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ROBINS REV-UP

Oct. 10, 2014 Vol. 59 No.41

Robins - a family in mourning

Three Team J-STARS Airmen confirmed dead following drowning accident in Japan

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs

With all the courage and resilience they are known for, it was proven this week that even the hearts of Team Robins members can be broken.

The bodies of all three Airmen, who had been missing in Okinawa, Japan, following their being swept out to sea by high surf Oct. 5, have been recovered.

And now, Senior Master Sgt. James Swartz, Staff Sgt. Joshua Schoenhoff, and Master Sgt. Daniel Paschal, will make their final journey home to the land they served.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON
Commanders Col. Henry Cyr, left, 461st Air Control Wing, and Col. Kevin Clotfelter, 116th ACW, address media at a press conference in the Museum of Aviation.

What had been days of trickling information regarding their fates, ended with the discovery of Paschal's body Tuesday; Swartz's and Schoenhoff's bodies were

recovered the prior Sunday and Monday respectively.

With the exception of their families, it has been perhaps an especially mournful time for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, J-STARS, team of which the men were members.

The three – on temporary duty at Kadena Air Base, Japan – were on a northwest Okinawa beach with a group of other airmen when the incident occurred. The waves were a result of a typhoon which had passed by the area the day before.

There had been no significant on-shore warning about the dangers posed by the surf as the storm had already moved hundreds of miles north, said Col. Henry Cyr, 461st Air Control Wing commander.

A fourth Robins Airman, whose name has yet to be released, has been hospitalized with non-fatal injuries, he said during a press conference Wednesday at

► see FAMILY, 3

LIGHT It Up



□ New airfield approach lighting system increases flight safety for aircraft operators during landing



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

The \$917,000 replacement approach lighting system is a required visual aid for the instrument landing system at Robins. Airfield management and civil engineering worked diligently with contractors to ensure the new system is fully compliant, sustainable and easy to maintain.

BY JENNY GORDON
jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

When severe weather passed through Robins in June 2013, it damaged several lights which were part of an approach lighting system on the runway's south end.

Since then a \$917,000 replacement project has resulted in a new ALSF-1 approach lighting system. The project, completed by prime contractor MKJV with subcontractor Macon Power performing the electrical work, began April 23 and was completed Sept. 26.

"The approach lighting system is a required visual aid for the instrument landing system at Robins," said 1st Lt. Kayley Squire, Airfield Operations Flight commander. "The project

reinstates requirements for the ILS and, more importantly, increases flight safety for aircraft operators during landing.

"Airfield management and civil engineering worked diligently with contractors to ensure the new system is fully compliant, more sustainable, and easier to maintain," she added.

A team at Robins recently conducted a pre-final inspection of the system. However, it's not considered operational until the Federal Aviation Administration approves it. That inspection is scheduled this week.

If you're down by Hannah Road on your way toward the eastern side of the base, things may look a bit different where the former lighting

► see LIGHT, 7

Base VERA/VSIP Update

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs

As fiscal 2014 wrapped up recently, so did the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Program at Robins. There were 35 employees to accept voluntary separation from civil service in what was Round IV of the initiative – a shaping tool that facilitates the Air Force to restructure its workforce to current needs through voluntary separation incentives.



For fiscal 2015, a Round I VERA/VSIP was authorized by Air Force for Operations & Maintenance-funded positions remaining from the previously offered fiscal 2014 VERA/VSIP.

Robins Mission Partners have determined there's no need to execute Round I for O&M-funded positions, based on the criteria announced by Air Force, said Nancy Himes, 78th Force Support Squadron human resources specialist.

Since December 2011, more than 1,000 employees have accepted incentive offers to voluntarily separate from civil service to help avoid involuntary separations.



PROTECTING YOURSELF: West Nile Virus detected in mosquitoes on base

BY COL. ANITA WINKLER
78th Medical Group Aerospace Medicine chief

West Nile Virus was detected in mosquitoes captured at the Robins Family Camp area in late September. Similar testing on mosquitoes captured in the officer housing area was negative for the virus.

According to the Centers for Diseases Control, WNV is most commonly spread by infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, and can then spread the infection to other animals they bite.

The good news is most people – 70 to 80 percent – who become infected with WNV don't develop symptoms. About one in five people infected will develop a fever and may experience headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or a rash.

Most people with WNV recover quickly; however, some may experience prolonged fatigue and weakness. Less than 1 percent of people infected develop more serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis – inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues.

There are no medications to treat, or vaccines to prevent infection. Over-the-counter pain relievers can reduce fever and relieve some symptoms. If you think you or a family member may have

► see WEST NILE, 7

SECOND FRONT

Energizing the youth

U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

As a part of Robins' celebration of Energy Action Month, representatives from a local energy company present the Children's Energy Lesson at the Youth Center Monday. Reps explained how energy is used and the necessity to conserve it. The event kicked off the Children's Energy Lesson and Poster Contest. The posters will go on display at the Base Restaurant, where patrons will vote on them – the top three being awarded ribbons by the end of the month.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Valerie Smith

UNIT: Support Equipment and Vehicles Division
JOB TITLE: Mechanical engineer
TIME IN SERVICE: 20 years
HOMETOWN: Broomfield, Colo.



What does your work involve? "I have a very diverse workload in support of the Engineering Division for SE&V. I function as the test manager, assisting with all aspects of testing. I'm also the primary system safety manager, assisting in closing recommendations to make this a safer Air Force. I am our nuclear certification manager, assisting in maintaining nuclear certification for those assets Air Force-wide which will be interfacing with actual weapons. I assist in identifying, developing and maintaining a wide variety of documentation required in support of various engineering efforts."

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? "I do a lot of things so other people in my division don't have to. This may sound odd, but it's much more efficient to have one person complete a project than to have a bunch of folks complete the same project with essentially the same results. I also track various requirements to aid in identifying deadlines prior to missing them."

What do you enjoy most about your work? "Helping people find an answer or solution to various problems they encounter as they try to complete their work. If I don't know the answer, I will help them find it."

What prompted your interest in your current career field? "Actually, I wanted to be a cross-country truck driver in high school, so I participated in Vocational Technical School and earned a certificate in automotive mechanics. My parents convinced me to go to college, and the closest thing I could find was mechanical engineering."

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? "My mother. For most of my life I thought she was 'stupid,' made bad choices and didn't know much. I am now over 50 and am just starting to realize how much she knew and the sacrifices she made so I could have a good childhood. She is now financially stable and enjoying her retirement. Through her example she has become my role model."

Going for Gold

As organizations continue to participate in Robins' Voluntary Protection Program Safe Site Challenge, several were recently awarded with Gold recognition for their efforts.

Congratulations to the following organizations which were presented Gold banners during recent ceremonies:

- ▶ 559 AMXSS/MXDPA
- ▶ 78 CES Vertical Shop;
- ▶ 78 CES Utility Systems/Ind. Mech;
- ▶ 78 CES Zone 1
- ▶ NAF Accounting
- ▶ AMXSS REMIS Records

Break the cycle, make a difference

BY DANA ROZELLE

Family Advocacy Program

According to the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program, for fiscal 2013, there were 15,920 incidents that met the criteria for family abuse.

Acts include child neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The Defense Department further reports 16 domestic abuse fatalities in fiscal 2013.

Those facts hit home. You probably know someone who has been affected by domestic violence. The Robins Family Advocacy Program is here to

help.

Services help break the pattern of abuse while restoring emotional and physical safety. The program offers outreach and prevention programs, maltreatment intervention, and 24-hour access to victim advocacy services for adults at (478) 257-9071.

There are ways to get involved to help break the cycle. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month with local events happening to shine light on the cause. Get involved by attending an event, picking up literature and sharing it. Wear a purple ribbon to

show others you're taking a stand.

If you think someone is a victim of abuse, believe them. Be nonjudgmental. Support them. Listen to them. Respect their decisions and offer to connect them to help when they're ready.

If you believe someone is using abusive actions against a partner, speak out. Let them know you're concerned and that you will not sit by without saying something. Name the things that bother you about their behavior. Urge them to get help and offer your support.

For more information about how to help stop abuse, call (478) 327-8398.

Travel Pay changes

The Joint Federal Travel Regulation (Military) & Joint Travel Regulation (Civilian) have been combined into one official travel regulation, now known as the Joint Travel Regulation. Here are the changes:

▶ The daily CONCUS Incidental Expense Rate is now \$5.

▶ Eliminated reimbursement of the following expenses: CONUS laundry and dry cleaning; baggage, porter and miscellaneous; tips, ATM surcharges and service fees.

Mission-related phone charges must be claimed through non-travel means.

Note: The listed expenses are reimbursable if incurred prior to Oct. 1. If incurred after Oct. 1, they are no longer reimbursable expenses and are included in the Incidental Expense rate.

Data analysis of travel vouchers shows that the incidental expense portion of per diem is sufficient to cover such costs if incurred by the traveler.

This policy change has been coordinated with the uniformed services, applicable governance boards, and stakeholders and has the potential to eliminate more than \$15 million in annual travel cost. If you have questions, call 468-4022.

Finance Office closure

The Finance Office will close Oct. 17 at 11:30 a.m. for an official function. For emergencies, call Senior Master Sgt. Pablo Rivero at (478) 442-4427.

Med Group closure

All 78th Medical Group clinics will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 in

celebration of Wingman Day. The facility will reopen at 1 p.m. and be open until 4:30 p.m.

Russell gate work

78th Civil Engineer Squadron must repaint the pop-up barriers at the Russell gate on Robins Parkway. To prevent a full road closure, the barriers will be repainted during two weekends. Two will be repainted between 5 p.m., Oct. 17 and the afternoon of Oct. 19. The other two will be completed between 5 p.m., Oct. 24 and the afternoon of Oct. 26. One inbound and one outbound lane will be open during those times. Drivers should exercise caution during those times.

DUI Prevention competition

The DUI Prevention competition is open until Wednesday. Sign-up is open to the first 20 organizations.

Submitted signs will be posted across base beginning Oct. 24, and continuing through Halloween weekend to raise awareness and to prevent DUIs.

Construction kits will be provided. Units will be responsible for paint and painting materials. You supply the design, slogan, manpower, paint and talent. Everyone is welcome to submit signs. The winner will be announced Oct. 31.

To sign up and learn more, email casandralorraine@us.af.mil, Victoria.weiger@us.af.mil, joshua.caulfield.1@us.af.mil, or kyle.dye@ang.af.mil.

CFC starts soon

The Robins 2014 Combined Federal Campaign will run Oct. 20 to Nov. 14. This year's theme is "Give for Good."

Electronic pledges may be made through MyPay through Dec. 15. You may designate your pledges among thousands of local, national and international non-profit organizations.

PMxCP Open Season

The Fall Professional Maintenance Certificate Program open season begins Oct. 29, and the local Office of Primary Responsibility will accept applications until Jan. 6.

All General Schedule and Federal Wage System personnel in the Air Force Materiel Command depot maintenance community interested in applying should submit an application package during this cycle. Civil service employees who don't work in maintenance may be eligible to apply if they meet the program requirements for a specific level and can provide the proper documentation to substantiate their eligibility. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements as identified in the governing instruction – AFMCI 36-402, Professional Maintenance Certificate Program.

Adjustments have been made to the PMxCP requirements sheet since the last open season, so applicants should check the PMxCP website to ensure they have the most up to date requirements and templates. The local PMxCP OPR will also have an informational booth at the Robins Triple Ribbon Resilience Fair Oct. 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 827 to answer PMxCP questions and assist applicants. To read more on PMxCP open season requirements and submission guidelines visit the Robins homepage at www.robins.af.mil.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A UNIQUE PROBLEM SOLVING SKILL

461st ACW commander talks C2 during AFA conference

BY JENNY GORDON
jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil



Cyr

When it comes to the world of command and control, the mission set can be a challenge for outsiders to understand.

The crews who fly aboard the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System from Robins have a unique problem-solving skill, working in an environment that's as unique as the weapon system itself.

"It's not only very complex, but it's really required for every other mission to be successful," said Col. Henry Cyr, 461st Air Control Wing commander.

As part of the 2014 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition held in September in Maryland, Cyr was invited to moderate a national panel on C2 battle management.

The timing was perfect since the AFA was about to present the 2013 Airborne Air Battle Management Crew of the Year award to the 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Crew 2, from Robins.

The panelists included Air Force as well as Marine Corps officers with extensive C2 knowledge. Also in attendance were young officers from Robins who gained insight into not only their own mission, but how senior officers viewed the importance of C2.

"We had a thorough discussion based upon their experiences, not only about the importance of command and control, but also looking ahead to the changing requirements that units like Team JSTARS are going to need to meet the changing threats our nation will face," said Cyr.

"We originally wanted to have the crew provide their insights, and it grew from there," he added. "It was a unique opportunity for members of a wing to be able to not only support a panel, but drive the discussion."

The one-hour panel discussion included an audience of nearly 175 people. During the three-day conference, there were more than 50 sessions offered that featured 70 speakers, drawing more than 6,500 registered attendees.

"It's so important to the success of what's going on in these various battle spaces, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, or the wide open spaces of the Pacific Ocean," said Cyr. "All of that requires command and control to bring together various elements – different aircrafts, ships, soldiers. To bring them together

requires effective C2. J-STARS is a part of that."

Flying an airframe that was built in the 1960s, its diverse mission is vastly different than that of say 20 years ago.

Communication inside any battle space takes careful coordination, whether crews are supporting combatant commanders on the ground, providing maritime support to the Navy or air support to Army helicopters, or assisting with bombing missions.

"The expanse of what J-STARS now does really reaches much farther than it used to," he said. "Now with advanced communication technologies, JSTARS is literally a flying global network."

On the Panel

Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, Alaskan Command, Northern Command commander, and Eleventh Air Force commander;
Retired Lt. Gen. Robert Elder, who served as commander of the Eighth Air Force and U.S. Strategic Command's Global Strike Component;
Retired Lt. Gen. David Deptula, who served as the Air Force's first deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance;
Retired Lt. Gen. John Sattler, who served as director of Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, and was commanding general of the First Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Forces Central Command commander.

FAMILY

Continued from 1

the Museum of Aviation, where he was joined by Col. Kevin Clotfelter, 116th ACW commander.

"These are trying days for all of us at J-STARS," said Cyr. "We will have a sense of loss for some time to come. Our priority has been on their family members during this difficult time."

Swartz, 51, worked as an aerospace propulsion superintendent, serving 33 years, 28 of them with the 116th. The Airman referred to by Clotfelter as a

"leader of long history" lives on through a wife, two daughters and two grandchildren.

Paschal, a 34-year-old aerospace propulsion craftsman, served with the 116th for eight years, following his three years with the Army. He is survived by a wife and 3-year-old daughter.

"From a 116th standpoint, we lost two of our best," said Clotfelter.

He added that Swartz's daughter is currently serving with J-STARS, and that Paschal's father retired from the unit.

"There is a deep family connection," said Clotfelter, "a deep 116th and Air National Guard

heritage in those families."

Though he was only 27, Cyr noted that Schoenhoff, 461st instrument and control systems specialist, was rising quickly through the ranks having served four years, three of them at Robins. The man recently recognized as 461st Maintenance Group Maintenance Professional of the Year is mourned by a wife and two young children.

The Airmen's remains were flown from Kadena to South Korea Wednesday, where they are being autopsied before being transported to a stateside port where their families will receive

them, a process that could take days. Robins has not been identified as a port of delivery.

Cyr said he and Clotfelter were working together to assist grieving Airmen within the units in order to sustain the mission, something he said "takes a lot of emotional energy."

"As we go forward we have to figure out a transition mechanism, a pathway to getting back to normal J-STARS operations," said Cyr. "You can't do that too quickly because you have to take care of folks and give them an opportunity to grieve."

Clotfelter said now that the third Airman has been recov-

ered, plans for military memorial services may be decided in the coming days.

As the investigation into the deaths continues, Col. Thomas Torkelson, 18th wing vice commander at Kadena, issued a statement commending those who took part in search efforts, which included local first-responders, the Japanese Coast Guard and 18th and 353rd Special Operations Group Airmen.

"We continue to grieve with the affected families but are thankful that true closure can now begin," he said. "We will never leave an Airman behind."

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Air Force rebuts report due to outdated data

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force believes a recent Department of Defense Inspector General report that critiqued Air Force MQ-9 procurement plans to buy 401 Reaper aircraft, stating that 46 aircraft may not be needed, is based on data that is out of date.

“The data in the report is a year old,” said Lt. Gen. Robert Otto, Air Force deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. “The Air Force is only buying 346 aircraft – 55 fewer than the 401 figure contained in the report – and we’ve only received about half that number. The projected total Reaper fleet of 346 is far less than the service had originally estimated prior to sequestration.”

The Air Force was acting expeditiously upon direction from the Secretary of Defense to procure enough aircraft to meet the increasing number of combat air patrols the service was being tasked to provide.

The Air Force requested funds to procure 83 more of the ISR workhorse in its fiscal 2015 president’s budget request.

With its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite and precision weapons, the MQ-9 provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting and time-sensitive targets.

“There isn’t a combatant commander who doesn’t want more of this capability,” said Col. Ed Thomas, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman. “The need for ISR remains a top requirement for our theater commanders and our national leaders.”

A dynamic and volatile threat environment created a demand for the platform.

“The MQ-9 has played a vital role in combat operations and has resulted in saving American and coalition lives overseas,” said Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Michael Vickers. “This is a capability that is in high demand.”

“The MQ-9 Reaper is a success story,” said Otto. “The Soldiers and Marines love it. Combatant Commanders want more of it. We’re working hard to make more, as directed by the Secretary of Defense.”

The aircraft has made significant contributions to mission success.

“The MQ-9 has made tremendous contributions in combat operations, which has saved countless American and coalition lives, said Otto. “Over its lifetime, the Reaper has flown nearly 700,000 hours – most of those in combat operations – and continues to prove its worth daily in operations over Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.”

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

In Other News

Agencies join AFMC in step toward AFIMSC

JOINT BASE ANDREWS-NAVAL AIR FACILITY WASHINGTON, MD. – Six Air Force organizations moved under Air Force Materiel Command today in a step toward integrating and forming the foundation of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center when the Center is formally activated in 2015.

The Air Force realigned four field operating agencies – the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Air Force Financial



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON MONTOYA

MQ-9 Reaper crew chiefs perform a routine inspection on an MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft Aug. 12, at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. The 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron inspects each part of the aircraft before takeoff and after landing, looking for discrepancies that could interfere with proper operation of the aircraft.

Services Center, Air Force Installation Contracting Agency and Air Force Security Forces Center – to AFMC. Two additional organizations – the Air Force Cost Analysis Agency’s Financial Management Center of Expertise and the Air Force Personnel Center’s Services Directorate – were also realigned to the command.

Activated provisionally Aug. 8, AFIMSC will be the single intermediate-level headquarters providing installation and expeditionary support for commanders at Air Force installations and major commands, said Maj. Gen. Theresa Carter, the center’s provisional commander.

“Our major commands have told us they are committed to making the AFIMSC successful. When asked to define what it means to be successful, they said it needs to be a responsive, mission-focused organization that uses transparent processes to integrate requirements and deliver support to our installations, our Airmen and their families. The six organizations joining the AFMC and AFIMSC provisional team today will help us meet those requirements, now and in the future.”

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

Art of the Possible book available for download

WASHINGTON (AFNS) The Air Force Sustainment Center has completed a book titled “Art of the Possible.” To download it, visit <http://www.afsc.af.mil/shared/media/document/afd-140911-029.pdf>



Pulse on AF force management

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Featured in this force management update are details regarding changes to the reduction in force-board eligibility and ongoing civilian force management programs.

Military force management

Due to adjustments for operational requirements and additional voluntary separations, judge advocates (51J), operations research analysts (61A) in the 2002 year group, and acquisition managers (63A) in the 2001 year group, were all removed from consideration at the upcoming RIF



U.S. Air Force photo by DANNY WEBB

Hot shots

Tech. Sgts. Hunter Pettit and Shiloh Blanco, instructors with the 363rd Training Squadron, install an M61A1 20mm gun on an F-16 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

board. The board is scheduled to convene at the Air Force Personnel Center in early October. Updated officer RIF and voluntary force management matrices are available on the myPers site.

The total projected losses for these boards is now 355 with about 2,333 eligible officers. Those numbers represent significant reductions from the last matrices posted in early September, which showed a target of 413 with 2,593 eligible officers.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.



PERSPECTIVE

Answering the Call to the Future



The Air Force senior enlisted Airman released the latest installment of Roll Call, outlining the way forward for enlisted professional military education.

Roll Call!

Evolution is inevitable, so we must deliberately move forward. Technology continues to open doors and present opportunities to step beyond the well-trodden paths of the past. As we shape our future Air Force, we must capitalize on these opportunities to move to the next level – a level that meets the needs of today, but is agile enough to respond to the needs of tomorrow. This is especially true in the education arena.

The science of education is changing before our eyes. Information technology is producing new delivery methods that tailor the pace of study to the students’ strengths and weaknesses, ensuring a more effective learning experience.

The blended learning approach – combining distance and in-residence learning – takes advantage of these technologies to deliver the highest quality education.

It’s the approach we’re already taking in our Senior NCO Academy, and will soon implement in every NCO Academy.

The distance portion is about the information.

Students can take up to a year, moving at their own pace, to learn theories and concepts that expand their understanding of the institutional competencies we need to win the fight.

Leading the world’s greatest Air Force

The competencies are at the root of the critical thinkers, adaptable leaders and influential innovators we need to lead the world’s greatest Air Force.

The in-residence portion goes beyond the books and the tests. It builds on the roots planted in the distance component by combining scenarios, exercises and interaction with fellow Airmen. There is dialogue, leadership reflection and

opportunities to seek and receive feedback - everything students need to become more self-aware, deliberate and influential leaders ready and able to strengthen the team.

We, too, recognize the value

The blended learning approach delivers a higher quality education to all Airmen. The model is used at top universities around the world because it’s recognized as the most effective way to educate.

We, too, recognize its value and are taking that next step. We are deliberately evolving our professional military education.

Education is and will always be critical to our development. As we look to the dynamic environment of the future, we must capitalize on technologies available today. The doors are open, the well-trodden paths of the past are behind us, opportunities lie ahead ... and, we are answering the call to the future.

James Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



Cody

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

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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 and vance.janes@us.af.mil

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

DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

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A BETTER YOU

Relationship series

Are you in a relationship? Bring your partner and your lunch and learn how to: Say what you need to say, get to the heart



of problems and increase your connection with each other. Sessions will be conducted Wednesdays through Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Family Advocacy Program conference room in Bldg. 700

Wednesday - Events, Issues and Hidden Issues & Fun and Friendship

Oct. 22 - You, Me and Us & Stress Relaxation

Oct. 29 - Problem Solving & Forgiveness

Nov. 5 - Supporting Each Other & Sensual/Sexual Relationship

Nov. 12 - Ground Rules & Commitment

To register, call 478-327-8398 or email robins.fap@us.af.mil.

PTSD Meetings

Are you daily bothered by the following symptoms: upsetting memories of an event; flashbacks or nightmares; sleep problems; feelings of distress; long periods of sadness; avoiding intimacy; numbing one's feelings; alcohol and drug or chemical dependency; loss of interest in daily experiences; feelings of detachment; outburst of anger; guilt; or feeling alone?

Well, you're not alone; there are many just like you locally. Come out and get support from one another as we win this fight against post traumatic stress disorder.

Open weekly meetings are conducted at 5 p.m., today, Oct. 24 and 31 at Flint Energies – address: 900 Ga. Highway 96, Warner Robins, Ga. 31095.

Closed monthly meetings for PTSD members only will be announced at a



future date.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Melissa Erwin at 497-1828 or commercial at 478-327-1828.

Flu vaccination schedule

The 78th Medical Group, located in Bldg. 700, is providing vaccinations for Tricare-eligible, active-duty members and their family members, as well as retirees Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month when they're open from 7 to 11 a.m.

Vaccinations will also be available for active duty members only at the Base Theater Oct. 20, 22 and 24 from 6 a.m. to noon. For details, contact the Immunizations Clinic at (478) 327-7921 or DSN 497-7921.

The Houston County Health Department will offer flu vaccines today to civilians at the following locations: 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Health and Wellness Center, Bldg. 827; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Base Restaurant; and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center Annex, Bldg. 301 East Wing. The vaccine will be \$25 if your health insurance is not one of those accepted. For details, contact Civilian Health Promotion Services at (478) 327-8030 or DSN 497-8030.

GATOR COUNTRY

Recent hunt leads to Robins record

BY BRIAN SHREVE

Robins Public Affairs

When most people think of alligator hunting, they probably don't picture an area known for golfing – in the middle of a bustling military installation no less.

But that's exactly what happened the night of Sept. 18 at Duck Lake, as a hunting party organized by Dr. Bob Sargent, base natural resources manager, went out in search of the animal known for its teeth, magnetism and occasional appearance in the wrong places.

And he was a big fella.

A 12-footer weighing in at roughly 450 pounds, the alligator was the largest Sargent said he had ever seen on base.

"We intended to find a 9-foot alligator, so this one surprised us," he said. "I know some people may be alarmed to find out there was a 12-foot gator in that area. The fact is it's rare to have one that large on base. Larger ones are usually only seen in areas non-accessible to the public, such as in fence-enclosed retention ponds.

Alligators this large are always males, and they're known to travel over a substantial area during the warm months of the year, so it's possible that this Duck Lake animal just moved into that lake," he added. "We want to make sure people are safe and that large alligators fear taking up residence in base recreational areas. This is just a reminder that alligators can be present in any large bodies of water in southern Georgia."

The group also included Barry White, a base employee, Staff Sgt. Joshua Hodges, who teaches the base hunter safety course, and Tom Hutcheson of Sandersville, Ga., who actually got the kill-shot using a .44-caliber bangstick.

A bangstick is a specialized firearm used underwater that is fired when in direct contact with the target. They are often used for spear fishing and against sharks or alligators for sport, defense, or to kill nuisance animals.

Though the other men are licensed alligator hunters, Hutcheson had to kill the animal because he was issued a quota permit by the state. In June each year hunters apply

Tom Hutcheson poses with an alligator he killed at Duck Lake Sept. 18. The animal was 12-feet long and weighed 450 pounds. Hutcheson, along with Barry White and Staff Sgt. Joshua Hodges, base employees, harvested the animal with a crossbow.



online for the document, but it typically takes about three years to be selected due to the large number of applicants and relatively small number of permits issued.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources issues 850 permits each year for alligators to be harvested below the Fall Line stretching from Augusta to Columbus. Houston County and 11 neighboring counties

lie within one of nine zones in the region. For this zone, 70 quota permits were issued in 2014.

"Most of the state's alligators live below that line," said Sargent. "Realistically about 30 percent of that quota is actually harvested each year."

The base first authorized alligator hunting last year, with rules being slightly more conservative than those of the state, such as the requirement to sign a liability waiver and a prohibition against using handguns as hunting tools.

Sargent also asks that gator-hunting take place at night due to the traffic of the workday, and he specifies where hunters can and can't hunt.

The 12-footer marks the second alligator hunted and killed on base, the first being a nine-foot animal taken last year.

"For hunting season, I have provided information to the public making them aware to contact me if they receive a quota permit for Houston County," said Sargent, because we may have a large alligator on base that's not compatible with human activities. We don't want very large animals occupying places frequented by fishermen or people walking their dogs. Odds are there would be no conflict, but it's risk management for sure."

Alligator hunting season opens the first week of September each year and runs through the first week of October.

Along for his second hunt in as many years, Hodges said the state doesn't allow hunting them with rifles, and that alligators must first be corralled using a crossbow or harpoon with a line attached before the fatal shot.

"Anybody can shoot a gator from far off, and it'd sink and you'd never find it," he said. "He was so strong. When he went down he stayed down over an hour. I might as well have had a line attached to my truck. He wasn't moving unless he wanted to move."

Once designated as an endangered species, hunting alligators in Georgia has been legal since 2003 – not only from a recreational standpoint, but in an effort to control population growth and minimize potential conflict with people.

The GDNR estimates there are up to 230,000 alligators in the state. As for Duck Lake, Sargent said there are three or four small to medium-sized alligators remaining, and his office is "keeping tabs on them."

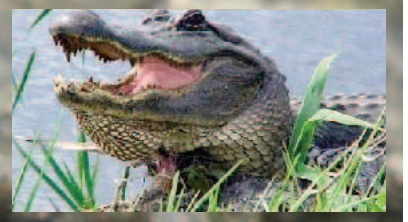
"Just respect them as part of the wilds of Georgia," he said. "They're shy by nature and usually only a problem when people feed or harass them, which is a violation of federal and state law."

Sargent said anyone who sees an alligator on base should not approach it but should call him at (478) 327-3974.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ❑ Being ectotherms, alligators do not need to eat much – a 100-pound dog will eat more in a year than an 800-pound alligator.
- ❑ Alligators and their relatives are the last of the living reptiles that were closely related to dinosaurs, and their closest modern kin are birds.



LIGHT

Continued from 1

system used to be.

“In the past we had these trussels that you had to walk on,” said Rod Eady, airfield manager.

“Now we are able to get up and change any light bulbs without having to go out into the wetlands.”

As a result of the storm that passed through, nine lighting structures were brought down; another ongoing project involved the replacement of the remaining 11.

While the entire system wasn't damaged, there

were still lights available to indicate the location of the runway threshold without the benefit of the system's elevated center-line and sequenced flashing lights, according to Squire.

All are currently on the same circuitry system, complete with new control boxes.

The lighting project is just one of many that will lead to a busy year ahead on the Robins flight line.

The base recently invested more than \$8 million in airfield pavement projects which will improve pavement conditions on heavily-used taxi-

ways and aprons.

Among those is a \$130,500 project that will involve the removal of an outdated BAK-9 Aircraft Arresting System, which was installed at Robins during the 1960s.

The system acts as a safety net for tailhook-equipped aircraft should they need emergency assistance when landing.

“The system was identified as a redundancy and decommissioned in 2013,” said Squire.

As a result, the move will save Robins \$500,000 and more than 1,200 man hours in annual maintenance.

WEST NILE

Continued from 1

West Nile Virus you should consult your healthcare provider for evaluation and treatment.

The most effective way to avoid WNV disease is to prevent mosquito bites. The use of insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide protection.

The 78th Civil Engineering Squadron is working to minimize the risk of WNV disease by reducing the number of mosquitoes. The 78th CES Entomology Shop will place larvicide rings in standing water around the Family Camp to kill young mosquito larvae.

Family Camp residents should get rid of cans, bottles and any other outside containers that would serve as a breeding ground for mosquitos.

Eliminating potential breeding grounds will greatly diminish the mosquito population. Because it's virtually impossible to eliminate all standing water, the entomology shop will use a mosquito killing fog in the Family Camp area two to three times per week during evening hours starting next week.

That effort will continue until 78th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health surveillance determines that the WNV hazard has been eliminated.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding West Nile Virus please contact your health care provider or Public Health at (478) 327-8019 or DSN 497-8019.

Helpful tips

- **Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk through dawn when mosquitoes are most active;**
- **Keep screens and windows in good repair to prevent mosquitos from entering living spaces.**
- **You can reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home by emptying standing water from containers such as flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths.**



Not in use? Turn off the Juice!

OUT AND ABOUT

Robins Lanes leaves nothing to spare in family fun

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

hollylogan-arrington@us.af.mil

If you're looking for fun, Robins Lanes is right up your alley.

The bowling center, located just off of Robins Parkway, on Ninth Street, offers a wide variety of programs designed to help you improve your game and have fun at the same time.

"Robins Bowling Center is a strong traditional center in which we offer open bowling, automatic bumper bowling for children and handicapped individuals, bowling birthday parties and league bowling for adults and youth," said Dan Bueno, Robins Lanes manager. "In addition, we offer group bowling for unit functions, wingman days and commanders' calls to name a few."

Hook Up 2 Bowling, offered quarterly for all ages, teaches the fundamentals of bowling in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

"It's for beginners, former bowlers or even the occasional bowlers," Bueno said. "The beauty of this program is not only will you gain instructions about bowling, but you will receive your own bowling ball, bag and towel at the end of the four-day class."

Bueno said Youth Bowling, which has grown through the years, is offered to ages 5 to 20.

"Youth bowling provides fun and friendly competition, fair play, teamwork and leadership development," he said. "It also gets your child involved with a cool sport that anyone can play."

Bueno said Robins Lanes has a number of excellent certified coaches who not only can help your child get involved in a lifetime sport, but can also help build

their future as well.

United States Bowling Congress offers more than \$6 million in annual scholarships and is awarded to youth bowlers each season based on academic, leadership and on-lane performances.

"Last season four Robins youth bowlers received scholarship funds being held in a SMART Account (Scholarship Management and Account Reporting) until they are ready to pursue further education," said Bueno.

Robins Lanes strives to improve its customers' experience, Bueno said.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a state-of-the-art family fun entertainment center for all our authorized personnel, their families and guests to enjoy," he said.

In 2012, the bowling center completed its renovation of the On the Spot Café and is now in the process of getting the facility a minor facelift.

"Gone are the carpeted walls that have been throughout the bowling center for over 15 years," Bueno said. "Now, we'll have a fresh, clean look with a new mural along the lane walls. I believe modernization of any facility is a key to success in any business."

And as with most businesses, customer satisfaction is the key to a business' vitality.

"With any Morale Welfare Recreation facility, we solely depend on the support of the base populace for our existence," Bueno said. "As times have changed, if it's not utilized, it could merely go away. At the Robins Bowling Center, we have been fortunate to have dedicated and loyal customers who support us so we can continue to provide the quality programs for all of our patrons to enjoy and for that we thank you."

Robins Lanes is available to all active duty, retirees



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Jeff Herman, Robins Bowling Center pro shop manager, provides custom drilling service that ensures proper fitting and most comfort for bowlers.

and their family members, Department of Defense civilians and their family members, DOD contractors and technical representatives, and guests accompanied by authorized individuals.

For more information, call 926-2112.



Chapel to host parenting series

The base chapel will host "Raise up Child," presented by Walk Thru the Bible, Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the bingo room at the Heritage Club.

A children's ministry will be provided at the Base Chapel including a continental breakfast and lunch.

Free to Team Robins Members. Call (478) 867-3454 for Reservations – space is limited.

Raising children can be challenging. Using biblical examples, this live event will explore the Four Cs of parenting: Choices, Consequences, Compassion and Consistency. The series isn't just for parents. Grandparents, teachers, youth leaders, caregivers, expectant parents and Sunday

school teachers will benefit from learning these effective principles.

Hallelujah Night

The Chapel will host a free fall festival Oct. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the chapel lawn.

Costumes welcome – no scary costumes please. All ages are welcome. Food, cake walk, inflatables, pony rides, face painting, a rock climbing wall and more will be available.

Volunteers and candy donations are needed. For more details, call 497-3780.



Fall Bash Nov. 8

The 78th Force Support Squadron will host the 2014 Fall Bash Nov. 8 at Robins Park from 1 to 5 p.m.

Entry is free and everyone with base access is invited.

Fall Bash is an annual cus-

tomer appreciation program designed to say thank you to 78th FSS loyal customers.

This is a wholesome, family-fun event with a festive atmosphere.

This year's program will feature food, rides and activities, which will appeal to customers of all ages – attractions include: a rock-climbing wall, train ride, bouncy castle, arts & crafts and more. The entertainment stage will feature live music.

For more information call the marketing office at (478) 926-6559 or DSN 468-6559.

HAPPENINGS

FRI 10 SAT 11 SUN 12 MON 13 TUE 14 WED 15 THUR 16

ON TAP

Membership Drive

Today
5 to 7 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
New club members sign up for a chance to win prizes
For details, call 472-7899.

Football Frenzy

Sundays
11 a.m.
Heritage Club
Game starts at 1 p.m.
Club members fill out a Football Frenzy entry form for a chance to win a round trip flight to Super Bowl XLIX
For details, call 472-7899.

National Boss Day

Thursday
5 to 7 p.m.
Heritage Club
Food, fun and prizes
Music featuring "DJ Lee"
For details, call 472-7899.

UPCOMING

Triple Ribbon 5K

Oct. 17
Check-in at 7 a.m.
Race time is 7:25 a.m.
Fitness Center
For details,

call 468-2128.

Family Movie Night

Planes, Fire & Rescue
Oct. 17
6:30 p.m.
Base Theater
Cost is \$2 and includes popcorn and drink.
For details, call 468-2001.

Membership Party Oktoberfest

Oct. 23
5 to 7 p.m.
Heritage Club Ballroom
Free to all Robins Club members and families
For details, call 472-7899.

Halloween Party

Oct. 31
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Heritage Club Ballroom
club members \$10
guests \$15
Prizes for best costume and most creative
Advance tickets available at the cashier cage
For details, call 472-7899.

ONGOING

70 Day Fit 4 Life Challenge

Now through Oct. 31

Register today
Open to all base ID card-holders and their families
For details, call 468-2128.

Afterburner

October Special
Pumpkin Spice
Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166
Mondays through Fridays
5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For details, call 472-7827.

Atlanta Falcons Tickets

Atlanta games
Upper level tickets \$46
Lower level tickets \$78
For details, call DSN 468-2945.

Before and After School Care

Youth Center
For details, call (478) 327-6834 or 497-6834.

Twilight Golf Rates

Every day
4 to 6:30 p.m.
Pine Oaks Golf Course
Play 18 holes
\$20 with cart, no cart \$12.
For details, call 468-4103.

THINK OPSEC:
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT READ...
SHRED INSTEAD

COLUMBUS DAY HOURS

FSS

All 78th Force Support Squadron facilities
will be closed with the exception of:

- ▶ Bowling Center 1 to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Golf Course 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ▶ Main Fitness Center 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Wynn Dining Facility normal hours

Exchange Main Store

▶ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Service Station

▶ 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Shoppette/Class Six

▶ 10a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Military Clothing Store

▶ Closed

78th Medical Group

▶ Closed

For more 78th Force Support Squadron information, visit www.robinsfss.com.
For more Robins Exchange holiday hours, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.

AIRMAN
AGAINST
DRUNK
DRIVING

335-5218;

335-5236; 335-5238