Atlanta Braves Game
Sign-up deadline is today
Activity is June 14
Price is \$45
Price includes
transportation and entry
For details,

call 468-4001.

Transition GPS Workshop
Monday through June 13
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
The workshop is skilled
based for members and
spouses who are within 12
months of leaving the military.
For details,
call 468-1256.

Golf Tips from the Pro
Tuesday
5 to 6 p.m.
Pine Oaks Golf Course

Pay \$5 for all the range balls
you can hit and get free tips
from the PGA head golf pro-
fessional.
For details,
call 468-4103.

UPCOMING
Bundles for Babies
June 17
8 a.m. to noon
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
Get the facts on infant care,
nutrition, practical preparation
and other information.
For details,
call 497-9398.

SUMMER CAMPS

Baller's INC. University Basketball Camp - Dates and times are: ages 8-10, Tuesdays and Fridays through July 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 11-13 Mondays and Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.; ages 14-16 Tuesdays and Fridays from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; and ages 17-18 Tuesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30. Cost is \$25.

Missoula Children's Theatre - June 16-20. Auditions for grades 1st through 12th will be June 16. Deadline to sign up is June 13. Fifty to 60 youth will be selected for the production set for June 20

at 2 p.m.

There is no cost to participate.
Donald Wendland's Fundamentals of Soccer - Dates and times are: Ages 5-7 Mondays and Fridays, through July 25, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25.

Ages 8-11 Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 24 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; ages 12-18 Tuesdays and Thursdays, through July 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$35.

British Soccer Camp - July 7-11 Register now through July 2.
For more information, call Linda Cleveland, 78th Force Support Squadron School-Age Program coordinator, at DSN 497-6833 or commercial 478-327-6833.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PIZZA DEPOT



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

Carmelita Donnelly, 78th Force Support Squadron, serves freshly baked pizzas to Elaine Benford, 409th Supply Chain Management Squadron inventory management specialist, and Josh Carney, 409th SCMS item manager at the Pizza Depot's Birthday celebration at Heritage Ballroom Tuesday. The celebration drew numerous attendees, some lined up outside facility door, and the food vendors donated the hot food and desserts to celebrate the annual event. Door prizes were also given out throughout the event.